

Madonna Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm, October 27, 2021, taking place online via google meet

In attendance:

Jenness S Karen A Kristie P

Rebecca K Kerstin A Kendra P

Kim M Erin C

7:04 pm Karen A opened with prayer and Treaty Acknowledgment

7:06 pm Last meeting's minutes approved by Kim M, seconded by Erin C

7:07pm Teacher's report presented by Kendra P

- **Pathways**

- Pathways had a fun time exploring October's Fairy Tale and Nursery Rhymes theme. It was especially wonderful to see the students retell both "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs" with their stick puppet crafts. We also delved into "Animated Literacy" this month and linked it with our "Sound Wall" sounds. Everyone is also excited for the upcoming Halloween festivities. They loved decorating our class pumpkin with different techniques, such as painting and stamping. We will cut it open on Friday to explore the pumpkin "guts" as a finale!

- **Kindergarten**

- Kindergarten students have been enjoying learning all about fall and what our animal neighbours need to do to prepare for winter. We had a lovely field trip with Strathcona Wilderness Center where students were able to explore different nature artifacts.
We are nearly finished learning all of our sounds and are progressing in pairing the sounds to their graphemes (letter or letter pairs). Students have been working hard at phonological awareness-deleting and combining syllables, making compound words, and exploring onset and rime. We have had many opportunities to build number sense, but Halloween provided extra practice-patterning, counting and working on spatial awareness! Kindergarten have their Halloween parties Wednesday and Friday this week and can't wait to show off their costumes!

- **Grade 1N**

- Thank you to the Parent Council for all the hard work that goes into Hot Lunch. This is the biggest thrill for our grade 1 students!!
Also thank you in advance for the treat bags that students will be receiving on Friday!!
Grade 1N has been having fun in October learning about the Creation Story in religion. We loved seeing Father Jim on our virtual visit! We are talking about our unique gifts and talents. Father Jim reminded us that we are created in God's image and we are loved!
We are using animated literacy to review consonant sounds -working on

'Ww' 'Yy' 'Vv'...next will be 'Zz Zeke, Zena and Zackary zebras'.

We are enjoying our visits to see Mrs. Wagner in the library every Wednesday. And it is exciting to take out 2 books!

We are sounding out words in our Morning Message and now we have started printing some of the words into a "Real Scribbler" We feel like big kids at school! We have illustrated a mini book called "Where is Pumpkin?" and we are learning preposition words **under**, **behind**, **on**, **above**, and **in**. We are so excited to use our tracking fingers as we start to read some pattern books and decodable books.

October is the time to do a Pumpkin Investigation. We have been weighing a pumpkin and comparing it to our own mass; measuring the circumference with a string and comparing it to our own height; and counting 25 seeds. We are learning about 10 frames as we count, make sets, and print numerals 0-20.

On Nov. 5 we will have an in-school Building Unit workshop.

- **Grade 1F**

- Grade 1F has consistently been working on making our class a community. This goes well with our social curriculum. I believe that all children come to school to learn , be safe and have fun. We brainstorm ways we can accomplish this goal together. We have done a number of collaboration projects to encourage positive problem solving and group work. They worked in groups of 3 or 4 and created some amazing community posters.

As October comes to a close we are also finishing it with a pumpkin investigation. Students have been enjoying fall art and walks also. We have been taking advantage of this beautiful weather collecting leaves and sorting and categorizing them. Fresh air is a wonderful way to keep us on track. We still have frequent movement breaks throughout the day so we are ready for our learning.

We have joined the google meets with 1N with Father Jim. The students enjoy learning about how God created the world and how we are so special and loved by him.

Have a great week everyone.

- **Grade 2**

- In Grade 2 we were able to enjoy an in-school field trip where we did Mindful Movement. Students learned about the Seven Sacred Teachings and this one was focused on Truth. They learned about Turtle Island and how the name came to be. In social we are finishing our mapping unit and we made maps of our classroom from a birds-eye view.

Father Jim spoke to the students about beatitudes as that is what we are learning in Religion. He asked them how they can show love. After the conversation with Father Jim, students were given a picture of a cross and they had to write ways that they can show love.

In math, we are starting our number sense unit and we are skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. Science, we are just finishing our small crawling and flying animals unit. We made bird nests and showed what a bees nest would look like. We also wrote about if we were a bee what would we look

like and where would we live.

