



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Website: www.ourladyofvictories.ecsd.net

October Newsletter

Dear God,



Please fill my heart with an abundance of gratitude. Help me to turn my eyes to Your infinite grace and mercy. Help me to see beyond the struggles of life and the burdens that get me down. In place of these, help me to become increasingly aware of all You have done for me and all that You continue to do. Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen

Principal Message

Happy Thanksgiving! Though Thanksgiving Day is not specifically a Catholic holy day, our lived faith calls us to gratitude. Spiritually speaking, we all know that gratitude is central to the Gospel message. Thanksgiving Day gives us a perfect time to reflect on all our many blessing blessings.

At this time when we are faced with the multitude of challenges Covid brings, it is even more important to see all that God has done for us. It's so easy to get down, depressed, frustrated and even angry at times. What's far more challenging is to look beyond the crosses and burdens we face each day to see the abundance of grace and mercy given to us by our Lord. We at Our Lady of Victories School are blessed to have many opportunities to experience God's grace and goodness: in the smiles, laughter, and curiosity of your children. We are truly blessed to receive these gifts that carry us through any struggles.

So on this Thanksgiving Day, we reflect upon this simple question: Do I see all God has done for me? Do I see His abundance of mercy alive in my life? Be open to that truth and God will change your life as He fills you with joy!

September Assembly

On September 1 we had our first assembly in the gym. Staff, both new and old were introduced and a general review of our general community routines and expectations were outlined. This is always an exciting opportunity to come together in prayer and welcome as we greet the new challenges of the new academic year. Our upcoming assemblies will reflect the virtues listed in each month's student agenda. October will focus upon gratitude, so appropriate with Thanksgiving coming up. As we explore these virtues, students will choose a passage from our theme book, Only One You that "speaks" to them and aligns with the messages they want to share regarding the virtue.

School Opening Mass

On September 22 Father Dean and Sophie joined us to welcome in the new school year with a school-wide mass. The grade six class assisted in the set-up, planning and readings, and participated 'live' from the library. The remainder of the staff and students joined virtually from their classrooms. The Precious Bread of Christ was shared to those eligible and blessings were shared to all.

Father Dean and Sophie's dedication and commitment to our school and faith community is a true blessing to us all. They both made a point of going outside at dismissal to be sure to meet as many of our families as possible. They look forward to meeting everyone in the future. Father also blessed our sacred space that we have created to provide staff or students with a quiet prayer and reflective space when needed.



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.

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.

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

Meet the Staff Night

Despite the Covid protocols preventing teachers from showing you all the amazing plans and units they have prepared for the upcoming year; they were able to use their technical skills to provide you the next best thing – a virtual introduction to your child's school and classroom. We hope you took the opportunity to explore the presentation provided for you on the google classroom. Know that your in-person presence is missed greatly and we all look forward to a return to normal soon. Your child's teacher is just an email or phone call away.

New Staff

We would like to welcome Ms. Janelle Ohrn-Kelemen and Ms. May Reyes to our staff. Ms. Ohrn-Kelemen will be supporting kindergarten in the morning and grade 4, 5 and 6 in the afternoon. Ms. Reyes will be joining our 100 Voices team as an educational assistant. We are thrilled to have them join our school community!

School Council Update

Thank you to all the parents who showed an interest in being a part of our School Council. Executive were established for our 2021-2022 school year. Our Annual General Meeting was held on September 27th.

Our list of executive members are:

Chair: Jennifer Kreziewicz

Vice-chair: Joanna Quigg

Treasurer: Farrah Dziwenka

Secretary: Amy Machnik

Fundraiser: Anastassia Hawksworth and Kelsey McWhirter

Casino: Vacant

Auditors: Christopher Atkins and vacancy

Classroom reps: 100 Voices – Kristine Angeles
Kindergarten – Kristine Angeles
Gr. 1 – Kelsey McWhirter
Gr. 2 – Christopher Atkins
Gr. 3 – Alina Pavone
Gr. 4/5 - Anastassia Hawksworth
Gr. 5/6 - Danielle Stolson

For further information regarding school councils and descriptions of the roles please check out this document: [School Council Resource Guide](#)

Please join us for our next meeting on **October 13** as we plan out the events for the year. The principal will also be submitting her list of requests that we as a council can support.

Please check out the minutes for our Annual General Meeting at <https://www.ecsd.net/8011/page/5560/school-council>. You will also find the dates for our future meetings this year.

