



Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
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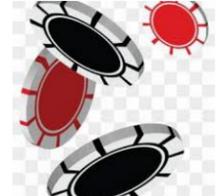
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MONTHLY MESSAGES

Administrators' Message



This month we celebrate Thanksgiving and we have many things to be thankful for. We are most thankful that you have entrusted us with the task of educating your children – they make us so proud every single day. Even though things are quite different this year, we had a smooth start to the school year. Students registered for in-person and online classes have settled in and are becoming comfortable with new routines and procedures.

We are doing our very best to make sure that students and staff are following established protocols with regard to physical distancing, mask wear, hand sanitization and enhanced cleaning during the pandemic. Parents, please help us by completing the [Daily Health Screening Questionnaire](#) and by keeping your children home if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Fever | 8. Feeling unwell/Fatigued |
| 2. Cough | 9. Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea |
| 3. Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing | 10. Unexplained loss of appetite |
| 4. Sore Throat | 11. Loss of sense of taste or smell |
| 5. Chills | 12. Muscle/Joint aches |
| 6. Painful Swallowing | 13. Headache |
| 7. Runny Nose/Nasal Congestion | 14. Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye) |

We want to do as much as we possibly can to limit the spread of COVID 19. Staying at home when ill is one thing we can all do to help keep everyone safe. We also ask that students who are currently in online classes refrain from visiting the school grounds during recess, lunch and dismissal times. We are trying to limit the contact in person students have with individuals outside of their assigned cohorts, so this would greatly assist us. As per Chief Superintendent Martin's message in this newsletter, families will have the opportunity to move from online to inperson schooling and vice versa at the end of this quarter. Information will be emailed by October 5.

Thank you to all parents who sit on our School Council and on our Fundraising Association. It is wonderful to see so many parents who are committed to our school and wish to have a voice in the direction the school is going and in the decisions that affect their children's education. Thank you for your enthusiasm and your desire to help us to make our school even greater than it already is.

Our School Opening Celebration was videotaped so that all classes could take part, even in their classrooms. We were so happy to have Bishop David attend and lead us in our celebration! We are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with all of our students. The celebration will once again be videotaped and sent to classrooms. Our Thanksgiving celebration will be on Friday, October 9 at 9:00 AM. Bishop David will be celebrating with us.

We are very thankful for our school staff. Monday, October 5 is World Teachers' Day, which is a great opportunity for us to thank our teachers for all they do!

On behalf of the staff, we would like to wish each of our students and their families a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

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Superintendent's Message



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

Joy springs from a grateful heart. Truly, we have received much, so many graces, so many blessings, and we rejoice in this. It will do us good to think back on our lives with the grace of remembrance...Let us seek the grace of remembrance so as to grow in the spirit of gratitude. Let us ask ourselves: are we good at counting our blessings, or have we forgotten them?" (Pope Francis, Homily, 09/24/15)

Our Holy Father shared these words initially when he was preaching to a group of priests and religious in New York. The message, however, is one that transcends vocation and age and whispers into all of our hearts. It is so easy to lose our sense of gratitude and joy when we are being inundated with messages of fear, anxiety, and negativity at every turn, every day. This year, more than ever, as we approach Thanksgiving, it is so important for us to take time to discern and to remember all of the goodness in our lives. There are blessings in each of our lives, and it is important that we never lose sight of them. Counting our blessings with gratitude is the first step of our journey to joy.

The beginning of September seems so long ago. There is no question that we are all learning as we move along the educational journey in Covid times. Families and schools have all been focused on making learning "work" in an environment that is drastically different than the norm, all while trying to minimize anxiety for everyone.

At the time of writing this article, our Division has an enrolment of 43,350 students with approximately 11,513 of those students participating online. Part of the understanding that we have gained as a Division is that we need proper time to be able to plan for and staff our different learning scenarios. As a Division, we have hired 96 teachers to support the learning choices that families made; thankfully, much of the cost of this is offset by the federal education pandemic funding that was announced in September. We are very proud of the way our schools and departments were able to reconfigure in the few precious days between August 28, when parents finalized their Quarter 1 learning decisions, and the first student day on September 2. In many cases, entire school timetables needed to be rebuilt and teaching assignments were changed.

October sees Quarter 2 on the horizon, and this means families will have another opportunity to choose in-school or online learning. You will receive a SWIFT K-12 message by October 5 with all of the information that you will need in order to make an informed decision for your children for the second quarter and beyond. We need to have a firm commitment from our families well before the second quarter begins on November 10 so that we can arrange our staff appropriately.