- **Grade 2/3**

- In Grade 2/3 we had the opportunity to lead a school assembly about being called to more and what this looks like in the school and classroom. In literacy we have been working at writing complete sentences (starts with a capital, ends with punctuation and makes sense) using lots of describing words. We have also been talking about different vowel sounds, and blends. We have been practicing our reading comprehension and talking about how to find the important parts of a story.

In math, we are finishing up our place value unit. Grade 2's have been working hard at writing, drawing and telling about numbers to 100, identifying even/odd numbers and skip counting. Grade 3's have been working with numbers up to 1000!

In science, we are just finishing our Grade 2's small crawling and flying animals unit. We have learned about a variety of different insects and bugs and are finishing up talking about habitats and food chains. In grade 3 we are finishing our rocks and minerals unit! We had a full day of testing and working with rocks and minerals to test our understandings.

In Social, we have been working on our mapping unit of Canada (grade 2) and the world (grade 3). We have been able to identify the important features of a map and use it to map communities.

- **Grade 4**

- Thank you to parent council for bringing hot lunch back to students! The Grade 4's look forward to it every week!

Students in Grade 4 are working on narrative writing this month. This includes writing a paragraph with a hook, introducing, a rising action, climax and a resolution. We are working on writing strong sentences to describe the characters in our stories.

In Math, Grade 4's have finished their addition and subtraction unit to the thousands place value. We are beginning our place value unit and being able to describe and represent numbers to 10 000.

In Science, Grade 4's are finishing their Waste in this World unit. They are working on an interactive digital end project.

In Social, Grade 4's are learning about the regions of Alberta. They also got the opportunity to visit the Fort Saskatchewan Heritage center to learn about Alberta's history and Alberta's first peoples.

- **Indigenous Lead**

- Grades K-2 enjoyed learning about Turtle Island and Truth through mindful movement. Next we will be exploring Courage-the bear

- **Health & Wellness Champ**

- For student and staff engagement we have a 'staff school days' bulletin board where students can see what their teachers looked like in elementary! New recess equipment has been purchased for all grades along with toboggans. We are excited to start morning mindfulness in November.

- AHS contact tracing.
- No Cases in MCS for Oct. to date
- EICS website <https://www.eics.ab.ca/covid-19-information-for-families>
- ALL staff must declare and submit proof of vaccination by Oct. 29st
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- Baptism → school-age child → Nov. 5 Registration
- Catholic Education Sunday → Nov. 21st Weekend
- First Communion Mass → Nov. 28th 4:30 pm MCS,HR & St. Luke
- Advent Christmas Concert will be Virtual.
- Dec. 17th send out to families
- May have an in-person Advent Mass
- Collaborative Response Team meetings
- CTM Meeting for grade 1 and grade 2 teachers → focus on structuring literacy → phonemic awareness
- 3 -Fire Drills and 1- Lockdown completed
- Fire Department walkthrough completed
- In Indigenous Education: Seven Grandfather Teachings ... Assemblies to come
- K, Gr. 1, Gr. 2 → Mindful Movement integrated with the Turtle Island Teaching ●
- Regarding “Loose Parts”: Video link & items to gather going out to the entire school community right after interviews.
- Teachers are not quite ready for Flex, but perhaps after fall break
- Next week is the Book Fair! Virtual shopping for parents
- Spirit Wear is almost ready to go. Ability to shop online & have available by Christmas
- First Book Canada has donated books to all students in the last week
- TD Bank donating a book to each Grade 1 student
- Strathcona County giving students a “any facility free admission” as well as a Halloween activity book
- Budget will be shared at the next meeting

7:31pm Chair report presented by Kerstin A

- OLPH is planning to have a new playground built in 2023 and is looking for feedback from parents, including Madonna families of grade 4 students. Karen A will receive the survey link and send to families
- Parent Council is providing Halloween treat bags for all students
- Parent Council is providing teachers with dinner from A Capella Catering on parent teacher interview evening
- Cobbs & Save on Foods (both Wye locations only!) fundraiser continues ● Hot lunch has been a huge success! Looking forward to the upcoming weeks ●
- Proof of vaccination or negative covid test results for all school volunteers is upcoming (per email from our Superintendent on October 19, 2021) but no date in place just yet

7:36 pm Open discussion

- Rebecca K has fundraising ideas. She sent an email to Kerstin A & Karen A for council's review

7:38pm Meeting adjourned by Kerstin A