

GEORGES VANIER SCHOOL
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CULTURE AND CARING ACTION TEAM MEETING
[CCCCAT]

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2025 @ 3:45pm
Library

M I N U T E S

Attendees: Daniel Birkenbergs (Principal), Stefania Iannizzi (Teacher), Andrew Laporte (Teacher), Nadia Pizzani (Teacher), Robert Simunec (Teacher), Nicole Sunseri (CYW)

Regrets: Mathura Arulalagan (Public Health Nurse), Marta Baltazar (Teacher), Alexis Commander (Parent)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Daniel Birkenbergs welcomed team and began with a prayer and land acknowledgement
- Daniel invited round table introductions and welcomed all participants to the team
- Daniel thanked individuals for their active participation and invited round-table introductions

2. Review of Purpose for Committee and Objectives

- Daniel Birkenbergs set context for committee; required under Safe Schools legislation
- Team to meet 3 times over the course of the school year
- Catholic values and faith at centre of committee; team to focus on safety, security, care and well-being of students
- Committee to determine areas of focus and discuss initiatives and action plans to address identified needs
- Committee to function as advisory to school administration; whole-school, solution-focused approach to identified needs
- For context, Daniel briefly reviewed the context for the school in terms of what initiatives are in place and how the school will enhance the school plan moving forward

3. Goals for 2024-2025: Progress Report

- Daniel provided an update for the team as to the progress related to the school goals chosen by the CCCCAT in November
- Progress Report:
 - i. Faith Focus: In-school half-day retreat during Lent for all grades across the school focused on our Faith, the theme of Catholic Education Week (Pilgrims of Hope), and the Jubilee Year
 - Scheduled for March 5th, 2025
 - Ash Wednesday liturgy to begin the day in the morning
 - Will feature stations rotations based on themes mentioned and in a scramble format so students will be in mixed groupings across divisions

- ii. Community & Belonging Focus: Opportunities to enhance students' feelings of a welcoming and caring community at Georges Vanier School
 - Initiatives already occurring within the school in this regard (e.g., Anti-Bullying lesson from ROP, Anti-Bullying Week initiatives, Virtues/OCSGE assemblies, BRAVE workshops)
 - Continuation of virtuous Vikings initiative
 - Black History month highlights
 - School will continue to capitalize on various opportunities to build community and prevent bullying through various activities throughout the school year
 - Incidents of student conflict and concerning behaviours are being continually addressed by school administration and support staff

- iii. Health & Wellness Focus: Mental Health & Well-being
 - Involves continuation of programs such as PALS and school-wide "Play Day"
 - Healthy Schools initiatives have focused on Mental Health and Well-being for students thus far
 - Mental Health & Well-being Spirit Week
 - Mental Health Champions (N. Pizzani; Grade 5/6) → various initiatives including Mindfulness Monday & Wellness Wednesday activities
 - OPHEA Certification

4. Open Discussion

- A. Laporte expressed desire to provide more involvement for parents/guardians to come in to school to engage in classrooms. Conversation lead to agreement to explore a "caregiver" day during Catholic Education Week
- Conversation around impacts of social media; school to seek potential community engagement to address impacts
- D. Birkenbergs to look into arranging the Great Gulp for week after March Break

Next Meeting

- *May 2025 [exact date/time TBC]*