

Good Shepherd Catholic School



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Director of Education: D. Parr
Superintendent: D. Crawford

October 2017 Griffin News

Every Child is a Story Yet to Be Told

I loved the energy that our families brought to our "Meet the Staff Night"! We had a wonderful turnout and I thank you for your commitment to your children and our school community.

I also love this time of year as our surroundings are filled with such beautiful colours as fall settles in around us. As I watch the leaves fluttering to the ground, I am reminded of how change is a good thing despite how difficult change can be. Autumn is truly a time for letting go and remembering that the Holy Spirit is always there to guide and lead us to a better path. This month we are focusing on kindness, perhaps letting go of hurt feelings, letting go of those grudges etc. We are encouraging the students to do random acts of kindness and to be generous with their smiles, their compliments and making someone's day a little better. Fall, truly is the perfect season to give generously of our time and talents as a way to change with the season.

I hope you and your families are able to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving and please remember that my door is always open. Please contact at any time!

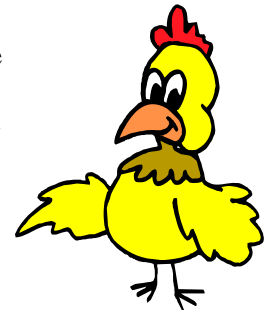
Sherrie
Daudlin



School Council Fundraiser: Delicious Broasted Chicken Dinner Sunday, October 22, 2017

Ticket sales for our Broasted Chicken Dinner have begun. We are asking all families of Good Shepherd to assist with the ticket sales by inviting grandparents, neighbours, family and friends. It is our hope to sell 300 tickets. Tickets can be purchased from the school or by calling Sarah Gervais. Tickets are also available after masses at St. Paul's and St. Michael's Churches.

We are still in need of volunteers to assist with serving, set-up and clean-up. As well, we need more families to donate home baked cupcakes, pies, and baby carrots as well as the larger carrots for cooking. If you are able to help with any of these, please let us know. We are holding a meeting on October 17 to finalize details for this fundraiser. All willing to lend a hand are most welcome to attend.



Please Note: Take-out will also be available!

Student Snack Program Has Begun

Our first instructional block is 150 minutes in length. Through the snack program, all students in our school have nutritious snacks available during this morning block. All meet the standards outlined in the Food and Beverage policy. I thank Mrs. Jenn Marsh for continuing to take the lead with this program. I know the students will be thrilled with her new ideas for nutritious snacks! **However,** great things like this cannot happen without volunteers.

We are in **need of people who will assist with this program.** If you or a grandparent can assist, please call the school. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Any monetary or nutritious food donations to support this program are welcome!

If you would like to volunteer, the time required is minimal, just some prep work. Call to sign up today!



P.A. Day
Friday,
October
27th.

DRIVE AWAY HUNGER—FCC

Since 2004 FCC Drive Away Hunger has collected over 27 million meals for food banks across Canada. The goal is collect food for hungry families in our community. One hundred percent of our donations will go to our own local food bank.

Once again the students of Good Shepherd School have stepped up to the plate to help those less fortunate in our community. You may have noticed that your child has already come home with a paper grocery bag. We are asking students to fill these bags with non-perishable food items which will be picked up by a wagon, weighed and then taken to the Chatham Food Bank here to assist families in our community who are having a difficult time putting food on the table for their families.

Most needed items are:

Pasta, rice and sauces
Canned meats and fish
Packaged nuts and peanut butter
Canned goods—beans, soups, stews
Canned and powdered milk
Flour, whole grain cereals
Infant formula, baby food

The last time student community raised over 700 pounds! Let's see if we can reach that, or even pass that this year! Are you up to the challenge?

Bags will be picked up on Monday, October 16th at 1:30 p.m.

Junior Girls Volleyball Team:

I am very pleased to announce that the following girls are members of the Volleyball team for the 2017-2018 school year.

Charlotte S
Isabella B
Hailie O
Oliwia K
Jayla C
Claire D
Mackenzie S

Madison H
Tia G
Amy C
Libby M
Marine M
Maggie P



A special thanks to Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Schives and some senior girls that are helping as co-coaches: Meredith and Leah for coaching the team this year. Best of luck girls!

Junior Boys Volleyball Team

The Junior Boys Volleyball team is off to a terrific start! We thank Mr. Pepper for coaching this year as well as his co-coaches of Keegan C, Nick H., Adam N., and Jonathan B. We wish the boys a successful season!



