



Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
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MONTHLY MESSAGES

Administrators' Message



The beginning of February will be a busy time at Bishop David Motiuk!

One of the key features of the IB Primary Years Programme is the concept of Agency – the idea that students have voice, choice and ownership and are able to initiate meaningful action in their communities. We are so proud of Sofia M. in grade three, who was inspired by learning about the poor in our city in class and decided to take action. Sofia single-handedly organized a school wide Drive to Help the Homeless for the month of February. Throughout the month of February, we will be collecting much needed items for the Mustard Seed. We are very happy to support Sofia in this highly important action.

Other events upcoming in February:

Wednesday, February 3 – Winter Walk Day

Monday, February 8 – 100 Days of School. Primary classes have fun activities planned.

Wednesday, February 10 - BDM Virtual Open House – 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 11 – Grade 8 Father Michael Mireau Youth Day

Friday, February 12 – Valentine's Day Celebrations

Sunday, February 14 – Saturday, February 20 – Random Acts of Kindness Week

Monday, February 15 – Family Day – No School

Wednesday, February 17 – Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 25 – Friday, February 26 – Teachers' Convention – No School.

We would like to thank Tam from Posh Hair Studio in Webber Greens, who started Random Acts of Kindness early by donating dozens of individually packaged masks featuring popular cartoon characters such as Spiderman and Pokemon to our school. These masks have been a highly popular addition to our daily birthday present choices!

During February, we start our planning for the next school year. We are now accepting new registrations for the 2021-2022 school year in Kindergarten to Grade Nine. Our Virtual Open House is on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM. Videos and information about our school will be posted to our website well in advance. We were fielding inquiries well before online registration began. We already have a number of new registrations in kindergarten, and we know from experience that morning kindergarten classes fill up quickly. If your friends and neighbours are planning to register with us for the upcoming school year, particularly in kindergarten, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Please see the Registration and Open House section of this newsletter for more information.

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Chief Superintendent's Message



"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation."

- Servant of God Catherine Doherty

This month marks the beginning of Lent in the Catholic liturgical calendar. It is a journey where we prepare our hearts and our minds to receive the great gift of God's mercy and love that is found in the death and resurrection of Christ. As the quotation above points to us, it is a time for us to truly discern those parts of our lives that cut us off from the vital relationships with God and each other. In today's world where we are necessarily placed at a physical distance from others, removing spiritual, social, and emotional barriers takes a position of even greater importance in our lives.

February is always an incredibly busy month for schools. Our high schools will experience quarter change on February 1. Our Grade 8 students will be engaged in a morning of social justice learning on February 11 as they participate in our annual Father Michael 'Catfish' Mireau Youth Faith Day as a virtual event. The theme for the day, Serve Like A Superhero, reminds them that they can make a difference in the world. Random Acts of Kindness Week will see our students and staff reaching out to others in small ways to brighten their day. Our schools will be participating in Ash Wednesday according to the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese. Ashes will be sprinkled ensuring that they are distributed without contact. Our Division Chaplains, Father Glenn McDonald and Father Julian Bilyj, will offer a recorded celebration so that our remote learners can also participate in this important day. As always, Teachers' Convention will take place on the last Thursday and Friday of February. Our teachers will engage in valuable professional learning in a virtual environment.

Our virtual mental health evening for parents and guardians in January was a great success. We had over 500 participants on the day of the event, and the recording is available for you on our website. [Click here](#) to view this very valuable 45-minute video.

Our online registration is now open, and if you are looking at registering with Edmonton Catholic Schools, you can find all of the virtual Open House listings by exploring www.ecsd.net or by [clicking here](#). Share the good news about us in your community!

Pope Francis published an encyclical letter, Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship, last fall. This month, our Religious Education Services (RES) Elementary Consultant writes about chapter 3, [Envisaging and Engendering an Open World, and chapter 4, A Heart Open to the Whole World](#). The article is included as an accompaniment to this newsletter.

