

St. Alphonsus School News

Second Term - March 2023



**Term Two
...lots to
do!**

From The Principal

Hello Neighbour!

Although the spring season officially begins this week, Winnipeggers have a more pragmatic view of spring: we need the snow to go in order to declare an end to winter, and even then we are not entirely convinced, having been fooled before by April blizzards. As the snow begins to melt, we start to look for the harbingers of spring, from pussy willows to robins to pre-season baseball. Although I take heart at the natural signs of the impending season, one of the main indicators of spring for me is the re-emergence of neighbours.

All winter long we shuttle between our vehicles and houses with as much speed as possible. If by chance we see the people who live around us through our scarves, toques and parkas, we acknowledge them with a curt nod or quick hello. Once the frigid weather passes and we are able to move around the yard again, we find the time to catch up, chatting over the fence or meeting people as they walk their dogs. A feeling of community and connection flourishes along with the crocuses. It is almost like a spiritual thaw takes place alongside the physical one, and it allows us to extend ourselves out to our physical neighbours and to the world beyond.

This spring phenomenon reminds me of the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke's Gospel. A person who had training in the law asks Jesus how he can achieve eternal life. Jesus, sensing that the man already knows the answer, asks him what the law says. The answer comes, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as you love yourself." The man pushes further, asking Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus' answer comes in the form of the famous parable of the man hurt on the roadside. Many people pass by, but no one comes to his aid, except for the proverbial Samaritan. It is important to note that the Jewish people of the time did not regard Samaritans as friends. In normal circumstances Jews and Samaritans would not have spoken to each other; in extraordinary circumstances, the person that the injured man would have despised saves his life.



In his parable, Jesus chooses to have the injured Jew rescued by a Samaritan to illustrate his point more clearly. It is our actions, rather than our proximity or similarity to others that make us "neighbours". The global nature of our society and lightening speed of media allows us instant access to the suffering of people from Libya, Haiti, Japan, and Afghanistan. These international neighbours need our support along with our neighbours at the Main Street Project and the senior whose snow you shovel. It is our compassion, caring and kindness that makes us neighbours with the people on our street, in our city and country and around the world. It's not always easy being a good neighbour in our world, but we all know how right it feels and how thankful we are when someone is a good neighbour to us!

As the coming season of spring warms the earth and brings it to life again, may the message of this parable enlighten us on our Lenten journey and enliven us to live as true neighbours in our communities and in our world.

Peace,

Christine McInnis

*All will concede that in order to have good neighbors,
we must also be good neighbors. That applies in every
field of human endeavor.*

- Harry S. Truman

Looking Back

December

Our Advent assemblies were held each Monday during the month of December. They allowed us to spend some time in quiet reflection in all the hubbub of preparing for the concert and the great feast of Christmas. We held



our annual **Gift Drive** on December 9th. This event has been a long-standing tradition at our school, with good reason: wrapping gifts for kids in need gives us a warm feeling in our hearts. The gifts that were gathered for local missions were gratefully received.



Our **Christmas Concert** was a great success. The kindergarten students to grade six students performed in *A Christmas Carol Catastrophe*, an original play written and directed by Mrs. Arkle. The play told the story of a the Christmas Carol council who has to fight against the the takeover of Christmas carols by a ill-intentioned mogul.



January

Our annual **Open House** took place on Sunday, January 29th . It was well attended by prospective parents and students. Of course, the school looked great thanks to the efforts of our custodial staff, but the most attractive thing about our community is our people. Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who came out, answered questions and made the new people feel welcome. Your commitment speaks volumes to people looking for a school community.



February

Catholic Schools Week took place from February 12-17th. The week was full of fun activities including bowling, bouncers, Harbourview, skating and swimming.



We had our **Ash Wednesday** prayer service on the 22nd. The students, staff and parents in attendance listened, prayed and sang together. Our grade eight friends acted as ash ministers and helped to maintain the spirit of reverence to mark the beginning of Lent.



Festival du Voyageur Week was held on from February 27th-March 3rd. The week was filled with in-class crafts, games and Bannock, including some baked over the fire outside. We enjoyed soupe aux pois provided by Michelle Davison, yummy! Merci Beaucoup to Madame Curwain for coordinating all of the activities through the week.