We are pleased to present to you our Junior Boys Team:

Kadin H.,	Ben H.,
Kohen C.,	Raymond R.,
Brady V.,	Kelton C.,
Cole P.,	Jackson C.,
Lachlan G.,	Steven H.,
Carson P.,	Kaelan C.,

GOOD SHEPHERD SAC

Our first meeting was held on Tuesday, Sept19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Great suggestions were made for fundraising ideas and as outlined on the first page, we are once again holding the delicious broasted chicken dinner.

We have already started to plan for other events throughout the year! All parents are encouraged to assist and join in as much as possible. Please note that we have four other meetings to occur this school year.

All Parents are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing as many as possible!

School Council is a great way to become involved in your child's education. Our goals include:
*improving communication between school and home
*contributing to the positive attitudes towards teaching and learning
*act as an advisory panel for the betterment of the school.

Please consider joining us at our next meeting on October 17th!

Visitors to the School

For safety reasons, the front doors are locked during educational time to all visitors. Once buzzed in, **please check in at the office.** I ask, as part of the safe schools protocol, that all parents speak with our secretary instead of heading to the classrooms. Mrs. Walker will gladly call your child to the office, if you wish to speak with them or are planning to take them to an appointment. This way the other children will be able to continue with their learning without interruptions. Thank you for your cooperation with this important protocol!

Focus on Faith – October

*The secret to happiness is to live moment by moment
and to thank God for what
He is sending us each day in His Goodness
St. Gianna Beretta Molla*

It is appropriate to highlight this quote from St. Gianna during the month of October, when Canada celebrates **Thanksgiving**. Gratitude is a great theme in our faith. The word *Eucharist* means “Thanksgiving” and so, every Mass we celebrate is a testament to the value of GRATITUDE.

When we live a life of gratitude, we start realizing that we have what we need and become content with what we have. When we do this, we need less, consume less and waste less. It is an essential value if we are to care for the earth and her inhabitants. Cultivating gratitude can help to shape the values of Institutions, schools and families.

One of the goals found in our Board’s Strategic Plan shows this value on an institutional level:
We all care for God’s creation by managing and reducing our carbon footprint in measurable ways.
On a school level, one might see the influence of gratitude in:

*Prayers for creation
An environment club/ Good Neighbour Program
A food drive to feed neighbours.*

On a family level, this value can be seen in these actions:

*Providing garbage free lunches
Buying modest amounts of clothing
Repairing items rather than replacing them
Not buying the latest technology just because*

On a parish level, this is seen in ways that include:

*Celebration of mass
St. Vincent De Paul Clubs
Catholic Women’s League and Knights of Columbus efforts.*

Gratitude is an essential value of our faith and therefore part of the culture of our schools each day and month. Every day is Thanksgiving for a person or community of faith. Let’s try to remember that when we celebrate Thanksgiving this year.

God bless your celebrations.
Margaret Palmer
System Chaplaincy Leader

October School Newsletter

As parents/guardians, it is important that you understand and support the role of the principal and Board staff as it relates to classroom organization in your school.

As you may be aware, the provincial government regulates the number of students in classrooms. In elementary schools, class-size caps are set by provincial directive for individual grades; and, in addition, a system-wide average must be maintained across the entire district. Therefore, classroom loadings in your school have to be viewed from a system perspective, not just at the local level. It is also important to note that provincial funding is tied to compliance with this regulation. In other words, if we don’t meet the provincial directive there is a financial penalty, which affects our Board – and by extension, our students.

The result of this directive is that combined grades are common across the system and across the province, as a means of ensuring that boards are compliant with the provincial regulation. Unfortunately, there is a common perception among parents that combined grades are detrimental to learning; or, that it is a reflection of students’ abilities – that is, in a Grade 2-3 split, the Grade 2s are above average learners and the Grade 3s are below average. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Every classroom in every school meets the needs of every student, whether it is a combined grade or a straight grade. Further, a great deal of time and effort goes into decisions which determine the loading of classrooms. These decisions are ultimately made by the principal, in consultation with Board administrative staff, and preliminary class lists are developed over the summer. However, occasionally one or two new students on the first day of school can push a class size over the threshold, which creates a domino effect that can impact every grade in the school. Sometimes, because of the mandatory system-wide averages, enrolment issues at another school in the district can have an effect on the classroom organization at your school.

When large-scale classroom reorganizations occur, the principal and teaching staff make every effort to accommodate the changes with as little disruption as possible. Students changing classrooms are always given a warm welcome by their new teacher and their new classmates.

Thank you again, for understanding and supporting the efforts of your principal and the school staff, in this important matter. It is our commitment to you that, although we must always strive to meet this provincial regulation, we will always do so having regard for the best interests of our students and staff.

Have a great school year!

Sincerely,
Dan Parr
Director of Education

Happy Thanksgiving!