

September 22, 2015
Principal's Report
St. Matthew's Parish Education Committee

Enrolment

Our enrolment numbers are solid for this school year – see details below:

Figures as of Sept 22, 2015

K	30
1	31
2	30
3	30
4	31
5	30*
6	28
Total	210

Staff for 2015-2016

Principal – Miss D. Welsh

Office Admin – Ms. P. Rossi

Grade 6 – Ms. R. Pacheco

Grade 5 – Mr. J. Kuester

Grade 4/Head teacher – Mrs. A. Rasmussen

Grade 3 – Ms. S. McGrath

Grade 2 – Mrs. D. Koochin

Grade 1 – Ms. F. Baldissera

Kinder – Mrs. J. Sallos

Learning Support Teachers - Mrs. Sharri Testani (5 days a week); Mrs. Paula Bourassa (2 days a week)

Physical Education – Mr. Damian Durante

Educational Assistants: Mrs. L. Potter, Ms. R. Potter, Ms. S. Chem, Ms. C. Ehman, Mrs. R. Mehra, Ms. L. Gatlabayan; Ms. V. Chow, Mrs. L. Davies, Mrs. M. Dias

Staff Faith Development Day and Staff Retreat

All staff attended the annual Faith Development Day on September 11th, held at St. Matthew's Church. Speakers included the noted pro-life speaker, Stephanie Gray, James Borkowski (director of Communications for the Archdiocese) and Archbishop Miller. The day focused on *Proclaiming Jesus with Loving Hearts* (which is the archdiocesan theme for the year) and how to recognize and build one's personal relationship with Jesus.

In early September all staff members went to Westminster Abbey for a retreat led by Father Tran.

Anxiety Workshop

Most of our staff attended a workshop called, "Friends for Life" – an anxiety reduction initiative sponsored by the government. Most of our classes will be using the language and lessons laid out in this workshop with our students to help

reduce bouts of anxiety/nervousness.

Meet the Teacher Night

Our annual Meet the Teacher night was held on Thursday, September 17. All members of our staff were introduced and parents/guardians had a chance to meet their child's classroom teacher.

School Growth Plan for 2015-2016

This year our staff will focus on improving the writing skills of our students; particularly in personal/impromptu writing. We will monitor the progress of our students by doing *School Wide Writes* 3 times in the year.

Special Education Support

This year we will continue to work with a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a Speech Language Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist for some of our funded students. We are also looking at bringing in POPARD consultants (Provincial Outreach for Autistic Related Disorders) to help guide our children with autism spectrum disorder.

Use of school (after school hours)

Currently we have 4 regular user groups using our elementary school classrooms after school hours; they include: Chinese Language School (Saturdays); Vietnamese Prep (Sundays); St. Matthew's PREP (Wednesdays) and RCIA (Saturdays).

Superintendent's Office

Superintendent – Dan Moric (on medical leave until November)
Acting Superintendent/Associate Superintendent for – Sandy Marshall
Associate Superintendent for Finance – Frank Dragojevich
Associate Superintendent for Human Resources – Lesya Balsevich
Director of Learning Support – Jennifer Tong
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis – Michel Gloanec

BC Catholic Initiative

This year the Superintendent's office is working with the BC Catholic to promote our schools. Expect to see special sections in the BC Catholic devoted to our Catholic elementary and secondary schools.