

St. Ignatius School

Ignition

To provide quality spiritual and academic growth based on the principle that every child is created in the image of God.

January 2012



The Principal Says...

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wishing you all a great New Year and trust it will be filled with blessings and growth.

One of the great things in school life is the opportunity to start fresh with new beginnings at different times within a year. Even after a few weeks back there is a fresh energy and deep hope that comes with starting anew. Life in the school seems as busy as ever: B-ball season is on its way, our Spelling Bee was exciting, the 7s & 8s are soon off to winter camp, teachers are busy with the upcoming 100th School Wide Birthday and Catholic Schools Week as well as planning for parent/teacher requested conferences and **Open House on February 1 at 6:30 p.m.**

The staff enjoyed a great P.D. Day in faith formation at Siloam Mission on January 23rd. We worked our faith by understanding better our Catholic Social Teaching around the preferential option for the poor by serving and reflecting at the Mission.

Encouraged by this good start we re-commit ourselves to the mission of forming our youth into studious students, daring disciples and caring citizens. Thank you for your trust and support in this all important work.

Peace and Joy,

Mr. Palahicky



Olweus Bully Prevention



Don't brag if you win; you will hurt others feelings.



Don't quit if losing; there is always a reason to keep trying.



M turned upside down is W.



Change Me to We!

The Olweus Bully Prevention Program continues to be implemented and integrated into our school culture. There are many different ways to share with students the important message of cooperation, respect and non-bullying. One of the Olweus lessons that the grade three students participated in was a Cooperative Relay. The object of the game was to promote collaboration rather than competition. Students were reminded that a relay is a game or a race where team members work together to finish the game or complete the task.

The students formed two straight lines and were given objects to pass from one student to the next student in line, using only their forearms. Objects ranged in difficulty from a hacky sack or a roll of masking tape to a feather and a paper plate. If an object was dropped, classmates were allowed to help their team but reminded that they too were to use only their forearms.

The outcomes the students learned were to practice working together as a team to achieve a goal, to practice helping others who need help, and to build awareness about the consequences of not being kind to each other. After the game, the class discussed which objects were more difficult to pass and took more cooperation to pass than others. They also discussed examples of ways classmates helped each other. The grade threes learned about teamwork and cooperation from this activity! This opened them up to further discussion about the many chances our class has to work together as a team in the classroom, in the gym, and on the playground.

Well done Grade Threes!



The Grade 8 Class is Enjoying a Fabulous Year!

We've accomplished so much already!

A few highlights include:

- dressing up for the opening school mass;
- hosting the first Catholic schools dance of the year. A great success!
- Student Council campaign and elections;
- field trip to "A Maze in Corn";
- creating a Children's Missal for our grade 1 buddies to help them participate at school masses;
- study of statistics, rates, ratios, proportions, pythagorean theorem and percent;
- study of cells and body systems;
- study of Shakespeare and Cue for Treason
- study of how the universe was created and the stone age;
- 1st term exams in Science and ELA
- public presentation of crosses as many of us begin our study towards Sacrament of Confirmation; those of us already confirmed are continuing their spiritual journey towards discerning who God calls us to be in this world.

We're looking forward to so much more:

- Field trip with our grade 1 buddies to MTYP to see "House at Pooh Corner"
- Field trip the Misericordia Health Care Centre to deliver Christmas cards and Christmas cheer
- Ski trip at Springhill in January
- Winter camp at Camp Arnes in February
- Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring

...Life is Grand!



“Sing to him a new song, play skillfully and shout for joy.” Psalm 33:3

Had the psalmist’s words been written today, he could easily have been making reference to our very own St. Ignatius School choir.

The choir is a group of:

Committed children who are in
Harmony with God and each other,
Offering time and talents,
Inspiring our community to
Raise our voices in joyful praise.



Our school and church community have been blessed by the dedication of this group of amazing students and volunteers as they lead us in worship through song. Their voices have given words to our feelings of joy as we celebrated one hundred years of church and school community. They helped us express our sadness through the song “Friends Forever” as we said goodbye to Mrs. Reed in fall, and they meaningfully guided us through reflective Remembrance Day, Advent and Christmas services. Choir is composed of a generous group of students who give of their time each week, but their greatest gift is in helping us connect with God and each other. Music speaks to the soul and touches our innermost spirit. Music soothes, encourages, ignites enthusiasm, and gives us a language when our words fail. It is a privilege and blessing to be part of something so inspiring. Thank you choir members, musicians, and volunteers for your dedication and hard work. You make my heart sing!

