

MINUTES

St. John CSPC Meeting

December 1st, 2020 | *Meeting called to order by Mr. C*

In Attendance

CSPC members: Nadia Niccoli; Claire O'Shea; Marianne Internicola; Sonia Pagliarello; Marlo Taylor; Carmen Vanderreest; Shelan McCreary; Melanie Battaglia; Terry-Ann Isaac

Regrets: Cathy Blewett

Faculty / Admin: Mr. Comacchio; Ms. Horbay; Mr. Morishita-Miki

Approval of Minutes & Outstanding Updates

Marlo passed the minutes from the November meeting and Sonia seconded the minutes

Pizza Update

- Angela introduced Liz Sconce – who will take over organization of pizza lunches
- Pizza committee working with Mr. C on pizza lunch plan to incorporate Covid-19 protocols – to start in January; mid-December forms/information to go out to community
- Pizza Pizza will be provider this year (able to support with pre-packaging requirements) – anticipate higher cost due to pre-packaging
- 7 lunches would be offered (would be off-set with the outstanding lunches cancelled from last year); will be offered to all students; likely not to be a fundraising source due to added costs and outstanding lunches
- Working out logistics on distribution
- Will look into extending beyond the 7 lunches if possible in order to generate some funds

Financial Update

Claire presented the month's expense report:

- Approx. amount required to raise in order to cover expenses \$5,000 – actual amount is dependent on pizza costs

Principal's Report

Staff Update:

We welcome the following staff to St. John for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mr. Walter James – in for Mme Dhefto – Extended French Grade 5/6 (AM) Core French (PM)

Mr. Wendell Isidor – in for Ms. Misaljevic – Core French (AM)

Please note: Ms. Misaljevic's Grade 6 PM class has yet to be filled but Ms. Nalesnik has agreed to continue in this role until a teacher has been hired.

Christmas at St. John:

Virtual Performance (Ms. Horbay): Ms. Horbay, Ms. McBride, Mr. Menezes, Mr. Griffiths are working with the classes to put together a wonderful presentation. Due to Covid-19 protocols, there will be no singing or musical instruments. The link will be shared on the evening of Wed. Dec. 16. We'd like to have families watch it at the same time if possible.

Center 55 Share A Christmas: Once again we have paired up with Centre 55 to support their Share-A-Christmas initiatives. This year, the St. John community will focus on supporting the teens of our community as they are often not very well serviced with donations of gifts etc. Please do your best to help support this initiative by purchasing gift cards for retailers that teens enjoy shopping at (H&M, Shoppers, etc.)

Triple C Christmas cards to the community: The Triple C team has started promoting this wonderful St. John tradition of creating Christmas cards for the members of our community. Unlike previous years when the cards were distributed at church, the cards will be delivered to Main St. Terrace, Houses of Providence and Neighbourhood Link

Advent liturgy: Thurs. Dec. 17 in the afternoon. Ms. Hatch's class will be leading the December liturgy. As in October, the liturgy will be held virtually and students will participate from their classes.

Christmas Break: LAST DAY of SCHOOL: Friday December 18, 2020.
FIRST DAY BACK: Monday January 4th, 2021.

December Dress Down Days:

Thurs. Dec. 10 Thank you for the great response to St. John Scars Hunger – no theme

Fri. Dec. 18 End of December (Christmas Theme)

Modifying Morning Protocols for Colder Weather: As we anticipate colder temperatures, classes will continue to have passport checks outdoors but hand sanitizing will take place prior to entering the classroom. Please help with signing the COVID-19 passports so that students can begin their day with their classmates. Students are not allowed entry into their classes until we have connected with a parent.

