



# Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
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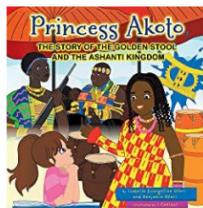
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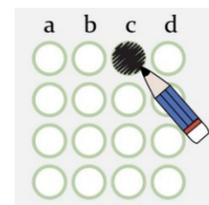
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## MONTHLY MESSAGES

### Administrators' Message



We hope that each of our families enjoyed a restful Christmas holiday filled with joy, peace and happiness. We wish you a very Happy New Year!

### Christmas Giving

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your generous support of both the We Care Challenge and our Christmas Food Drive. Thanks to your support, our school raised \$1500 for the ECS Foundation. This money will go toward providing breakfast and/or snack programs for students in some of our neediest areas as well as support for families in crisis during difficult times. Thank you as well to both online and at school families for sending mountains of food for our Food Drive. Thanks to you, we were able to put together Christmas hampers for families in need in our school. We were also pleased to support the Edmonton Food Bank, since their donations were down significantly this year and they needed our support. A special thank you to Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Sandhu and our grade six classes, who coordinated our Christmas Food Drive. Thank you again to all of you who supported these wonderful activities. Your generosity is evidence of the true spirit of Christmas. May God shower you with many blessings for all you do!

## Reflections on the Pandemic

The first part of the school year was a learning experience for everyone as we dealt with the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning at Bishop David Motiuk. We have learned that, as Dr. Hinshaw says, COVID 19 does not discriminate. Cases have been reported in a number of grades and in both at-school and online cohorts (we report cases in both). When we have had cases in at-school cohorts, isolation for students and staff was often required. We are pleased to note, however, that to date, no staff members have tested positive for COVID 19 and we have not had any reported cases of in-school transmission. We have also had fewer cases of colds and flu at school, since our families have been so diligent about monitoring symptoms and keeping children who are not well at home. We would like to sincerely thank our families for following protocols and for helping to keep all of our children safe.

We continue to maintain strict protocols in order to keep our students as safe as possible. This includes sanitizing hands upon entry and throughout the school day, wearing masks as required and limiting movement in the school. We want to keep our students at school and limit the number of students and staff who are required to isolate in the event of a positive case in our school community.

### How can you help?

- Continue to do the daily health screening. If your child is not well, please keep him or her at home and follow AHS guidelines.
- If a COVID test is required, please keep your child at home until you have received test results.
- If a family member tests positive, then the entire family would quarantine as per AHS guidelines.
- Please let us know right away if your child receives a positive test result. Please do not assume that a class would not have to isolate. We are in the best position to know if isolation of a classroom cohort would be required.

With the start of the new year, we welcome news of a vaccine and we look forward to the end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy. Although the end is in sight, we know that the virus will be with us for some time yet and our current learning stance will be in place for the remainder of this school year. Let's all do our part to make sure that everyone is as safe as possible. Thank you!

## Registrations and Open House

January is the start of the new calendar year and it is also the time when school administration begins planning for the next academic year. Although it seems quite early, we have already been receiving inquiries regarding registration for next year. If you have friends or relatives who plan on enrolling their children at Bishop David Motiuk next year, please let them know about our Open House, which will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. We are not able to gather in person, so this will be a Teams Event, with some recorded material and some live material. Information will be posted to our website in early February. We would be more than happy to answer any questions your friends or relatives might have. Since we are at capacity in grades 1- 9, new registrations are limited to Catholic families residing within our boundary area. [Applications for registration throughout our school division are done online.](#) The registration tool for 2021-2022 will open in January. We will begin confirming new registrations following our Open House.

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## Chief Superintendent's Message



### January 2021

Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)

Every year, from January 18-25, Christians around the world join together for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Canadian Council of Churches shares the following:

*The 2021 theme – Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9) – calls us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation. Drawing on the Gospel image of vine and branches, it invites us to nourish unity with God and with one another through contemplative silence, prayer, and common action. Grafted into Christ the vine as many diverse branches, may we bear rich fruit and create new ways of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation. (<https://www.weekofprayer.ca/2021-week-prayer-christian-unity-theme>)*

Joining together in prayer and communion with others is an excellent way to begin our calendar year, especially on the heels of repeated periods of isolation over the past many months. Visit [weekofprayer.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca) to learn more.

