

Thank you parents of Monsignor William Irwin Catholic School students for your participation and ideas!!!

Highlights from the April 15th 2009 meeting

Living our Faith

- Lots of visual representations of our faith: student created pictures, a crucifix at the front entrance, symbols in every classroom, a student created mural, symbols of faith on the outside of the school.
- A prominent display for Monsignor Irwin in the entrance of the school and an annual celebration in his honour.
- Celebrations that include students and their families some of which should be masses and at the church whenever possible.
- Daily school-wide and classroom prayer led by students.
- A chapel in the school.
- Presence of the clergy in the school and a close connection with the parish.
- School participation in sacramental preparation.
- The school's mission statement should be a statement of faith.
- School participation in social justice and community organizations, such a Catholic Social Services and the Sign of Hope, and recognition for students who are active in community service.
- Teaching of and action in social justice and global awareness.
- Christmas concerts and other comfortable expressions and activities of faith so that students feel comfortable and confident in being part of church activities.
- The older students should be leaders of the faith: they could go on a retreat or mentor the younger students in sacramental preparation.
- Each classroom should have a place for a religious display that is maintained by students and filled with student creations.

School Life

- Strong academics at every grade level that will result in excellent results in government exams and in students' own sense of accomplishment.
- Strong experienced teachers to lead the school and teachers of French who have a high standard of language.
- Technology that meets the needs of today and tomorrow.
- A library that supports literacy and is kept up to date.
- Sports activities and programs that are real for the kids and teach them active living: DPA (Daily Physical Activity) that is lifelong learning, options and extra-curricular activities that are sports based.
- Make sure that French is part of the school culture: library resources in both languages, a balance of French programs, French speaking support staff, signage in both languages.

- Plan for French Immersion through to senior high.
- A strong Fine Arts program for all grades and make sure that all the options are as strong as the core subjects.
- Participation in all early literacy initiatives and a strong early literacy program.
- Programs for the gifted and talented through enrichment,
- Plenty of choice for extra-curricular activities that meet a wide variety of student interests.
- Full day kindergarten for those students who would benefit from such a program.
- Communication between the school and home that is easily accessible and non-threatening.
- An environment that is warm and inviting for the whole family.
- Plan ahead – build a playground, order more classrooms to keep the class sizes small, build partnerships with the community outreach service programs, book time and space at the local sports and other facilities.
- Ensure that the struggling learners are identified early and given all the support the district can offer in both personnel and systems.
- Encourage teachers to participate in international teacher exchanges so students have the opportunity to learn from teachers with a variety of experiences.

Easing the transition

- Before and after school care would be a very positive addition to the new school.
- Walking paths to the school so students aren't going through snow or mud.
- A park and playground that can be utilized by the entire community.
- School hours that work with transportation and/or child care.
- Recess in the morning and the afternoon for all the students.
- More transportation for students in the current walking area.