March

Our grade seven and eight students went to Falcon Ridge on Friday, March 3rd for a **Ski Trip**. It was a fabulous day, with glorious spring-like weather. Everyone from the novice skiers to the experienced boarders enjoyed the trip.



On March 20th We had a visit from a travelling theatre group, who presented an entertaining musical history lesson about **Pier 21**, the entry point of so many Canadian newcomers in the 20th century.



Looking Forward

May

Gala 33 will take place on Saturday, May 6th at the Delta Hotel and Conference Center. Orders are now being taken for Gala tickets, which will be available for pickup after the break. Be sure to get your tickets early for this great event. Further information on Gala is included in this newsletter.

We are hosting **Whole Group Kindergarten Orientation** on Thursday, May 18th from 4-5 PM. The event will provide parents and students with an opportunity to meet the kindergarten teacher, hear about the program and explore the classroom. Parents will be provided with information on readiness activities that will assist them as they help their children prepare for September.

Our grade seven and eight students and staff will be heading off to Camp Arnes from **May 31-June 2** to enjoy the fresh air, to try some new activities and to enjoy the bonding that comes from spending time in the great outdoors.

June

June will arrive very quickly, bringing another school year to a close.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our **Family BBQ** on **Wednesday, June 21st**. After two years away, we are stoked to be able to gather as a community. Our PALS crew is busy planning all of the fun and games we remember from the past. How sweet is that?

Our planning committee is busy planning for this year's **Fun Day**. We will be returning to Kildonan Park Outdoor Pool for a day of swimming and sunshine. We wanted to give parents the head's up to book the date **Friday, June 23rd** if you are interested in joining us this year. We hope many adults are available. Please watch for more information coming home as our plans firm up.

This year our **Kindergarten Farewell** and our **Grade Eight Farewell** will be held on **Tuesday, June 28th** at 1:00 PM and 6:30 PM respectively.



From the Gym

It has been a very active term here at the school. The students are enjoying being physically active through their gym classes, intramurals, extra curricular sports and special events.

The primary classes have continued to work on moving safely in the gym. We have been playing lead-up games for a variety of different sports and are developing a sense of fair play. We are learning to use a variety of equipment. Our elementary friends have been playing basketball lead-up games, participating in fitness challenges and enjoying a variety of low organized games that emphasize movement in sport. As well, they are developing the concept of team play. Our older students have been playing basketball and playing both singles and doubles badminton. As the spring starts to warm up and the field dries out, we will be heading out to enjoy some of our physical education classes outside.

Catholic Schools Week was a great success from an active lifestyle perspective. Students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that they can continue to enjoy through out their lives, including skating, bowling and swimming.

Basketball season has just finished up. We had three teams on the go. Thank you to Madame Curwain and Mrs. Ireland for all of the time dedicated to the teams. I am sure the teams appreciate it.

As things quiet down on the basketball front, badminton is on the horizon. The grade seven and eight students will have the opportunity to participate in badminton club and compete in the MCSAA badminton tournaments at the beginning of May.

Running club will be starting up after spring break. Runners from grade 3 and up are welcome to meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and head out onto the sidewalks for a run. If the weather is unsuitable we will meet in the gym and enjoy a combination of running and active games to maintain our cardiovascular endurance. Permission forms will be going home next week. Students below grade three are welcome to join if a parent is available to run with them.

The students have been enjoying lunch hour activities in the gym. Thank you to Mrs. Pieczonka and the Student Leadership team for organizing and running intramurals.

That's all for now. If you have any questions or concerns about the Physical Education program, please come by the gym or call me at the school.

Take care and stay active!

Blake McInnis
Physical Education Teacher



Physical Education Second Term 2022-23

Kindergarten Grade 1 and 2

During the second term, early years students were involved in a variety of activities to practice and develop some of the fourteen basic movement skills. In particular, we worked on manipulation skills including catching, throwing and striking. We played different lead up games that incorporated all of the basic movement skills. We continued to use a variety of equipment and played an assortment of cooperative and low organized games. Safety and fair play have continued to be a focus.

Grades 3-5

In the second term students have participated in a range of different activities including: striking games, basketball and badminton lead-up games and low organized games. The skills we have focused on developing this term include striking skills (kicking a ball, using a racquet, hitting a ball etc) and movement skills (moving with a bouncing ball, dribbling a soccer ball etc.). An emphasis on fair and safe play is incorporated in all of our activities.