The new calendar year marks the beginning of our planning for the 2021-22 school year. This year, our planning will take on a very different look and feel. Our schools will be holding virtual Open Houses so that students and families can still get a good sense of what is offered as they make their learning choices for the next school year. You can learn more about our Open Houses by visiting our school websites. We are pleased to be taking registrations online again this year. Visit [register.ecsd.net](http://register.ecsd.net) beginning January 11, 2021 to find your school and follow the steps to register if you are new to Edmonton Catholic Schools. A complete listing of Open Houses can be found there as well.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is excited to be building a new K-9 school in the Keswick and a new high school in Heritage Valley. We would like to hear your voice in naming them! The culture and ethos of the school community will evolve from the name of a Catholic school. The intention of the name is to support the mission of the Catholic school to be consistent with the mission of the Catholic Church and to establish and deepen the relationship of everyone in the school with the person of Jesus Christ as members of his Body, the Church. Visit [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net) and click on the 'name our schools' graphic to view the guidelines for submitting a name. Submissions are electronic through the site and will be accepted until 4 pm on January 31, 2021.

In the fall, we hosted a virtual opportunity for parents and guardians to learn more about supporting their children's mental health during COVID-19 times. We are pleased to offer a follow-up virtual event on January 19 from 7-8 pm. We have moved in and out of a virtual, remote existence in the past many months, and that has posed tremendous challenges to our mental health and wellbeing. We are travelling in uncharted territory as parents and caregivers, and in addition to

paying close attention to ourselves, we need to be extra vigilant with our young people. It is our hope that this evening will give you a few more tools to help you support your families in establishing and maintaining good mental health in an increasingly digital world. Visit our website for more information on the event and register early!

Pope Francis published an encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*, last fall. Beginning this month, our Religious Education Services (RES) will be sharing monthly articles on the topic to help bring it to life for our community. This month, our RES Manager, Sandra Talarico, writes about the introduction and first two chapters.

As we anticipate the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, I will leave you with a final word from our Holy Father: "To pray is to light a candle in the darkness. #Prayer rouses us from the tepidness of a purely horizontal existence, lifts our gaze to higher things, makes us attuned to the Lord, allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope." (Twitter, 12/15/20)

Many blessings in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin

Chief Superintendent [Superintendent's Message for January](#)

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### Fr. Julian's Message



#### Epiphany, Theophany – the showing forth of god!

Epiphany! Theophany! Two good Greek words expressing and proclaiming to the world the showing forth of God in His fullness. In the first centuries of Christianity, the feast of the Epiphany was regarded as a collective feast for it embraced other events in the life of Jesus which bore witness to His divinity – namely, His Nativity, the homage of the Wise Men from the East, the Baptism of the Lord in the river Jordan, the first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee and the miraculous multiplication of the loaves. St. Augustine in his homily on the Feast of the Epiphany said: "Today we celebrate the mystery of the Epiphany on earth. Today God, by means of a star in the heavens, heralded His Nativity; and by baptism in the Jordan, He sanctified water for the renewal of humankind; at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, He changed water into wine; and with five loaves of bread, He fed five thousand people."

In the Eastern Church (Ukrainian Catholic Church) the main emphasis of the feast is on the Baptism of the Lord in the river Jordan by John and the public manifestation of the incarnate Word to the world. Epiphany is the showing forth of God because it was there, at the Baptism of Jesus, that all three Persons of the Holy Trinity appeared for the first time. The Father's voice testified from heaven that Jesus is the Son of God. The Son accepted His Father's testimony, and the Holy Spirit was seen descending from the Father in the form of a dove and resting upon the Son.