Mrs. Taylor

Full Day Kindergarten Program

Dear Parents,

Starting in September of 2012, St Ignatius School is pleased to offer a Full Day Kindergarten program! This important step forward reflects the ongoing and progressive vision of the Board and Parish in striving to meet the evolving needs within our community.

Over the last few years, parents have shared with us that families increasingly prefer a full time program. In addition, most other Catholic schools are now offering this program and many maintain waiting lists as the class sizes are at full capacity. We believe that moving to a full day program will ensure St Ignatius remains the School of choice for the growing numbers of families that require a full day kindergarten program.

The Full Day Kindergarten program will be discussed in more detail at the St Ignatius Open House which takes place on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

As we all know, parents and students are our best and greatest supporters, please share the e-mail and invitation to all families you know who may be considering St Ignatius!

St Ignatius School Board of Directors

SISPAC NEWS

HATS OFF FOR HEATHER

A group of parents from the Grade 2 class are organizing a fund-raising event for the Cadieux Family. Heather Cadieux is the mother of four children. Xavier 8, Naomi 5, Sebastien 4 and Gabriel 14 months. Heather is fighting cancer. She is currently going through chemo and then a bone marrow transplant. This will be a very emotional and stressful time for the Cadieux's. Her husband Moe will be on leave to hold down the house and children during the bone marrow transplant, followed by her mom who will also be taking time off of work. It is our hope to raise money to so that this family can be as stress-free as possible during this time. Also we want to raise funds to purchase a lap top so that Heather can Skype with her kids when she is in the hospital for her bone marrow transplant (4-6 weeks). During this time in the hospital Skype will be the only way for her to communicate with the children.

To kick off her journey ahead and to support this wonderful family, we will be hosting a tea at the Westworth United Church, from 2-4 pm on Saturday, February 25. Tickets will be \$10. Hats/Fascinators are encouraged and recommended. The organizers will be setting up a table after school throughout February selling tickets, also you can contact Kristen Wilson at afkk@shaw.ca or call her at 771 8070 for tickets.

The tea will feature

- Dainties, Little Sandwiches, Tea, Coffee
- Silent Auction
- Prize for the best fascinator (hat)

To see more about Heather's journey she has set up the following blog:

<http://lifewith4kidsandcancer.blogspot.com/>

Please watch for regular updates via email regarding this important initiative!

GRADE 7/8 CAMP

We are pleased to let the community know that SISPAC has been able to assist the students with transportation arrangements to and from Camp Arnes for their camp that will occur 13-15 February. We wish them all a fun and safe camp experience!

HOT DOG LUNCH

An error appeared on the school calendar – there will be **NO HOT DOG LUNCH on FEB 3, 2012!**

Our long-serving hot dog lunch coordinators are interested in finding volunteers to take over this role for the next school year – they are more than willing to mentor

replacements! There are 9 hot dog lunches through the school year; if you can help, please contact Irene Gartner at 4gartners@mymts.net

SISPAC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our group is still in need of a Faith in Action coordinator – if you think that this is something that interests you, please get in touch with Irene Gartner (SISPAC Volunteer Coordinator) at 4gartners@mymts.net

SISPAC SPECIAL LUNCH

Due to scheduling requirements, we will be moving the date of the SISPAC Special Lunch from February 16th to May 10th. The next offering of a special lunch will be on March 9th – watch for a sign-up form coming home sometime in February.

ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SISPAC will be assisting at the open house by providing and serving refreshments at the Open House on February 1, 2012 at 6:30PM. If you can assist, contact Carolyn Meadows (cmeadows@mymts.net)

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE LUNCH

Pancake lunch will be provided to all students thanks to the efforts of the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday, February 21. If there is any student that needs to opt out of the lunch, please contact the school.

100th ANNIVERSARY DINNER IN THE HALL

The organizing committee of this event would like to thank all of our volunteers for their exceptional work in pulling off one of the most successful dinners in recent memory! In addition, the sponsors and businesses that provided gifts to us were invaluable – thank you, thank you! The money raised at that event directly assisted our school community and we look forward to another great event next year!