



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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November Newsletter 2021

To Our Blessed Mother

We fly to your protection, most holy Mother of God; please listen to our petitions and needs, and deliver us from all dangers, ever glorious and blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary, our model and mother, by your obedience and patience you have taught us how to be true children of God. Please help us by your powerful assistance to overcome all our weaknesses, and to fulfill perfectly our tasks in life.

By your compassionate aid may we ever stand in spirit with you beneath the cross of Christ so that we may also rejoice with you in your divine Son's triumphant victory over sin and death.

In your maternal kindness help us to be faithful to prayers in the company of God's Church as you were one with the Apostles in the upper room as you waited for the promised Spirit of Pentecost.

With your gracious assistance may we be near you in the glory of Christ's kingdom come to sing with you and all the faithful the eternal praise of God. Amen.

(Retrieved from: <https://www.catholic.org> on November 5, 2021)

Principal Message

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

This passage from the Prayer of St. Francis presents us with a beautiful vision of how to live our lives as we continue to face the challenges that Covid 19 presents. When we view ourselves as an instrument of God, created and intended to share His love in the world, then we can live a life that is full of the sacred. In this month of November, as we honor our fallen soldiers on Remembrance Day and the victims of the Ukrainian genocide on Holodomor Memorial Day, this prayer offers us an opportunity to pause and reflect on how we, as individuals, help to build a more peaceful and just world.

To help us honour the fallen soldiers our grade one students will be leading us in a Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 10. The grade one students will share with us ways we can bring peace to our world and how we can keep our world a safe place to be. We will gather virtually for this event. Please watch for information regarding donations for poppies.

We also look forward to sharing the learning that your child has been engaged in. On November 25 we will host our Demonstration of Learning to celebrate your child's progress. Remember that you have ongoing access to your child's progress through PowerTeacherPro. Please watch for an invitation to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher.

Principal
Mrs. Opyr

Assistant Principal
Ms. Loughlin

PowerSchool

Are you experiencing any difficulty logging into your PowerSchool account? Or checking your child's achievement levels? If the answer is yes, please contact Mrs. Schmitz as soon as possible so that you can be back 'online' quickly! Teachers have already been updating student progress on PowerTeacherPro.

Our division has revisited the Levels of Achievement used in assessing student learning and changed the levels to align with Alberta Education’s Levels of Achievement used on provincial exams. Please review the expectations that align with the levels prior to checking your student progress in PowerTeacherPro.

LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT (GR 1 - 12)	CRITERIA THE STUDENT...
STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE (SE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an in-depth and/or insightful understanding of the learning outcomes from the program of studies • Applies concepts in learning situations deliberately and/or independently; the student reliably transfers understanding to new contexts • Demonstrates precision and/or creativity in applying skills and strategies between concepts to approach new learning situations
PROFICIENT STANDARD (PF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a comprehensive and/or thoughtful understanding of the learning outcomes from the program of studies • Applies concepts in learning situations intentionally and/or logically and can routinely transfer understanding to new contexts • Demonstrates flexibility and/or purpose in applying skills and strategies to approach new learning situations
ACCEPTABLE STANDARD (AS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a rudimentary and/or satisfactory understanding of the learning outcomes from the program of studies • Applies concepts in learning situations with scaffolded guidance and support; the student is inconsistent in transferring understanding to new contexts • Demonstrates functional and/or straightforward skills and strategies to approach new learning situations; application of skills and strategies may be inconsistent and/or predictable
BEGINNING STANDARD (BE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a simplistic and/or minimal understanding of the learning outcomes from the program of studies • Applies concepts in learning situations with repeated guidance and support; the student is not yet able to transfer understanding to new contexts • Lacks skills and strategies to approach new learning situations; demonstrates uncertainty and/or difficulty in acquiring skills and strategies

[Parent Handbook on Assessment and Reporting](#) can be accessed here.

New Staff

We would like to welcome Ms. Marianne Madrazo to our school community! We are grateful to our School Division for providing the funds to support our students. Ms. Madrazo will be the grade 5 homeroom teacher for 0.6 of the time. The students will still have an opportunity to be with Mr. Salvador or Mr. Holloway. Mrs. Bourque will continue to be the French teacher and Mrs. Smith will provide the music program.