Grades 6-8

During the second term the older students were engaged in an assortment of activities to develop their skills including basketball and badminton. We have focused on developing manipulation skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting and striking a badminton shuttle. Students have continued to work on their personal fitness goals. The concept of team play was developed through basketball and large group team games, while badminton offers students the opportunity to participate in an individual sport.

Resource

News from the Resource Department:

1. There will be an evening parent session on Thursday, April 20. The topic will be "Supporting the Mental Health of Children and Families". Details about the event will be sent home in early April.
2. Vision and Hearing screening will take place on Wednesday, April 19 and Friday, April 21.

Vision screening is for Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5 and 7. Hearing screening is only for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 3. More information will be sent home after spring break.



Français

Joyeux Printemps! Another fabulous term in French has come and gone, take a look at what we've been up to...

Première année

This term, the grade one class continues to be an attentive group, enthusiastic about learning French. Students demonstrate active listening and viewing skills that help to improve comprehension. The class really enjoys taking part in singing or reciting poems related to our classroom themes. In our recent exploration of “les forms,” the class actively participated in learning-based activities such as lotto, classroom scavenger hunts & memoire. Students continue to work at demonstrating their knowledge by being able to independently name, identify and label the different types of shapes in French. The class has enjoyed the process of creating their own shape art including les cercles, les rectangles, les carrés, les ovales, les étoiles, and les triangles. Great job!

Deuxième année

Throughout the second term, the grade two class continues to exhibit a love for learning French. Each class time, students partake in songs, poems, and chants to help reinforce vocabulary and comprehension. Throughout our unit “Les moyens du transport”, the class worked at being able to name, identify and label the different types of transportation found in the air, on land, and on the water (dans l'air, sur terre, sur l'eau). Students are currently working at demonstrating their knowledge of transportation through the completion of their flip-books. Good effort! In term three, students will continue to build on vocabulary, oral skills, and strengthen their understanding through language-based games and written activities.



Troisième année

In the second term, the grade three class has shown an excitement and a willingness to want to learn French. In writing, the class is able to recognize “les mots famille” and familiar vocabulary related to our classroom calendar. With assistance, students are able to utilize the taught vocabulary in their written work. In our study on body parts, the class enjoyed creating their Name Monsters and were able to successfully use the form of avoir “I have...” to describe various physical features of their monsters. They continue, as a group, to make more attempts to speak French when asking to go to the bathroom or get a drink of water. Fabulous work!

Quatrième année

This term, the grade four class continues to show an eagerness for learning the French language. Students thoroughly enjoy participating in “Mini prof,” where each student has the opportunity to direct the class through our calendar routine in French. During our unit “les vêtements” and “les parties du corps,” students were able to name and label different types of clothing and body parts. The class was able to demonstrate their understanding of taught vocabulary and “Il porte_____” phrasing through their Silly Sentences Posters. Awesome job!



Cinquième année

The grade five students continue to be eager and active participants during French class.

In reading, the class is increasing in their ability to independently recognize and read common French words related to our classroom calendar, as well as, studied vocabulary from previous themes. With assistance, good use of words and phrases of taught vocabulary in their written work. To end our unit on “Les Points Cardinaux”, the class was asked to create a map. Students were able to independently create their legends, label the map accordingly and create sentences describing the proper coordinates correctly in French.



Sixième année

In the second term, the grade six class has shown steady progress in the French program. Students continue to work on their reading and writing abilities through our “Message du Jour.” The class is now able to read and use phrases appropriately to formulate simple sentences. Currently, the grade six class is enjoying our unit “Les Pays.” To date, students are becoming more proficient in decoding texts by recognizing high frequency words and familiar vocabulary. In turn, students have begun applying these words and phrases in their written work. Fabulous effort on your French speaking Country projects!



Septième année

Throughout the second term, the grade 7 class has made good effort in partaking in all classroom language-based activities. In writing, the class was able to showcase their knowledge and ability to properly conjugate ER, RE & IR verbs, as well as use them correctly in simple sentences in their cahier entries and in-class assignments. In turn, students have been able to recognize and decode words when reading simple sentences. Students are currently working on rough drafting a game board that uses the proper conjugation forms for er, re & ir verbs in the present tense. Can't wait to see the final products!

