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## February 2010 Newsletter

### Message from the Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians,

January passed very quickly even though we began the New Year with the cold temperatures.

We have been very busy with many projects during this month of learning.

We welcomed Mrs. Liogier who has led our **Religious Education Residency**. We are delighted that this will continue into February.

Mr. Brian Johnson from the Solar Society came in the middle of the month to share our **BP project** with our students. All the students were excited to ride the battery fashioned stationary bikes in order to collect Direct Energy which would then be used to light a standing lamp in the Academic Support classroom. This will continue daily as the students will ride the two bikes throughout the school year.

We ended January with our **Artist in Residency**. Eva Colmers assisted the students in creating myths and shadow puppets.

We move into February knowing that we have completed half of the school year.

February is a very special month, not only because of the **Winter Olympics** but also for the ideas of **Faith Development Day**, **Random Acts of Kindness**, **Valentines** and the beginning of Lent with Shrove Tuesday and **Ash Wednesday** on February 17.

Most important is our School's **Open House which will occur on Wed. February 3.**

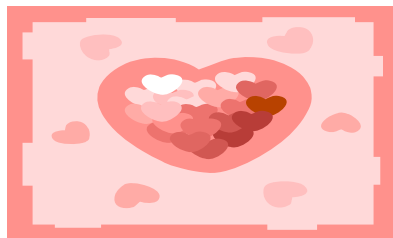
Come and wander through the halls and classrooms and see what is happening. An evening presentation will occur at 6:30 pm. where more information about Junior Kindergarten as well as Kindergarten will be given.

Come and enjoy the songs of the choir, our shadow puppet plays and the friendship of all.

*Marilyn Landreville* (Principal)

*Pat Bounds* (Asst. Principal)

**NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED**



## Superintendent's Message

February 2010

*"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." (1 Corinthians 4:1)*

As we enter the second half of the 2009-2010 school year, Edmonton Catholic Schools is facing some exciting times and some unique challenges. All district staff will come together on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Shaw Conference Center to hear speaker, Jerry Goebel, share his views on the theme: **"Act Locally, Think Globally...The Hands of Social Justice."** Modern technology allows us to be "connected" instantly to the world around us, to people and events in faraway places. How do we as a Catholic educational system address the many opportunities that this technology presents? In addition, Wednesday, February 3 beginning at 7:30 p.m., all parents are invited to hear Mr. Goebel's presentation, 'Raising children and teens for a meaningful life,' at Louis St. Laurent School.

I would like to thank all school communities for their support for this year's Sign of Hope campaign. To have our district staff still maintain such a high level of personal support and to have half of our schools undertake a project as part of 'Kids' Care Challenge' to support Catholic Social Services' programs is very heart-warming given the difficult economic times facing many families in our city.

The Year of the Priest, which was called by Pope Benedict XVI, will culminate in June, 2010. During this special year honoring priests, I would like to thank all priests for their leadership and their support of District staff as we work daily with our students and their families to evangelize, and nurture their journeys of faith. Participation in school - based celebrations, classroom visits, staff and student retreats, teaching masses, and working closely with school personnel to encourage the participation in the sacraments are just a few of the ways in which our priests enhance the school-parish-home relationship. We ask God to continue to bless our priests that "...they may steadily grow in holiness and in knowledge and understanding of God's Truth. May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them." (from Prayer for Priests)

February marks the beginning of Semester Two for many of our high schools, and the beginning of junior high school open houses. We encourage all parents with students in Grade 6 to take the time to check out the various programs that are available and to dialogue with your child and your child's teachers in order to make the best educational decisions for your child. The celebrations of Random Acts of Kindness Week and Family Day will also bring many opportunities for special activities and family outings. We anticipate the provincial budget to be announced on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, begins our six week period of Lent in which we prepare for the great feast of Easter. May our Lenten journey allow each of us to become more 'rooted' in our faith, and have a deeper understanding of our call to courageously serve others as we embrace our life's work.

