

1. **Staff Parking Lot:** We put orange pilons in the driveway to the Staff Parking Lot in the morning in order to prevent people from using this entrance as there is a lot of foot traffic here when students and their parents are entering the back yard. It is very important that people respect this process as we have had many close calls where people could have been hit by a car. We also ask that you show patience if you are driving on Campbell Street and busses are coming or pulling out. People have been cutting off the busses, honking and making the area dangerous for everyone involved. To put it into context there are roughly 500 people who arrive to the school between 7:50am and 8:05am, which means we all need to take care of each other. Should this issue continue we will be reaching out to the O.P.P. to help regulate the situation.
2. **We Are the First Door:** As a community we have a lot of strong relationships with other Community Agencies and often work to support our families in accessing these agencies. We believe that the school is the First Door to helping your child(ren) and can facilitate some processes as we have established relationships with various groups. If you feel you need help and do not know where to start, don't hesitate to contact Mr. French or Ms. Young and we will see how we can help; or at least point you in the right direction. Together we are stronger and can have a great impact on our student's future.
3. **Pizza and Milk Dates:** This is a reminder that milk and pizza dates are set to meet Reid's Dairy and Papa John's deadlines for ordering. While we appreciate that life is hectic, once the dates are closed it is not possible to open them up as the orders are placed for the month. We do not have extra items for sale the day of as we ensure the orders reflect what we need and there is limited waste. Thank you for your understanding.
4. **Progressive Discipline & Limits:** As a Catholic Faith Community we firmly believe in Redemption. It is at the core of who we are. As we believe in this all aspects of what we do are based on this precept including how we use discipline. It should be firmly stated that the purpose of discipline is to "teach students" expected behaviors and help them practice these behaviors in community. The concept of community is another major element for us, which is why student suspension is a last resort and seldomly used.
5. **Hands Off and What It Looks Like:** At St. Mary's we encourage students to play and interact in a respectful way, which includes no rough play, horse play, shoving, hitting or aggressive actions towards each other. The reason for this is to prevent injury for the children when they are playing or doing sports and to promote proper social behaviors. The key to learning the correct way to treat each other when we are not in school is to practice these skills while we are in school under the direction of school staff and from other students. Hands-off really is about Minds-On and being aware of the needs of those around you and responding in a way that benefits everyone.
6. **EQAO Results and Plan:** Mr. French will be sharing our EQAO Results for 2019 and what our school plan will be for the upcoming school year. We are very proud of how our students approached the assessment and all the community support we received while it was on. Our goals will be very clear for the next year and we have already begun working on taking actions to achieve these goals. There will be more to come.
7. **SIPSAW:** Our School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Wellness has been vetted through our Catholic Parent Council and is posted on our school website. The purpose of this plan is to establish goals directly linked to student learning and wellness. Take a look and contact Mr. French, or Ms. Young if you have any ideas, or questions.

8. **Safe and Caring Catholic School Plan:** As a school we have a Wellness Promotion and Anti-Bullying Plan that is developed every year based on student survey feedback and consultation with our Catholic Parent Council. Our plan for this year is posted on our school website and contains our data from the survey, information about how we are going to respond to trends that we are seeing and partnership opportunities we are going to explore to promote student wellbeing and learning.
9. **Code of Conduct:** this is posted on our school website and is the framework for our interactions with each other. The goal of the code is to create an invitation for students and adults who may need our support as a Faith Based Community. The document is clearly based on our belief of Redemption and Forgiveness as a way of life, a way of treating each other and a way back to community.
10. **Removal of Items off the Yard:** Several structures were removed from the yard in October. The reason they were removed was to follow new Safety Standards. What most people do not know is that Safety Standards are constantly changing and we must follow these changes. Items that may have been approved 20 years ago can be deemed as unsafe now. As we learn more about injury prevention and safety it can lead to changes like equipment removal. We are very fortunate that we have an incredible amount of space and play items for our children to use during recess.
11. **Every Day Counts:** We have posted a graphic on our school website around school attendance. In addition to this graphic we have included letters in the report cards of students who have missed 5 days or more of school so far. Attendance is one of the most important factors in Student Learning and Academic Success. We use 5 absences as our benchmark because it represents a week of school and as Progress Reports represent the first 8 weeks of school, which have two holidays in them, it really is about 1.3 weeks of school. This is a lot for the first third of the year. A month of school is only 19 days, with snow days, being sick and other emergencies, it can be as low as 15 days, which 5 days is then 1/3 of a month of school. Numbers matter and we will be communicating "Strive for Five" which is our new School Board goal that students will miss only 5 days of school a year. As always, if you need help promoting regular attendance reach out to the school and we will see how we can help.
12. **Breakfast Club:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Cereal Drive. We appreciate your support of the program. Every morning we have a group of Parent Volunteers who provide breakfast to over 10% of our students. This is an incredible demonstration of Servant Leadership and being a caring adult. When you pay for Pizza and Milk you will see the option for donating to Breakfast Club. This really helps as we do have to raise a certain portion of our budget each year. Due to our incredible volunteers and Food For Learning we are able to provide a meal for \$1.15 per child. Every dollar you donate goes directly to food for our students.
13. **School Cash-online:** Come January 1<sup>st</sup> we will be a fully cashless school. All trips, fundraising, Catholic Parent Council and Pizza/Milk orders will be done online. If you have not set up your School Cash Online profile you should do it now. If you need help contact Katie Campbell at the school and she will help you.
14. **Boomerang School:** this is a reminder that we are a Boomerang School which means that everything that we bring to school with us, we take home. The only exception is food waste as we do have a compost program. To help we encourage families to pack food in reusable food

containers and minimize over packaged food items. Our ECO Club is working hard to reduce our community carbon footprint and this really helps.