

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS


St. Francis de Sales School
613.283.6101

Message from Council

Welcome to another exciting year at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School. The 2008/09 School Council has been put in place and the first meeting took place on Monday, September 29. Your newly elected Chair, for the second year in a row, Lorraine Fenn will also fulfill the duties of Parish Representative. Lorraine is joined by returning members Anik Blanchard (Teacher Representative), Bernice Chiniborch (Community Representative), Derek Haime (Principal), Shelley Nadeau, Tracey Nichols, Tracey Stringer and Margaret West (Treasurer). Also joining council this year are new members Sally Beattie, Heidi Johnston (Secretary) and Dan Lesser (Vice-Principal) along with members returning with past experience on St. Francis de Sales School Catholic Council Lisa Brennan-Trudel and Irene Tweddle (Non-Teaching Representative). This combination of experience and new membership promises to bring fresh new ideas and enthusiasm to school council projects and initiatives.

If you are new to the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School community you might not be aware that the Ministry of Education released the Ontario Parent Involvement Policy in December 2005 (see www.edu.gov.on.ca). Since that time, the Ministry has also provided school councils with special funding to be used for projects aimed at increasing parent involvement in schools and education. Preceding School Councils branded these initiatives "Kids Win When Parents Get Involved!"

Media Literacy

This year November 3-7, 2008 marks National Media Education Week. This week centres on the importance of media literacy in the education of children and youth. The focus this year is on encouraging young people to practice ethical behaviour when using new technologies but media literacy continues to extend well beyond this theme. Media literacy is about understanding the nature, techniques and impacts of media messages, images and productions delivered to us via a variety of mechanisms including the web, TV, music, newspapers, magazines, books, etc.



Previous year's projects have included evening parent awareness sessions (i.e. Internet Safety) and promotional products like the handy magnetic clips that were used last year to bring attention to the School Handbook section of the student agenda.

Research consistently shows that children do better in school when their parents play an active role in their education. Any range of activities from good parenting, helping with homework, serving on school council or other committees, communicating and meeting with teachers, volunteering with classroom activities or school trips all have a positive impact on your child's education.

It continues to be our belief that communication is essential to building and increasing parent involvement in their child's education. This is why we are thrilled to report that we will be continuing to publish the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council NEWS.

Over the past eleven issues we have brought you articles on a variety of topics – everything from nutrition and fitness to internet safety, literacy/numeracy and our Catholic faith. With contributions from parents, teachers and our parish, we have shared ideas on how everyday activities can contribute to your child's education.

If you wish to receive electronic copies of back issues of the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council NEWS, please contact Shelley Nadeau at 613-283-3832.

As parents, we find ourselves having to cope with a digital media era where our children have immediate access to information and entertainment from around the world. Young people seem to learn new technologies effortlessly and can multi-task through a complex mix of sound, graphics, text and images. At a very young age, they become creators, managers and distributors of information in a world of chat rooms, message boards, BLOGS, web cams, MP3s, personal web spaces, instant messaging, text messaging, camera cell phones, emails, social websites and

Media Literacy, *Continued*

multi-player live video games. It becomes increasingly more important that we ensure our children develop knowledge, values, critical-thinking, communication and information management skills very early on.

Parents play a key role in helping children and youth understand media. We can start by familiarizing ourselves with the media our children favour:

On TV

- Music channels
- Entertainment programs
- Sports
- Cartoons

In the community

- Music and video stores
- Vintage and fashion stores
- Comic book stores
- Malls

Online

- Instant messaging sites (Windows Live - formerly MSN, Yahoo! Messenger, etc.)
- Social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook, Bebo, etc.)
- Content sharing and social bookmarking sites (YouTube, Digg, Delicious, etc.)

A great way to get to know the media your children are interacting with is to play a game where everyone writes their list of favourites and others in the family try to guess what they wrote:

My favourites

Magazine:	Song:	Toy:
Book:	Brand:	Game:
Movie:	Food:	Music Group:
TV show:	Interests:	Singer:
Hobbies:	Aspirations:	Product:

We can take advantage of “teachable moments” by engaging our children in discussions that compare TV families to our family or families in the real world. We can discuss major news events that grab the attention of the news media. We can encourage our children to question the connection between entertainment and self image as portrayed on the

covers of magazines. These are just some examples of things we can do to teach our children to recognize bias and stereotypes and differentiate between entertainment and marketing. For more information and resources visit the Media Awareness Network at

http://www.mediaeducationweek.ca/involved_ideas.htm

Heavenly Father,

*Thank you for your son Jesus who
gave his life for us.*

Thank you for the example He set for us.

May I seek to do the same in my home.

*Give me wisdom in raising
and guiding my children.*

*Keep my eyes focused on You
and not on my weaknesses.*

Give me strength for each day.

Thank you for loving and caring for me.

In Jesus Name,

Amen.

Next School Council Meeting:

Monday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.
Everyone welcome!

Fundraising:

Just in time for Christmas entertaining! School Council has chosen **MacMillan's gourmet cookies and muffins, fabulous desserts, and gourmet pizzas** to help raise funds that will be used throughout the year to enhance school programs and activities. Watch for information coming home soon.

School Council Newsletter:

If you have an idea for an article or you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Shelley Nadeau at 613-283-3832.

If you are interested in volunteering, would like to attend a meeting or if you would like to learn more about the St. Francis de Sales School Council, please contact the school at 613-283-6101 or approach any member of council:



Chair—Lorraine Fenn, **Treasurer**—Margaret West, **Secretary**—Heidi Johnston, **Community Representative**—Bernice Chiniborch, **Parish Representative**—Lorraine Fenn, **Non-Teaching Representative**—Irene Tweddle, **Teaching Representative**—Anik Blanchard, **Principal**—Derek Haime, **Vice-principal**—Dan Lesser, **Parent Representatives**—Sally Beattie, Lisa Brennan-Trudel, Shelley Nadeau, Tracey Nichols, Tracey Stringer, Janet Yanosik