

FRANK RYAN CATHOLIC SENIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For almost 40 years, Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School has been the scholastic home of adolescents making the transition from elementary to high school. This grades 7 and 8 school opened in September 1968. Since then, it has offered teaching expertise in all subject areas, combined with a wide palate of extracurricular activities, in athletics as well as in clubs and groups. These scholastic advantages have enabled students to grow academically, while also living a two-year school experience that lets them forever remember being a “Royal.”

Being a “Royal” means attending Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School. Perhaps best known are the Royal athletic teams, which, over the years, have won countless championships in all sports, offered by the school board. Effort, sportsmanship and teamwork are characteristics of Royal sports teams.

The school is named after the late Frank Ryan, an Ottawa Valley native who graduated from Queen’s University in 1927, held a number of advertising and public relations positions and eventually founded CFRA Radio in Ottawa in May 1947, followed by CFMO, Canada’s first FM station, in 1959. This impressive resumé is not in itself the reason that this school in Nepean was named after him. Mr. Ryan had stepped forward when war veterans in the City View area of Nepean were unable to find suitable property for an elementary school. Mr. Ryan gave them the site on Cordova Street between Lotta Street and Rita Street where St. Nicholas of Tolentino School was built. It was later, in recognition of this generosity, that the new intermediate school on Chesterton Drive was named in his honour. He passed away in March 1965.

In 1968, Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School was located in an addition to Our Lady of Good Counsel, a



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kindergarten to grade 6 school, which had opened in September 1965 on Bowhill Drive. When Our Lady of Good Counsel closed in June 1983, and the students relocated to St. Gregory Catholic School, Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School expanded into the vacant space. This area of the school is now known as “the west wing.”

Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary was built by Uni-Form Builders Limited for the school board of the Roman Catholic School Section 1 of Nepean, with V.R. Zinck as Chairman, C.B. MacDonald as Vice-Chairman, Y.A. Loubert, C.P. O’Neill and R.C. Warren as Trustees and Mrs. J.S.

McMahon as Secretary-Treasurer. Zygmunt J. Nowak was the architect for the project.

The students and staff of Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School have school-wide and classroom liturgies and retreats to live out their Catholic faith. In addition, they undertake fundraising for charities and do community service. Parish priests visit the school regularly to participate in these liturgical celebrations. The school’s chaplain serves as the liaison between the school and the various parishes in its attendance area.

The Turkey Trot of Hope was initiated in 1981 by teachers William Fox and Marie-Claire Rondeau. This charity fundraiser, started in memory of Terry Fox, marked the 25th anniversary of his Marathon of Hope in 2005 by raising \$32,000. This brought the total funds raised by the Turkey Trot of Hope at Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School to over \$500,000 over the course of the quarter century.

Present Principal

Debbie Clark

Principals

Bernard Reitz
Peter Gravelle
Peter Linegar
Bill Roach
Starr Kelly
Eileen Sametz
Andrew McKinley
Bert O’Connor
Lise St. Elói
Gerald Mikalauskas
Deborah DeFinney

Vice-Principals

Gary Valiquette
Bogdan Kolbusz
Tom Duggan
Paul Fortier
Gilles Laperriere
Betty Craig
Patricia Moise
Brenda Wilson
Gerald Mikalauskas
Martine Mitton
John Legree
Paul McGuire (current)

First Teaching and Support Staff

William Fox
Marie-Claire Rondeau

School Colours

Royal blue, Carolina blue and gold

Logo

The school logo is a stylized shield with a cross, along with a winged horse and the initials "F" and "R."

Motto

"Respect and Responsibility"

Frank Ryan Catholic School Letter

The Frank Ryan Catholic School Letter, first awarded in 1981, is given annually to certain graduating students who have made an impact on life at the school during their two years in grades seven and eight. A recipient of this award must obtain a minimum number of points during his or her two-year period of attendance at the school. These points are obtained by maintaining an above-average academic standing and through participation in extracurricular activities such as sports and clubs. The award consists of a letter as well as a certificate, and is presented at the school's grade eight graduation ceremony in June. Framed photographs of the recipients of this award are displayed in the hallway of the school.

Maureen Galla Christian Spirit Award

This award, named after former school secretary, Mrs. Maureen Galla, has been awarded at the school annually since 1981 to a graduating student who has exemplified the teachings of Jesus Christ.