

Majority of January and first week of February- Grace McCormack

Irish Report

St. Patrick's Catholic High School

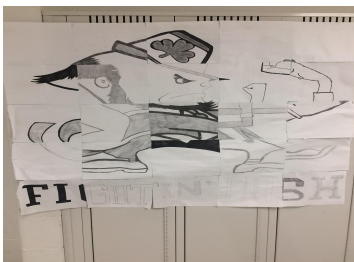
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Important dates for St. Patrick's:

- Return to in person learning on January 17
- Rapid test distribution for students January 20
- Last day in period three and four classes January 25
- Last day in period one and two classes January 26
- College applications due February 1
- Time off school due to exams and a PA day January 27- February 3
- First day of second semester February 4
- Course selection for 2022-2023 begins February 4
- Canadian math league contest (all grades) February 8
- Valentines Day February 14
- St. Patrick's virtual open house February 16
- Deadline for 2022-2023 course selections February 18

Finishing First Semester



After returning to in person learning, only eight school days remained in our first semester! Despite clubs, sports, and extracurriculars being paused for the time being, the end of the semester was very busy for our school. As the grade twelves prepared for postsecondary education, and the grade nines and tens waited in anticipation for a normal semester structure, our students were incredibly occupied. Upcoming graduation photos as well as course selections for the upcoming school year will be here before we know it!

Returning to in Person Learning and a Normal Semester System



On January 17, our school returned to in person learning after a short-lived period of virtual learning. Being able to finish the semester in person provided students with comfort, greater social interaction, and additional academic and mental health supports.

On February 4, for the first time since March 13, 2020, our school returned to four classes a day in a normal semester structure, with lockers and the cafeteria. We are "very excited to be back to four classes, meeting teachers and classmates", Mr. Torti said. During the morning announcements, our vice principal Mrs. Lobsinger showed our younger students how to use lockers. Here's what some students and staff are saying about the switch:

- "I'm nervous for lockers. I'm excited for a new class schedule." -grade 9 student
- "I'm excited for more freedom and opportunities in the school. I am a little nervous for four classes a day." -grade 10 student
- "I'm ready to have four classes a day and get a locker for the first time. I'm nervous about being around so many other people." -grade 10 student
- "I'm ready for more balance. Teaching in an adjusted semester is very difficult." -Mr. Mottram, social sciences and co-op teacher.

A new song for our chaplaincy announcements, a jean day on Friday the 11th, and a pink and white Valentines Day on 14th were other events for students to enjoy.

Coats for Kids



This winter, there is a great need for winter coats suitable for toddlers and young elementary school students. In our most recent student services newsletter, our staff made students aware of this community need. As of January 29, the coats for kids fund has raised \$3,200 of its \$3,000 goal. This fundraiser allowed our school community and citizens to join forces in ensuring every child stays warm this winter.

Out of School Opportunities



Students have been invited to participate in various opportunities this year. Firstly, the youth advisory council is seeking new members. Students who are sixteen or older and have an interest in issues concerning parliament are encouraged to join before February 14. Additionally, the Lambton centre is seeking employees for their 2022 summer camp. Positions range from counsellors, life guards, an assistant cook, and property maintenance. Lastly, a tools in the trades boot camp is being offered for students interested in this career.

Meet St. Patrick's 1st School Pet!



This year, students have welcomed a new friend into our Irish family. The official St. Patrick's cat, named Thor, visits our school often. As the pet of one of our junior students, Thor is able to leave his house and visit in a matter of minutes. With his own Instagram account and an abundance of fans, this year will be one to remember for this loving feline!

