

Annual Report for the 2010/2011 School Year

Dear Parents and School Community:

The St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Council had a very rewarding 2010/2011 school year. The CSC held eight meetings: on September 13, October 25, November 29, January 10, February 7, April 11, May 9 and June 13. We worked on various issues during the school year including supporting school initiatives (such as Fitness Friends and Me to We), fundraising to support school events (such as retreats and school trips) and the purchase a Smart Board for a Grade 3 classroom, and building community through hosting Parent Involvement Events (Movie Night, Swim Night and Literacy Night).

The purpose of the CSC is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are advisory organizations. As school's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council of the actions taken in response to its recommendations. Accordingly, included with this report is a summary of the advice the school council provided to the principal and to the school board in 2010/2011 and actions taken:

- Preferred Characteristics of Principals (to be considered when principal position becomes open)
- Review of Board Policy 601 (confirmed CSC voting procedures with support of the Board Director)
- To improve EQAO results (Board established School Improvement Plan which Mrs. Bier and Mr. Charette explained and implemented)
- To support student education and increase EQAO results by providing up-to-date technology in the classroom (school goal is to have a Smartboard in every classroom and used technology funding from CSC to purchase a Smartboard for the Grade 3 classroom)
- School Board Surveys requesting feedback on policies from Councils; individual members responded to online surveys and Board considered survey responses

Council established and achieved three goals for the 2010/2011 school year:

- To continue our liaison with the Newcastle and District Recreation Centre
 - We held Swim Night at the Rec Centre
- To establish a Parent Involvement Committee
 - Mrs. Bier, Mrs. DiLella and Mrs. Cottam established the PIC and made recommendations for initiatives to be held in the 2011/2012 school year
- To improve communication and engage parents and students interest by way of newsletters, the school website, gmail, school meetings and St. Francis parish
 - The Chair and Vice-chair provided a monthly newsletter item, created and advertised a new email address (st.franciscsc@gmail.com), provided updates for the school website including adding meeting minutes, encouraged the school community to attend meetings and become involved with the school, reached out to the parish for support

Additional achievements of the CSC in 2010/2011 included the following:

- discussion on the EQAO results for the 2009/2010 school year
- volunteer orientation sessions
- weekly pizza lunches
- creation and distribution of CSC binders and information packages
- sending representatives to conferences (People for Education and OAPCE)

- allocation of funds in support of school initiatives (Me to We, Fitness Friends, National Evangelic Retreat, Racing Against Drugs, class retreats, Grade 8 Graduation, etc.)
- Welcoming Committee
- transferring Nutrition Program from CSC to school accountability
- discussion on CSC bylaws and election forms
- fundraising survey and establishment of the Fundraising Committee
- Empower Hour (together with the school)
- tickets for Dr. Karyn Gordon Presentation
- providing pizza lunches or treats for events such as the First Communion and Confirmation retreats, Staff Appreciation Day, Play Day, St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day and others
- promoting Recycle for Education which generated \$250 for the school
- vote to send a Council member to Food Safety Training Course in support of the school board's Nutrition Policy—Policy 410
- decision on fundraisers for 2011/2012 school year (pizza lunches and magazine sales)
- to pay for the repainting markings in the school yard
- to host the School BBQ in September as a community event rather than as a fundraiser.

Fundraising activities were also conducted and the proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. These fundraising activities are identified in the financial summary which is posted on the school's website and a copy in the school office. Minutes of meetings held and financial records are available for public inspection at the school office.

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the CSC last year. Special thanks are due to the following members of the 2010/2011 Catholic School Council: Maria Kraemer (Chair), Susana Gomes (Vice-chair), Debbie DiLella (Secretary), Lisa Flower (Treasurer), Linda Bier (Principal), Guy Charette (Vice Principal), Fr. Peter Seabrooke (Parish Priest), Therese Collins (OECTA Representative), Patricia Elcome (Parish Representative), Linda Cormack (CUPE Representative), Danette Crawford, Kyla Cottam, Mathieu Gouin, (all Parent Representatives) Melissa Hooper, Natalie Ingram, Jenn Theberge and Cindy Pearce.

Finally, we would like to wish the best of luck to candidates in the September 2011 CSC elections. Issues that we foresee as being important matters for the consideration of the new Catholic School Council following the September 2011 elections include: allocation of fundraising money, Parent Involvement Initiatives, recruit an OAPCE Representative and the mandatory review of the school dress code.

Election forms for the 2011/2012 school year have been included. Please consider putting your name forward for the next Catholic School Council. Submit your election form to the office or bring it to the first CSC meeting on Monday, September 26th 2011.

Keep in mind, all Council members and school volunteers must have a current Criminal Records Check (or annual declaration for those who have already submitted a Criminal Records Check) on file with the office. It can take several weeks for a check to be processed. Take advantage of the summer months to obtain your Criminal Records Check from the police station in Bowmanville and have it ready to submit when school starts in September.

Sincerely yours,

Maria Kraemer
Chair

Susana Gomes
Vice-chair

June 23, 2011