



April 2014



Message from the Administration

As we return from Spring Break on April 7, we are nearing the very important Catholic season of Easter. This is the most important time for us as Catholics as it is Easter that commemorates the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us. We hope that this Easter all of our families find great joy and give thanks for the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for all of us.

April also begins our final stretch of the 2013-14 school year. The last three months of school always seem to go by quickly with so many things happening at the school including swimming for our grade 3 and 4 students, camp for our grade 6 students, as well as several year-end field trips.

At this time, we also begin to make plans for the coming school year. This includes looking at our enrollment numbers and trying to determine staffing for 2014-15. We understand that some families will not be returning to our school next year and knowing this information is vital to ensure appropriate staffing. To this end, we will be sending home a note with students in mid-April and ask that you indicate your plans for next year.

Wishing all of our families a blessed and holy Easter.

Our Vision

"As a Christ Centered Professional Learning Community, working in collaboration with our parish and community, we will strive towards Faith, Learning, Peace and Joy."

Mr. Peter Meurs
Principal

Mrs. Leana Perri
Assistant Principal

News from Grade 1

The students are learning that Lent is a time to be closer to God through prayer, fasting and also giving. They are following Jesus' journey as we get closer and closer to Easter. The grade 1 students were asked, **"What are you going to do to be more like Jesus during this time of Lent?"**

Lynelle: "Being helpful."

Bradley: "I will say nice things to people."

Tanya: "I will be like Jesus by helping my mom."

Moira: "By helping my mom and dad with chores."

Emily: "I will be more like Jesus by cleaning up my classroom."

Anjela: "By helping my mom and dad."

Niko: "I will be like Jesus by helping friends and family."

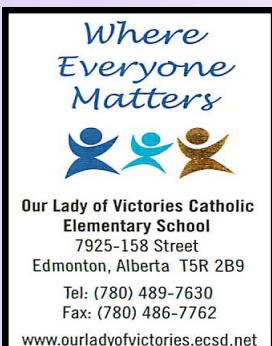
Arop: "By taking care of people that are hurt and pray for them."

Annelyka: "by telling the truth."

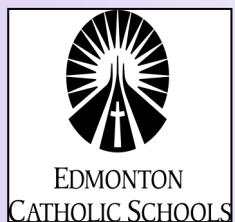
Chriselda: "to help other people that are sick"

Kianna: "I help my mom and sometimes I help my brother do what he has to do and sometimes I play with my sister"

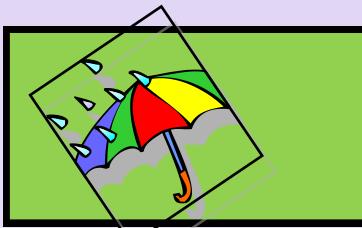
Meagan: "to be a good friend"



Our Lady of Victories Catholic
Elementary School
7925-158 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5R 2B9
Tel: (780) 489-7630
Fax: (780) 486-7762
www.ourladyofvictories.ecsd.net

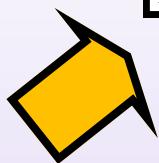


<http://www.ourladyofvictories.ecsd.net>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
Spring Break No School						
6 Fifth Sunday of Lent	7 School Resumes Welcome Back! 	8 Gr.4/5 Gymnastics Field Trip	9 Gr.6 Gymnastics Field Trip PAC Meeting 7pm	10 Aboriginal Learning Residency 	11 Gr.4/5 Wetlands Presentation 	12
13 Palm Sunday 	14 Gr.4/5 In-School Presentation	15 Open House @ 6:30pm -8:00pm Assembly @10:30 Gr.6 @ Legislative Assembly	16 No School for 100 Voices and KG	17 Aboriginal Learning Residency  Holy Thursday	18 Good Friday NO SCHOOL 	19
20 Easter Sunday 	21 Easter Monday NO SCHOOL	22 Earth Day 	23 Easter Celebration @ 10 am 	24 Aboriginal Learning Residency 	25 Pyrogy Hot Lunch 	26
27	28	29	30			

<http://www.ourladyofvictories.ecsd.net>



Check out our website
for current
information!!

Important Upcoming Dates in May

- May 6- Gr.6 @ Aviation Museum
- May 11- Happy Mother's Day!
- May 13- Assembly @ 11:15 am
- May 14- Gr.6 L.A. PAT
- May 14- PAC Meeting @ 7 pm
- May 15- Aboriginal Learning Residency
- May 16- Gr. 1-3 Field Trip to John Janzen/Fort Edmonton
- May 19- Victoria Day NO SCHOOL
- May 21- Assembly @ 9:45 am
- May 22- Gr.5 Immunization
- May 22- Gr.6 Camp Warwa Field Trip
- May 23- Gr.6 Camp Warwa Field Trip
- May 30- Gr.4/5 Field Trip to Glastonbury Wetlands



Awesome Readers at OLOV



Reading is an integral part of all learning, and here at OLOV, we have made it our number one goal to improve the reading level of all our students. To this end, as you are already aware, we implemented a school wide home reading program at the beginning of January, whereby all students are encouraged to read for a predetermined amount of time based on their grade level. Now that all students have had a couple months to familiarize themselves with the routine of the program, we would like to congratulate the following students who met their grade's reading goal for the month of February:

Sully, Denise, Haylie, Athan, Chriselda, Emily, Dorian, Rodney, Miguel, Carrie, Paulina, Steven, Bella, Megan, Alex, Alexis, Riley, Keelin, Matthew, , Kiernan, Anthony, Ella, Joey, Agoth, Ioan, James, Francheska, Kieron, Shyla, Luis, Sean, Shyvil, Shyla, Rachel, Teela, Huey, Jason, Katrina, and Christian.

