

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! Wishing you a healthy and adventurous 2020.

**Lost & Found Clothing Items unlabeled:** Please label your child's clothes and belongings to ensure that misplaced items are returned to your child. We have a collection of unlabeled "Lost & Found" items in a bin on each floor. We will be displaying these on a table at the front door on Parent-Teacher Interview night February 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**NEW SCHOOL SECRETARY:** St. Francis will be welcoming Mrs. Tamera Porter to the school team the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Patricia Kendall, who was the secretary at St. Francis for 34 years, began her retirement in November. We wish her the best. Helen Johnston and Louise Perkins have been sharing the Secretarial position over the past year and a half as Mrs. Kendall has been on a leave of absence. We wish to thank them both for their excellent work ethic and collaborative approach to the position. Mrs. Louise Perkins will continue her five hour position over lunch weekly. Mrs. Johnston has offered to be available to replace in the office when there is a need.

**The School Registration Period** for new students will take place Monday, January 27 to Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you have a child who will be starting four year old Pre-Kindergarten or a child who is starting school in Kindergarten in the fall, please come by the school between 8:15 am and 4:15 pm beginning on January 27<sup>th</sup> and register your child. It is very important to complete this application process as it ensures that we know our numbers and are able to organize efficiently for your child's arrival in the fall. Please note that the age four pre-kindergarten program has a limited number of spaces and children are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

**The School re-registration period** for returning students will take place on line between February 3 & February 14, 2020. Instructions will be made available closer to the date. If your email has changed since November, please let the school know at your earliest convenience.

**School Fees are now overdue:** We will be sending out reminder letters at the end of January if you still owe some or all of your school fees. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

### **Did you See Me? Bus Safety Week:**

This annual school transportation safety campaign reminds us of the importance of adopting safe behaviours with school buses. It targets public/private educational institution schoolchildren from preschool to elementary school, as well as all road users, including parents and school bus drivers.

We will have a visit from a bus driver who will meet the younger children in kindergarten and grade 1 to review bus safety. Visit the campaign website: [www.mastuvu.info](http://www.mastuvu.info)

On **February 19**, St. Francis will be featuring a School Literacy Day. It is in the planning stages at this time. However, we would appreciate if each child could come to school on that day dressed up as their favorite storybook character. We are really excited to be hosting this event, where students and teachers will be focusing on story books, music, poetry and so much more.

### **NEWS FROM THE CLC COORDINATOR, SIU-MIN JIM**

This winter, we are pleased to partner with various organizations to offer community programs and activities to our families and the English-speaking community. Here are some activities that you may enjoy at our school or up the street at Richmond Regional High School:

#### ***Infant & Child CPR (RRHS)***

Learn the CPR technique for infants and children up to age 8. January 21, 6:30pm - 9pm at Richmond Regional High School. \$20. Deadline to register is January 13 by contacting 819-628-0077, 1-877-929-0077 or by email [lesarbrisseaux@gmail.com](mailto:lesarbrisseaux@gmail.com)

#### ***PJ Story Time (St. Francis)***

For parents (or caregiver) and children 3–5, animated by Jennifer Brown and Rebecca Taylor. Enjoy a story, craft and snack. Upcoming dates: January 17, February 7. Free activity. Registration is mandatory. For info or to sign up: [dreamscometrue@live.ca](mailto:dreamscometrue@live.ca)

#### ***Books to Belly! Cooking Workshops (St. Francis)***

For parents (or caregiver) and children 5-12. Cook a recipe together inspired by a children's book! A book and grocery gift card is raffled off at each session and everyone gets to eat or bring home what you cook. All for free! Space is limited and registrations need to be made in advance. For more info or to register, please contact Siu-Min Jim at [jims@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:jims@etsb.qc.ca).

There will be 3 sessions offered this winter/spring. You may sign up for just one workshop or all three.

February 27, 6pm - 8pm – Stone Soup

March 12, 6pm - 8pm – Mexican Rice Casserole

March 26, 6pm - 8pm – Pasta Salad

#### ***Parent Tap (St. Francis)***

For mothers of young children: “come with stories, stay for support, leave with solutions!”. A discussion-oriented group meeting animated by Charity Kerrigan, Early-Childhood Educator. Refreshments and free childcare are provided. The next meeting is on January 22 on the topic of Self-care. Please register in advance (\$5/session plus a one-time registration fee to the Lennoxville & District Women’s Centre): 819-564-6626.