"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And the voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3: 16-17)

God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – plays an important role in the life and worship of every Christian. In the Eastern Church we make the sign of the cross with the thumb and first two fingers representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. An Eastern Catholic brings these three fingers together to signify that s/he believes not in the three Gods but in One. We are baptized in the name of the Trinity; every liturgy in the Eastern Church begins with the name of the Trinity; we are blessed in the name of the Trinity; we confess our faith in the Holy Trinity when we say in the Nicene Creed: "I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty... I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ... I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life..."

The doctrine of the Trinity may seem incomprehensible and remote; yet it is one of the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. It is basic because it tells us so much about God, about how Christians have experienced His presence in the past and about how we may experience the fullness of His presence today. Saint Peter and the other apostles, for example, knew God in three ways. They knew God as "Father". They knew God as: "Son" in the person of Jesus Christ. On Pentecost they experienced God as "Holy Spirit", as a presence and power within their own hearts and within the Church.

The Trinity means that I believe in God the Father Who made me; God the Son Who saves me, God the Holy Spirit Who lives in me. God the Father: for us in love! God the Son: with us in grace! God the Holy Spirit: in us in power!

Resources: "A Byzantine Rite. Liturgical Year." Julian J. Katrij, OSBM. Basilian Fathers Publication. Detroit, 1983.

<http://lit.royaldoors.net/2013/12/09/january-6-2014-the-holy-theophany-of-our-lord-god-and-saviour-jesus-christ/>

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Fr. Julian Bilyj

ECSD Chaplain

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### Ms. Talarico's Message



#### Encyclical Letter: Fratelli Tutti of the Holy Father, Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship: A Summary

Introduction

Inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis gives us *Fratelli Tutti*, a proposal for a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. It is a call to love others as brothers and sisters; to recognize and love every person with a love without limits; and to encounter others in a way that is capable of overcoming all distance and every temptation. *Fratelli Tutti* does not claim to offer a comprehensive teaching on fraternal love but seeks rather to consider its universal scope - the dignity of each and every human person.

## Chapter One: Dark Clouds Over A Closed World

The first chapter describes the dark clouds that extend to all parts of the world, hindering the development of universal fraternity and leaving many people wounded by the roadside, discarded and rejected. It reflects on the many distortions of the contemporary era: the manipulation and the deformity of democracy, freedom, justice; the loss of the meaning of the social community and history; selfishness and indifference toward the common good; the market system based on profit and the culture of waste; unemployment, racism, poverty; and the disparity of rights. While these inequities may tempt us to raise our arms in surrender, this is not the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. We must follow a culture of the other; of reviving the sense that we are a global community, and that our lifestyles, our relationships, the organization of our societies, and the meaning of our existence, matter.

## Chapter Two: A Stranger On The Road

The second chapter is dedicated to this figure of the stranger on the road, wounded and cast aside amid the dark clouds of a closed world; a society that has turned its back on the suffering and care of its most frail and vulnerable. Just like the Good Samaritan, we are called to become neighbours to others, to overcome prejudices, personal interests, and historical and cultural barriers. We are called to create a society that includes and integrates the fallen and the suffering. Pope Francis calls us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our own nations and of the world. He summons us to be builders of a new social order and to be aware that the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to the other; that Christ is the face of the other.

By Sandra Talarico

Manager, Religious Education Services

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## IB Coordinators' Message



We are very happy to report that verification visits for both the Primary and Middle Years International Baccalaureate Programs have been completed. We would like to extend a special thank you to the parents who met virtually with the evaluation teams from the IB. The teams were very impressed with the support we receive from our parents and we are so grateful to our parents for your willingness to speak to the benefits of the IB programmes for our students. We would like to thank our IB coordinators, Andrea Olivieri and Lyndsy Panizzon, for their hard work in preparing for our verification visits. We would also like to thank our teaching staff for their incredibly hard work in getting our programmes up and running in a little over one year (half the time that implementation of the programmes generally takes). Our staff is incredible!

Our IB coordinators' monthly message is available on our website: [January 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](mailto:Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net) and [Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net](mailto:Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net)

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## BREAKING NEWS

### Bishop David Motiuk Registration and Open House Dates



Registrations for all schools in the Edmonton Catholic Division are completed online. The online registration process will go live in early January. New registrations will be confirmed following our Open House.