I will leave you with a thought from Pope Francis' General Audience on September 2, 2020. "The current pandemic has

highlighted our interdependence: we are all linked to each other, for better or for worse. Therefore, to come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together; together, not alone... Either it is done together, or it is not done. We must do it together, all of us, in solidarity.”

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin, Chief Superintendent

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Sandra Talarico's Message



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 100).

Given our unique circumstances in the past eight months, and the many challenges and difficulties that so many have faced, we might think that as Thanksgiving approaches, we have very little for which to be thankful. But scripture and particularly Psalm 100 tell us a completely different story. In fact, the passage invites us to praise the Lord with great joy; to celebrate and worship the God of love.

The major theme that emerges from this Psalm is the importance of belonging to God. During the past year there may have been times when we felt abandoned or forgotten by God. But the psalm presents the entire earth as joined together, not separated and alone. God's steadfast love endures forever. And in the same way that we sing a song of praise to our creator, we acknowledge, praise, and bless Him for his goodness and mercy. Indeed, the Lord is good and he never abandons us; God is always ready to sustain us with his merciful love, even and especially during times of great doubt and fear. “Be not be afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest” (John Michael Talbot).

During this Thanksgiving weekend, let us remember that God is with us, in the good times and in the moments that we find ourselves struggling. “Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100). Like God, we too are called to be “good shepherds” in the environments where we live: in our families, at work, and in the community, sharing the Gospel message of love with everyone we meet.

Sandra Talarico

Manager, Religious Education Services

Edmonton Catholic Schools

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IB Coordinators' Message



Our IB coordinators' monthly message is available on our website: [IB News October](#). 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

Professional Development



Staff at Bishop David Motiuk are committed to professional development and to working to improve practice as a means of ensuring that our students' learning needs are served to the best of our ability. In addition to professional development related to various district initiatives, this year our teachers will focus on required training in the International Baccalaureate Programmes. Both Primary and Middle Years Programme staff will take part in online IB-recognized Level 1 and Level 2 training over the course of the year.

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Chromebook Warranty Information



There have been some changes to how Chromebook warranty claims are being processed. Warranty claims for Chromebooks that were purchased in the 2018-2019 school year (through the school) will continue to be coordinated through the school. Families that purchased their Chromebooks directly from Compugen, from the 2019-2020 school year to the present, are asked to contact Compugen for any warranty claims. Warranty claims can be started in two ways:

1. Compugen Service Depot – Compugen is an HP Warranty Authorized Service and Solution partner. To book a Chromebook repair, email Compugen Service at service@compugen.com to open a service ticket. Please include your contact information, the product's model number, serial number, and description of the issue. A confirmation email will be received to schedule a drop off of the unit at the Compugen Edmonton Service Depot, located at 2627 Ellwood Dr SW #102, Edmonton, AB T6X 0P7. Once the unit is repaired, the person will be contacted by our Service department to schedule a pickup. Compugen will be following active Covid-19 sanitization protocols before the unit enters our repair facilities and before the unit is returned.

2. HP Canada Warranty Support Line – Parents can contact HP Canada’s 24/7 online Warranty Support at 800-474-6836. HP will ship a box to your home address with shipping instructions. Parents will follow the instructions provided inside the box to arrange for a pickup service. After the unit is serviced/ exchanged, HP will ship the unit back to the home address. Costs for shipping both ways is covered under warranty.

Families wishing to purchase a Chromebook are invited to visit the Parent Purchase Program website through Compugen. <http://bit.ly/ecsdparentpurchase>

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Sacramental Preparation Information

Sacramental preparation for students is carried out through the parishes. Our parishes are currently working on information regarding sacramental preparation in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic. Please check parish websites and/or phone the parishes for up-to-date information regarding sacramental preparation. As we receive information, we will forward to families as well.