Terry Fox Fundraiser

Our Lady of Victories School students and staff all participated in the Terry Fox Run/Walk on Friday, September 24th. Mr. Salvador started the day off with his grade 5/6 class who set up a track around the field for each class to use at different times of the day. The warm weather cooperated to allow the children to reflect on the tremendous difference Terry made in the world as they ran around the track.



Thank you for all your generous donations. We exceeded our fundraising goal of \$200. We will be sending in a donation of over \$350 to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Faith Formation Day – October 18

On Monday, October 18, there will be no classes for students. Our school division will join together as a virtual community to deepen our knowledge of and

connection to our God. We will gather virtually, starting with a Liturgy celebrated by our division chaplains, Father Glenn McDonald and Father Julian Bilyj. Acclaimed speakers Steve Angrisano, Father Patalinghug and Father Richard Leonard will be the keynote speakers. We will have opportunities to listen, learn and share with our onsite colleagues as well as others at various sites across the division.



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.

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.

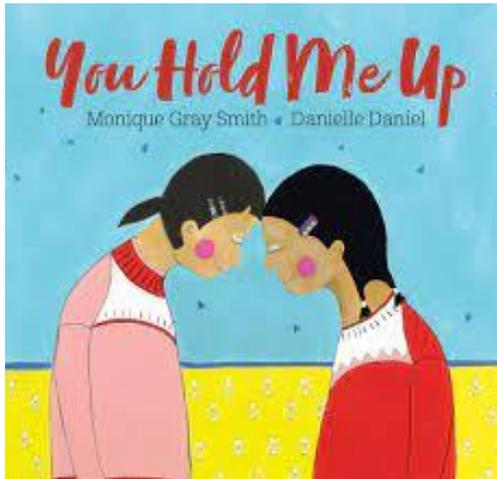
We will be collecting food items at our Thanksgiving Mass to support the foodbank at the Parish. Please see below for items requested.

Truth and Reconciliation Week – September 27 - October 1

“The residential school experience is one of the darkest, most troubling chapters in our collective history.” –Justice Murray Sinclair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Chairman

Our school community observed the Truth and Reconciliation Week with a variety of activities and lessons in individual classes to increase knowledge and awareness of this sad part of Canada's history. The Division Two students participated in a program online sponsored by the Government of Canada.

On Sept. 29, all the staff and students wore orange to support Orange Shirt Day and joined in a school-wide liturgy for reconciliation of the past. Using the story ‘You Hold Me Up’ by Monique Grey-Smith, students responded by identifying a person or character trait that ‘holds them up’ in life. This kaleidoscope of feathers has become a pair of wings to remind us of all the love and support that carries us through the challenges of the past and present.



Thank you!

The Jerry and Ronalyn Bartlett generously supported our 100 Voice program students with fruit snacks purchased through the Breakfast Club. These healthy and individually packaged snacks were enjoyed by all!

Custodian Appreciation Day – October 2

Custodian Appreciation Day occurs on October 2. Our staff and students are busy planning a variety of ways to let Mr. Connolly know how much he is appreciated! Mr. Connolly continues to work hard as he thoroughly wipes down high touch areas regularly and keeps our classrooms clean.

Fire Prevention Week – October 3-12

This year's theme is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety."

Every year the message for families is to: Plan, practice and be prepared. Have you taken the time with your loved ones to have a fire escape plan that includes 2 ways out of every room? Do you have an identified meeting place outside of your home where everyone is to gather? What if someone can't hear the fire alarm. Establish your plan and teach your child how to dial 911 and when to do so. Also remember to check your smoke detectors.

Learning what are the most common causes of fires and teaching your children how to prevent them is important. The most common causes are cooking, space heaters, overloaded electrical sockets, smoking and unattended candles.

For more information check out: [Fire Prevention Week](#)

World Teacher's Day – October 5

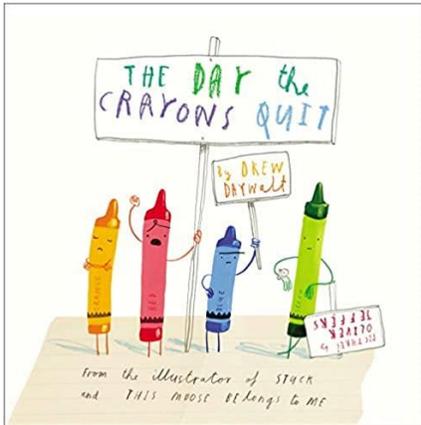


This year UNESCO has teacher's well-being at the forefront and know they need support if they are to be at the heart of education recovery. We are fortunate to have such a great team of teachers at our school who continually work hard at seeking success for all students.