Wearing Masks in class: Over the last few weeks, teachers have stated that it is getting difficult to get students to keep their masks on while in class (during indoor recess etc.) We understand that the students are probably experiencing Covid-fatigue, but it is our responsibility to maintain and enforce the protocols for the safety of all students and staff. In most cases, the mask breaks teachers are providing are enough, but we are also dealing with an increase in situations of non-compliance and challenging teacher requests for students to respect the rules. In those cases, calls home will increase, incident reports may be filed, and progressive discipline may be required to ensure that the protocols are followed and respected. If necessary, suspensions will be issued for those that are repeatedly neglecting their responsibilities and for challenging the directions from adults. Please discuss this with your children as we want to ensure that the well-being of all St. John school members is maintained. Also, please remind your children that if they are walking home or taking TTC, to please exit from school property at 3 pm and make their way home. We want to avoid cohorts from mixing after school.

Parents and Children congregating in parking lot and church property: The church has asked for the school's support in asking parents not to congregate on the church property (lawn, ramp, steps) after school. Children are throwing rocks at the church sign and shaking it. Staff from Notre Dame have also asked that parents and children not congregate in the parking lot afterschool. Church and Notre Dame staff are concerned about children safety both in the lot and along Kingston Rd. We want to continue to work collaboratively with the Church and Notre Dame so please respect their requests.

Bullying Prevention / Awareness Symposium – Virtual Sessions: This year, the TCDSB Bullying Awareness Symposium was held virtually. On Tuesday, classes from grade 5-8 participated over 2 days. The focus of this year's symposium was on Generosity and Intentionality as ways of preventing bullying behaviours. The guest speakers provided an opportunity for students to reflect on the power of generosity in their lives and how our intentions shape our actions.

Online Resources for Parents: A list of online links related to cyberbullying and bullying awareness will be shared with parents in grades 5 – 8 for your reference. All links have been approved by the TCDSB. We hope you can take time to review some of these links as a number of the resources can be viewed with your children.

Committee Reports

Committee reports

- **Fundraising** (Sonia Pagliarello):
 - Fundraising Survey results: 110 responses over the 2-week timeframe; 90% in favour of pizza lunch/ snack; spring walk-a thon (maybe with prizes)/ branded gear/ flat donation
 - Community would also like to see a portion of funds raised support a charity or school in need
 - At minimum need to raise \$5k this year to support budget items
 - Given approx. 50% in favour of flat donation, suggestion made to share results of survey and focus on donation / no obligation; TBD via KEV or Canada Helps (charitable organization through the board) – large portion goes to the school/ anonymous – charity donation amount to be presented as a range (e.g. 10-20%)
 - **Mr. C to look into Canada Helps and Kev as potential payment options (preference to Kev) and determine how it can be used for virtual 50/50 draw (there would be a fee); Mr. C will follow up with CSPC executive**
 - Discussed connection with a 'sister' school / donating with families in the school with significant needs? If aware of any St. John families in need, advise Mr. C

- Action: Sonia / Tanya communication to school community for donations
 - Action: explore options for branded merch (caps and toques) and costs (students will be allowed to wear branded hats in the school) – Marianne / Sonia
 - Action: Centre 55 for Xmas and Ms. Horbay to reach out to St. Michael Catholic School for future school donation partnership
 - 50/50 draw during Christmas concert (40/40/20 split) – Centre 55 donation
 - CSPC can re-consider budget in order to increase donation amount to school in need
- **OAPCE** (Shelan McCreary / Terry Isaac):
 - November activity – OAPCE hosted a webinar series entitled “parenting positively in a pandemic” with a number of speakers over several Saturdays. The information on the web series was sent out to the parent community
 - **Parish** (Carmen Vanderreest):

Fr. John-Mark has received messages of disappointment that we cannot hold our traditional Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve this year. There are many parishioners who look forward to our young children re-enacting the Christmas story. He’s wondering if a primary class cohort would be able to do this, have it videoed and then linked to the parish website (?) He knows it would require parental permission and he knows it’s a lot of work but he reminds us that it doesn’t need to be perfect – in fact, the more amateur, the cuter it is!

