



# Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
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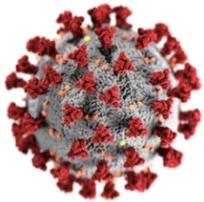


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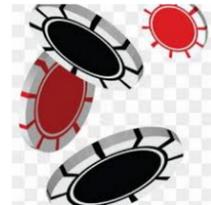
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## MONTHLY MESSAGES

### Administrators' Message



Catholic Education Sunday is celebrated in November each year. This year, it is on November 8 and its theme is “*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*” (Isaiah 40:31). This theme is especially relevant and inspiring during the pandemic.” In their [Letter Celebrating Catholic Education Sunday](#), our Bishops say:

“The pandemic continues to have a deep impact on every facet of our society, including the Catholic Education of our young people. During the shut-down of schools in the spring, Catholic Education faced this challenge by providing virtual classrooms, which continued to engage students in their academic learning and religious faith instruction. When the schools reopened in the fall, many new practices were put in place to adhere to the health precautions and to ensure student safety. In the midst of these challenges, Catholic Education has been embracing the call for renewal and inviting students and their families to look to the future with hope.”

The pandemic has certainly had an impact on our school just in our adherence to COVID 19 protocols, but we are pleased to report that we are celebrating moments of joy each and every day. A common theme in the prayers that our students share each morning is that they are grateful for the opportunity to be able to attend school each day. We are so happy and thankful that our students – both at school and online – are enjoying learning each day.

Terry Volk, Alicia Fenton, Karen Germaine

## Chief Superintendent's Message



Chief Superintendent Robert Martin's message is also available online: [Superintendent's Message for November](#)

*"To all believers, and to men and women of good will, we say: let us become creative artisans of peace, let us build social friendship, let us make our own the culture of dialogue. Honest, persistent and courageous dialogue is the antidote to distrust, division and violence. Dialogue dismantles at the outset the arguments for wars that destroy the fraternity to which our human family is called."*

(Pope Francis, Appeal for Peace, 10/20/2020)

Our Holy Father shared these words as part of the [International Meeting of Prayer For Peace](#). The theme of the meeting was "No one is saved alone. Peace and Fraternity." The words of his homily, address, and the appeal for peace are all grounded in a call to action for all of us. As we have learned during the pandemic, we cannot remain indifferent to the struggles of others. We are united in our humanity and we need to care for each other. Peace is something that we all need to take ownership of and work towards. I encourage you to take a few moments and read Pope Francis' entire message at the link above or by visiting [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). His words are very thought provoking in this month where we commemorate Remembrance Day and Holodomor (The Ukrainian Famine Genocide).

In light of the programming changes that have occurred due to the pandemic, our schools have revisited their school fees to ensure that they are still reflective of the activities and materials that were shared at the end of June. In instances where there has been a change, the fees were decreased appropriately. No new fees were added and no fee increases occurred. Please check PowerSchool for your fees for the year as they are now active.

We are committed to maintaining the integrity of our classroom and school cohorts. This means that our Division and schools have come up with innovative means to engage our families and community. As an example, our Board of Trustees held a Parent/Guardian Engagement on supporting your child's mental health in late October. We had over 1800 people register for this virtual opportunity! You will notice over the upcoming months that our traditional face to face meetings will move to the virtual world. This will include things like Demonstration of Learning, Open Houses, Advent and Christmas concerts, and celebrations.

Sunday, November 8, 2020 has been named Catholic Education Sunday by the Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The theme for this year is Those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength (Isaiah 40:31) and is especially relevant and inspiring during this time of COVID. Catholic schools are best situated to move forward during hardship and uncertainty for we know that God is with us and holds us in the palm of His hand. The faithfulness of God gives us hope.

Please join us in praying the Novena for Catholic Education Sunday from October 29 - November 6, 2020 as we celebrate the great gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta.

Have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin

Chief Superintendent

### **Novena for Catholic Education Sunday**

We are grateful for our Catholic Schools. Let us unite in prayer that the Holy Spirit may intercede for Catholic Education throughout Alberta by praying this traditional prayer daily from October 29 until November 6, 2020.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

**ALL: And kindle in them the fire of your love.**

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created,

**ALL: And you will renew the face of the earth.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to attain our happiness in what is right and to always rejoice in your peace and consolation. May you inspire Catholic Education with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit that it may remain faithful to your teachings and committed to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

**ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

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## Father Glenn McDonald's Message



### A Newborn Psalm of Praise

By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

Have you ever read a word or phrase that seemed to speak directly to you? Over the past few weeks, I have had several people draw my attention to these words: "We have no one to tell us how long it will last."

