



POLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL AT HOLY TRINITY R.C. CHURCH, WINDSOR, ON

“And let other nations know
that the Poles are not geese;
they have their own language.”

Mikolaj Rej

Father of Polish Literature 1505-1569

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History

*The first Polish language lessons started in 1919, in an unfurnished room at the newly built church building of the Holy Trinity Parish, 1035 Ellis St. E., Windsor, Ontario.

*In 1925 the Polish School was moved to a newly erected the Polish People's Home (Dom Polski), at 1275 Langlois Ave. A number of students varied annually from 19 to 45. The people who devoted most of their time and hearts to the Polish school were:

Mr. Jan Kaniewski, Mr. Wacław Morszczyzna and Mr. Tadeusz Basiński.

*In 1947, there was created an Interorganizational Committee to look after the school.

*Father Wawrzyniec (Lawrence) Wnuk, the consecutive pastor of the Holy Trinity Parish (1961-1983), was granted permission from the Catholic Separate School Board to use the classrooms of St. Angela School for Saturday Polish classes. The teaching was done by Mrs. Pola Kosobudzka, Mrs. Julia Wolańska and Mrs. Maria Żehaluk.

Since 1965, the Ursuline Sisters AHJ,

brought over from Poland by Fr. Wawrzyniec Wnuk to look after the young people, took over most of the teaching and the school administration.

Consecutive Polish School principals: Sr. Daniela Kołak (until 1983), St. Urszula Wolniewicz (until 1996), Sr. Maris Komorska (until 2012) and Sr. Elżbieta Mruczek (present).

Polish School Teachers Since 1925 up to 2011

1. Basiński Tadeusz
2. Bartoszewicz Wiesława
3. Bochus Wiesława
4. Borawska Anna
5. S. Budniak Magdalena
6. Chadała S.
7. Chemel Anna
8. Cichoń J.
9. Ciepielowska
10. Czajkowski Andrzej
11. Dąbrowska
12. Dziwer J.
13. S. Gąsiorowska Maria
14. S. Górka Małgorzata
15. S. Grochowska Teresa
16. Jung J.
17. Kamiński J.
18. Kaniewski Jan
19. Kijak Elżbieta
20. Klimska Marta
21. S. Kołak Daniela
22. Koleczko Elżbieta
23. S. Komorska Maris
24. Konior Maciej
25. Kossobudzka Apolonia
26. Kowal Lidia
27. Kowalewski
28. Leszczyńska B.
29. Lewandowski S.
30. Majtczak Z.
31. Markiewicz Stefania
32. Michalak Anna
33. Minkiewicz Hanna
34. Morszczyzna Waclaw
35. S. Mruczek Elżbieta
36. Nari Mariola
37. Pajdowska Helena
38. Pietraszko
39. Rajs W.
40. S. Ryniec Pawła
41. Rudyk Elżbieta
42. S. Sroka Teresa
43. Szewczyk W.
44. Tuna J.
45. S. Unikowska Małgorzata
46. Urbanek Aleksandra
47. Wadas Barbara
48. Wichlacz Jolanta
49. Witowicka
50. Wolańska Julia
51. S. Wolniewicz Urszula
52. Zielińska Janina
53. Żehaluk Maria
54. Żlobicka Jadwiga

Goals and Achievements

The Polish School creates in young people love and respect for their own roots, tradition and the Polish culture.

It remains in touch with Poland by deepening their knowledge of the language and culture, by correspondence with their relatives, and by summer visits to Poland.

While learning the Polish language, history and geography students fall in love with Poland and become fluent in the language of their ancestors.

They get acquainted with their peers of the Polish background.

As well educated Canadians they have an opportunity to get positions of responsibility, and possibility of studying at Polish universities.

Number of children attending Polish School depended on the flow of Polish immigrants; - e.g. 1998-1999 was 365 students.

Since 2009 - 2010 the Polish language has been offered at 11 levels:

Gr. 1- 8 Elementary school students, Gr. 10, 11, 12 - Polish Credit Courses, recognized by the WECD School Board.



2006 – Polish School Teachers with Fr. Roman Waszkiewicz,



In front of St. Angela's School, 2007 – The End of the School-Year.



Grade 12 Graduation Ceremonies, 2008 * Gr. 12 Graduation Ceremonies, 2009

Consecutive pastors of the Holy Trinity Parish are Spiritual Supervisors of the Polish School. - Fr. Wawrzyniec (Lawrence) Wnuk: 1961-1983; Fr. Piotr(Peter) Sanczenko: 1983-2003; Fr. Roman Waszkiewicz: 2003-2009; Fr. Zbigniew Sawicki: since 2009.