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/>

Our Open House is for all grades, Kindergarten through grade nine. It will be held on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 pm and will be a Teams Live Event. We have limited spaces in most of our grades, so if your friends and neighbours are planning to register with us, please encourage them to complete the online registration at their earliest convenience.

The Open House will begin at 7:00 pm. It will include a very short general program, then guests will be able to take part in a virtual tour of the school and join presentations for kindergarten and our International Baccalaureate programmes. We know that our best form of advertising is your sharing of the good things that are happening at Bishop David Motiuk. 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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## Staffing Updates



As we return from Christmas holidays, we are pleased to welcome some of our staff members back to BDM:

Effective January 4:

- Mrs. MacDonald will be returning from her maternity leave and will be taking over the grade 1B class.
- Mrs. Mroz will be assuming the position of dedicated replacement teacher in elementary grades.

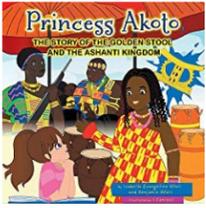
Effective January 11:

- Mrs. Nzynyk will be assuming the position of dedicated replacement teacher in junior high grades (Mr. Kurylo is currently replacing Mr. Loeffler in junior high grades)
- Mrs. Wong will be returning to her position as an educational assistant and will be working in a grade one classroom.

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### Student Author – Isabella Ofori



We are so pleased and proud to extend warm congratulations to grade five student Isabella Ofori, who together with her father Benjamin, has written and published *Princess Akoto: The Story of the Golden Stool and the Ashanti Kingdom*. Isabella wrote this book as a way to explore, share and encourage others to learn about Ashanti Kingdom in Ghana. It is a wonderful story! We have ordered several copies for our school library. If you would like to purchase your own copy of *Princess Akoto: The Story of the Golden Stool and the Ashanti Kingdom*, please visit [Amazon.ca](#) or [Chapters Indigo](#).

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### Keep Christ in Christmas



A number of our classes submitted entries to the Knights of Columbus “Keep Christ in Christmas” Art Contest. The artwork submitted was wonderful! We are very pleased to congratulate the following students, from Grade 6A, who placed first, second and third in the Age 11-12 category:

First Place – Megan C.

Second Place – Leira A.

Third Place – Treasure A.

To see all of the entries, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om8qHpDTbXc&list=PL0BxwrEjaYo4s71iDjUSHZziQtZcbqcI9>

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### ECSD Health and Safety Factsheet



ECSD has published the 13<sup>th</sup> annual [Health and Safety Factsheet](#) that contains a great deal of timely and important information on the following topics:

- COVID 19
- Mental Health
- Alberta Influenza Immunization Program
- The Dangers of Live Streaming
- Fentanyl

The ECSD Factsheet has been posted to the Monthly Newsletter page of our website.

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### Severe Weather Conditions



Our transportation system has an excellent record for service. However, given the possible extremes of Edmonton weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming. Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location. Parents must then make alternate arrangements to get their child to school.

Parents should also ensure that:

- children are supervised at the bus stop
- children have a place to go in the event the bus does not arrive
- children have alternate arrangements for getting to school should the bus not arrive
- children are suitably clothed to withstand weather extremes

Transportation Services normal operational procedures for delayed transportation also apply in severe weather conditions. The Carrier is responsible for notifying the School and the Transportation Services office when a route is running late.

Parents then have access to 3 different resources (by calling either the school, the Transportation Services office, or directly contacting the carrier) to get an update on the status of a particular route.

#### CANCELLATION OF YELLOW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE FOR ALL PROGRAMS

The following radio and TV stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions:

## RADIO STATIONS

630 CHED	UP! 99.3 FM	95.7 CRUZ FM	CHFA (CBC Fr.)
CISN FM 103.9	HOT 107 FM	The Bear 100.3 FM	CFCW 840
THE CHUCK FM 92.5	AM 930 The Light CJCA	SONIC 102.9 FM	CAPITAL FM 96.3
INEWS 880 AM	SHINE 105.9 FM	104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM	K97 97.3
Kiss FM 91.7	TSN 1260	CBC	102.3 NOW! Radio

## TV STATIONS

CITYTV	CTV Edmonton	GLOBAL Edmonton	CBC TV
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Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.