Annunciation Parish	
Pastor:	Rev Francis Mariappa
Pastoral Assistant:	Hazel Fuentes
Website:	https://annunciation.caedm.ca/
Telephone:	780-484-6534
Email:	Annunciation.Edm@caedm.ca

Good Shepherd Parish	
Pastor:	Rev Leo Hoffman
Pastoral Assistant:	Rosemary Lee
Website:	https://goodshep.caedm.ca/
Telephone:	780-487-7765
Email:	GoodShepherd.edm@caedm.ca

St. John the Evangelist Parish	
Pastor:	Rev Dean Dowle
Pastoral Assistant:	Sophie Ogle
Website:	https://stjohnevangelist.edm.caedm.ca/
Telephone:	780-452-3988
Email:	stjohnevangelist.edm@caedm.ca

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Recognizing Sacraments



At Bishop David Motiuk School, we will be celebrating all students who have received a sacrament throughout the course of the school year. If your child has received one of their sacraments this year (First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist, or Confirmation), please let us know and we will acknowledge this meaningful time in their lives. We have a special display board which will include pictures of students who have celebrated their sacraments, and we would love it if our board was full by the end of the school year! Please contact Mrs. Fenton at alicia.fenton@ecsd.net when your child receives any of their sacraments.

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Office Hours



Our school office is open from 8:15 am to 3:45 pm. Parents who call the school outside of these hours are asked to leave a clear message and we will return your call as soon as we are able to.

Please remember that we will be happy to give your child a message at the end of the day. We thank you for your understanding of our wanting to protect learning time for all students by not interrupting classes for messages.

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Enrolment and Class Size



Our Enrolment numbers for Bishop David Motiuk this year have been finalized:

	Enrolment			
	In Person	Class Average	Remote	Class Average
Kindergarten	65	16	46	23
Grade 1	80	20	45	23
Grade 2	57	19	53	27
Grade 3	77	19	56	28
Grade 4	70	23	52	26
Grade 5	54	27	54	27
Grade 6	58	29	46	23
Grade 7	61	20	32	32
Grade 8	37	19	38	38
Grade 9	42	21	27	27
Total	601		449	
Total Enrolment	1050			

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School Council



Thank you to the many parents who attended our virtual School Council Annual General Meeting. We were so very pleased to have so many parents take an interest in their child's education!

Our School Council Executive 2020-2021 school year is:

Chair: Dwayne Vodden

Vice-Chair: Aman Rana

Secretary: Paul Tokar

Staff Representative: Phil Campbell

Principal: Terry Volk

Parents are always welcome to join us at our School Council meetings. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, October 28 at 6:00 pm over Teams. At our next meeting, we will be looking at our School Plan for Continuous Growth. As well, each year, the results from our annual District Satisfaction Surveys and Accountability Pillar information are shared with the Council. (PATs were not written in 2020).

Parents, please join us at our next Council meeting - your input into school decisions and activities is important to us.

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Fundraising Association



The Fundraising Association for Bishop David Motiuk is hard at work planning activities to support our students and our school. We are very grateful! The Executive Members of the Fundraising Association are:

Chair: Jenn Krawchuk

Vice Chair: April Bernath

Secretary: Paul Tokar

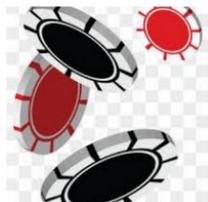
Treasurer: Richard Carr

Audit Committee: Aman Rana and Jason Waywood

Casino Co-Chairs: Angela Yung and Elizabeth Gilchrist

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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@gnuv.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

COMMUNICATION

PowerSchool/Swift K12



Parents at Bishop David Motiuk are encouraged to use PowerSchool to monitor their child(ren)'s progress at school. PowerSchool enables parents to monitor attendance, find out what homework assignments will be, confirm that students have submitted homework or assignments and view their child's grades as they exist in the teacher's gradebook at any given time. PowerSchool also allows parents to register to receive alert notifications, review daily comments from teachers and much more.

PowerSchool is also the vehicle used for payment of school fees, field trips and other purchases.

In order to access the report card, parents will need to have their own unique PowerSchool account. (This is a different account than the one used by students.) If you require a username and first-time access code for PowerSchool, or if you have forgotten your PowerSchool log-in information, please call or email [Mrs. te Velde](mailto:Mrs.teVelde). She will be very happy to assist you. It is very important that parents who have not yet done so, create their PowerSchool account as soon as possible.

Note: PARENTS MUST HAVE A POWERSCHOOL ACCOUNT TO ACCESS STUDENT REPORT CARDS AND PAY SCHOOL FEES.

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School Emergencies



In the Edmonton Catholic School District, the safety of our students is always our first priority and students are well supervised when they are on school property. When situations occur that warrant emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all students, we will provide parents with accurate and up to date information. One way to keep parents informed about an emergency and the safety procedures that have been put into place is by posting the information on the school website. Information will be posted and updated as required when a school is experiencing an emergency.

