



7925-158 St.
Edmonton, AB T5R-2B9
Phone: (780) 489-7630
www.ourladyofvictories.ecsd.net

November 2009 Newsletter

Message from the Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians,

November begins with the Feast of All Saints, followed by the Feast of All Souls. We also remember all those who have made our lives better by defending our freedom. Our Remembrance Day Peace service will take place on November 10 @ 9:00 a.m. in the school gymnasium. Please feel free to join us.

November also brings report card time. The students receive their first report cards on Friday, November 27. We look forward in sharing the learning that has taken place over the last months at our Demonstration of Learning which will occur on Thursday, December 3.

Advent also begins with the first Sunday of Advent falling on Sunday, November 29. Please join us for our Advent celebration on Monday, November 30.

May God continue to bless us as we work with our children.

Marilyn Landreville (Principal)

Pat Bounds (Asst. Principal)



Catholic Education Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Good News For All

Our Catholic schools are places of good news. We, as members of our Catholic school communities, impelled by our baptism and confirmation, are its messengers. What is the good news that we are bringing? It is nothing less than the announcement of God's saving purpose for the world, revealed and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It is thus the proclamation of God's love and the hope this gives to our lives. In an era when this announcement was often shared by travel on foot, St. Paul proclaimed the feet of the messengers to be beautiful in virtue of the message they carried. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." -(Romans 10:15).

Methods of communication have changed dramatically since the days of the early Church, but they, too, can be considered beautiful if they are used to convey the life-saving truth of the Gospel. The call to be bearers of good news echoes through every age of the Church. Our schools have a responsibility to take up this call and respond effectively. The Catholic school must be a vibrant vessel of the faith, where members proclaim, hear and live the good news daily. Nourished and moved by our faith in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the good news of His love in our schools and seek to live from it. How might we each participate in this vital mission of the Catholic school?

Administrators announce Christ by governing in accordance with the Lord's example of servant leadership and ensuring that all aspects of school life are consistent with the teachings of the Gospel and the Church. Teachers proclaim the Gospel when they strive to form not only the minds but also the hearts of their students and help them to know, love and follow Jesus. School personnel give witness to the love of Christ when their care for the school environment reflects that of God for the social and natural environments in which our students grow. Finally, the quest for learning and dynamism of life characteristic of so many of our students express the deep longing of the human heart for Christ and the desire of the Lord to fill that desire with His love.

Our Catholic schools must be filled with the good news of Christ. On this Catholic Education Sunday, and throughout the school year, let us continue to work at bringing the good news to all we encounter. This is a message that is meant to be shared. It is one that celebrates God's love and purpose for our lives. It is good news for all!

Catholic Education Sunday- Special message for Students

Dear Students in Christ,

Good News For All

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news." – Romans 10:15

Every day you are surrounded by messages. When you turn on the television, when you go on the internet, on the bus, at the mall, in almost every space of your life you are being filled with messages - messages to buy things, messages on how to behave, messages from your friends and family. With all of these messages, it is hard to discern the most important message of all: God's message to you.

And yet, this is the message that you need to hear most clearly. This is a message of good news, a message of joy. This is a message of God's purpose for your life. Further, when we share this good news in our communities, we engage in a dimension of our relationship with Jesus and our faith strengthens. We get to know Jesus.

You are the vibrancy of our Catholic schools. You show us a faith that is filled with energy and creativity. This is the message and the good news that you carry into and celebrate in our Catholic schools. Catholic Education Sunday is as much a celebration of your faith, as it is of those around you. Your good news is the good news that we want to continue to keep alive in our school communities.

During this Catholic Education Sunday, and in the following weeks and months, it is important for you begin to discover this message and really listen to it, despite all the other messages in your life. This message of good news is one that deserves to be at the center of your life. It fills you with God's purpose for your life and you become messengers of the good news. It is news that stands above all of the other messages that you hear in your lives. Join us as we work together, walking in unison with beautiful feet – feet made beautiful by their purpose of sharing God's message – to share the good news within our school communities and outside of them. This is good news for all!