Sincerely,



Joan Carr  
Superintendent



# TWO MONTHS AT A GLANCE

## February 2010

DATE	Explanation and time	REASON
Tuesday, Feb. 2	Faith Development Day for all staff	No Classes today for all students
Wed. Feb. 3	Open House all Day JK and K meeting at 6:30 p.m.	
Fri. Feb. 5	Grade 5 Hot Dog Sale for Haiti	Lunch
Wed. Feb. 10	Dental Screening all grades K-6 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting @ 3:15 p.m. School Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	Trustee Engel will join us for our School Council meeting.
Fri. Feb. 12	Religious Education Residency ends	Thanks Mrs. Liogier! ☺
Fri. Feb. 12	Community Groups  Dollar Store Sale for all students	Mask Making for Mardi Gras  School Fundraiser (Resources)
Sat. Feb. 13	Junior Kindergarten Family Swim	4:00 p.m. at Jasper Place Swimming Pool
Mon. Feb. 15	Family Day - No classes for all students	Enjoy special times with your family
Tues. Feb. 16	Shrove Tuesday Community Groups – enjoying pancakes 9:45 a.m. Running Club to the Butterdome	Mardi Gras Parade   2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday Celebration	
Wed. Feb. 24	Recognition of February Birthdays At lunch	This occurs in the Art/Music Room.
Thurs. Feb. 25	Teacher's Convention	No Classes Today
Fri. Feb. 26	Teacher's Convention	No Classes Today
<b>March 2010</b>		
Mon. March 1	Skiing @ Rabbit Hill all day	Grades 5 and 6
Mon. March 8	Hansel and Gretel Alberta Opera Production	
Wed. March 10	School Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	
Fri. March 12	Report cards given to students	
Thurs. March 18	Demonstration of Learning	
Fri. March 19	Beach Bum Day and Hot Lunch	
Wed. March 24	Hepatitis B for Grade 5	
Thurs. March 25	Full day of Learning	
Friday, March 26	Stations of the cross Early dismissal @ 12:00 p.m.	Spring Break begins

## Artist in Residency

We have completed our Artist in Residency program with Eva Colmers. We are grateful for the support which we received from the Alberta Foundation of the Arts as well as our School council.



## Hot Lunch and Pajamas Day

Students and staff enjoyed our pajamas day. We enjoyed a pizza lunch thanks to the many parents who assisted with this. In the afternoon, Mrs. Theroux delighted us by reading "Goodnight Moon" to all. After this we all went into the gym for a pajamas shuffle. Adding up the walking totals we walked 450 km. Way to go!!

## Faith Development Day

On Tuesday, February 2, all Edmonton Catholic School staff will participate in our annual Faith Development day. The theme of this year's faith day is:

*Act Locally, Think Globally ... The Hands of Social Justice*

'The Lord has told us what is good. What God requires of us is this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.' (Micah 6:8)

**Jerry Goebel** will speak to all employees of Edmonton Catholic Schools on this day.

## An evening with Jerry Goebel – Wed. Feb. 3

### Raising Children and Teens for a Meaningful Life

For over a decade, Jerry Goebel has worked at guiding significant conversations between youth and adults. In hundreds of sessions over a period of years, Jerry has distilled the most important conversations that a young person needs to have with an adult in order to live a meaningful, not just a successful, life. The heart of the conversations is learning what to say and how to speak to our children in ways that will engage them and entice them to open up and become excited about life's options.

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, February 4, 2010
<b>Time:</b>	7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
<b>Where:</b>	Louis St. Laurent High School Theatre
<b>Who:</b>	Parents and guardians of students attending Edmonton Catholic Schools
<b>Cost:</b>	Free of charge but pre-registration is required. Seating is limited to 235 and will be provided on a first-come, first served basis. <i>Tickets will be issued after pre-registration is completed.</i>
<b>To Register:</b>	Call Marjorie Schreiber at 780 441-6074 780 441-6074 or email: <a href="mailto:marjorie.schreiber@ecsd.net">marjorie.schreiber@ecsd.net</a>

## RUNNING CLUB

### Edmonton Journal Games

The running club will be taking part in the Edmonton Journal Games. The relay races will take place on February 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-5:00 pm at the Butterdome. The Individual Races will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our individual runners will be running in the 200m and 800m races.



## Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday

Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday. It marks the last day before the Lenten season. Lent is a time of giving up things. Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to indulge and to use up the foods that weren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes were and still are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter, and eggs which are not used during Lent.

**This will be a special day when our students and staff will join together in our community groups to make and share pancakes.** This will be done beginning at 9:45 am. Parents are welcomed to come and help with this activity. If you have an extra griddle and would be willing to let us use it for this event, please call the office and let us know. We would be very grateful. We are asking that our students bring a contribution for a silver collection. This money raised through the collection will be used to support our foster child. Thanks in advance for your support.

After enjoying our pancakes we will put on our masks for our **Mardi Gras parade.** The masks will have been made by our students in the community groups on the previous week.



Ash Wednesday follows Shrove Tuesday. This is a day of reflection. Our Grade One class will lead us in our **Ash Wednesday Celebration.** The celebration will occur at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## School Council Meeting

Please join us at our next school council meeting. It will occur on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

**Come and bring a friend.**



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Victories School

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration has been set for Thursday, June 24, 2010. Planning for this event has begun. If you know of anyone who has been a part of this school community, please pass their names along to us so that we can connect with them.



## NO IDLING ZONE

In a time when environmental issues are at the forefront, we would ask that you honor our no idling space when you arrive at our school by shutting off your vehicle and restarting it when you are pulling out. The staff, students and parents and members of our neighborhood are concerned about the environment. It may seem insignificant but every step we take, no matter how small, helps to preserve our world for future generations.

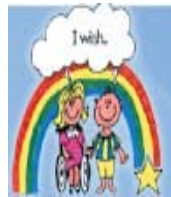


## Caps for Kids

Thanks to the families who have sent in caps for the “Caps for Kids” program.

We have collected a bin full of caps. Way to Go !!!

Please continue sending in pop, water, and clean juice container “CAPS” to support the “Caps Off for Kids” program. The “Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation” will sell the bottle caps as scrap to become a variety of durable, useful products such as reinforced plastic lumber with the proceeds being donated to “The Rainbow Society” of Alberta. “The Rainbow Society” is a non-profit charity dedicated to fulfilling wishes and dreams for Alberta children with a life-threatening or chronic illness.



## Early Learning Showcase

On Tuesday, February 16, 2010 you are welcomed to attend a **free session** which will include learning about the early learning programs and also an interactive family performance by internationally renowned award winning children’s recording artist, **Charlotte Diamond.**

Where: Jubilee Auditorium 11455-87 Ave.

When: 6:15 p.m. **Interactive Learning Centers in foyer to showcase Edmonton Catholic School Early Learning Programs**

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Charlotte Diamond

To register please call Lois Boxall at 780 638-6810 or email [lois.boxall@ecsd.net](mailto:lois.boxall@ecsd.net).

**Looking for an Early Learning program for 2010-2011?**

**Come see what we have to offer!**

## Teacher's Convention - February 25 and 26

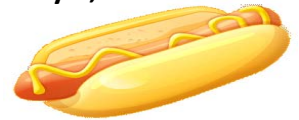
Our Staff will participate in a professional learning opportunity at our annual Teacher's Convention entitled "***Igniting the Flame for Real Learning***".

The staff participates in sessions, gleaning ideas to take back the classroom. After the Teacher's Convention, time is spent at future staff meetings sharing what we have learned.

## Hot Dogs for Haiti

The grade five class will be selling Hot Dogs and a pop for \$2.00 on **Friday, February 5, 2010**. All money raised will be donated to the relief effort for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Orders must be in by Wednesday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Donations are very much appreciated



## 2009-10 Accountability Pillar Survey

You may have recently seen newspaper articles on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) or changes to the Grade 12 Diploma Exams. Both PATs and Diploma Exams contribute to the Accountability Pillar, a tool used by Alberta Education to evaluate how well the education system is meeting the expectations of parents and the public. All parents want to know that their children are receiving a quality education. Grades are important but there is more to it than that. A quality education helps all children make the most of their talents and abilities.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (*change to grades 4-12 if applicable*) will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (*change to grades 4-12 if applicable*) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

The parent survey is being fielded between **January 11 and February 19, 2010**. These surveys are mailed from Alberta Education and returned directly to Alberta Education.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with this school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success. Your participation in the survey helps, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to jurisdictions in May 2010, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

## “Stop the Cuts”

With the Archdiocese’s recent announcement concerning casinos we are worried that casino fundraisers for Catholic schools in Edmonton will soon be banned.

