Principal’s Notes

Dear Families

I wish to end the year with a note of thanks to you for your continued support of our school community. This has been a year like no other, but at the end of the day, we must acknowledge how together we rose above all of the challenges placed upon us this past year. Joining into the Umbrella Project came at the right moment in history for our school. The skills our staff and students developed over the past two years have proven effective in our unique learning situations we had this year.

Here are few reminders for the summer:

- All emails and phone calls will be returned once the office reopens on August 30th.
- We are waiting for direction from Public Health and the Ministry of Education in terms of how the year will begin around mid August. We are expecting a somewhat normal school opening; however we will not know until the announcement comes. Both the board the school will send out Newswires as soon as WRPH, the WCDSB and the Ministry of Education have come to a consensus about the protocols that will be in place.
- Student placement will be announced with School Cashonline in the last week of August.
- No school supplies need to be purchased as the Board is once again providing them for all students. Students just need to bring indoor running shoes, a water bottle and a litter less lunch.
- As mentioned in previous newsletters our school bell times are changing come September. Our morning bell will be at 8:40 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. This means outdoor yard supervision will commence at 8:25. Lunch will now be from 11:25 - 12:25 and the dismissal bell will ring at 3:10 p.m.

Take care and have a relaxing Summer!  
Mr. Petrella

Our School Office will close on Friday July 2 at 3:00 p.m.  
We will reopen on Monday August 30th at 9:00 a.m.  
Any emails and messages will be returned the week of August 30th.

Did you know that the Waterloo Region is engaging in a “Cuddle Up and Read” initiative involving all school boards, community partners and our very own Dr. Jean Clinton?

Click on this video for more information: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFWUsrtYX8Q

Tips:
Tip #1 - choose books that are meaningful to you or your child. Use the opportunity to share your passion with them or to let them share theirs with you.
Tip #2 - explore subjects and books that introduce new words and expand vocabulary. Books introduce words that are never spoken in day to day language.
Tip #3 - don’t worry if you don’t get through the whole book. Follow the child’s lead if they use the book to spark a story or an activity
Tip #4 - when we say ‘cuddle up’ what we are really talking about is connection. If you or your child would rather lie face down and look at the book together, or simply touch shoulders or make eye contact. The point is to make a physical connection with your child in whatever way feels comfortable and good for both of you.
Tip #5 - find a special place and make it your own ‘reading nook’. It can be the corner of the couch, a blanket fort, the corner of your yard or balcony, a tree in the park. Finding your spot will make the connection stronger.
Tip #6 - you can read more than just books - try a family photo album, a favourite magazine, a family recipe, a scrap book or baby book. Shared attention and snuggling up to read and talk about them together are what build brains.
Tip #7 - remember that cuddling up to read together should be fun and a way of connecting. If you or your child are not enjoying it then put down the book and try again another time.
Tip #8 - children often want to read the same books again and again so choose books that you enjoy reading as well.
Dear Parents and School Community:

Wow what a school year this has been! This year looked very different for the students, but things are wrapping up now. We are so amazed by all the students and staff for being so resilient during these unknown times. During this school year the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) held meetings virtually where we discussed and advised on a wide variety of topics that involved our school, the students and the wider community.

With everything going on during these times we were able to check off a few things from our list with the help of Mr. Petrella and the school community. Our achievements for this school year include:

- The Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant project supported the Internet Safety event with Paul Davis for the students and families which included presentations for the students and a Virtual presentation for Parents and caregivers.
- Providing holiday treats for the student and year end staff appreciation treats
- Providing funds for First Communion gifts, Confirmation gifts and Grad Composites for the students.
- Providing input and beginning steps for the improvement of the Kindergarten play yard, which we are going to continue to pursue in the Fall 2021.
- Discussions and building an action plan with community members regarding traffic, crosswalks, parking and Winter trail maintenance concerns in the school area.

This year we had to think out of the box for our fundraising activities because our classic ideas were not possible with the Covid restrictions. We appreciate that we were able to come together as a school community during these trying times and still raise funds to support our school. With the Online Catalog Fundraiser we raised $1,435.56 and our at home Dominos Pizza Party Fundraiser we raised $878.75. Using these funds, CSAC recommended funding for the items above and to be used for the future play structure costs to be revalued in the Fall 2021. Luckily we had excess funds from previous years to cover our expenses this year which totaled over $3,000.

We would like to say a big thank you for the dedication and hard work of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the CSAC this past year. If you are interested in the minutes of school council meetings they are available by contacting the school office. If you wish to get involved in CSAC during the 2021/2022 year watch for the nomination form sent out at the beginning of the school year. We welcome any interested members of our community to join the school council. There is lots of room for different involvement levels from an elected position, attending and advising at council meetings or by volunteering at events held throughout the year. The first meeting of CSAC of the 2021/2022 school year will be Tuesday September 28, 2021 at 6:30pm; we would love to see a few new faces.

We look forward to what the 2021/2022 school year holds for everyone and hopefully we can get back to holding more school community activities; if it is safe to do so. We wish everyone an amazing summer creating family memories and can’t wait for the students to share them with each other in the fall.

Thank you for your continued support of Blessed Sacrament School and the CSAC.
GO BEARS!!!!!

Sincerely,
Melissa Soetemans and Allison Anstett—CoChairs