



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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December Newsletter

Principal Message

Thank you to those families who joined us virtually for our Demonstration of Learning/Interviews on November 25th. The children love sharing the work that they have been doing. It was wonderful to see so many proud teachers after sharing your child's successes and having a conversation with you.



Father Dean was able to be with us for our first Advent Celebration and the blessing of the wreaths. The grade threes reminded us of the importance of advent as a time of waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus. We were reminded that He wants to come again into our hearts, but only if we want him to and if we ask him to.

Father lead us in prayer:

Lord, our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the hope of all people, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of the Advent wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To help us truly embrace the Christmas season, our students under the guidance of Mrs. Smith, have also been busily preparing for our Christmas Concert, Santa's Helpers. We look forward to sharing our virtual production of this special event.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we wish each of our families a blessed Christmas holiday filled with joy and happiness. We look forward to seeing you again on **Tuesday, January 4th**.

Principal
Mrs. Opyr

Assistant Principal
Ms. Loughlin

Blessing of the Wreaths – November 29

It was wonderful to have our first advent celebration and blessing of the wreaths with Father Dean. Thank you to the grade 3's who helped Father Dean with the liturgy. The grade 3's explained the significance of the wreath and the symbolism of the candles.



This first week we are invited to celebrate in joyful hope. We are encouraged to share that joy and hope with others, through acts of service in our homes and faith community. By helping others may we find peace of heart and mind as we prepare for a truly joyful celebration of Jesus' birthday. Father Dean also talked about trust.

School Council Meeting – December 1

Thank you to all the parents who attended our SAC meeting on December 1. Plans are well on the way for future events this year.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - Please consider volunteering to help us with our Casino. A message was sent out with the schedule for **January 25 and 26th**. The Casino is our biggest fundraiser and is used for books, technology, sports equipment, and other items as they arise.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4CAEA72CA5FD0-ourlady>



[Our Lady of Victories School Association Casino](#)

Join us in raising funds to facilitate field trips, books, technology, and more for the wonderful students at Our Lady of Victories Elementary School. Review the Volunteer Roles document below or email olovpac@gmail.com for more information. Dinner and refreshments will be provided for our valued volunteers!

www.signupgenius.com

At our meeting on **December 1st**, we continued to plan out other fundraising events for the year and discussed Christmas activities families would like their children to experience. Please see the minutes from the meeting posted on this site.



COBS Bread- The COBS Bread Dough Raiser Program is continuing until the end of June. COBS will donate 5% of all purchases made at participating locations to our playground fund. Participating locations: West Granville COBS- 7237 Winterburn Rd NW (by River Cree Costco), Callingwood COBS- 6655 178 ST NW and Crestwood COBS- 9680 142 ST NW. COBS will finalize our donation at the end of June. **Please remember to tell the cashier our school's name as you do your shopping over the holidays!** Thanks for your support.

Bottle Recycling- This ongoing fundraiser will also be open until the end of June. Bottles can be dropped off directly at **Callingwood Bottle Depot** (6408 177 ST NW) anytime during operating hours. Please let them know you would like the proceeds to go to Our Lady of Victories School.



Next School Bottle Drop at the school will be announced in January. This is an alternative way to contributing bottles.

Please consider donating your bottles from the holidays and dropping them off at the back of the school and parent volunteers will transport them to the bottle depot.

Please check out the minutes from our December 1st meeting at <https://www.ecsd.net/8011/page/5560/school-council>. We look forward to connecting again at our next meeting.

School Marketing Plans

Dana Prefontaine from our marketing department provided a survey for you to provide some insight as to what the best means are for getting information about our great little school out to the public. Thank you to all our parents who took time to respond. Road signs were a popular response. We will also do a mail delivery in our neighborhoods.

Our Open House for new registrations for the 2021-2022 school year will be on February 17, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Our Early Learning department will be advertising for our 100 Voices program in January at which time they will also start accepting registrations.

Christmas Concert - December 17-24

We are so excited to present you with our virtual Christmas Concert. We hope that you will share it with your extended family as we will make the recording available for you to access over the Christmas Break. It will be available from December 17 -24.