It does not have to be lengthy – the church pageant is normally under 15 minutes.

Mr. C will explore and determine whether this can be supported in light of additional work effort for teaching staff and privacy considerations.

During this current lock-down our church is only open for private prayer and confessions Saturday evenings, Sunday mornings and early Wednesday mornings and the church is limited to only 10 people at a time. Registration is required through the church website: www.stjohnsrc.ca - or contact the office at 416-698-1105.

At this point no one knows if places of worship will reopen in time for Christmas. In the hope that they will open, parishioners can register through the church website to attend one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day – registration begins Wednesday, December 16th.

Also, on the church website parishioners will find the link to the church’s new YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8pLWrdARlezRMzjHZJv9aQ>

This is still in its early stages and everyone is encouraged to subscribe.

The crèche has been put up on the church lawn should families want to visit it or teachers with their independent class. Note, baby Jesus will not arrive in the crèche until Christmas.

St. Vincent de Paul is holding their most important annual fundraiser through a special collection this coming weekend (Dec. 12 / 13). Their primary role is to respond to needy families and individuals within our parish boundaries who are struggling to make ends meet. Last year 163 families and individuals received assistance including 98 children and it’s our donations that made it possible. Due to COVID restrictions on parishes’, donations can be made online by going to the St. Vincent de Paul website: www.svdptoronto.org and clicking on “Donate through Canada Helps” in the “general” branch and leaving a comment to “Direct payment to St. John’s Parish”. Your donations can also be dropped into the rectory’s secure mailbox anytime, in an envelope marked “St. Vincent de Paul”.

The Knights of Columbus are again holding their Advent Socks, Mitts & Gift Kits Drive. These items go to the poor and homeless and should not be wrapped. Gift Kit items include travel size toothpastes, deodorants, shampoos & soaps, also razors, shaving cream, combs and hair brushes, plus chocolate bars, candy canes and reusable fabric or reinforced shopping bags. A box will be on the front porch of the rectory each work day from 9 – 4 where all of these items can be dropped off.

- **Diversity & Inclusion** (Terry Isaac, Melanie Battaglia & Cathy Blewett)
 - Pangea purchased four classroom Autism Workbooks which have been given to two classroom teachers as well as our resource teachers
 - We are in the process of laminating some Allergy Awareness posters for posting in the school
 - We attempted to purchase some Canadian Black History Month posters; however, it appears that they are no longer available. We will continue to source alternative posters for Black History Month 2021

- All costs of the above items have come out of the 2019 Christmas Lego Raffle proceeds
- The Christmas bulletin board and Diverse Nativity Scene are now available for viewing. The message being Jesus Christ ~ the Light, the Life & the Hope of the world!
- We are currently working on a series of bulletin boards for the remainder of the year that will convey the message that we are trying to send: re: diversity, inclusion, awareness, compassion, kindness, etc. Keeping in mind key holidays like Easter
- We're requesting more wall space in school to help raise awareness and sensitivity as students pass the halls (encourage students to be socially aware; compassionate; how to treat each other; speak to each other)
- TCDSB has approved some programs – TAIBU Community Health Care (workshop for students in early grades) <https://tcdsbpublishing.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=22037> and Y.A.A.A.C.E (focused on Humber River / Black Creek community only) <https://tcdsbpublishing.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=22019>. Would encourage St. John to participate in the TAIBU program.
- **Action: Committee will work with Mr. C on these 2 asks (TAIBU program and additional wall space in the school)**

Next Meeting

Tuesday February 2nd @ 7:00 pm

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mr. C at 9:01 p.m.

2020/2021 CSPC Meeting dates:

- ✓ November (Finance Meeting) – Tuesday November 3 @ 7pm.
- ✓ December – Tuesday December 1 @ 7pm.

February – Tuesday February 2

April – Tuesday April 13

June – Tuesday June 8

September 2021 (AGM) to be determined