In this month in which we are focused on relationship, kindness, and serving others, I will leave you with a final word from our Holy Father: “The design that God has for each one of us is always a design of love. And the greatest joy for every believer is to respond to that call, offering one’s entire being to the service of God and the brothers and sisters.” (Twitter, 01-17-21)

Have a grace filled month!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin

Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Martin’s message is also available online: [Chief Superintendent’s Message for February](#)

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Fr. Glenn McDonald’s Message: A Different Kind of Lent this Year



Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season. When

Lent rolls around, we are invited to ask ourselves, “Ok, what can I give up this year, so that I can create room for God in my life?” However, after being in a pandemic for about a year and with a few months still to go, my first response is, “Lord, I have no more things to give up!”

The Lent of 2021 will not be about giving up things, because we have already been doing so for almost a year now. Perhaps this Lenten season we are invited to ponder what we have received? Allow me give you an example. A family that I am quite close to shared with me how the pandemic had impacted them: Wednesday night soccer has been cancelled, vacation plans were moved to the backyard, and visits to grandma became Facetime calls. In other words, their regular routine was derailed and they were understandably sad about it.

Then came a statement that I did not expect. “Once the pandemic began, we started to get to know the other families in the neighborhood.” At first I thought I had misheard the conversation — we were standing six feet apart with masks on. “Yes, Father. We have gotten to know our neighbors and made friends in the neighbourhood after having lived here several years. It has been a great blessing.” I must confess: I was surprised to learn this. How could anyone feel blessed during a pandemic?

During my drive home, I pondered what my friends had shared with me, and wondered: what have I received?

So far, I have been extremely fortunate. The pandemic has been only an inconvenience for me. In contrast, others have had a very difficult time and suffered greatly: jobs have been lost, relationships have suffered, and family members have died and gone to Heaven.

For many, there will be no thanksgiving that flows from the pandemic. Their loss has far outweighed any gain. I am somewhat embarrassed to think of how fortunate I have been relative to the sufferings of others.

And yet, when I ponder the last twelve months, the most meaningful moments I have experienced have been listening to others share about their losses.

There is a special and holy connection that is formed when others share their pain with us. Despite the tremendous poverty they feel, they give us a priceless gift of sharing their deepest feelings and memories — a fragile intimacy that can be treasured long after the pandemic has ended.

The Lent of 2021 will be unique — focused more on sharing than giving up. If you are like me, and have only been inconvenienced this past year, let us give thanks to God for that. For those of you who have suffered a painful loss, I encourage you to share your experience with others. Being vulnerable is rarely easy, but your loss is something you can bless others with. I know that I have been blessed by what others have shared with me.

By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

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IB Coordinators’ Message



Our IB coordinators’ monthly message is available on our website: [February IB News](#). This is where you will find updates on the wonderful learning taking place in our classrooms. Please take a few minutes to look through it and to see what our students are up to!

As always we welcome questions about the IB programmes in our school. Andrea Olivieri is the coordinator for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Lyndsy Panizzon is the coordinator for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). They can be reached at Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net and Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net

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BREAKING NEWS

Bishop David Motiuk is an Authorized IB World School



We are so pleased and excited to let you know that we have received official authorization as an IB World School for both the PYP and the MYP. Our IB journey took a little over two years, from application, to candidacy, to the verification visit. This is a bit of a record for IB schools in Edmonton Catholic! We would especially like to thank Mrs. Panizzon, Mrs. Olivieri and all of our teachers for their hard work in planning and implementing our programmes. The visiting teams had many commendations for our staff and the work they have done. We would also like to sincerely thank our parents for their unwavering support. We are so happy to be able to officially offer such high-quality programming for our students.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accessing Report Cards through PowerSchool



Your child's PowerSchool Summary Report will be available for viewing on January 29, 2021 at 3pm. This contains a big-picture view of how your child has achieved overall on the learning outcomes assessed from September until January.

