

Madonna Catholic School Council

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm, December 1, 2021, taking place online via google meet

In attendance:

Jenness S	Karen A	Kerstin A	Lowell A
Rebecca K	Jean B	Kim G	Laura E
Kim M	Erin C	Kim M	

7:02pm Kerstin A introduced Jean B as Madonna's new Trustee

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

7:06 pm Last meeting's minutes approved by Erin C

7:06pm Teacher's report presented by Kim G

- **Pathways**

Last month our focus was on our "Healthy Eating" unit, and we had lots of fun exploring food groups and the differences between healthy foods and "sometimes" foods.

This month, we will be celebrating our countdown to Jesus' birthday with our daily Advent activities. We will also begin practicing our Christmas concert songs and decorating our classroom with our crafty creations!

We are continuing to link our Animated Literacy letters to our Sound Wall sounds, and the students are very successful with their daily sound reviews. In numeracy, we will be focusing on counting the days down until Christmas during our Calendar Time.

- **Kindergarten**

We are looking forward to exploring Advent and waiting for the birth of Jesus this month! Students have already started practicing songs and poems for our "concert" and are looking forward to celebrating advent as a school and learning about the Jesse tree.

We have been working hard pairing graphemes (letters and letter pairs) to sounds in words and discovering that not all letters make the same sound all the time! We continue to explore isolating sounds, rhyming, identifying syllables, and blending sounds and words. Students are also working hard on their journaling and expressing themselves with a variety of prompts-coming up with amazing stories and detailed explanations!

This month we will be working on a countdown to Christmas, and exploring creative representations of each number 1-25. We continue to explore patterns and shapes, as well as colors and color mixing.

Students have shown an interest in a furry friend who lives in our school yard! Students are very interested in what the squirrel is up to in the winter, and this has led to discussions on adaptation, migration, and hibernation

- **Grade 1F**

We are excited to learn and celebrate the season of Advent. We will be talking about what this means to us. How we are waiting and preparing

for the birth of Jesus. We are so excited to join our daily advent celebration and sing violets in the snow.

In Math we have started adding and subtracting to 12. We have also started number talks where we have short meetings on math. The students are mathematicians and we reinforce how all answers are accepted and respected. It allows them to extend their thinking in their own way and gain confidence in trying new strategies.

Social studies is about to change the rights and responsibilities outcomes that we have. This is an excellent way for them to understand we are a community here at Madonna and as such we must be kind and follow rules.

Science is color mixing and it also ties into our flex block. They get excited about this everytime.

December is always an exciting month and I am thankful to share it with my students.

- **Grade 1N**

As we begin Advent we prepare our hearts and we are learning that Advent is a time of Waiting...

We are excited to sing Violets in the Snow and also to practice our concert songs!

We made an Advent Bell and practiced printing our numerals 1- 25 on paper chain links. Each day in Advent we cut off one link to help with the countdown to Christmas.

We are focusing on kind words and actions as a part of Health and Social Studies. We learn about belonging to a community and working together. One of the students says, "Team Work is Dream Work!"

In math we are talking about 'one more' and 'one less' ... then 'two more' and 'two less' starting at random numbers between up to 20.

Our pea seeds have sprouted and this Friday during FLEX we will transplant them into a large planter. We are grateful to Little Green Thumbs and Sustainable Foods Edmonton for sponsoring this indoor garden program. .

- **Grade 2S**

We did our second in-school field trip of a Mindful Movement session this past month, that is connected to the seven sacred teachings. This session was focused on courage where we shared times that we had to show courage.

In science we are doing our magnetic unit and seeing what objects attract and repel.

We have "travelled" to Saskatoon in social studies where we have been exploring what Prairie lands look like and which settlers first came to Saskatoon.

In religion we are getting ready for Advent by making advent promises and our own wreaths.

In math we are learning about numbers to 100. This is by estimating, counting by 2's, 5's, 10's, and by using place value.

We are learning in Language Arts some reading comprehension strategies and what to do when we get to a word that we do not know. We are also learning about our blends and how words sound when two letters are together.

We have been enjoying FLEX where we are going outside and enjoying the warm weather. We talked about igloos and why they are created, the structure of it, and why they are used. We also talked about the Inuit culture and language. Then we built our own igloos!

- **Grade 2½**

The Grade 2½ class just attended their first field trip to the Ukrainian Cultural heritage Village where we learned about Rizdvo - Ukrainian Christmas. Students were able to experience first hand various Ukrainian traditions related to the season. This tied into our Grade 3 Social Studies unit on Ukraine and Grade 2 Social Studies unit on Saskatchewan and the strong Ukrainian heritage that is present there.

In literacy, we are working on adding detail to our writing and our reading comprehension skills. In math we are working on our addition of 2 and 3 digit numbers and will be moving into subtraction soon. In Science the grade 2's have been learning all about magnets and magnetism, while the grade 3's have been learning all about hearing and sound. We are learning all about the important season of Advent in Religion and will start painting our own nativity sets this month as we prepare for the birth of the Lord Jesus.