Huitième année

The grade 8 students continue to show progress working towards the French curricular outcomes. Overall, the group shows an interest in learning the French language and actively takes part in all class activities. Students continue to make a good effort speaking French in large group and small group discussions. Throughout the second term, students have been focusing on the proper structure of Passé Composé with Être. The group continues to work on demonstrating their knowledge and ability to correctly create the passé composé utilizing the appropriate auxiliary verb, its pronoun, and the proper use of the past participle. Students are currently working on writing storyboards utilizing the passé composé for their Stop Motion Movies. Bien fait!



Festival du Voyageur

Our school has taken part in yet another successful "Festival Week". This year, every grade participated in an individually curated activity centered around different aspects of the French, Metis, and Indigenous culture. These activities included; cuisine, traditions, art, music, games and more. It was a week filled with fun, laughter, intrigue, and excitement. Students in grades 5 to 8 found baking bannock over an open fire to be more challenging than expected... but very tasty! While students in grades K to 4 were given an opportunity to try some great tasting Bannock within their classrooms. A huge thank you to Mrs. Davison for the delicious soup aux pois... always a fan favourite! Another thank you to my lovely grade 6 group who took on the responsibility of running our gym stations. Because of all your hardwork the "Festival Games" were thoroughly enjoyed by all students from Nursery to grade 4.

Vie Les Voyageurs!
Madame Curwain



From the Music Room

The Music Room continues to be a busy place as unique and united students learn and grow together, strive for excellence always (in all ways), and have fun!

Overview

Despite its title, our Christmas performance, "A Christmas Carol Catastrophe" was a success, thanks to the talents of the Kindergarten to Grade Six students, along with the entire staff. It was such a pleasure to finally perform before a live audience to experience the laughter, surprise and delight (and of course, singing along to the pa-rum-pa-pum-pums) together again.

Our students also shared their talents with the St. Alphonsus Parish community, with a Grade Three through Six

Choir leading the hymns and assuming cantor responsibilities, during our Catholic Schools' Week Sunday Mass. Our monthly school Masses were enhanced by a Junior High Choir and Grade Three to Six Choirs.

This term, we explored Chinese music and dance during the Lunar New Year. Our version of a Fan Dance was one highlight. During Festival Week students learned about the music and some teachings of the Metis people through the story, "Andrea's Fiddle". To recognize African Heritage Month, we sang code songs, said to have helped people fleeing slavery to navigate their journey; and heard the stories and music of people with African heritage. In honour of St. Patrick's Day students have been singing, jigging and playing their instruments to the tunes of Ireland, as well as learning about some traditional Irish instruments.

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Class is continuing to explore basic musical concepts. Playing singing-based and instrumental games, which require purposeful listening, develops individual voices and promotes ensemble skills. Students have been joyfully demonstrating their musicianship this term. Maintaining a steady beat and using musical vocabulary will continue to be emphasized.

Grades 1-3

This term students have been developing their musical skills in a variety of formats. Performing and composing as individuals, and in small groups, demonstrates creative and collaborative skills. Singing and playing instruments as a whole class requires purposeful listening and close attention to the conductor's cues. Students use created forms of notation and basic standard notation to express their musical ideas when composing.

Grades 4-6

These classes are working at relating the symbols and structure of standard music notation to how the notes sound when they sing and play. Creating and performing compositions according to set criteria demonstrates their understanding of musical concepts and collaborative skills. Chords and chord progressions are studied and practiced providing a foundation for making music in a variety of contexts. Discussions about the role of music in culture and society are lively and show the students' insight and interest in making wider connections to musical topics.

Grades 7 and 8

The Junior High music students use a variety of instruments to support music theory concepts studied. These activities help students to develop their musical skills working as an ensemble and individually. They demonstrate autonomy when selecting instruments (or devices) and songs to share their musical skills. This term, small groups and individuals created and presented music using in a wide range of forms including a traditional trio (violin, cello and piano), a vocal group, piano duets, a video game and other computer-generated music-making programs. All of the Junior High students have provided input into the preliminary stage of producing our annual Spring Theatre performance, which we are looking forward to bringing to the stage, one night (and afternoon) only, on Thursday May 25, 2023!