If there is an emergency situation at the school where your child(ren) attend, check the school website to stay informed and receive timely information. We also need to keep phone lines available at the school during an emergency, so we ask that you do not call the school. This will enable staff at the school to keep in touch with emergency providers and District personnel.

Thank you for your support and help in ensuring our students remain safe.

Safety Patrols



Our patrollers use the point, pause, and proceed technique. This technique models what every pedestrian should do when crossing the street and is a much simpler procedure for school patrollers.

The primary role of AMA School Safety Patrollers is to assist younger students to cross the street — not to direct traffic. Patrollers will now extend their arm to indicate pedestrians want to cross the street and will only extend their stop sign when it is safe to cross their fellow classmates. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could assist our patrollers by exercising extreme caution when approaching the intersections in front of the school.

Thank you for your cooperation. Let's make this a safe and successful year for our children!

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Slow Down for School Zones



At Edmonton Catholic Schools, the health and safety of students is always our first priority! School zones are in effect around elementary and junior high schools throughout Edmonton. Motorists are required by law to slow down to 30 km/h between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm on school days where school zone signs are posted. Please slow down and ensure the safety of students near our schools.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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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Read In



Read-In Week will be held during the week of October 5-9 and Bishop David Motiuk students and staff are looking forward to this wonderful annual event. The theme for Read-In Week this year is “Read Around the World,” which is very fitting for an IB Candidate School! As the organizers of Read-In say, “*Sometimes the world feels like a very large place, but with globalization and new technology, it can feel very small too! No matter where you are in the world and where you’re reading from, everybody has a story to share. This year’s READ IN Week, let’s celebrate kids’ voices from around the world. Whether we’re sharing stories in person or virtually, whether we’re near or far, whether we’re physically together or physically distant, we are all connected.*” Although we are not able to welcome guest readers in person this year, we will have access to pre-recorded videos that special guest readers have prepared for us. We are looking forward to sharing our favorite stories during Read In Week!

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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 district, will be involved in the **WE Care Challenge**, supporting the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation’s *Dreams for Kids* and the *Sign of Hope* campaigns. The Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation is a charitable group that supports various projects and initiatives for students and families attending Edmonton Catholic Schools, such as summer camp opportunities for needy children, school lunch subsidies, emergency family support, support for students dealing with mental health issues, and special projects. Families accessing supports through the Foundation receive help very quickly.

The funds raised by the *Sign of Hope* campaign give Catholic Social Services the support it needs to create and deliver unique programs in the community — programs that help people living with HIV/AIDS, that provide a Safe House for street youth, and that protect seniors who are experiencing abuse or neglect. These, and other programs, rely on *Sign of Hope* dollars to keep the doors open and the lights on.

Bishop David Motiuk students raised over \$8000 for the ECSD Foundation last year and we hope to meet that total again this year.

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Picture Retakes and Bookings for Online Students



For those students who missed Picture Day or who are unhappy with school photos, retakes are scheduled for Monday, October 26.

For “**online**” students only, Lifetouch has arranged three fall studio days for school pictures to be taken. To book a time:

Call Chelsea at Lifetouch **780-437-2431 ext 0**

Available dates and times:

Wednesday, Oct 21 – 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Thursday, Oct 22 – 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Friday, Oct 23 - 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Lifetouch Studio

18124 – 102 Avenue

We are very pleased that Lifetouch has been able to work with us on making sure that each of our students, at-school or online, will be able to have school pictures taken. Enhanced safety protocols will be in place. Please visit <https://lifetouch.ca/a-special-announcement-from-lifetouch-our-response/> for more information about safety protocols.

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Halloween Activities



We won’t be having a dance in the gym, but Friday, October 30 will still be full of Halloween fun for students at Bishop David Motiuk. We are looking forward to classroom parties and grade level events to celebrate Halloween. Students and staff are welcome to dress up in their Halloween costumes all day long, keeping the following precautions in mind:

- Covid masks must still be worn
- Full face masks are not allowed
- Replicated weapons are not allowed
- Costumes must allow for sanitization and washing of hands – therefore no hand covering.
- Students may not share candy with one another
- Families are not able to send treat bags for the class

We are looking forward to a day of Spooktacular fun for everyone!

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Bishop David Motiuk Catholic Elementary and Junior High School

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