Our Christmas Concert will be a mini musical with letters and songs to the North Pole presented by our grade 2-5 students. Our concert will also include a song featuring Santa and a song featuring the story of Christmas by our grade one class. Our 100 Voices students will also contribute to our enjoyment through their presentations of the story of Jesus' birth. Kindergarten will touch our hearts by singing: Oh, What a Special Night, Little Snowflake and I Love the Way God Made Me. Grade six will have a special surprise for you to enhance their presentation of the

following three selections: Pachelbel's Canon, Kumbaya and The Huron Carol.

We hope you enjoy watching our concert as much as we enjoyed creating it for you!!



Catholic Education Sunday

The theme of this year's Catholic Education Sunday was **Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together**. Father Dean always highlights the positive relationships we have between church, home, and family. In their letter, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories praised the commitment of our families and staff toward growing the gift of faith in our vibrant and essential Catholic schools within Alberta. We are all asked to continue to support and pray for our publicly funded Catholic education. We hope you took the opportunity to participate in the novena.

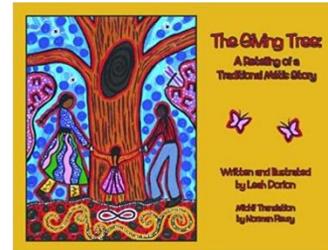
Remembrance Day Ceremony



Our Grade 1 students did an amazing job of reminding us to honor the men and women who serve our country and help to maintain peace in the world. Our special memorabilia shared by Mr. Holloway added a dimension of authenticity to the importance of the people who help to make our world a safer place. Thank you to everyone who made donations for the poppies.

Metis Week

Teachers took some time this week to focus on the Metis and their contribution to our Canadian culture. Teachers used this as an opportunity to make connections with the social studies' curricular outcomes.



Demonstration of Learning

We hope you enjoyed exploring the work your child brought home reflecting some of the things that have been happening in your child's classroom. Work was either sent home for you to look at or provided through google classroom. Teachers expressed how happy they were with their conversations with you and your child as successes were shared. Thank you!

Parenting Corner

Parents as Partners topic of discussion as part of our ECSD Mental Health Parent Sessions focused on ways you can support your child's mental health. – If you were unable to attend the live event, I have included the link here for you.

<https://www.ecsd.net/page/16484/mental-health-parent-sessions>

Presented by Cheryl Shinkaruk (Manager of Programs and Projects), Gina Almquist (Manager of Psychology and Mental Health), Andrew Baxter (Guest from Alberta Health Services), Father Glenn McDonald (Division Chaplain and Pastor of St. Al's and St. Claire's)

The presenters spoke about resiliency and the importance of community. Five areas were identified that help us thrive: Exercise, sleep, nutrition, positive social relationships and recognizing the brain body connection. Father Glenn highlighted the importance of giving back as a way of fostering hope. I may not be able to fix my own struggles, but I can make a difference for someone else.

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Fr. Dean Dowle

stjohnevangelist.edm@caedm.ca

Pastoral Assistant: Sophie Ogle

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Please check out the attached parish newsletter for more information. If you have not yet signed up for Flocknote please do so. Our school is often featured in St. John's Parish highlights.

AHS Covid Updates

Teachers and school staff continue to be diligent in ensuring that our students follow Covid protocols. Mr. Connolly attends closely to the cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and spaces as outlined in our protocols and is seen frequently wiping high touch areas. As our population has grown, we are still waiting for a part time custodian to be assigned to our school.

Parents, thank you for your support in helping us by doing the daily check in with your child and keeping your child at home when they are sick. When reporting a student's absence on the school voicemail, please speak slowly and include your child's first and last name, as well as their grade level and the name of the teacher.

Updates are continually being made to our [school re-entry document](#) of changes directed to us by the [Alberta Government](#) and [Alberta Health Services](#)





December Monthly School Calendar

November 29	Blessing of the Wreaths/ Advent Liturgy with Grade 3 Leading
December 1	SAC Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
December 7	Recording of students with reading parts
December 13	Recording of Kinder and 100 Voices concert pieces
December 14	Recording of Grades 1-6
December 10-14	Christmas Concert recording to take place
December 16	FULL DAY OF SCHOOL Grades 1-6 100 Voices and Kindergarten will have classes on this Thursday
December 17	DISMISSAL for Grades 1-6 at 12:20 p.m. NO SCHOOL for 100 Voices and Kindergarten
December 17 - 24	VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT to be shared with families
Dec 20 – January 3	Please note there is NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 3
January 4	Classes resume