Mary Arkle
Music Teacher



Holy Week at St. Alphonsus Parish

Palm Sunday Masses April 1 & 2

Regular weekend masses Saturday at 5pm,
Sunday at 9am and 11am

Holy Thursday April 6

- No Morning Mass
 - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm
- Adoration until Midnight in the Chapel of Repose

Good Friday April 7

- No Morning Mass
- Morning Prayer at 9am
- Childrens' Way of the Cross at 11am
- Celebration of the Lord's passion at 3pm

Holy Saturday April 8

- No Morning Mass
- Morning Prayer at 9am
- Blessing of the Food at 2pm in the Church
- Easter Vigil at 9pm

Easter Sunday April 9

Masses at 9am and 11am

Easter Monday April 10

Parish Office Closed



Yearbook Committee

Yearbook is a club where you will always have fun. You learn how to work with the ' program, how to upload images and take photos. During school events and outings, you take photos to remember the memories that were being had. Inside the yearbook, you can find photos of the kids in each class, and photos of what each class did throughout the year. Yearbook helps you learn different uses of technology, and is awesome altogether.

Make sure to buy a yearbook!

Naomi Rowbotham
Yearbook Committee



Intramurals

The intramurals leadership committee chose to do soccer as the first lunchtime sport. We picked soccer because a lot of students are familiar with it. Even if a player was new to the sport, they still have fun and stayed active. The lunchtime competition was also exciting. Soccer started in mid-February and ended mid-March. There were six teams that participated. The teams were made up of a mixture of students from grades 5 to 8. 56 students participated. Each team gave it their all, but in the end, the winning team was Team Blue. Team Blue defeated Team Red after facing them in the final game, which ended in a sudden death overtime match. Anthony scored the goal with a penalty kick. After spring break we are looking to get thing underway with another sport.

By Payten (gr 7) and Sebastian (gr 8).



PALS

PALS has had a great second term, with Hot Lunches, Gym Nights and movie Evening for families. We are currently doing the Glenlea fundraiser plant sale, with orders due mid April . Thank you, Michelle Davison for making this happen!



We are hard at work planning our year end BBQ scheduled for Wednesday June 21th from 4pm-6pm. There will be food, music and fun activities for all ages. As well, we are starting the planning for the Wine Tasting Event September 23th, 2023 along with the Halloween social on October 21, 2023.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the Wine Tasting and Halloween social events, so if you interested in helping out, please contact me. stunnerj@hotmail.com or call at 204-229-0326.

If you find yourself with a Tuesday evening off and feel like chatting with other parents from the school, come to a PALS meeting. Our meetings are in person and currently in the school gym to allow for safe distancing. if you would like to join, please email the school and we will add your name to the list. Our next meetings are scheduled for: April 11, 2023, May 9, 2023 and June 13, 2023. Meetings start at 7 pm and generally run about an hour.

In closing, PALS would like to wish you and your family a very blessed, safe Easter. See you at the next meeting!
Ciao!

Joseph DiMartino
Chair



Celebration of Catholic Education

All parents are welcome to join us for the Annual Celebration of Catholic Education on Tuesday, April 25th at 7 PM. This year the event is being hosted by St, Emile School. The evening kicks off with a wine and cheese followed by an opportunity to talk about Catholic Schools in our Archdiocese.



GALA 33

St. Alphonsus School Is

Off to the Races

Kentucky Derby Gala Dinner

Saturday, May 6, 2023
Delta Hotel Winnipeg

- Champagne reception
- Delectable 4 course dinner & complimentary bar service
- Incredible array of silent auction prizes & our annual \$1000.00 lottery draw
- Live entertainment & dancing all night long
- Numerous surprises in store

Tickets: \$160.00/person (tax receipt for a portion of the ticket price)

Sponsorship information available through the office & school website.

Monthly payment plan available for ticket and/or sponsorship purchases.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

No chocolate bars, cheese, Grey Cup tickets,
or cookie dough sales required!

JUST ONE "GALA EVENT" TO SUPPORT AND ENJOY!



Sponsors to Date:

Parkway Nursing Management
Perfect Landscaping
Christine & Blake McInnis
Nina Kuzenko
Marie Ewonchuk Medical Co.
Altama Asset management
Dawn & Mark Popovich
Melanie & Jim Norbury

Please consider joining these sponsors
in supporting this important event!



is off to The Races!

KENTUCKY DERBY

SATURDAY
MAY 6, 2023

COCKTAILS
& DINNER
5:30PM



ENTERTAINMENT
& DANCING
UNTIL 1AM

TICKET PRICE
\$160

DELTA HOTEL
350 ST. MARY AVE

ROOM RATE
\$159