February 2018

Dear Monsignor Lee Parents/Guardians,

This Wednesday, February 21st, your child will come home with his/her report card for term 1. Here are a few things we would like you to keep in mind as you read your child’s report card:

* **Report cards do not define your child.** These **are merely a snap shot in time of where your child is now, in relation to the Grade Level Ontario Curriculum**. Unfortunately, the marks teachers give may not reflect how hard your child is working at school as they are required to give grades based on the curriculum requirements. This is a curriculum that every student in the province is working towards and everyone progresses at different levels.
* **Focus on the Learning Skills.** The six learning skills (Responsibility, Organization, Initiative, Independent Work, Collaboration, and Self-Regulation) **are skills that need to be developed to ensure success in all aspects of life**: school, work, and home. It is important that these skills are a focus of their development each year. **These skills are the most important part of a report card for any teacher, and there is a reason they are on the first page.** Please treat these just as important – if not more– than any letter or number grade for a curriculum subject.
* **Read the Report Card Comments.** The comments outline the learning and successes your child has demonstrated during Term 1 at school. The comments also outline the next steps for your child’s learning. Discussing the things your child has learned and talking with your child about the goals and other next steps outlined on the report is a great way to help your child understand how well he or she is doing at school and what they will be learning next.
* **What do these letter/number grades mean?** As outlined in the Ministry of Education’s document entitled, “Growing Success”:

**Level 3 (or grade of ‘B’ or a percentage mark of 70-79%)** means that the student has met “*the provincial standard of achievement. The student demonstrates the specified knowledge and skills with considerable effectiveness. Parents of students achieving at level 3 can be confident that their children will be prepared for work in subsequent grades/courses,*” (Growing Success, 2010, page 18). In other words, if your child has a grade of ‘B’ that means they can independently do exactly what their teacher has asked of them according to curriculum standards.

**Level 2 (or grade of ‘C’ or 60-69%)** means the child is approaching what is expected of them but they may require a variety of experiences before mastery.

**Level 1 (or grade of D, or 50-59%),** finds learning a challenge. Their program pace is slower and they may need work to be accommodated ie: extra time).

**Level 4 (or grade of ‘A’ or 80-100%)**, a child must surpass the provincial standard. He/she must have consistently gone above and beyond the expectations. With our open-ended literacy and math curriculums, teachers provide each child the opportunity to go beyond what is expected.

We hope you keep all of this in mind as you read your child’s report card later this week. Each year we see tremendous growth and we are very proud of every single one of our students. We can’t wait to see what is accomplished together during Term 2. As always, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher with any questions or concerns regarding report cards.

Thank you for your support.