



JOHN SWEENEY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Web Site <http://js.wcdsb.ca>

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Welcome: Mark Kotsamanes (Parent), Maria Castaneda (Parent), Kim Thompson (Parent), Jessica Sokolowski (Parent), Tanya Hunter (Principal), Emily Da Ponte (Vice Principal), Jo Neeb (Community), Maggie Stephens (Teacher)

Regrets: Dana Storrs, Sayo Tola-Adenaike

Emily led us in a land acknowledgement

Pastoral theme for this school year is “Inspire to Engaged” reminds us that meaningful engagement begins with listening and understanding. Tanya led in prayer.

2026-27 Council Elected Positions

- Chair: Mark Kotsamanes
- Secretary: Jo Neeb
- Treasurer: Kim Thompson

Principal's Report

School Communications

- School-wide communication continues through SchoolMessenger and classroom D2L pages
- Our weekly Friday Flash, shared through SchoolMessenger remains the primary source of information for families

Class Organization

- Student enrolment has now stabilized with a 4th grade class added. Portable added with class starting October 5th.

Student Assemblies

- We welcomed students and staff back with our First Day Assembly, including introductions to new staff members
- Outdoor procedures and expectations were reviewed with student
- Classroom teachers have continued reinforcing routines, expectations, and safety procedures in their classrooms
- Oktoberfest Polka Part – last week

Living, Learning, and Growing in the Holy Spirit

School Theme & Faith Life

- Our school theme this year is “Be Bold, Be Bright, Be Purple!”, inspired by The World Needs More Purple People
- We celebrate Faith Celebrations and officially launched our school theme for the year
- Talon Ticket draws continue to be a highlight each Friday, recognizing students who demonstrate our school values

Safety

- Have completed three required fire drills as well as a lockdown drill

Nutrition for Learning

- Our Nutrition for Learning program is up and running and already supporting students each day

Clubs, Teams & Student Leadership

- We are grateful to our staff for providing a variety of opportunities for students including:
 - Junior Co-Ed Soccer
 - Terry Fox Run
 - Dance Club
 - Flag Football
 - Spirit Squad
 - Student Council
 - Morning Announcement Crew
 - Intermediate Boys Three-Pitch
 - Intermediate Girls Three-Pitch
 - Girls Basketball and Boys Volleyball (season underway)
 - Intermediate Intramural Leaders
 - Christian Meditation and student participation in P2Gs

Cardinal Connection for Caregivers

- We are excited to offer Cardinal Connections for Caregivers this year in October, February & May. More information will be shared with families closer to each session

CSAC Updates

- A CSAC Commissioning Ceremony will take place on December 3 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- A request has been made to review the current CSAC Constitution due to some current discrepancies (original created in 2003). A sub-committee will research, review and offer proposed changes to council two weeks prior to the next meeting.

Community Report

- RisingOaks continues to expand with a new location opening in 2026 and another one in 2027.
- Strong Start – is up and running with 12 children in the program and new volunteers

Parish Update

- Jessica offer an update on the initiatives underway at Blessed Sacrament

Treasurer's Report

- Statement of account was reviewed as presented.
- Proposal for allotment of funds will be requested for school staff/groups for the next meeting

Fundraising

- Kim offered some possible fundraising opportunities for this school year. She will further research the option of poinsettia sales through Colour Paradise.
- The Terra Cotta Cookie fundraiser will take place in December.
- The Halloween Dance-a-thon will not be pursued as a fundraiser. A Halloween dance activity for students will still be offered with teacher support.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 1, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
- March 2, 2027 @ 6:00 p.m.
- May 4, 2027 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