We have been enjoying FLEX on Fridays by getting our bodies moving and heart rate up through different basketball skills and games!

- **Grade 3**

We just did our first field trip to the Ukrainian Cultural Village and enjoyed learning about a pioneer Christmas. We made our own bread called Kolach, visited a traditional Ukrainian Catholic Church, made our own wax crosses to put over our door or window and learned how important wheat was to these pioneers. This fits in with our Social Studies unit as we are studying Ukraine.

In Religion, we are in Advent and are learning all about this very important season. In Math, we are working on adding 3-digit numbers and will move into subtraction soon. In Language, we are writing descriptive paragraphs and are writing about a Snow Monster. In Science, we are learning all about the ear as our unit is Hearing and Sound

- **Grade 4**

This month in 4P we were able to participate in our weekly Faith Formation assemblies. Students led our Remembrance Day Ceremony and performed the Children's Blessing song at our Indigenous Assembly. In Language Arts, students are working on creating descriptive and elaborate beginnings in our narrative writing. We are working on adding using fluency and expression in our voice, by working with small groups to do Reader's Theater's performances. In Math, students are finishing their patterns unit and will be starting their Multiplication and Division unit in December. In Religion, we are preparing for Advent by leading in the school in song during our daily Advent Celebrations. In Science we are beginning our new unit Wheels and Levers, where we will learn about basic components of simple machines: how they are assembled, how they operate and how they can be used.

7:15pm

Principal's report presented by Karen A

## What do you pray on the first day of Advent?

At the Angelus on the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis calls on us to "be vigilant" and to persevere in prayer, which "reawakens the soul from sleep" and helps us focus on what is most important in life.

- AHS continues contact tracing.
- No Covid cases reported in MCS for October or November
- Volunteers for field trips must have proof of covid vaccines
- Schools will have to monitor vaccination of volunteers
  - Not sure how that will look at this time
    - Perhaps will know in a week
    - How to scan the QR code
    - Who's job will it be to scan the QR codes
- Only HR knows which teachers are vaccinated
- Advent Christmas Concert will be Virtual. Dec. 17th send out to families
  - Dec. 13th students to dress in their Sunday Best ... video taping
- DAILY ADVENT Celebration --. Song: Violets in the Snow and Jesse Tree Symbol
- Every Class will be making a Christmas Ornament to come home
- Lurana shelter video was shared - \*Karen A to share video link
- "Stuff a Stocking" Campaign. Please include a note in the private message that you are from Madonna School  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/67024/donation>
- Indigenous Education: Seven Grandfather Teachings
  - Assembly November was Courage. December is Love
- K, Gr. 1, Gr. 2 → Mindful Movement integrated with the Turtle Island Teaching
  - Field trips → UK Village grade 3, 2/3 class
- Many places are requiring supervisors to have proof of vaccinations.
- Loose Parts starting up next week.
- Swimming Lessons → January 12 - March 10
- THANK YOU for supporting the Book Fair! ~ \$1000 in books for the school library.
- A Huge THANK YOU for supporting teachers during the interviews with supper from A Capella
- Thank you for supporting FLEX, we are 2 weeks in and all is going very well.
- Spirit Wear may be delayed as it is coming out of Vancouver.
- New Family with Needs ... school staff is making Christmas for this family.
- Taking a Moment to be Grateful for Freedom and Privilege

7:27pm

Chair report presented by Kerstin A

- Bear Tracks was a success! We raised just over 1400\$. Huge thank-you to everyone who supported this fundraiser, and to the Devlin family for supplying a truck and trailer.

- Save on Foods & Cobbs, both on Wye Road, is an ongoing fundraiser. Please remember to send Save on Food receipts into the school and whilst shopping at Cobbs, mention you're with Madonna Catholic School
- Parent council is paying for half of the bussing fees for swim lessons - this is approximately \$1,000
- 500\$ grant from Government for parent councils, what would we like to put it towards?
  - Karen A: "Peppy" workshop is a 3 hour mental health workshop with a cost of approximately \$73 per person. Consider council pay for members to attend

- 7:32 pm      Trustee report presented by Jean B
- CPAC meeting is January 20th, 2022
  - EICS Superintendent Shawn Haggerty announced his retirement
  - Assurance Program, a 4 year program
    - 2 questions sent to families of grade 5+ students
      - "As a Catholic School division, what are we doing well and should continue?"
      - "What are areas in which we could improve?"

- 7:42pm      Kerstin A opened the floor for discussion
- Kim G - suggestion for council to donate a Christmas treat for students, as was done last Christmas
    - Popcorn was suggested. Less sugar
    - 21st was selected as a good date to give students this treat
  - Kim M - how to donate to the family in need. Her business is offering to donate an entire Christmas dinner

7:47pm      Meeting adjourned by Kerstin A

*\*Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:00pm*