



Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes- Tuesday, November 1, 2022

1. Welcome Daniel Ascencio + Andres Masmela
2. Opening Prayer Lorenzo Campanelli
 - Lorenzo Campanelli read an All Saints Day prayer
 - Opening masses were held, there was one mass for grade 11 and 9 students, and one mass for grades 12 and 10
 - The next school mass will be held during Advent on Dec 8
 - Weekly masses will be held on Fridays in the chapel, at 7:45am, masses are for staff, students, and families of HT
 - Father Gerry from MMOG has been helping out
 - As part of the junior retreat program, the grade 9's were on retreat at HT Croatian church. It was a fun day, the theme was grade 9 survival, a pizza lunch was provided. The grade 10's will have a retreat this month, organized through the religion classes.
 - A staff retreat was held at MMOG, the theme was "what does the lord require of you?"
 - Culture of Life events are held on Thursday afternoons, this month was thanksgiving for seniors, students wrote letters for seniors in the community. For Christmas, students will be making snowflakes for seniors. They also support Shifra for Home – a support home in Burlington, for pregnant women, and young moms who need shelter.
 - The Social Justice club meets every Wed after school, they organized the thanksgiving food drive.
3. Honouring the Land School Council Co-Presidents
 - Our student council co-presidents asked that we acknowledge that our school was built on first nations land, and that each of us should do our best to be good stewards of the earth.
4. Student Update Mark & Danni
 - Pink Day was on Oct 27, the school held a pep rally during second period, the pink game buy-out was during 3rd period, proceeds raised go towards breast cancer awareness. It was a sold-out event, the football team won by a lot! Grade 8's from our family of schools also attended.
 - The junior dance was a big success, 300 students in attendance, very positive, the DJ was a huge hit. The theme was "neon".
 - Guidance presentations were conducted for the grade 12's regarding OUAC, students received their codes. A university fair was also held in Oct.
 - Equity and change committee is working on bullying prevention
 - The school attended a Robotics competition in Hamilton. Many students participated.
 - There were many activities on Halloween, a fair run by Shield: costume contest, photo booth, pumpkin carving contest. There was a scavenger hunt for grade 9's
 - Parent/teacher interviews were on Oct 26
 - AP Information Night was on Oct 20, for incoming grade 8's, about 450 people attended
 - Nov 2 is Bring Our Kids to Work day for grade 9's. On this day grade 8's will come to HT to experience a "mini high school day"
 - Ms. Latimer will be getting grade 11 students involved
 - On Nov 2, the senior boy's football team will play in the semifinal game



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5. Teacher Update

Lindsay Andrews

- Progress reports went home, teachers are working with students on learning skills
- The midterm report cards will go home Nov 24
- OSSLT literacy test coming up, runs between November 28 to December 2, will occur for grade 10's on Nov 29 and Nov 30. Students can prepare, there is a D2L shell that grade 10's can access, they can access practice tests on this site. There are online resources as well. This is a requirement to graduate. The test runs over 2 days, there are 2 booklets. The test is scored out of 400, students need a score of 300 to pass.
- Many teachers are offering support for students

6. Vice-Principal's Items

Jennifer Peer

- a) Gr. 8 Information + Parent Engagement Night + AP Info Night + P/T Interviews
- A lot of positive feedback was received from parents who attended the information/engagement night.
 - The parent engagement segment of the evening allowed parents to learn about the many programs/courses the school offers
 - AP info night was a success, there seems to be a lot of interest in the program
 - P/T interviews occurred
 - L2L tutoring program began, this offers additional support for students
 - Jermaine Fletcher, the student success teacher, is reaching out to students who require academic support
- b) Uniform/Civvies – update
- We continue to monitor uniforms, students are encouraged to dress appropriately
 - School council parents were asked if they are in support of the VP's/teachers enforcing the dress code (uniform + civvies), all parents said they supported this
 - Oct 27 and Oct 31 were filled with school activities, the energy level among the students was high & positive
 - On Pink Day, it was not a civvies day, students were asked to dress in pink only since it was intended to be a spirit day.
 - When you sign your child out of school the assumption is made that they are off property for an appointment, or illness, etc. The school cannot be held responsible for their whereabouts. Students are not to be signed out for a school event or to complete schoolwork; they are to leave the school premises.
 - Communication has been good, the emails to parents are very clear about expectations
- c) AP Parents – testimonials
- The school is looking for parent/student volunteers to provide feedback on the AP program. Parents or students interested, are asked to provide testimonials about the AP program, the intent is to help others understand what the program is like.
- d) HT News – posted to website (morning announcements)
- This is now on the school website, parents/students can scroll through the slides of morning announcements
 - It's important for parents to stay connected, and the school wants to be transparent



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7. Principal's Talk

Teresa Castellarin

a) Graduation Update:

Date/time - June 27th

- Proposed change in time, the ceremony has been from 7pm to 9pm in the past, the school is recommending the time be changed to 3pm to 5pm
- This proposal was put forward to the graduation committee, the committee agreed that this would be a good change
- The earlier start time will give families the opportunity to celebrate afterwards, with the current time parents and students cannot celebrate with their families as it is late
- The new start time will be communicated soon, so families will have notice and can make the appropriate arrangements
- The School Council parents were asked their opinion on the new start time, all parents felt this was a good change

Discounts update

- Restaurants in the area will offer graduating families discounts that evening

b) Administrative Update:

Building Relationships – communication

- There is a lot going on in the school, a lot of effort is being placed into communication, posting information on Instagram, Twitter, etc.

