

April 11, 2017
Principal's Report
St. Matthew's Parish Education Committee

Enrollment

Figures as of April 11, 2017

GRADE	# IN CLASS
K	30
1	30
2	30
3	29
4	29
5	30
6	30
7	28
Total	236

Ministry of Education Monitoring Visit

Theo Vandeweg, Inspector of Independent Schools, completed his monitoring visit of our school on March 28, 2017. He reviewed a *Monitoring Document* with the school principal and sent a formal report commending the school for its' preparedness and had one item for follow-up (Learning Resource Policy).

Spring Presentation 2017 - Date Change - Thursday, May 25, 2017

Shows will be held at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Full Scale - Emergency Evacuation Drill

On Friday, April 21, 2017 the school will engage in an Full Scale Emergency Evacuation Drill. This will simulate the steps the school and staff will take in the event of a major emergency.

Teacher Evaluations

This year five of our teachers were required to be evaluated principal; evaluations are now in the finally stages of being complete and documents are being sent to the Superintendent's office. The evaluations consisted of the principal formally evaluating each teacher teaching a variety of lessons (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, etc.) and also included informal observations. Father Tran also interviewed the teachers to ensure the educators are committed to personal and professional faith development.

Speech Arts Festival

This year our school will be sending several representatives to the Regional Speech Arts Festival held at on April 20, 21, 2016. Representatives from St. Bernadette's, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Star of the Sea will join some of our students in presenting poems, speeches and Bible Readings.

Spelling Bee

Our annual School Spelling Bee, held in March, yielded a winner (J. Dela Cruz) who will go on to represent St. Matthew's at the regional finals held at St. Anthony's West Vancouver in early May 2016.

Teacher Shortage

Survey Confirms Teacher Shortage in Independent Schools

In view of the massive hiring of teachers in the public sector, FISA conducted a survey on March 8-10, 2017. This was to ascertain the causes and scope of the problem. Of the 296 member schools, 60% completed the survey. FISA is confident that the alarming results reflect what is happening in independent schools across the province.

The survey resulted in four recommendations that have been forwarded to the Deputy Minister of Education and the TRB for consideration. They include:

- Immediate issuance of a temporary letter of permission certificates from the TRB to qualified individuals who may not hold a current BC teaching certificate.
- Expedited issuance of BC teacher certification to new graduates, certified teachers from other provinces or other jurisdictions/ countries.
- Inclusion of independent schools in any efforts by government to recruit teachers from other provinces or other jurisdictions.
- Prevention of public school districts from hiring teachers who are under contract to independent schools in the middle of the school year.

A complete summary has been sent to member schools as a separate document and a response on how FISA might help during the current staffing crisis.

\$29.4M School Supplies Boost for BC Classrooms, including Independent Schools

The BC Government is giving schools throughout the province a funding lift to support student learning, cut costs for families and bring BC's new curriculum to life in classrooms with the new \$29.4M Student Learning Grant. This grant will help schools purchase supplies and resources to deliver BC's new curriculum.

Funds will be delivered to independent school authorities by March 31, 2017, amounting to \$28/FTE for Group 1 schools. These funds can be used for instructional supplies including electronic resources, textbooks and other classroom supplies serving an educational purpose, athletic equipment, as well as resources for non-enrolling teacher's programs.