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## It's Not Cool to Be Cold



### Did You Know?

- Snow forts and tunnels can collapse and suffocate a child
- When children are outside they often do not realize how cold they are becoming
- Bright sun during the winter can cause sunburn

### What Parents Can Do:

- Signs of frost nip are slight pain and whitening of the affected area e.g. tips of the ears turn white. Warm the affected area by breathing on it or warming it with your hands but do not rub. Do not apply snow or water.
- Supervise children when they play outside.
- Choose play areas with warm shelters nearby.
- Provide children with a neck warmer instead of a scarf to prevent strangulation on playground equipment.

### What Kids Can Do:

- If you feel pain in your fingers, toes, ears, cheeks, nose or chin, get inside to warm up.
- Dress in layers. If you get too warm take off one layer at a time.
- Wear sunscreen on exposed skin on sunny days.
- Don't put your tongue on cold metal
- If you can only remember one thing:
- Most of our body heat is lost through our heads, so always wear a hat or toque in cold weather.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Feast of the Epiphany – Livestream Mass



In January, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day". This is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas, and signals the conclusion of the twelve days of the Christmas season. In a homily on the Feast of the Epiphany, Pope Francis said:

“Seeing the star of Bethlehem did not prompt [the magi] to embark on their journey but rather, “they saw the star because they had already set out. ...Their hearts were open to the horizon and they could see what the heavens were showing them, for they were guided by an inner restlessness. They were open to something new.”

The magi were open to the wonder and joy of encountering the Messiah in the person of the small, vulnerable infant born in the most humble of circumstances. We hope and pray that each of you is renewed by the light of faith as we begin this new liturgical year.

Although instruction during the week of January 4 – 8 will be online for all students, Fr. Dean Dowle will celebrate a mass to mark the Feast of the Epiphany at 9:00 AM on January 6. The mass will be livestreamed to all of our students and families. A link to the mass will be posted to Google classrooms and sent to families via our SWIFT messaging system just prior to our livestream.

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## New Complementary Course Format Begins



As communicated to junior high parents in December, in an effort to limit the number of students who would be required to isolate in the event of a positive case of COVID 19, we have reconfigured our complementary course offerings for junior high so that students will remain with their homeroom cohorts for all classes. Grade seven students will have seven week complementary courses; while grades eight and nine will have 11 week courses. Course offerings are listed below:

CC 7-1: Art, Drama, Film Studies

CC 7-2: Foods, Woodworking, Robotics

CC 8-1 and CC 9-1: Art, Drama

CC 8-2 and CC 9-2: Foods, Woodworking

In grades seven, eight and nine, music will be offered as an optional noon hour club. Instruction will take place in cohort groups for a few weeks at a time. Instruction could be limited to percussion and string instruments since wind instruments are not recommended at this time.

In grades eight and nine, robotics will be offered as an optional noon hour club. Instruction will also take place in cohort groups.

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### School Council



Thank you to the parents who attended our Virtual School Council Meeting in December. We were very pleased to have so many parents take an interest in their child's education! Minutes have been posted to our School Council Website.

Our next School Council Meeting is on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:00 PM. This will be a Teams event. The link to the meeting will be posted to our website on January 20. All parents are welcome to attend. We value your input into school decisions and activities!

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### Report Cards

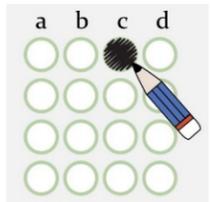


Report cards will be posted to PowerSchool on Friday, January 29. Please feel free to contact any of our teachers or administrators with questions or concerns. A reminder will be sent through Swift K12.

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### CTBS for Grade 6 Students



Grade six students will be writing the Canadian Test of Basic Skills in January. These standardized tests are important indicators of a student's overall ability when examined over a period of time with the results of similar exams. All grade six students in Edmonton Catholic write these exams.

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### Bishop David Motiuk Catholic Elementary and Junior High School

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