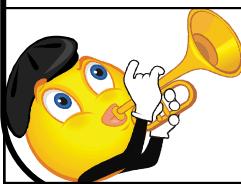
Great job everyone-keep it up!!



OLOV Awesome Kids!!!!

Throughout this year, students have been encouraged to be at their best at all times and get "caught" by a staff member doing so. Staff then fills out a color coded "**Awesome Card**", has it signed by the principal, and posts it on our Wall of Awesome. After each reporting period, we then take these down and draw one from each class at the assembly for a prize. A huge congratulations to ALL OLOV students for a fantastic term! Congratulations also goes out to this term's recipients of Subway gift cards:

Matja, Megan, Carrie, James I., and Eddy



A Letter From Alberta's Education Minister

Curriculum criticism doesn't add up: Preparing students for a modern economy requires the basics plus much more.

Recently, much has been made of the government's efforts to ensure that Alberta's curriculum is more responsive to the many different ways in which students learn.

I feel parents deserve to hear directly from me about my ministry's efforts to ensure the provincial curriculum enables Alberta's students to successfully compete in a dynamic, highly competitive world.

Along with being the minister, I'm also a father of three children in the education system, and I too have experienced some of the frustrations expressed by parents in recent weeks. This is why I believe it is important for me to set the record straight about the anticipated reforms.

I understand why some parents would be concerned with the allegation that mastery of the "basics" —skills such as arithmetic and reading—will play a less important role in the new curriculum than it did before. If this were the case, I would be concerned as well. But fortunately, nothing could be further from the truth.

I wish to assure parents that these basic skills will serve as the foundation and starting point of every change made to the curriculum. What they won't be is the end point. Through inquiry-based learning, we'll build upon these basic, foundational skills while developing additional skills that the business community and parents tell us are so critical.

The conventional method of teaching fundamentals, whereby students rely heavily on memorization, versus a more engaged, Inquiry-based method are not mutually exclusive approaches to education. In fact, I believe it is crucial that we develop a curriculum that uses the best of both methods.

However, surviving on mere memorization alone is a thing of the past. The modern economy demands creativity and problem solving, the application of critical thinking and an ability to collaborate and communicate. These skills lie at the heart of Alberta's curriculum redesign process.

Top performing education jurisdictions, like Alberta, have increased their focus on these 21st century skills. We can't ignore that without strong abilities in these areas, our kids will be left behind.

But we also can't ignore the concerns of parents.

This is why we are responding in a thoughtful and collaborative manner. The redesign process is being led by parents, employers, teachers, students and school authorities, all of whom will be working together over the next two years to develop a curriculum that successfully weaves new competencies in with core skills like numeracy and literacy. Doing so will help reinforce literacy and numeracy across all subjects and better focus a curriculum that has ballooned to approximately 1400 outcomes.

Despite recent criticism, parents should know and take comfort in the fact that according to the most recent international tests our K-12 students remain at the top of international rankings.

Our strength and performance internationally is due in part to Alberta's willingness to continually adapt. This year is a great example.

In response to years of consultation and research, we recently launched some groundbreaking initiatives under Premier Redford. The new Dual Crediting Program, for instance, better integrates K-12, post-secondary and industry credentialing. The High School Flexibility Program empowers teachers to customize learning to better address individual student need. Eliminating Provincial Achievement Tests and implementing a more robust standardized assessment at the start of the school year will provide parents and teachers with better information on how to tailor each child's education going forward and help them measure improvement throughout the year.

Curriculum needs to evolve as well. The days of a small group of educators taking 10 years to review curriculum one subject at a time are long over. We need to be more nimble and create curriculum that is more in tune with the local community and economy. Our curriculum must allow for creativity and excellence in teaching to shine through. We must embrace the individuality of the learner and ensure subject experts are teaching our kids. In short, our curriculum must become more relevant.

We've been asked to listen and that's exactly what we're doing. But the truth is that Alberta is at the top because we have not been afraid to take action. I won't apologize for putting the success of our children first but I also commit to continue listening in order to get it right.

At the end of the day we must ask ourselves, are we preparing our children for their future or for our past?

Jeff Johnson is Alberta's Minister of Education

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2014

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you."*

Psalm 32:8

In his Lenten message, Pope Francis stressed that the conversion of the heart to do the will of the Father is the main focus of this season. During Lent, God invites us to cleanse our hearts and minds and turn our thoughts back to Him. During His public ministry, Christ lived each day in loving obedience to and love for the Father's will. Nothing brings us nearer to Christ than walking beside Him and doing the things He did for love. As Pope Francis says, "Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us." As we approach the end of Lent, let us concentrate on following God's will as we journey towards the joy of the Cross and unity with our Risen Saviour.