Read In Week – October 4 – 8

The theme for this year's Read In Week is, "To Each Their Own Story." From October 4-8, our classes will welcome both virtual and 'in-house' guests to their classes. The Division 2 classes have special guests booked – Father Dean and Sophie! Stay tuned to next month's newsletter for further updates!

Check out teacher favourites:



The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy – Mrs. Smith

Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin – Mrs. Webster

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans – Mrs. Loughlin

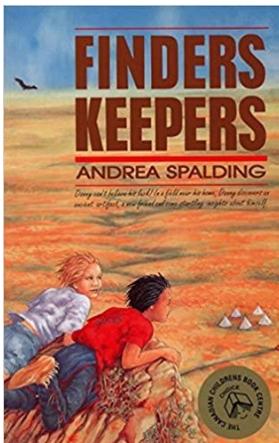
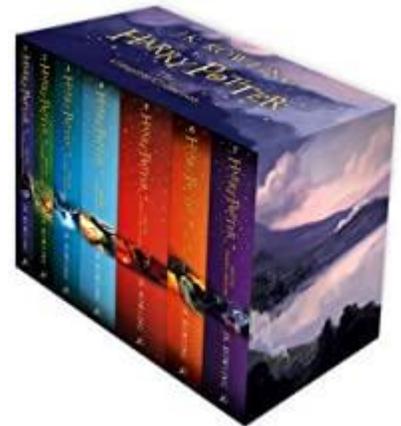
Where Oliver Fits by Cale Atkinson – Mr. Salvador

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson – Miss Suen

Happy Dreamer by Peter H. Reynolds – Miss B. (Bertholet)

The Day the Crayons Quit by Mark Jeffers – Miss Simpson

Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling – Mr. Holloway



Finders Keepers by Andrea Spalding – Mrs. Opyr

School Photos – October 5

Students will be having their photos taken on October 5. We are happy to have our 100 Voices included as well. Retakes are scheduled for November 10, if your child is away.

Thanksgiving – October 11

We hope that you have a blessed time with your family. We have much to be thankful for even during these challenging times.

Thanksgiving Mass and Grade 4 Bible Presentation – October 12

At 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12 we will have a virtual celebration of Thanksgiving and the presentation of bibles to our Grade 4 students. Father Dean and Sophie will be hosted by the Gr. 4/5 class live in the library. A link will be sent out via Swift Messaging so that families may join our liturgy.

In the spirit of gratitude, we will be asking for the students to bring items to donate to the food bank of St. John the Evangelist Parish. They request that any canned items have a pull tab and do not require a can opener.

- Peanut butter
- Beans
- Pasta
- Hot cereals
- Any canned vegetables
- Tinned tuna
- Juice boxes
- Granola bars
- Baby diapers
- Feminine products

Faith Day for Staff - October 18



On Monday, October 18, there will be no classes for students. Our school division will join together as a virtual community to deepen our knowledge of and connection to our God. We will gather virtually, starting with a Liturgy celebrated by our division chaplains, Father Glenn McDonald and Father Julian Bilyj. Acclaimed speakers Steve Angrisano, Father Patalinghug and Father Richard Leonard will be the keynote speakers. We will have opportunities to listen, learn and share with our onsite colleagues as well as others at various sites across the division.

Report Cards

Parents & guardians did you know you no longer have to wait for a report card to find out how your child is learning at school? Find out how to track your child's progress by watching [this video](#). To learn more about assessment and reporting

in Edmonton Catholic Schools, please visit the [ECSD website](#). If you have questions specific to your child's learning and progress, please contact your child's teacher.

Halloween – October 29

Halloween Considerations and Guidance during Covid

Please note that these guidelines were established last year and there may be new updates prior to October 29.

- Covid masks must still be worn
- Full face masks are not allowed
- No replicated weapons are allowed
- Costumes must allow for sanitizing and washing of hands – therefore no hand covering.
- No sharing of candy among students
- If teachers are handing out treats – all treats will be individually packaged and handed out by the teacher after they have sanitized their hands and utilized gloves for distribution
- Costume parades will be done virtually. More details to follow from individual classroom teachers. Please note these parameters were established centrally by our division for 2020.





October Monthly School Calendar

October 4-8	Read In Week and Fire Prevention Week
October 5	School Photos World Teacher's Day
October 11	Thanksgiving – NO SCHOOL
October 12	Thanksgiving Mass and Bible Celebration at 2:00 p.m. with Father Dean
October 13	School Advisory Council meeting a 6:30 p.m. (virtual)
October 18	Elections – Remember to vote NO SCHOOL – Faith Day PD for Staff
October 29	HALLOWEEN