Instructions:

Once you log on to powerschool.ecsd.net/public scroll down and click on Summary Report. Then follow the prompts. For detailed instructions on how to access the summary report, please [click here](#).

IMPORTANT: The PowerSchool app reports inaccurately. We discourage parents from using the PowerSchool app. Instead, please access PowerSchool via a web browser, such as Chrome.

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Bishop David Motiuk Registration and Open House Dates



We are now accepting new registrations in kindergarten through grade nine for the 2021-2022 school year. We are at capacity in all grades, so new registrations are limited to resident (Catholic) students who reside within our boundary area.

Kindergarten Registrations

To register for our Kindergarten program, children must be 5 years of age on or before December 31 of their kindergarten year. Parents are encouraged to use the online Kindergarten Calculator to determine when their child will be eligible for kindergarten programming: <http://parent.ecsd.net/kindergarten/>

New to ECSD Registrations

All new registration applications (for students not currently enrolled in an Edmonton Catholic School), are completed online: <https://www.ecsd.net/SchoolProfiles/Pages/Registration.aspx>. New registrations will be confirmed starting in late February.

Transfers from other Catholic Schools

Resident students attending other ECSD schools but living within our boundary area may transfer to our school if they wish. Non-resident students living in our boundary area who are currently attending other Catholic schools may transfer to Bishop David Motiuk for junior high (a natural transition point) or if we have space available.

This year, all families will be asked to indicate the school they wish their children to attend by using an "Intention Icon" in PowerSchool. This feature will open on February 16.

Confirming Registrations for Current Students

Students currently enrolled at Bishop David Motiuk will have their registrations carried forward for the next school year. Parents are still asked to complete the "Intention Icon" in PowerSchool so that we are able to plan effectively for classes and staffing for the upcoming school year. Using this feature in PowerSchool is a quick and easy way of letting us know what your intentions are for the upcoming school year. Please help us by indicating your intentions as soon as the feature opens.

Virtual Open House

Our **Open House** this year will be in a virtual format. We will be posting short video clips with information about our school and programs to our website early in February. Our live Virtual Open House will be on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 pm. It will include a very short general program, followed by questions.

We thank you for passing on this information to any parents you know who may be considering our school for the fall.

Thank you for spreading the good news!

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Division Focus Programs



The division offers a number of focus programs that offer unique opportunities for students. Two of these programs are the [All-girls Jean Forest Leadership Academy](#) offered at St. Cecilia and the [Polish Bilingual Program](#) offered at St. Basil. A complete list of Focus Schools and Alternative Programs is posted on the ECSD website:

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High School Registrations and Open House Dates



Grade 9 students are eagerly looking forward to registering for high school. The designated high schools for Bishop David Motiuk are St. Oscar Romero and St. Francis Xavier. Students may also choose to attend Archbishop MacDonald or St. Joseph. Each of our high schools has a great deal to offer:

St. Oscar Romero – Advanced Placement and Regular Programming

St. Francis Xavier – Advanced Placement, Sports Academy Programming, Regular Programming'

Archbishop MacDonald – International Baccalaureate Middle Years & Diploma Programmes, French Immersion Program

St. Joseph – Individualized Self-paced Learning, Regular Programming

St. Oscar Romero's Open House is on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 PM for regular programs.

St. Francis Xavier's Open House is on Tuesday, February 9 for focus programs and Wednesday, March 3 for regular programs. Open houses start at 6:30 PM.

Archbishop MacDonald's Open House is on Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm.

St. Joseph's Open House is on Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 PM.

Please plan to attend our high school open houses so that you can make the best choice of programming for your child. Information specific to each school is sent to grade nine parents via Swift Messages.

A listing of all [Virtual Open House Listings](#) is available on the division website.

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School Council Message



Thank you to all parents who joined us at our School Council Meeting on January 20.