Subject Award Ceremony

- Subject Awards are given to the student with the top mark
- This year's ceremony will be on Nov 24, parents are invited, the ceremony includes award recipients only
- Honour roll students are not included, they will receive a certificate separately

Lunch Supervisor & Commissionaire – update re: supervision

- 4 people have come forward to apply to be lunch supervisors
- The students have been well-behaved at lunch
- The Commissionaire is great, they have been watching the bathrooms for vaping
- Students are suspended if they are caught vaping
- Students have been sitting in the Atrium, at the round tables, additional tables have been added, it is a nice space for the kids

Safe Schools Team – parent volunteer

- The Safe Schools Team has representation from many groups, council, shield, staff, etc.
- This committee will meet 4 times a year
- A parent volunteer is needed from council



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- The committee is working on a bullying prevention plan

8. Co-chairs

- Approval of minutes from Oct 4th meeting, Marion Bastiampillai approved the minutes, Tony Pavelic seconded the motion

a) Parent Engagement – Goal is to build a community of parents

Topics that would engage parents – suggestions?

- Looking for different ways to engage parents
- Variety of activities that address different audiences, what are some suggestions?
 - Evening out, Movie + Talk, Book Club, Yoga, Wine & Cheese?
 - Dr Josephine Lombardi, can speak on a variety of topics to parents, like “self-help”, can run retreats, many of her topics center around “hope”
 - Before we can bring in an outside speaker, the speaker policy will need to be reviewed
 - It’s difficult to get parents to come to events
 - Something social would be ideal
 - We may look at doing a parent survey to determine the type of event that would be most appealing
 - Many parents have felt the impact of the pandemic, interaction with other parents may be helpful
 - Will need volunteers to help organize these events

b) Fundraising Update (Dali & Liz)

- We are moving forward with Purdy’s for Christmas, this will be rolled-out soon as 3 weeks are needed, and we would like to receive the chocolates early December
- Campbellford cheese was put forward as an option, they sell bricks of cheese, however there were concerns around refrigeration
- A local Tea entrepreneur (Tea with Tracie), is also an option. The school would get 25% of the funds, this company does everything, including distribution.
- How many fundraising events should we have?
- Looked into Chapters for their discount program, but it is not available now
- Can we use “flipgive”?
- The council decided 2 programs are sufficient, Purdy’s and Tea with Tracie will be used for fundraising during the Christmas season



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c) SGF – questions:

\$4,593 is the balance in the fund

Put towards? – the SGF and which programs we will support will be discussed at next month's meeting

- a. Gr. 12 scholarship
- b. Student Activities/Clubs/Groups in school (application process)
- c. Other suggestions:
 - i. Persecuted Christians

d) Parish Updates:

MMOG update:

Rosary Walk in Glen Oaks Cemetery this Sunday November 6th at 3:00. We will meet at the entrance of the Funeral Home and the cemetery on Dundas and Ninth Line. We will walk together while praying the rosary.

Catholic Women's League Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday November 12th from 9 - 3.

Red Wednesday on November 16th: Join the universal church in praying for persecuted Christians around the world, especially those on the continent of Africa. Join us at MMOG for the rosary at 6:30 p.m. followed by mass at 7:00. You may wear red to mass that evening to show solidarity with the persecuted Christians worldwide.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive: Our parish will be commencing our annual Christmas drive from November 28th to December 9th. Our goal is to provide the 110 families (including 147 children) with Walmart gift cards so that they can put some gifts under the tree. Our elementary feeder schools will be assisting with the fundraiser as they have done in the past.

Holy Trinity Croatian Church:

- Father Evan retired, Father Vinko has joined the parish
- The church has started a youth group
- There will be a mass on All Souls day
- 46th annual parish banquet on will be on Nov 19th

St Mikes:

- The chapel is now open

e) Community Rep Updates - Erin Bell was not able to attend the meeting

9. Questions/Comments emailed to Ms. Castellarin

20th anniversary for HT

- Ceramic mug designed for 20th anniversary, every grad received one
- The mugs cost \$13.50, the school would sell them for \$20
- The school's theatre production will celebrate 20 years, alumni games, and other activities
- Asked if parents would be interested in buying mugs, is this something they would want?
- Sale of mugs would be a fundraiser for the school
- School Council Vote – the council voted yes/in-favour of buying 500 mugs



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10. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

- The next meeting will be on Dec 6, this will be a social event. The financial update will be covered at this meeting.

Important Dates:

November	
November 1	Grad meeting during period 2 in the Theatre Academic Council Meeting @ 2:35 pm Catholic School Council Meeting 6:30 pm in the Library
November 2	TOKTWD – TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY, all grade 9 students Mini High School Day (grade 8 students visit HT) 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
November 3	Lunch and Learn for new Teachers
November 11	Term 2 begins
November 14	World Kindness Day (SHIELD)
November 15	Staff Meeting at 2:35 pm in the Theatre
November 17	Take a Hike Day (laps around the track)
November 22	Movie Night
November 24	Report Cards Distributed (electronically) Subject Awards Ceremony during period 4 Game Night 6P00 pm to 8:00 pm in the cafeteria
November 25	PA Day