This phrase comes from The Psalms, which is a book in the Bible. The Psalms are 150 short hymns that speak about human experience in relationship with God. There are two major categories of psalms: praise and lament. Psalms of praise articulate the joy of being happy or thankful to God. Psalms of lament capture the experience of sorrow or disappointment, and ask for God's help.

"We have no one to tell us how long it will last," comes from Psalm 74. When you read this line, what do you think of?

I immediately thought of COVID-19 and the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. I found the words of Psalm 74 to be strangely comforting, not because they offered a solution to the pandemic that we all face, but because they give me a way to succinctly describe what the experience is like. I guess it is like going to a doctor with a list of mysterious pains and symptoms. Having the doctor give me a diagnosis may not cure my disease, but being able to name it is comforting.

When I ponder Psalm 74 and ask for God's help, the Holy Spirit draws my mind to an unexpected image — parents and guardians. In particular, my mind recalls a baptism I did for one of our high school teachers who recently had a baby girl. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the family gathered together to celebrate the gift of everlasting life. Masks and social distancing could not suppress the psalm of praise and love that radiated from the parents and the newborn's two older brothers during this beautiful moment.

I find this memory very comforting. Raising a child is inherently mysterious, open-ended, and challenging. Despite these uncertainties, people still choose to become parents and guardians, because they have an instinct that their love will find a way.

We have no one to tell us how long the pandemic will last, but the example of parents and guardians reminds us that love will overcome.

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## IB Coordinators' Message



Our IB coordinators' monthly message is available on our website: [IB News November](#). Please take a few minutes to look through it and to see what our students are up to!

We are very excited about our PYP and MYP verification visits, which will be taking place on November 26 and 27 for the PYP and December 3 and 4 for the MYP. We have worked very hard for the past year and we are excited to show the visiting teams all that we have achieved!

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

### Learning Stance Survey Results



In October, our school division asked parents to choose between either at school or online learning for the remainder of the school year. We are pleased to report that there was very little change in terms of learning choice at Bishop David Motiuk School. In total, 1053 students are enrolled at Bishop David Motiuk this year. At the start of the year, 601 students (57%) were at school and 452 students (43%) were online. As a result of the survey, 33 of our online students will be moving to at school learning, while 38 of our at school students will be moving to online. This means an overall increase of 4 online students, so we will have 597 students (57%) at school and 457 students (43%) online. We are pleased that for most of our students, it will be business as usual and unless students are moving from at school to online or vice versa, class assignments and teachers remain the same.

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## PATs Cancelled



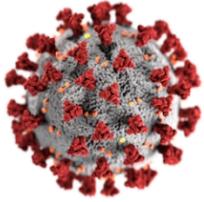
ECSD, along with other metro school boards, have elected to cancel Provincial Achievement Tests for students in grades six and nine for this school year. The pandemic could lead to unanticipated interruptions in learning, which, in turn, could lead to anxiety and stress for students. We wish to avoid this. The PAT is only one way to measure assessment. We will still have rigorous, authentic formative and summative assessments in all grades at the school level.

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### COVID 19 Protocol Information



We want to reassure parents that in the event of a positive case of Covid-19 at our school, we will follow the protocols established by ECSD in collaboration with AHS.

These are the steps we will take:

1. We receive notification of a positive case from either AHS or a parent.
2. We are in touch with designated ECSD departments, complete the necessary paperwork and receive instruction based on their collaboration with AHS.
3. Parents of the homeroom cohort that is impacted directly receive a SPECIFIC COHORT letter notifying the parents that their child has been in contact with an individual with Covid-19. Should you receive the SPECIFIC HOMEROOM COHORT letter stating that your child has been directly impacted, your child is required to complete a mandatory 14-day isolation period.
  - In that letter dates of exposure are indicated and specific instructions as to the return date of the classroom students is stated within the letter.
  - To respect privacy, personal details are not shared, and the homeroom class is not identified in any way
4. A GENERAL letter notifying ALL parents of our school community is also emailed out.
5. If a child who came in contact with a confirmed case of Covid 19 has siblings, please know that the siblings are able to return to school based on the AHS guidelines. If, however, they are showing symptoms, the Student Illness Guidelines established by AHS MUST be followed.
6. It is strongly recommended that students who came into contact with someone with a confirmed case be tested. This is particularly important if the student is showing symptoms. We are here to support you. The health and well-being of everyone is our priority.
7. When a Covid 19 case is confirmed, both teachers and students are required to isolate for the mandatory 14-day period. When this occurs, affected teachers, assuming they are not ill themselves, will move to remote teaching. In junior high, teachers who are isolating will follow regular timetables. At-school students will access lessons from regular teachers via Chromebooks while on site. Replacement teachers will be on hand to assist with facilitating lessons. Having regular teachers continue to instruct lessons will hopefully ensure that continuity of learning is maintained in the event that staff and/or students must isolate for a period of time.
8. If and when a class goes into isolation, parents can expect an email with information that outlines the process for online instruction.
9. Once the teacher and students are cleared to return to school, they will commence in school instruction as per usual.

