

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council NEWS

**Kids Win
when Parents
Get Involved!**
St. Francis de Sales School
613.283.6101

Message from Council

May / June 2007

On April 17, St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council hosted an evening of Internet Awareness for parents. Officer Dave Rakobowchuk from the Smiths Falls Police Department presented numerous Internet safety facts and tips and covered a wide range of topics including webcams, parental controls, social networks and chat rooms. Parents watched *Jessica's Story*, a sobering clip of how a teenager's webcam was turned against her. *Jessica's Story* and a collection of other safety tips, presentations, games and links to further police-approved resources can be found on www.Internet101.ca



Internet101 is a website that is maintained by a committee of police forces led by the RCMP and is dedicated to web-proofing communities. With summer approaching, it is an ideal time to check out **Internet101** for important information about keeping children safe who have access to the Internet at home. We encourage you to visit the site often as content is updated and refreshed on a regular basis. Remember, kids win when parents get involved!

Safe @ Home

You may never have heard of MySpace, FaceBook or MSN but chances are, your kids have. These are just a few examples of social networking sites—sort of cyber combinations of a yearbook, personal diary and social club—on the internet. Keeping children safe online means teaching them to be smart, responsible users of the Internet. Teach your children to:

Use Kid-sized Search Engines

Use search engines designed for kids—Ask for Kids www.askforkids.com and Yahoo!igans — kids.yahoo.com

Obey Time Limits

Limit online time (aside from special school projects) to less than an hour.

Exercise Caution

Be sure your children know and understand what information can and cannot be shared online with anyone.

Think before they click

Think about whom they are chatting with or e-mailing, what they are saying and how they are saying it before they hit "send" or "enter". Will the other person know they are joking?

"Take 5"

Before responding to anything that has upset them

online, encourage them to walk away from the computer until they are sure of what they want to say.

Be Still the Rumour Mill

Avoid spreading rumours, assisting in cyber bullying or sharing private or secret communications online. Know what to do when you see cyber bullying or are the victim of an online bully.

Be Yourself

Don't do anything online that you wouldn't do in real life! Don't try to be someone you are not. Don't let other people — including your friends — convince you to do something you are not comfortable with.

Ask First

Ask a parent for permission before posting any content including profiles and web logs to a web site or sending anything via e-mail or instant messenger. Whatever you send or share over the internet can potentially be seen by anyone. Once it's out there, it's available for the whole world to see.

For additional practical tips on keeping your kids safe online visit www.internet101.ca, www.redcross.ca and www.wiredsafety.org



School Council Nominations and Elections:

School Council is a vital part of our school community and meets once a month over the course of the school year. Our first School Council Meeting for the school year 2007-08 will be on Wednesday, June 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome. Any parent who wishes to be a member of our School Council must submit the attached completed nomination form and submit it to the office by June 7. Should an election be required, ballots will be sent home on June 8 and must be returned by 9:00 a.m. on June 12th. All successful candidates will be contacted in the afternoon.

2006/07 Highlights

With the continued support of our Catholic School Community the 2006/07 St. Francis de Sales School Council was able to contribute in many ways.

Provided financial assistance in support of:

- † New sport jerseys for tournaments
- † Outdoor toys
- † Security cameras at the front entrance of the school
- † "I Spy" Advent books and Advent Calendars
- † Ice Rental and Buses for Primary and Junior skating
- † Grade 8 graduation award and tokens for graduating students
- † Summer reading catch-up program
- † End-of-year classroom celebrations
- † End-of-year class trips for primaries, juniors and Grade 7s
- † Grade 8 trip to Toronto

Sponsored the following events:

- † Catholic Education Week Meet & Greet following Mass at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
- † Internet Safety Awareness Evening for Parents
- † Family Fun Night

Carried out the following initiatives:

- † MacMillan fundraiser
- † Ongoing pizza, hot dog and sub fundraiser
- † St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council Newsletter
- † Lanark County representation on the CDSBEO Parent Involvement Committee (Board PIC)
- † Parent Involvement Project

Assisted in efforts to:

- † Implement Synervoice for telephone communication
- † Heighten awareness for traffic and safety issues (surrounding the school) with the Smiths Falls Police

A full account of all school council proceedings and transactions of meetings is recorded and available at the school.

End of School Year Prayer

O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank you for the gift of this
school year.

It has been a time filled with grace and
blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and
sorrows.

The days have passed quickly, O Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the
holidays and holy days,

The exams, vacations, breaks, and
assemblies,

All have come forth from your hand.
While we trust that your purposes have
always been at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to
understand and appreciate

Just what you have been up to in our
school.

Give us the rest and refreshment we need
this summer.

Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.
Bring all of our plans to a joyful
conclusion,

And bless us, according to your will,
With the fulfillment of our summer hopes
and dreams.

Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as you have done this
past year.

Help us return to school with a new spirit
and a new energy.

May we continue to grow

In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives.

Amen.

Source: <http://www.appleseeds.org/>



Upcoming Events

School Council Meeting: The final meeting for the 2006-07 School Council will take place Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting for the 2007-08 School Council will take place Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. Both meetings will take place in the library and everyone is welcome.



Contact us:

If you are interested in volunteering or you would like to learn more about the St. Francis de Sales School Council, please contact Debbie Shea at 613-283-5349 or approach any member of council.

2006-07 School Council Members:

Debbie Shea—Parish Rep./Chair, Connie Smith—Vice Chair, Margaret West—Treasurer, Shelley Nadeau—Secretary, Tammy Demidoff—Parent Liaison Rep., Bernice Chiniborch—Community Rep, Patricia Meagher—Non-teaching Rep., Susan Hoysted—Teaching Rep., Alex Bujacz—Principal, Nancy Fontyn, Tracey Stringer, Debi Cunningham, Monica Wilson, Lorraine Fenn, Dorothy Hudson, Cyndi Galazzo, Debbie Burns, Melody Lefebvre

Have a great summer !!