Custodian Appreciation Day



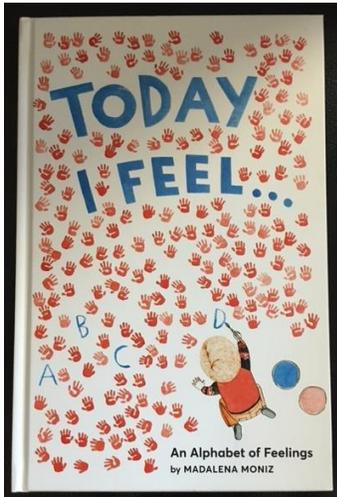
Staff and students let Mr. Connolly know how much they appreciate how hard he works to keep our school sparkling clean and a healthy place to be.

Thank-you Mr. Connolly!! We appreciate you!

World Teacher Day

We invited students to thank their teachers as a way of showing our appreciation for all they do for us. We know that everyone at some point in their lives remembers their teachers and not the curriculum. It can't be highlighted enough the importance and value of relationships, as teachers truly are at the heart of our education system.

Read in Week Highlights



Read in Week looked different again this year without our in-person guests, however that didn't stop us from celebrating with some great books! We watched with enthusiasm as our Archbishop, Superintendent, Trustees, Mayor and Global news personalities, all shared pre-recorded readings of their favorite books to us.

Trustee Debbie Engel also gifted us with the book, *Today I Feel: An Alphabet of Feelings*, for our school library!

Invited guests who met live via teams included: in Kindergarten and in Grade 1 – Mrs. Powers our Early Learning consultant; in Grade 2 – Mrs. Ostlund our Inclusive consultant; in Grade 3 – Mrs. Wade; and in person guests from the parish were Father Dean who read in Grade 4/5 and Sophia Ogle who read to our Grade 5/6 class.

Thanksgiving Mass



Grade 4/5 students gathered with Father Dean in the library to lead us in our Thanksgiving mass on October 12th. Our remaining students

participated in the mass virtually from their classrooms as they reflected on all that we have to be thankful for. We are so proud of our students as they take pride in leading us in this faith filled opportunity. We are grateful for the generosity of families as we filled Father Dean's truck with food items for the foodbank at St. John's Parish. Thank you for responding to our call for these items.



School Council Update

Thank you to all the parents who attended our SAC meeting on October 13th. Plans are well on the way for future events this year. Please consider volunteering to help us with our Casino. The Casino is our biggest fundraiser and is used for books, technology, sports equipment and other items as they arise.

Our next school council meeting is Tuesday, **November 24**, 2021

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Online via Teams

Please join us for our next meeting on **November 24** as we continue to plan out the fundraising events for the year. Please consider participating in our first fundraiser with Epicure. The proceeds will go into our trust fund for the playground. We currently have \$ 4764.00 in our account!!

The principal will also be submitting her list of requests that we as a council can support. At this meeting the principal will also be reviewing the school growth plan and sharing the plans for introducing Loose Parts Play to our students and families.

Please check out the minutes from our October 13th meeting at <https://www.ecsd.net/8011/page/5560/school-council>. We look forward to connecting again at our next meeting on **November 24th**.