As always, the health of our students and staff is our first priority and as such, we will always take extra precautions to ensure optimum safety. We ask that our parents do the same by refraining from sending children to school when they are not well. In the event that a child comes to school with symptoms, please be reminded that as per the AHS guidelines and the screening tools, we will call the parents to pick up their child immediately.

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## Traffic Safety App Launches



As you know, this year, the school drive through areas, including the staff parking area and bus lanes are closed to parent vehicles. The result of this closure has been that the area is much safer for students and busses arrive and exit the school bus lanes on time, since they are not caught in traffic.

Many parents choose to drive their children to school. ECSD has launched a new traffic safety app to assist parents in parking safely in the area around the school. To access the app, please visit: <https://arcg.is/CPqK0>. Parents wishing to walk with their children to school and wait with them until the doors open are asked to park safely, either on the street or in the neighbourhood, taking care not to block driveways. Students who are not accompanied by a parent are asked to cross the street at the controlled crossing at the corner of Webber Greens Drive and Lewis Greens Drive, or at the crosswalk with flashing pedestrians lights at the north entrance to the school. Thank you for your attention to these important safety considerations.

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## Welcome Student Teachers



We are very pleased to welcome a number of student teachers to Bishop David Motiuk. Our student teachers will be working with the following classes for much of November and December:

Ms. Cassi Bouma with Ms. Antonakis' 2A class

Ms. Cassidy Dunlop with Mrs. Carr's 1D class

Ms. Justine Bertholet with Mrs. Anderson's kindergarten classes

Ms. Sofia Lucadello with Mrs. Lucas' kindergarten classes

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## Pull Tabs for Wheelchairs



Don't know what to do with pull tabs from drink cans? Collect them and bring them to school! We are pleased to support the Knights of Columbus pull tab campaign. The aluminum in the pull tabs is used toward providing wheelchairs for people who need them. As you can imagine, it takes thousands upon thousands of pull tabs to make just one wheelchair...so please drop them off whenever you can.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight savings time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 1. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!

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## All Souls Day Mass



Our first mass of the school year will take place on Monday, November 2 to commemorate All Soul's Day. Fr. Dean Dowle will be celebrating with us. Archdiocesan protocols for masses will be in effect. These include physical distancing in the gymnasium where mass will be celebrated, mandatory mask use, and protocols for the reception of the Holy Eucharist. We are not able to accommodate everyone in the physical worship space, so representatives from each at-school homeroom class will be in the gymnasium where the mass will take place. The mass will be livestreamed to all at-school classrooms so that all students can take part. Eucharistic ministers will bring the eucharist to classrooms. The mass will be recorded for our online students. We are looking forward to this celebration of our faith!

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## WE Care Challenge



Throughout the months of October and November, students from Bishop David Motiuk and other schools throughout the Edmonton Catholic School Division, will be involved in the We Care Challenge, supporting the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation's Dreams for Kids campaign. The goal of the We Care Challenge is to support students and families in need in our schools. This year, many of our families have fallen on hard times and the need is greater than ever. Your support is greatly needed.

The Foundation provides students and families with assistance in several areas, including:

- Helping Hands Fund: Provides resources to assist schools in addressing student or student family emergency needs including, clothing, food, shelter and health.
- Conquer Hunger Fund: Supports healthy school lunch, breakfast and snack programs (it only costs \$100 to provide a daily snack to a student for the entire school year).
- Guardian Angel Fund: Provides help for students with mental health needs.