Since the announcement of the Provincial Budget on March 6th, administrators at both the District and school levels have been working diligently to prepare budgets for our coming year. Please watch for more information on the budget in the next couple of months.

We have changed our format for our final Board of Trustees' Parent Engagement evening on Wednesday, April 16th. Rather than a live parent presentation, the session will now be a webinar video describing resources for parents on our District web site, <https://www.ecsd.net> and available features for parents on the District portal, <https://myecsd.net>. A demonstration will show participants the value and benefits of these home-to-school digital information systems for students, teachers and parents. All parents will receive an email in early April outlining the instructions of how to view this informative presentation from home at 7:00 p.m. on that date or later at a convenient time.

In *Transform: Engaging in Christ-Centred Learning for Today and Tomorrow*, which is our District's professional development model for realizing the goals of Inspiring Education, knowledge mobilization within and beyond our District is a key goal. Since January, there have been over 120 inter-school visits between our K-12 schools. During these visits, teachers and administrators shared new instructional practices that they have tried for helping all children to excel within and across all subject areas. In addition, six staff members from Louis St. Laurent did presentations for 200 high school staff from Red Deer Public Schools. We are very proud of the work happening in our District on pedagogical shifts and high school redesign. *Transform* continues to move us forward in cutting-edge ongoing teacher learning!

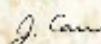
Our Emerging Technology (EmTech) department encourages you to log onto the Ask The Mediatrician® website, <http://cmch.typepad.com/mediatrician/>. Dr. Michael Rich is a former Hollywood filmmaker and also a pediatrician. In that dual role he sees that media has both positive and negative effects on children's health. On the Ask The Mediatrician® website he will answer your questions about media and health with science-based answers and practical solutions that can help the children in your life use media in ways that can enrich their development.

Throughout the month of April, District schools will continue to host their Open Houses in preparation for the 2014-2015 school year. I invite students and parents to take the time to attend these informative evenings, especially if your children are transitioning to new schools for the next school year. Please visit our web site at www.openhouse.ecsd.net to find a school in your area, a specific program or check an Open House date.

Congratulations to the twenty-seven teachers and two administrators who have been nominated for Alberta Education's Excellence in Teaching Awards. Special thanks to all who took the time to nominate these educators and to recognize the terrific work that they are achieving in their communities.

As we continue our Lenten journey with joy and expectation in the coming resurrection of our Lord, may our hearts be at peace and content in His love.

Sincerely,



Joan Carr
Superintendent

Message from Father Mike Mireau

Why do we have to give things up for Lent? Forty days with no chocolate, Facebook, caffeine, text messaging, alcohol, PEPSI....

I once tried giving Pepsi up for Lent, and let me tell you, those were three of the longest days of my life.

Now my idea of a Lenten sacrifice is going from full sized cans – to FUN sized cans.

So why do we give things up. Well, it starts with Jesus, who spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying as He prepared for His ministry.

And we give things up because it gives us solidarity with the poor; we donate TO the poor, we pray for the poor. These things make us better people.

This is what Lent comes down to – it is spiritual TRAINING, spiritual working out, so that we can become better Christians.

It is a bit like one of my favorite TV shows, Survivor! In case you don't watch it, on Survivor they take 18 perfectly normal people, perfectly nice and rational and friendly and sane people – and put them out in the middle of nowhere, a deserted island where they are deprived of the basic necessities of life, food, shelter, comfort, and so on.

And we get to see what happens. Some individuals rise to the occasion, becoming generous providers, benevolent friends, while others turn into no good, cranky, back stabbing turkeys.

And you know what? Life does the same thing.

You see, it's easy to be a nice person when we have no stress; when everything in life is going great.

It is when life turns up the stress – that's when the claws come out. That is when we get to see our dark sides, and what we are really capable of.

When we haven't slept enough, we might become mean, or grumpy or irrational.

When we don't have full bellies, we might become angry or resentful or ignorant.

And this is what happens in life. Sometimes the stress gets turned up in life, and sometimes we turn into jerks.

And do you know what? That will be no excuse. When we stand before God at the Pearly Gates and he asks us, "Michael, why were you such a jerk on March 9, 2014?" we won't be able to answer, "Well, I was having a bad day."

So in preparation for those times when life turns up the stress meter, we practice during Lent. We turn up the stress meter in our own lives on purpose, just a bit – we go out into the wilderness – to train ourselves to be good people, even under difficult circumstances.

We practice being good people WITHOUT chocolate, Facebook, caffeine, text messaging, alcohol, PEPSI – putting ourselves under a little stress – so that when LIFE puts us under stress, WITHOUT asking us, we'll be ready.

Then we will be on the way to becoming Saints. That's what Lent is all about – training for Sainthood.

Rev. Michael Catfish Mireau
District Chaplain
Edmonton Catholic Schools
(April 2014)