***Community Craft Night for Richmond-area women (RRHS)***

Need an excuse for a little downtime for some crafting? Join us for bi-weekly evenings of craft and community! Bring a project you are working on and enjoy a few hours of 'you' time among girlfriends! Come and be with friends as well as meet new people who also love a little ProCraftination! Free activity for women 18 yrs. + Upcoming dates: January 8 & 22. Held at Richmond Regional High School from 6:30 pm – 9 pm. Please confirm your spot by contacting Andrea Barrie ([annieandmike2010@hotmail.com](mailto:annieandmike2010@hotmail.com)) or Karine Brochu ([kaybrochu@gmail.com](mailto:kaybrochu@gmail.com))

Other programs and activities that will be offered include:

- ***Parent-Child Mother Goose*** – a weekly activity for parents (or caregiver) and their babies to enjoy songs, rhymes and stories together
- ***Tea & Talks*** - a monthly social afternoon for seniors to get together. And talk!
- ***Walk for your Health*** – a weekly seniors indoor walking group who meets at RRHS
- ***CHEPS Community Health Videoconference*** – monthly live videoconferences presented by a health expert. Next session is on the topic of Mental Illness on January 15th.

For more information on any of these activities, you may follow the ***Richmond, Danville & Drummondville area CLC*** Facebook Page, or contact Siu-Min Jim, our CLC Community Development Agent. She can be reached at 819-826-3702 ext. 24026 or by email at [jims@etsb.qc.ca](mailto:jims@etsb.qc.ca)

**Evaluation:** The following three weeks, as term two is drawing to a close, the children will be extra busy finishing up units, tests, projects, and *Diagnostic Reading Assessments*. The Term 2 report cards will be posted on line on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Our next parent-teacher interview evening is Thursday, February 27. A letter to sign up for the interview evening will be sent home the second week of February. We look forward to seeing you at this get together.

**Hooked on School (February 17 – February 21) Week Activities:**

**Feb. 17:** School Spirit Day: Wear your school colours (*blue & yellow*) or your St. Francis T-Shirt if own one (an order form from the PPO for new St. Francis shirts will be sent home in the spring).

**Feb. 18:** Dress up as what you would like to be when you grow up!

**Feb. 19:** Literacy Activity Day: Dress up as your favorite storybook character

**Feb. 20:** Crazy Hair Day: Style your hair in a wacky fashion! Prizes will be awarded to the craziest hair-do's

**Feb. 21:** All School Bingo in the morning

**St. Francis Elementary School Website:** Our webmaster, Mrs. Sullivan, continually updates the site. Check it regularly for our menu, calendar of events & lots of important information. <http://stfrancis.etsb.qc.ca>

### **Summary of Important Dates**

**Jan. 7:** First day of school after the holiday.

**Jan. 17: PJ Story time** (participants must sign up for this event)

**Jan. 21:** Infant & Child CPR offered at RRHS CLC room (sign up by Jan. 13).

**Jan. 22:** Grade 6 Career Fair @ the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (10:15 am – 3:00 pm);  
-Parent TAP @ St. Francis in the conference room **Topic:** “Self-Care” 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Jan. 23:** Daycare Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Planning Day sign-up deadline (please return the registration slip)

**Jan. 24:** St. Francis School Carnival afternoon (information to be sent home the week before)

**Jan. 27:** Planning Day/ with Daycare

**Jan. 27 – Feb. 7:** School Registration (for all **new** students)

**Jan. 30:** Geordie Production presents “The Water Chronicles” at 1:00 pm in the gym

**Jan. 31:** End of Term 2

**Feb. 3:** Term 3 begins; PPO Meeting @ 6:00 pm; Governing Board meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

**Feb. 3-7:** Teacher Appreciation Week

**Feb. 3 – Feb. 14: School Re-registration** (on line for returning students); Bus Safety weeks

**Feb. 7:** PJ Storytime (6:00 pm in the St. Francis Cafeteria)

**Feb. 12:** Term Two Reports posted on line

**Feb. 13:** Valentine’s Day Hot Chocolate (organized by the PPO); 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Activity Day

**Feb. 14: Planning Day/with Daycare**

**Feb. 17-21:** Hooked on Schools Week (<http://www.reussiteeducativeestrie.ca/jps/en/>)

**Feb. 19:** St. Francis Literacy Activity Day

**Thurs., Feb. 27:** Parent-Teacher Interview Afternoon & Evening; **Books to Belly** (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

**Feb. 28 @ 3:20 p.m.:** March Break begins (Daycare will be closed during this time)

**March Break:** March 2 – 6, 2020

**Mar. 9:** Planning Day/with Daycare

Have a great winter month! I will be sending home the next newsletter the week of February 10th.

Sincerely,

Louise Retchless, Principal