Included in the program have been 15 minutes religion instructions offered at each level. Preparation for the sacraments of First Communion (Gr. 2) and Confirmation (Gr. 8) are conducted by the Holy Trinity Parish priest or religious sisters.

Retreats

In Lent, before Easter, the students participate in a Retreat to get closer to the Saviour - Giver of everything that is good.

The Parents' Polish School Committee

cooperates with the school administration.

Consecutive chairpersons of the Committee since 1968 were as follows:

Mr. Wawrzyniec Pernal, Prof. E. Kuffel, Mr. Witold Polewski, Mr. Wiktor Bas, Mrs. Maria Lachowicz, Prof. Marek Zaremba, Mr. Ryszard Kuśmierczyk, Mrs. Teresa Wolfson, Mr. Antoni Kuliński, Mrs. Teresa Baran, Mrs. Róża Rzążewska, Mrs. Ewa Barycka, Mrs. Elżbieta Kulińska, Mrs. Elżbieta Rudyk, Mrs. Justyna Jaglarz and Mrs. Magda Zielińska.

School Curriculum

We follow the program prepared by the Polish Teachers Association in Canada (ZNPwK); We use text books published in Canada, in England and some in Poland. * We try to make the children aware that they are Canadian citizens of the Polish cultural background.

The school is financed by the Catholic School Board, and by Polish Organizations which give support to the young generations of future Polonia. The money received from the organizations and the parents' fees for the Parents' Committee are designated for teaching aids, teachers' wages, competitions, Christmas gifts etc.

**Some of school books:*



The goal of Polish School is not only to learn the language but to make children open to everything that is dear to the Polish heart.

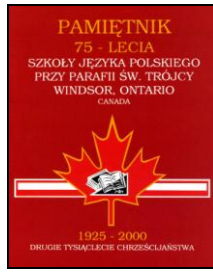
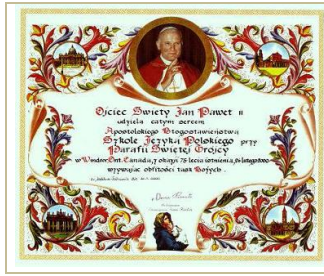
Students get involved in various programs such as:

- National Anniversaries
- Mother's Day
- Christmas Play ("Jaselka")
- Artistic programs
- Writing competitions
- Polish poetry recitation
- Graduation Ceremonies
- Liturgical Readers at the Sunday Eucharist

Main School Events

* 75th Anniversary of Polish School

In the year 2000 the school celebrated a 75th Anniversary of its existence. To mark this occasion there was published a memorial school book, "Pamiętnik" with congratulations from John Paul II and many others. Here are the words of Msgr. Lawrence Wnuk: "On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Polish School, we give thanks to God and ask for His blessings in the future."



*John Paul II Blessings * “Memorials” * Jubilee Ceremonies*

* Field Trips

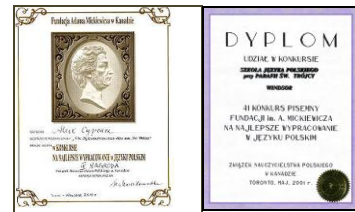
Field Trips on Victoria Day: Boblo Island, Cedar Point, Ohio, African Lion Safari, the Zoo in Toronto and Detroit, Henry Ford Museum, Wonderland, On, Orchard Lake Mich, Stratford, Windsor Community Museum on the occasion of “100th Anniversary of Polonia’s Existence in Windsor”.



*Photographs: 1. Field trip to African Safari, On.
2. Field trip to Ford’s Museum, MI on May 21, 2007*

***Writing Competitions** - Every year the students (Gr.4-12) participate in the writing competition for the best composition in the Polish language, organized by The Polish Teachers Association in Canada. Many students receive awards. The competition is sponsored by the Foundation of Adam Mickiewicz.

Every child is an artist. There is a problem with not losing it in the future.” - Pablo Picasso



*Drawing Competitions

The younger children participate in Drawing Competition. In the year 2000 they were to illustrate the theme of the Carousel of the Nations: “Peace and Harmony in the World”.

Photo: The Globe Covered with Students’ Drawings.

*Exhibition in Parish Hall in 2011

Students' drawings and posters about John Paul II



“Future starts today and not tomorrow.”- John Paul II

* Poetry Competition



Sister Urszula Wolniewicz and Sister Teresa Sroka with award winners. Participants in the annual Recitation of the Polish Poetry Competition receive many awards.



Contacts with Poland

Since 1990's high school graduates go to Poland for university studies. It is important for preserving our Polish tradition and culture.

“ Poland has not yet perished as long as we love.” – St. Ursula Ledochowska

**Our goals are achieved thanks
to the harmonious cooperation of
Old and Young generation of Windsor Polonia.**

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