Faith Formation Day

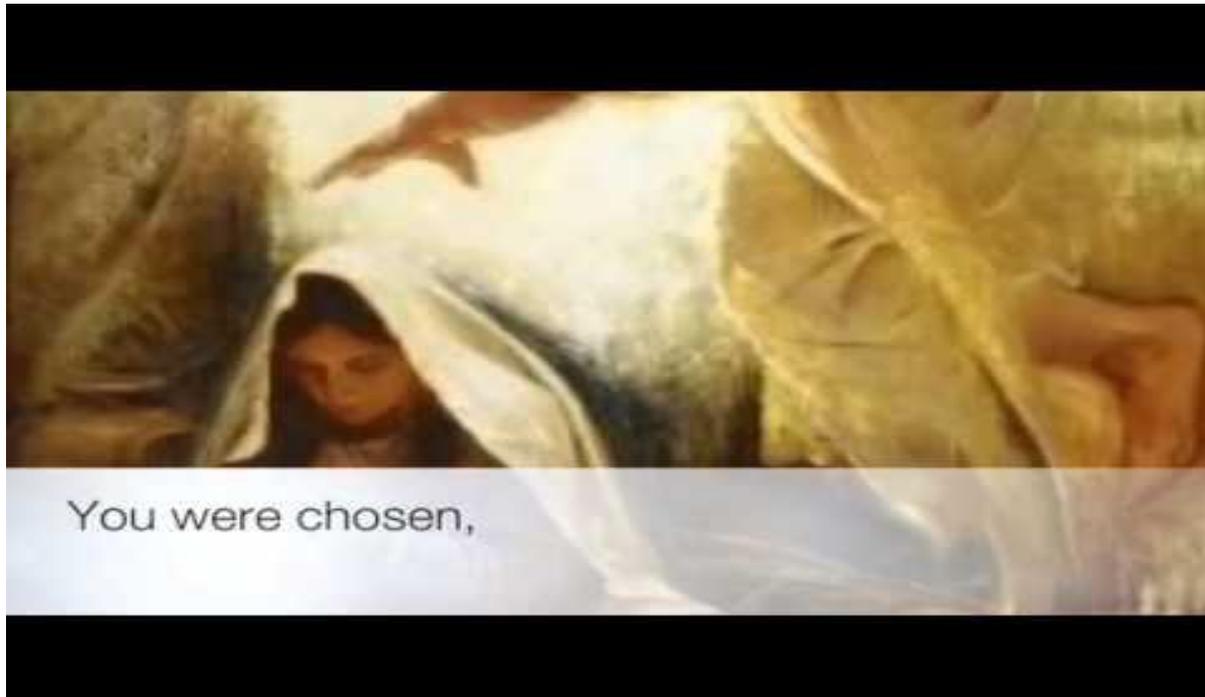
Faith Formation Day is just what was needed to uplift our hearts and renew our spirits as Covid 19 continues to challenge us with all the restrictions we endure. Staff are still sharing some of the messages that resonated with them from this day. It is these powerful messages that encourage us to persevere and stay strong. We are reminded that we are not alone when we take time to acknowledge God's presence in our lives through one another.

Our Lady of Victories Feast Day

Mrs. Loughlin organized a short celebration in honour of Mary. Our school family spent this time together in song, in remembering Mary's story through a gospel

reading according to Luke and in prayer. Students were invited to pray a decade of the rosary as part of this time together. Please enjoy one of the songs that was shared through the link provided here.

[Hail Mary - Gentle Woman](#)



Through our closing prayer we invited Mary to pray for us. Please join us in inviting Mary's presence and guidance in our school:

Mary, our Mother, you were Jesus' first teacher. May we, like you, love unconditionally, and serve all people with kindness and grace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Our Lady of Schools, Mother of Knowledge and Love, pray for us. Amen

Halloween

Our students participated in Halloween festivities on the afternoon of October 29th. The day started with teachers taking individual photos of students in their costumes to be included in a Powerpoint presentation. This Powerpoint was shared in all classes and students enjoyed pointing out students they recognized from other grades and expressed shared excitement over being able to see

everyone's costumes. It was great to see some of the student's creativity shine through in costumes that were designed at home.

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 will see the addition of a part time custodian to help Mr. Connolly after 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](#).

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Fr. Dean Dowle
stjohnevangelist.edm@caedm.ca

Pastoral Assistant: Sophie Ogle
sophie.ogle@caedm.ca

www.stjohnevangelist.edm.caedm.ca



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.



Thank you for all the generous donations that will be shared with people in need.



All Soul's Day – November 1

All Saints Day is November 1st. All Souls Day is November 2nd. All Saints Day, the day Catholics celebrate all the saints, known and unknown, is an old feast. It arose out of the Christian tradition of celebrating the martyrdom of saints on the anniversary of their martyrdom. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, local dioceses instituted a common feast day to ensure that all martyrs to the Faith were properly honored.

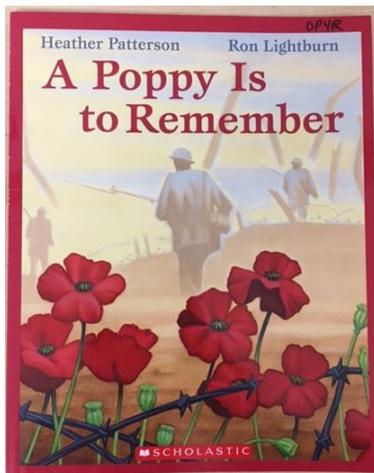
All Souls Day is a solemn celebration in the Catholic Church commemorating all of those who have died. On this day we remember and pray for all those people in our families or who we have known who have died.

Catholic Education Sunday – November 7

Each year, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories celebrate the first Sunday of November as Catholic Education Sunday. It is an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon and give thanks for the great gift of publicly funded Catholic education in the province of Alberta. The theme for this year is: *Build, Restore, Renew Together*. It speaks to the ongoing call for us to unite in our advocacy, commitment, and prayer for Catholic education. Please visit our division website by [clicking here](#) to read the Bishops' letter and to participate in a Journey with St. Joseph by praying the Novena for Catholic Schools.