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop Grouard-McLennan

Most Reverend Murray Chatlain
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Most Reverend Frederick Henry
Bishop of Calgary

Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

Most Reverend Luc Bouchard
Bishop of St. Paul

Superintendent's Message

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Catholic Education Sunday will be celebrated this year on November 1st, and what a time to celebrate the successes that our students enjoy in Edmonton Catholic Schools. A recent news release states that overall, the 2009 Provincial Achievement Tests indicate that our students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 continue to exceed the province in a large number of subject areas over time. Grade 12 students continue to exceed the province in English Language Arts and Social Studies courses, and our district has seen growth in the Math and Science Diploma marks. As well, the provincial government has just released the "Accountability Pillar" for all school districts which is a summary of a district's overall performance. The October 2009 report indicates a continued high level of confidence in our district and reflects the excellent results achieved by our schools.

As we begin this month, education in the Province of Alberta has indeed been on the forefront of government discussions and action, media reports, and has defined much of the time spent by both the Board of Trustees and our administration as they work together to discuss, adjust and respond to the recent announcements by Alberta Education. We have also heard from the Minister of Education that the Province will be revising the *School Act*, an important document that directs the workings of all school districts within Alberta.

Edmonton Catholic Schools' Board of Trustees hosted a parent engagement evening for all interested parents on October 1, 2009 at St. Joseph High School. The participants had an opportunity to hear some specifics as to budget reductions within education in the Province and specifically how those reductions affect our school district. As well, parents met in small working groups to discuss and gave their input. Please check our district website, www.ecsd.net to find information regarding the three areas of discussion covered that evening. I would like to encourage all who value quality Catholic education – parents, teachers and other stakeholder groups to become actively involved by being informed and responsive in having your views heard. We, in Alberta, are one of just a few provinces who continue to enjoy provincially funded Catholic education, and we must work diligently to preserve that right.

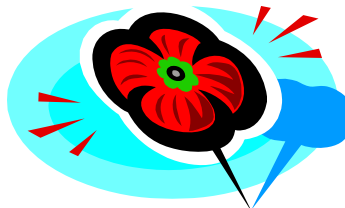
On Wednesday, November 11, 2009 all schools and district sites will be closed. Each year in November, school staffs, students and parents join in remembering and honouring women and men who have served our country in both combat and peacekeeping roles. I would encourage parents to take the time to discuss with their children the reason we have this special day, and to join their children's schools for the celebrations that will be held.

May God continue to bless each of you, as we work together to positively and effectively meet the challenges that are being presented by the difficult financial realities.

Sincerely,



Joan Carr
Superintendent



If we were asked, "Do you have a soul?" chances are most of us would have no problem answering yes.

If we were asked, "Are you a saint?" chances are many of us would pause, and do some real 'soul' searching.

In November, both of these questions are afforded some significance. We start with the celebration of All Hallows' Eve (Hallowe'en), continue with All Saints' Day, and finish with All Souls' Day.

Our focus in this newsletter is All Souls' Day, and its connection with the Communion of Saints.

All Souls' Day, November 2, is set as a day when we officially remember the souls of the faithful departed. We believe that for an untold number of people, they die with the taint of sin still on their souls, and thus they wind up in Purgatory. By offering up prayers and other works to God on their behalf, we act in solidarity with them. We hope that our prayers will more speedily make up for their sins, and usher them into heaven more quickly.

All Souls' Day, although it doesn't get the same amount of press as its more flamboyant and glamorous cousins (Hallowe'en and All Saints Day), is still a beautiful reminder that we are connected in profound ways with those who have died in body, but remain very much alive in Spirit. It's also a reminder that our prayers have a real effect on others in God's plan for the salvation of all.

However, the story doesn't end there. It's all woven into our belief in the Communion of Saints. Our catechism is very clear on this point. In article 946, we read, "The communion of saints *is* the Church." We believe that we are one in Spirit, united together in the Body of Christ: all of us, whether living or dead, on earth, in Purgatory, or in Heaven. We on earth pray for those in Purgatory. The saints, in turn, intercede for us on earth. The catechism, again, in article 956, states, "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven...do not cease to intercede with the Father for us...so by their...concern our weakness is greatly helped."

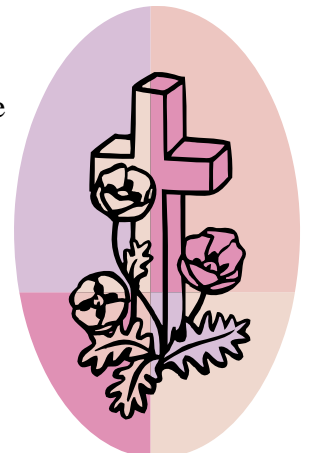
The circle of prayer comes around: we pray *for* the souls in purgatory, and we ask the saints in heaven to intercede *for us* on earth.

All of us are united in this faith. We are baptized into the Body of Christ. We are in communion with one another, on various stages of our pilgrimages, the final destination being sainthood and eternal life together in heaven.

We can all deal with the 'souls' part: we are all sinners in need of forgiveness.





Perhaps this year we can all try to deal with the 'saints' part a bit more: that we are destined for a life beyond our imaginings, fully alive in Christ and in fellowship with all others eternally in heaven. Perhaps we could make a resolution to live our present lives more in tune with this reality, and if we don't think we're up to the task by ourselves, we can always ask our saintly sisters and brothers for a helping hand!

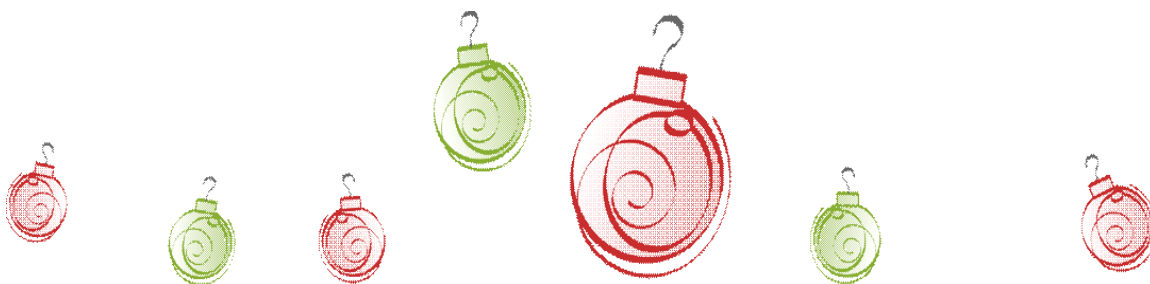
November, 2009



TWO MONTHS AT A GLANCE

November 2009

DATE	Explanation and time	REASON
Sat. Nov. 7	Young Author's Conference @ St. Mary's Elementary School	Details have been given to participants
Mon. Nov. 9	JK and Kindergarten In-Service all day	No School for all JK and Kindergarten students
Tues. Nov. 10	Celebration of Peace @ 9:00 a.m.	Please join us in the gym
Tues. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day	No School for Everyone
Fri. Nov. 13	Grades 4,5,6 ASP and Grade 6 to U of A Math Fair	
Wed. Nov. 18	School Council meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	
Fri. Nov. 20	Hot Lunch Day	
Mon. Nov. 23	Grade 6 and Grade 6ASP to Legislature all day	
Fri. Nov. 27	Report Cards given to students	First Reporting Period
Mon. Nov. 30	First Advent Celebration in gym @ 9:45 a.m.	
December		
Tues. Dec. 1	Hepatitis B in p.m. for Grade 5	
Thurs. Dec. 3	Demo of Learning	
Wed. Dec. 9	Dental Screening all day	K- Grade 6
Fri. Dec. 11	Hot Lunch	
Thurs. Dec. 17	Full day of learning	
Thurs. Dec. 17	Christmas Concert	
Fri. Dec. 18	Early Dismissal for everyone at 12:00	Christmas Vacation begins



Catholic Education Sunday

We invite you to attend mass on Sunday, November 1 with your families in order to celebrate Catholic Education Sunday at the church that you regularly attend. Our school is filled with the good news of Christ. On this Catholic Education Sunday, and throughout the school year, let us continue to work at bringing the good news to all we encounter.



School Council Meeting

Please join us at our next school council meeting. It will occur on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Come and share your ideas and meet other parents. Decisions affecting your children are made at these meetings.

H1N1 news

As the flu season approaches, and the concern with the H1N1 influenza continues, it is important for all parents and guardians to know that each school in the Edmonton Catholic School District has developed an individual site Pandemic Plan. This plan will ensure the continuity of your child's education, in case of an increased absenteeism in the school of students and staff.

In addition, Alberta Health Services has asked all schools to report an absentee rate in excess of 10% in both students and staff. Alberta Health Services will then work with schools through Public Health on communication and preventative measures. Monitoring school absenteeism can help identify the arrival of influenza in the community. It is very common that during the flu season, many schools will report a 10% or greater absentee rate.

The symptoms of the seasonal flu and the H1N1 influenza are similar and can include: fever, cough, muscle aches, lethargy and lack of appetite. Some people with the H1N1 influenza have also reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea in addition to a cough and fever symptoms. The seasonal flu and H1N1 influenza are thought to spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing. Please ensure that your child washes their hands frequently, covers their cough, and if your child is sick with the flu, we encourage you to help prevent the spread by keeping your child at home until 24 hours after their symptoms disappear. Thank you for your continued support.



Yellow Bus and ETS Bus Transportation

Bus passes are on sale in the school office during the last few days of each month and will continue to be sold until the **first week** of the following month. Please send or come in to our office to make your payment for your child's bus pass. It is also important that you contact our office if your child will not be riding the yellow bus for a specific month or to make alternate payment arrangements.

Edmonton Transit and Yellow School Bus Pass fees:

Kindergarten free

Elementary \$27.00

Family Plan (families of 3 or more)

Elementary \$23.00



Teacher of Excellence Information

Albertans urged to recognize outstanding teachers *Nominations open for 2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards*

Edmonton... Albertans are urged to recognize dedicated teachers for the exceptional work they do with K-12 students across the province. Nominations for the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards are now being accepted.

A nomination package, including details of eligibility and selection criteria, is available at www.education.alberta.ca by clicking on the “Teachers” tab and then on “Excellence in Teaching Awards.” Nominations can be submitted to Alberta Education until February 5, 2010. This year, 134 semi-finalists will be selected. Twenty of those semi-finalists will receive Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards, and three will receive SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Awards.

Young Author’s Conference

Students will be attending this conference on Saturday, November 7, 2009. They will participate in various activities which will include literature, arts and drama.

Report Cards

Students will receive their report cards on Friday, November 27. Please review them with your child and come to share their learning at our Demonstration of Learning day.



Demonstration of Learning

Students will have an opportunity to show you what they have been studying in the first 3 months of school on Thursday, December 3, 2009. The times for this event will be:

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

6:00 – 8:00 pm.

We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 @ 7:00 pm. Students have begun to get ready for this exciting event. Please mark your calendar so that you won’t miss this wonderful evening.



School Act Review

A message from Debbie Engel, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Joan Carr, Superintendent, Edmonton Catholic Schools:

Catholic Education Sunday, November 1, 2009, gives us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of Catholic education and how we are unique – beginning with Jesus Christ who is the foundation for life, curriculum and culture of Catholic schools.

It is a time to pause and reflect on how we need to preserve this sacred gift of Catholic education.

The Minister of Education, the Honorable Dave Hancock, is currently opening the Alberta *School Act* and making changes to it. He is requesting input from Albertans as soon as possible. This is an excellent opportunity to let the Minister know that we value and support Catholic education in our province. Please take a few minutes in the next week to call, email, or write to the Minister, your own MLA or the Premier. Your message could include ideas such as:

- Catholic education governed by Catholic elected trustees in Catholic school districts needs to be preserved and protected.
- Catholic school boards and districts should be accorded exactly the same rights and entitlements as public school boards and districts within any new legislation.



You can contact Minister of Education, the Honorable Dave Hancock, at:

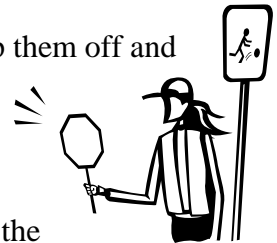
Phone: 780-427-5010

Email: dave.hancock@gov.ab.ca

Address: 224 Legislature Building, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Safety

We would ask that you practice safety habits with your children as you drop them off and pick them up from school. Please use the appropriate crosswalks. It has also been noted that children being picked up at the back of the school are not crossing the road carefully. Thanks for your support with this concern.



Thank you also for driving safely on the roads around the school especially the service roads.

50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Victories School

Our school will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010. We are beginning our plans of what our celebration will look like. If you have any ideas that you would like to share please bring them forward to the school. Your support with this event is valued.