This decision will have devastating impacts. Because of the **continual reduction in government funding**, Catholic schools have come to rely on this casino money.

At Our Lady of Victories, fundraising dollars from casinos have purchased or funded the following:

- Field trips, Grade 6 Camp Warwa, and skating, swimming and skiing programs.
- Smart Boards, computers and cameras for the classrooms.
- Artist in Residence program, Christmas and spring concerts.
- Computers, accessories for the computer lab.
- Library upgrades and reading material.

We as a community would never be able to raise the tens of thousands of dollars we receive from casinos. The bottom line is that our children’s education will greatly suffer.

**We are desperately calling on all parents to get involved today. Please let the decision makers, hear your opinion, by contacting them through one of these ways:**

- a) Make *phone calls*
- b) Send letters or notes by *email*
- c) Send letters and mail them directly yourself.

***Funding cuts = less teaching and support staff = less resources and larger class sizes***

***Casino funds loss = less resources, charitable giving and educational opportunities***

Here is the contact information you need to help with this matter.

- **Regarding loss of accessibility of casino funds, for Edmonton Catholic Schools.**

Address to Most Reverend Richard Smith and cc to Trustee Debbie Engel.

<p><b>Most Reverend Richard Smith,</b> Archbishop of Edmonton 8421 – 101 Avenue Edmonton, AB T6A 0L1 Phone : 780-469-1010 Fax: 780-465-3003 Website forwarding email link : <a href="http://www.caedm.ca/contact">http://www.caedm.ca/contact</a></p>	<p><b>Debbie Engel,</b> Chair and Trustee of Edmonton Catholic Schools 9807- 106 street Edmonton, T5k 1C2 Tel: 780-481-8457((This is her residence phone number, but that is correct). Fax: 780-486-7200 <a href="mailto:debbie.engel@ecsd.net">debbie.engel@ecsd.net</a></p>
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- **Regarding provincial education funding cuts**

Address to Minister of Education, Dave Hancock and cc to Premier Stelmach, Debbie Engel, & your MLA.

<p><b>Minister of Education, Dave Hancock</b></p> <p>Room 224 Legislature Building 10800 – 97 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6</p> <p>Phone: (780) 413-5970 Fax: (780) 413-5971 <a href="mailto:edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca">edmonton.whitemud@assembly.ab.ca</a></p>	<p><b>The Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta</b></p> <p>Office of the Premier Room 307, Legislature Building 10800 - 97th Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> (780) 427 2251 <b>Fax:</b> (780) 427 1349 <a href="mailto:fortsaskatchewan.vegreville@assembly.ab.ca">fortsaskatchewan.vegreville@assembly.ab.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Debbie Engel</b>, Chair and Trustee of Edmonton Catholic Schools</p> <p>9807- 106 street Edmonton, T5k 1C2</p> <p>Tel: 780-481-8457 (This is her residence phone number, but that is correct). Fax: 780-486-7200 <a href="mailto:debbie.engel@ecsd.net">debbie.engel@ecsd.net</a></p>	<p>MLA: <a href="http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla_home">www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla_home</a></p> <p><b>Dr. Raj Sherman:</b> <i>Constituency Office</i> Suite 220, 8944 182 Street Edmonton, AB Canada T5T 2E3 Phone: (780) 414-0711 (780) 414-0711 Fax: (780) 414-0713 <a href="mailto:edmonton.meadowlark@assembly.ab.ca">edmonton.meadowlark@assembly.ab.ca</a></p>

With the recent Health care announcements showing decisions can be reversed, we are hopeful that the same will occur with provincial funding for the Education sector.

Thanks in advance for writing letters to the Government of Alberta and also our Archdiocese.

Please check out the website for further ideas.