Our next School Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3 at 6:00 PM. A Teams link will be posted to our website. Please plan to join us!

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Parent Fundraising Association



Our Parent Fundraising Association has arranged for two ongoing fundraisers with proceeds from sales going to our school. Those of you making purchases at the Cob's Bread Bakery in West Granville simply have to mention our school and 5% of your purchase will be donated to us. Please spread the word to all of your friends, relatives and neighbours.

The Fundraising Association also has a [Mabel's Labels](#) account with proceeds from sales going to our school. "Mabel's Labels" is a line of personalized labels designed to help prevent lost items, remind children about important information, and even to alert teachers and other adults to a child's allergies. The Sticky Labels are waterproof and can be used for lunchboxes, baby bottles, electronics, sports equipment, and more. The Mabel's Labels fundraiser will operate on an ongoing basis.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Drive to Help the Homeless



Grade three student Sofia M. has organized a Drive to Help the Homeless, with each grade at our school collecting different items that are much needed at the Mustard Seed. Sofia began by writing a letter to Ms. Volk:

Hi Ms. Volk,

It's me Sofia M. from grade 3A. In class we learned about poor schools and how people need to help them. This inspired me to do more. I want to help the people in our community. I looked up the Mustard Seed and they are in need of our help! I was hoping we could bring the school together to help the Mustard Seed. They help the homeless in Edmonton with items like food, water, clothes, and more. I was wondering if we can do a school collection of the items that each grade can bring. I attached a list of items that I split by grade and also the entire list of items that are needed. I would like to start this February 1st, as an act of kindness to those in need. The last day for donating would be February 22nd. I hope this is something that you and the school would help me with.

What do I need from you?

First, your support!

Second, a room or space where all the items can be collected and stored until the final day where my parents would come and collect the items with me and donate them to the Mustard Seed. I can get bins and go at recess (with Bella's help) to collect from each classroom and put them in one room.

Third, help printing and sending the items list to each classroom.

Fourth, time during the morning announcements where I can share a reminder for people to bring items.

Please let me know if this is something you can help with.

Thank you,

Sofia M.

P.S. – If you run out of printer paper, I will bring some.

Let's all support Sofia in this worthwhile charitable endeavor by bringing in items for the Mustard Seed. Since it is not in use right now, items will be stored in the Learning Commons during the month of February.

We will set bins outside between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM on Wednesdays and Fridays so that students currently taking online classes who would like to participate can drop off donations on these days. Classes will be asked to take items collected to the learning commons on a regular basis.

We can save on printer paper by posting lists of needed items to Google classrooms so that all students can access them (we will still do some printing for kindergarten).

Let's work together to collect so much that we will need a convoy of vehicles to deliver items to the Mustard Seed!

Items Needed

KINDERGARTEN/GRADE 1

Warm hats

Ski Gloves

GRADE 2 AND 3

Cleaning Supplies

Garbage bags (lg kitchen size)

GRADE 4 AND 5

Bottled water

Masks

GRADE 6 AND 7

Feminine hygiene products

Foam ear plugs

GRADE 8 AND 9

Hand sanitizer

Disposable gloves

Please see the complete list of needed items: [The Mustard Seed Urgently Needed Items Donation List](#)

Please help as you can. If you are able to donate something that is not on your child's grade list, that is fine. The need is great and all donations are appreciated.

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Winter Walk 2021



We are excited to announce that Bishop David Motiuk School will be taking part in Winter Walk Day next Wednesday, February 3! In the event of extreme cold, we will walk on a different winter day.

Walking to school in winter has many potential benefits, including benefits for your child's health and well-being (like opportunities to learn and socialize on the way to school, and arriving to school alert and ready to learn), our community (reduced traffic congestion around the school) and the environment, too.

