**Holy Spirit Parent Council Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2021**

**Attendance*:*** *Dave French, Aoife Cahill, Michelle Yuzdepski, Kim Hawco, Le-Ann Ewaskiw, Kim Pennock, Erin Croft, Vanessa Petersen, Michelle Derk, Leanne Bohme*

**Call meeting to Order and Opening Prayer**

1. *Dave* called the meeting to order at 6:33pm
   1. Opening Prayer led by *Aoife Cahill*
2. **Roll Call**
   1. Introductions- via zoom chat
3. **Approval**
   1. *Dave* made a motion to approve September 22, 2021 minutes: *Kim P. – First; Kim H. – Second; carried.*
   2. *Dave* made a motion to add item: message from Le-Anne; approve today’s agenda: *Kim P. – First; Kim H. – Second; carried.*
4. **NEW ITEM** – Message from *Le-Ann School Board Trustee Representative* – telling us to engage with **trustees as it is nice for them to know names and faces of parents and families;***Le-Ann* opened the floor for questions/comments about bumps along the way that we may like brought to the table.  
   *David French*- mention mask issues but the school made a bold decision and appreciates the adjustments and boldness to mask; was an important step in keeping our kids safe; kept us on track for the year; kids seem to be okay and unbothered by masks!  
   *Le-Anne*- ended with “stay strong and continue to communicate!”
5. **Teacher Presentation** *Erin Croft + Vanessa Petersen {Grade 3}*  
   Celebrations:

Grade 4 Leadership Retreat, Bible presentation, School Mass

Read in Week - story read by Mrs. Cahill, dress as your favourite book character, genre scavenger hunt, flashlight reading

Nutrition Program - it is up and running

Classroom Updates:

**Prek/K-** We have some beautiful friendships growing in our class. We have learned a lot about what we are thankful for, the season of fall, as well as problem solving. We are so excited for Halloween!

**K-** October has been filled with exciting walks, reflecting on the beauty and splendor of the fall season.   We had lots of fun making and eating our delicious Friendship Soup. We can’t wait for our pumpkin study later this week.  Halloween will be here in no time and our room is buzzing with excitement!

**Grade 1-** Grade One is a very busy place!  We have started our weekly Spelling and Home Reading programs.  We spent some time reflecting on all the things we are grateful for in our lives at Thanksgiving and now are enjoying some spooky activities in preparation for Halloween!

**Grade 2-**This week is the First Reconciliation at OLPH Church on Saturday 11:30am.

In grade 2 we have been working on measurement in math, liquids in science, community in social studies.

In language arts we have started using the MyHeggarty program to break down words into their parts.

We have participated in orange shirt day, outdoor activity week, Terry Fox run and a scavenger hunt.

**Grade 3-** The grade 3 classes are settling in nicely to the routines of the classroom. Students enjoyed reflecting and writing on all the things and people they are thankful for. With Halloween around the corner, we are completing some halloween art and writing activities.

**Grade 4-** An amazing and successful retreat. We are working together on our Leadership groups at the school. Grade 4 leaders will help with assemblies, teach outdoor recess games and be involved in school announcements.

“Notes” from the Music room:

We have so enjoyed being back in school. The music room is alive with singing and games, preparation for celebrations and lots of learning.

Song prayer is a huge part of our music classroom and as the students prepare for assemblies, we are learning about the liturgical year through song. Our Gr. 4 students recorded a beautiful song “Testify to Love” for their Mass held recently at the parish. This has been posted in their music google classroom.

Students are not only singing but also reading, writing, listening, moving and collaborating in music class. This year, Indigenous music study continues to be at the forefront of our music program. Literacy and numeracy concepts and practice are also built into our daily music experiences; the language and formation of words, the rhythm of words, as well as the mathematics that naturally occurs in music. The classes are super engaged and seem to love learning through this cross curricular approach; making connections to other subject areas, other cultures and to their own lives. Mrs. Blanchard has set up a music google classroom for all classes. This is meant to be a FUN place for them to go to explore music.

There, students will find some of their recordings… and lots of activities for the students to practice.

 As we say in the Music Room:

**“Practice makes BETTER”!**

School Activities:

Take me outside week (October 19-22)

We will be celebrating Halloween as a school on Friday October 29. Students can come to school dressed in their costumes and will enjoy a virtual parade where they can see other students' costumes.

Upcoming Events:

Parent Teacher Interviews (November 2 and 4)

Evidence of Learning will be coming home the week of October 25.

Thank-you…

-for the surprise on World Teacher day by treating us to hot drinks and snacks.  The chalk art on the sidewalk was a warm welcome to the day!

1. **Admin Report**: *Michele Yuzdepski* + *Aiofe Cahill*

**COVID Update -** our last case was Sept. 27, AHS running contact tracing now, staff and volunteer vaccination (proof by Dec. 20th), with the heaviness it’s important that we continue to focus on supporting our student & staff mental health

* **World Teachers’ Day** - October 5 We appreciate all the love that was shared with staff by the School Council and families!
* **Stenciling -** the stenciling work has been created on the tarmac in the back of the school. Classes are using the designs and the students are enjoying the games/activities.
* **Pink Shirt Day -** we discussed the possibility of a student creating a shirt for pink shirt day. How would the School Council like to be involved?
* **Book Fair** - virtual book fair running November 15th through November 29th. Orders will arrive on time for Christmas. Orders will be individually packaged and sent to the school.
* **Literacy & Numeracy Interruption Grant** - the provincial government provided money to support our grade 1-3 students who have experienced a learning gap due to COVID. Ms. Quinlan, one of our grade 2 teachers, is working as our literacy & numeracy intervention teacher to provide extra support for some of our students.
* **Evidence of Learning** - important to make time with your child to discover the student’s Evidence of Learning portfolio which may be in paper or digitally
* **3-Way Conferences** - virtual conferences for grade 1-4 on Tuesday and Thursday from 4-7 pm where we invite parents/guardians and their child to meet with their teacher to discuss their growth and areas of next step
* **PD Day** - great day of learning. We spent the day focusing on connecting with our faith, wellness, each other and literacy.

**Halloween** - Friday, October 29 we will celebrate Halloween with a parade. No treats will be shared.  
  
*Michele –* opened floor for questions

*Kim H* asked If parent volunteers are coming – yes!  
  
*Aoife*- opened floor for questions  
*Michele D* asked why only k-3 given help for “learning gap” and not the grade 4’s; response was that it was a provincial decision.

1. **Open Issues**   
   a. Business arising from previous meeting-beautification of the front +  
   *Aoife* brings up words of encouragement for bathrooms and hallways; needing team and ideas…
2. **New Business  
   n/a**
3. **Adjournment**  
   Dave adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm