

S.B.C.S.S – “A Celebration of People”
“Heart of the Community: Success for each -- a place for all”

St. Benedict Catholic School Advisory Council

Thursday, November 28, 2019

6:30

Room 111

Meeting called to order: 6:30

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement: Margaret Ingoldsby, Land Acknowledgement

Prayer of Belonging: Margaret Ingoldsby

A. Service Learning - Marissa Rocha, Jasmine

- Last year we joined with Monsignor Doyle to travel to Kenya for first year of program.
- Earn 3 credits – religion, social justice and coop
- In classroom for 2 periods second semester
- Purpose:
 - Gain awareness of local/global social justice
 - Discover potential to make difference
- Global experience – help with developing country with WE Charity
- Helping build school
- Participate in water walk
- See how alternative income works
- Learning about WE partners with local community to support them in thriving in various ways
- A lot of hands-on work
- Activity based learning in the classroom
- “if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” – African proverb
- Fundraising helps go towards funding the program – garage sales, Applee’s breakfast, bakes sales, vendor markets, dinner and silent auction, entertainment explosion
- Cost is high, so important to know students will be supported in fundraising initiatives
- Experiential Learning Trips – Ray of Hope, Faith and Leadership Retreat, Culture of Life Conference, ROM and POW WOW café, Woodland Cultural Centre, WE Global Learning Centre
- Volunteering part of putting service into action. Did 24 hour fast, raising \$6400 for Operation Smile; The umbrella Project and other activities with the ACTIVE class; Christian Gleaners; Creating liturgies
- WE has 5 main pillars, water being one of them which St. Benedict’s focused on
 - Did water walk to fundraise at school

- Culminating project – had to share their journey and how it affected them socially, spiritually, emotionally, mentally. The presentations showed just how life-changing the experience was for each of them.
- To apply, grade 10 and 11, but may open up to grade 9's.
- Choose the program when making course selection
- Fill out application
- Will be interviewed and are informed if they are a good candidate for the program
- Minimum 20 students with EF tours, so partnered with Doyle last year. This year we are hoping to run a full program of students from St. Benedict's
- Kenya Service-Learning Program presentations will take place December 9 and again in Feb for grades 9-11 religion classes

B. SAC – Bryson

- Aug 25-22 Head Start ran again and was successful
- Sept 3, grade 9 orientation by Link Crew
- Sept 6-23 Grad Wear Sale, and School Spirit Wear
 - Like to have friendly competition with Resurrection – creates fun
- Bryson on School Senate as well, to share ideas with other schools, write board reports about what board is doing, student council sessions
- Hosting Elementary School Senate Meeting – leadership opportunity for 4 students
- Oct 7-11 Mental Health Week – bring awareness to mental health and resources
- Oct 8 athletic leadership did Terry Fox Run – first one for St. Benedict's
- Benny's spirit week Oct 14-18 – to increase school spirit and pride. Will host one next semester as well
- Oct 23 – football pep rally – both Jr and Sr won their games
- Oct 28-31 Halloween week activities
- Nov 3-5, 20 from student council went to leadership conference in Niagara Falls with other student leaders from across Ontario
- Nov 18-22 – Belonging week for anti-bullying
- Nov 20 Grade 8 Day run by Link Crew to give tour of programs
- Nov 29 SAC will decorate atrium for Christmas
- Upcoming Christmas events, including Christmas Assembly
- In New Year – first relay for life. Will invite cancer survivors to join. Partnering with Doyle and will be at Bennies
- Semi Formal – at Bingeman's
- Jasmine on social justice sector – February making packages for homeless in the community

C. Principal's Report - Margaret

- Enrollment 1531
- Budgets came through, about 10% less this year over last year

- Will have staffing increase in 2nd semester, partially due to existing contractual obligations already in place with current contract
- Community Justice Initiatives still working with us to support our school in solving conflicts, ie. punitive suspensions as last measure so look at it in more restorative way. This is our 3rd year so we are fortunate
- Lots of activities happening – Academic Awards,
- Grants from Waterloo Catholic Foundation came through – just under \$10,000 in total for which Benedict's is very grateful
- Engineering Certificate Program launched here – had MPP's here hosting them for an evening with the Trustees as well. Companies within the area have been very supportive and a few have even offered \$1000 scholarships for students going into the trades
- Athletics doing great this semester
- Staff have been very supportive of the extra curricular activities
- School Play – all encouraged to go
- Advent Christmas baskets
- Jan 24-29 final exams
- Staff Development – have had great learning on PD days
- Coming up: grade 8 night Jan 16th

D. Other Business – Eric

- Volunteers to help work council table at grade 8 night
- CPIC meeting – revisiting way PIC grants are being done. Now doing allocation towards high schools and feeder schools. Tasking CPIC and school councils to come up with how to increase parent engagement. Loretta Notten was there and Eric had an opportunity to talk with her about how parents can encourage their children in their educational pursuit. How can we set up environments to help them be successful? One of the key things was the website. Encouraged us on areas we can piggyback with other events. For instance, with grade 8 night perhaps we can have a room open up for parents and students with resources/support/etc. So, while touring the school, have someone from public health in the room to talk about vaping, cannabis, mental health support. Opportunity for parents to ask questions, learn, engage.
- Information – St. Benedict's website, BENN both good resources. Board website is not user friendly/parent friendly but has a lot of great information

E. Next Meeting

- we will review information resources available to us, analyze and then set a date to have Anton come and work with us
- come with feedback after reviewing resources
- babysitting?

Meeting adjourned: 8:00pm

Next meeting: TUESDAY, January 21, 2019 6:00pm *note day and time change!**