Staff and students are invited to wear blue on Friday, November 7 in showing their support of Catholic Education Sunday.

Remembrance Day Ceremony – November 10



Each year on November 11th, members of the Canadian Armed Forces (soldiers, sailors, and airmen) are commemorated. The other common name for this day is Armistice Day which marks the date and time when armies stopped fighting during World War I on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. in 1918 (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month).

During World War I, 650,000 Canadians served and 68,000 died; in World War II, 1,000,000 Canadians served and 47,000 died; and since 1945 over 50,000 Canadians have served in various conflicts in Korea, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Africa with over 2,000 deaths.

In Canada, Remembrance Day is a federal statutory holiday, and all government buildings fly the Canadian flag at half-mast this day. People remember those who fought for Canada during a two-minute silence at 11:00 a.m. Many people wear poppies before and on Remembrance Day to show their respect and support for the Canadian military.



This year our Grade 1 class will host a virtual presentation to our classes commemorating this very important time on November 10 @ 11:00. If you would like to join, please call Mrs. Schmitz to be added to the TEAMS invite list.

School Photo Retakes – November 10

Lifetouch will be back to do retakes on November 10th. A reminder flyer will be sent home prior to this date.

Metis Week – November 14 – 20

We invite you to explore some historical information through the Metis Nation of Alberta website and take note of upcoming events.

<https://albertametis.com/metis-in-alberta/history/>

Métis Week is an annual event planned by the Métis Nation of Alberta, and sees a range of interesting commemorative events take place across Alberta.

City of Edmonton's website also provides some historical information and access to a calendar of events.

https://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_events/schedule_festivals_events/metis-week

This is a great opportunity for teachers to make curriculum connections with our Alberta and Canadian history.

Partnership Appreciation Week – November 22-26

We would like to thank EverActive Schools for providing us with support as we establish Loose Parts Play for our students. We are so excited to get this program up and running. Parents, please watch for updates regarding parent involvement. We will provide a session at our SAC meeting to inform you about the program as well as invite you to consider some items you might donate for the exciting project.

We would also like to thank the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation for their financial contribution that helped us develop our sensory and prayer spaces for staff and students.

For more information and a list of contributors to Edmonton Catholic Schools please go to this [link](#).

Demonstration of Learning - November 25

See you virtually on November 25 to celebrate your child's learning. Teachers will be scheduling times from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. to meet and have a conversation about your child's learning. Please watch for more information to come on how to book a time.

Immunizations – November 25

Student Immunization for 2021-2022. The School Immunization Program is as follows:

Grades 1- 9: Review immunization records of all students and offer relevant vaccines to all children who are not up to date according to Alberta Health recommendations.

Grade 6: Offer Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) along with all other vaccines the student is eligible for according to Alberta Health recommendations.

Remembering Holodomor – November 27

On November 27 we remember the Famine in Ukraine. Canada designates the 4th Friday and Saturday in November as [Holodomor Memorial Day](#) to commemorate the Ukrainian genocide. It is remembered as an attack on Ukrainian identity and culture. 85% of the Ukrainian population were village farmers who were targeted for destruction.

Parenting Corner

Our Friends at CBE are warning us of a new game taking over their playgrounds. It's called Squid Game and is based around a popular new Netflix series. It is rated TV-MA and depicts graphic violence and disturbing content. The series

premise has characters compete for money in a game show featuring children's games, such as Red Light Green Light. Instead of being "out," characters are killed, often in graphic ways.

Some resources to help support you as parents if you have questions about the series and whether it is appropriate for your child:

- <https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/thinking-of-watching-netflixs-squid-game-heres-what-you-should-know>
- <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/tv-reviews/squid-game>

We have seen evidence of students exposure to this series as students are role playing this game on our own school's playground and are discouraged from doing so.



October Monthly School Calendar

November 1	All Soul's Day
November 7	Catholic Education Sunday
November 10	Grade 1 leading our Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony Photo Retake Day
November 11, 12 & 15	NO SCHOOL – Fall Break
November 14 – 20	Metis Week
November 22-26	Partnership Appreciation Week
November 24	SAC Meeting at 6:30
November 25	Demonstration of Learning Immunizations
November 27	Holodomor (Genocide in Ukraine 1932-33)
November 28	First Sunday of Advent