



ADVENT 2022

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL

Education in the Catholic Tradition for JK - 12



WALKATHON 2022

On Sunday, November 5, students, parents, alumni, and friends of the school community put on their walking shoes, gathered in High Park, and joined the 5km hike to raise funds for our school. The weather was beautiful, the snacks were delicious, and the joy of being together to walk side by side for the first time in three years made spirits bright. Our sincerest thanks to every generous sponsor who helped make this key fundraiser a great success.

O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH!

We are getting ready for a special birthday! December is a favourite month for the children as it marks the most blessed birthday of the year: the birthday of Jesus! What shall we give him? We shall "give him our hearts" as we devotedly and eagerly prepare for our annual gift to the Tiny King: "playing our best for him" at our Annual Christmas pageant! We will practise, sing, memorize many lines, dance, dress up, and sparkle as much as we can sparkle for him. May this favourite festive school tradition help bring comfort and joy to us all.

Come, let us adore Him!



TWO VERY SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS

As part of their apostolic work, two inspiring seminarians from St. Augustine's Seminary, Josip Pavic and Keith Diaz, spend every Thursday with us, working with students, reading with them, practising spelling, mathematics, and much more! They teach catechesis in both our high school and in the elementary school. The children actually cheer when they arrive in the morning! They join in our sports and give us all a boost through their lively example of Faith put in action. May the Lord bless these generous men for their loving service.



READING BUDDIES

What could be nicer than to curl up with a good book and a kind friend? In our Reading Buddies program (which has been part of the school since the year we opened!), older students are partnered with younger ones, developing their own proficiency in oral reading while cultivating in their buddies a love for great stories. It is heartwarming to see the special bonds that develop between buddies. In a world filled with computers and smartphones, it is a gift to be given time each day to delight in pages you can hold in your hands — classic fairy tales, fables, and other literary treasures enjoyed in such "jocund company"!

"We turn'd o'er many books together."



ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day was truly heavenly at the School when our aspiring little saints "came marching in" dressed up as their holy heroes. This day of festive celebration began with a beautiful sung Mass followed by student presentations on their saint's life. The rest of the day was filled with our famous saints trivia game, puzzles, saints bingo, treats, active games, a short video on the life of St. Francis Xavier, and more treats! We could almost feel the smiles from saints who were honoured that day — delighted above by the radiant buzz below!



OUR NEWEST TEACHERS



It is our great pleasure to introduce you to our three newest teachers! **Miss Corinne Malan** teaches our Grade 7/8 students, **Mr. Edward Berki** teaches French and Grade 9/10 Composition and Rhetoric, and **Miss Magdalena Poweska** teaches our Kindergarten class. Their loving dedication and joyful enthusiasm have been a blessing to us all!

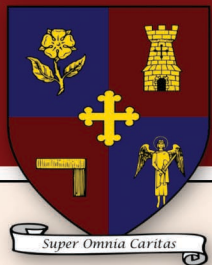
THE SERIOUS IMPORTANCE OF HAVING FUN

While we provide our students with an excellent academic formation at the school, we believe, as St. John Bosco did, that the best education allows children to experience the joy of childhood. One of the ways we foster this spirit of joy is through our "Friday Special Activity". Every Friday afternoon, all elementary classes have time set aside for having fun. This is not a frivolous waste of time, but an essential part in the formation of the heart of the child. Having fun baking candy apples, having a tea party, or playing board games, cultivates a worldview that life is good, belonging in a community is good, and enjoying simple pleasures is good. The children never forget these special activities, and the joy enkindled by this simple fun are passed on to the people they encounter every day. So let's have some fun!



REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

For the whole month of November, all staff and students prayed for the repose of the souls of our family members, friends, and benefactors of the School. This year there are two beloved teachers and friends who have a special place in our commemoration: December 11 marks the first anniversary of the deaths of Mrs. Susan Almonte and Prof. Janine Langan. May these generous and beloved women of great faith be forever blessed in heaven and may they continue to help our school by interceding for us from above.



THE FRANCIS DE SALES CENTRE

FSC OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



For a few days in early November, the subjects of the day for the high-school students of the Francis de Sales Centre were not Math, Literature, and History, but Archery, Wall Climbing, and Outdoor Survival. The students spent three days at Camp Brébeuf just outside Rockwood, Ontario. A lot of activities were packed into those three days: we prayed the Stations of the Cross through the woods, we challenged ourselves to climb, and we played outdoor tag after nightfall; we went on a Creation Walk, reflecting on Genesis as we hiked; we had a memorable time roasting marshmallows, we saw shooting stars, we watched the sunrise — and some of us even got up at 5 a.m. to hike to the perfect vantage point to view the lunar eclipse! The three days in the fresh (and cool!) air revitalized us for the remainder of the term back in the classroom.