Families accessing supports through the Foundation often receive help very quickly. Please visit the following pages on the ECS Foundation's website for a more in-depth look at what the Foundation does:

Due to COVID 19 protocols, activities at Bishop David Motiuk will be a little different this year. **In the afternoon on Friday, November 20, we will have our annual movie afternoon, where students watch a movie and are treated to a soft drink and chips in exchange for a suggested \$5.00 donation to the Foundation.** This year, instead of gathering in large groups, our students will watch their movies in cohorts. Our online students will also be able to watch a movie with their cohort, but unfortunately, we will not be able to provide them with treats. Students are planning other physically distanced activities for cohort groups as well. Information will be sent home as it is available.

In order to limit contact and minimize cash donations, parents will be able to support these activities and make donations to the Foundation through PowerSchool. Please note that a \$1.00 transaction fee is charged when using this option. Income tax receipts are not available when donating through PowerSchool. Parents planning to make larger donations and wishing to have an income tax receipt are asked to make their donation directly on the ECS Foundation website:

<https://www.ecsfoundation.ca/>. To make your donation, simply click on the "Donate Now" button in the top right hand corner of the page. Please click on the "I would like to dedicate this donation" box and indicate your child's school name in the "Tribute Name" box, so that the amount of your donation is added to our school's total for tracking purposes (a total of all donations submitted will be communicated to us).

Thank you for your support and for helping to make dreams come true for students and families in need in our school division!

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## Remembrance Day Celebration



In November, we recognize those brave Canadians who fought for freedom in the wars. Our Remembrance Day Ceremonies will be on Tuesday, November 10 at 9:00 AM. A representative from each homeroom will attend the ceremony in the large gym and the event will be livestreamed to at-school classes. It will be recorded for our online students. Bishop David and Lieutenant-Commander Tim Cusack of HMCS Nonsuch and Deputy Superintendent of ECSD will be in attendance. Poppies will be distributed to all students. **Donations to the poppy fund will be gratefully accepted.** Monies raised through the poppy fund go to support our veterans. Thank you to Mrs. Halliday and Mr. Wasik for planning our celebrations.

**Please remember that there is NO SCHOOL on Remembrance Day – Wednesday, November 11.**

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## Student-Led Conferences



Our Student-Led Conferences for students in grades 1-9 will take place in the afternoon and early evening on Thursday, November 19. Conferences for kindergarten parents will take place in the morning, afternoon and early evening on Thursday, November 19. Discussion during Student Led Conferences will focus on student achievement to date with evidence of learning from projects and assignments students have completed to this point in the school year.

Conferences will run from 1:15 to 5:00 PM and from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Conferences will be held via Teams. Once bookings have been confirmed, teachers will send Teams invites to parents. Parents (with students) are asked to log on at their appointed time. Our online [Conference Booking Manager](#) will be open from 9:30 AM on Friday, November 13 until 3:00 PM on Wednesday, November 18. Parents who have used the Conference Booking Manager in the past may simply log in to book conferences. For parents who are using the Conference Booking Manager for the first time, simply click on the link above and register to create an account.

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## Casino...Please Volunteer!



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our first Casino will be held at:

**Pure Casino Yellowhead**

**12464 - 153 Street NW**

**December 26 & 27, 2020**

The dates of the BDM Casino fundraiser are quickly approaching!

Did You Know....

It is through fundraising efforts such as this that the BDM Parent Advisory Association is able to provide our school with funding for various initiatives such as learning materials, Chromebook carts, musical instruments, and so much more.

When you donate your time by signing up for a Casino shift, you become a part of an effort that raises THOUSANDS of dollars, which DIRECTLY benefits YOUR children.

Please consider participating in this worthy fundraiser, your assistance will make an incredible difference. Please review the available time slots on the [LF Catholic School Fundraising Association Schedule](#), then sign up using the scheduling link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4FA4AE29A2F58-casino> Please fill in your name and phone number next to a date and time that would work for you, and submit by November 12, 2020.

Please feel free to mark multiple shifts, you will only be required to work one, this allows for some flexibility in scheduling. Your confirmed shift notice will be sent via e-mail in late November.

You may also e-mail your available shift times to [angela@gnuy.org](mailto:angela@gnuy.org) and a confirmation e-mail will be sent confirming shift times and will provide volunteer information.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Angela Yung, BDM Casino Coordinator at 7809032555.

Sincerely,

Angela Yung, BDM Casino Coordinator

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