Walk with your child to school next Wednesday to join in the celebration! If you're on your way somewhere else and plan on driving to your next destination, consider walking and taking transit (see Google maps for available transit routes to/from your destination: <https://www.google.ca/maps>), or park/drop your child off a block or two away from the school to walk the rest of the way in. If you're not able to join, encourage your child to walk with a friend.

Winter Walking Tips

- Keep hands and head covered to prevent heat loss.
- On really cold days wear a scarf over your face and mouth.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots.
- Wear a warm coat that deflects the wind.
- Woolen clothing helps to retain the heat.
- Wear clothing or carry knapsacks with reflective material – it's important to be seen.
- If possible, change wet clothes at school – tuck an extra pair of socks and mitts into knapsacks.

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Fr. Michael Mireau Youth Day



On Thursday, February 11, grade eight students will be taking part in the sixth annual Father Michael Mireau Youth Day. It will be a virtual event this year. Father Mike wanted this to be a day for grade eights, since he felt that they are often the overlooked, middle children in our junior high schools. This is truly a special day for our grade eight students. The morning will feature greetings from our Chief Superintendent and Board of Trustees, a Liturgy of the Word with our division chaplains, Fr. Glenn McDonald and Fr. Julian Bilyj and a keynote address from Steve Angrisano, a celebrated Catholic speaker and musician. Our grade eight students, along with grade eights from across the archdiocese, will be treated to a wonderful day of faith and fun.

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Valentine's Day Activities



Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show others that we care about them. This year, Valentine's Day will be a little different than we are used to, but we are still looking forward to a LOVE-ly day. Valentine's events will take place in homeroom classes on February 12. Students will be required to bring their own treats for any classroom parties. Valentine's Day cards may be exchanged, but students are asked to place all cards in a Ziploc bag, and bring them to their teacher for safe-keeping by February 5. The cards will sit for a week before distribution. Alternatively, students may wish to send virtual Valentine cards this year.

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Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten Season in our Church. This year, Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 17. Our Ash Wednesday celebration will be livestreamed to homeroom classes. Ashes will be distributed by teachers and safety protocols and social distancing will apply. This year, the imposition of ashes will be done by sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head, without touching the forehead of the faithful, and in silence.

Ash Wednesday is one of two days of abstinence and fasting in the Canadian Catholic Church (Good Friday is the other). Typically, Catholics do not eat meat on days of fasting. Parents are asked to make a special effort to refrain from sending meat items in school lunches on Ash Wednesday.

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Staff Lenten Project



During Lent, our staff will be supporting Chalice with a donation toward school farms in Africa. School farming programs produce fresh, local crops used to supplement school meals. Students learn about sustainability, help tend to the gardens, and form their own gardening clubs. This is a critical need in small communities there.

Chalice is a Catholic international aid charity. There are many programs and ways to help through Chalice, including sponsoring a child or donating toward critical needs in communities. Families wishing to make personal donations to Chalice are asked to visit their website: <https://chalice.ca/>

What are you doing for Lent?

10 IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL LENTEN SEASON

1. Give up sin Show your love for God by keeping his commandments. Turn away from sins.	2. Fast An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Give the money you saved on food to others in alms.	3. Pray Be in constant prayer. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.	4. Do good works Help those in need. Pray for them and be ready to serve them in their time of need.
5. Give alms Help the poor and support the good works of the Church. Give cheerfully to God who has given us everything we have.	6. Abstain Give up meat or other desirable foods during Lent, especially on Friday, the day of Christ's saving death on the cross.	7. Do meditative reading Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day will open your heart to the Spirit, and let God's thoughts and ways influence yours.	8. Control desire for possessions Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Cut down on material possessions, eliminate frills, lessen wants, share yourself – your time and your talents – with others.
9. Control desire for entertainment Too much entertainment and other distractions can lead to less or no time for the works of the Lord.	10. Carry out duties in life Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day. God is calling each of us to be a living sacrifice. Offer your daily life through Christ!	<p>Archdiocese of Toronto www.archtoronto.org archtoronto</p>	

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