



## Newsletter October 2020

**Mary Hanley**  
Catholic Elementary School



### Administrators' Message

Dear Parents & Guardians,

September is now behind us and we are into our second month of the school year. Summer is now behind us, and Fall is here. The beautiful fall colours are all around and the leaves falling are reminding us of what is to come.

This new school year has gotten off to a great start. We are so happy to have welcomed new families into our community. This year we have many students learning online at home and many more students coming to school each day to learn in person. However you are learning this year, you are a part of our community. We want to thank all of our families for being a part of our amazing community once again.

A reminder to parents that before using your Power School account you must verify your child(ren)'s registration for the 2020-2021 school year as soon as possible. Parents would have received an email the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure all information is current, especially emergency contacts.

We want to wish our entire school community a Happy and blessed Thanksgiving. We are thankful for all of you.

Mr. D. Robinson  
Principal

Mrs. D. Fransen  
Assistant Principal



### Thanksgiving Prayer



Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day, we bow our hearts to you and pray. We give you thanks for all you've done, especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son. For beauty in nature, your glory we see, for joy and health, friends and family, for daily provision, your mercy and care, these are the blessings you graciously share. So today we offer this response of praise with a promise to follow you all of our days.

Amen

### **Online Registration Verification**

We would like to thank all our families who completed this by September 30<sup>th</sup>. We have had just over 2/3's of our families complete the verification process. We ask those who have not to please go onto PowerSchool and complete the verification form for your child(ren). The Division will continue to send out emails to the families who have not yet completed this form.

### **Thanksgiving Celebration and Food Drive:**

We will be hosting our Thanksgiving Celebration on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be shared out to all our students so that on-line and in-person students can all participate.

We will be hosting a Food Drive during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> so we can collect food for those in our community who are in need. Look for information to be shared out about this wonderful and worthwhile endeavor.

### **Halloween Considerations and Guidance during Covid**

We will be having Halloween activities on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. To make the day fun and safe please follow and be aware of these guidelines:

- Covid masks must still be worn.
- Full face masks are not allowed.
- No replicated weapons are allowed.
- Costumes must allow for sanitization and washing of hands – therefore no hand covering.
- No sharing of candy among students.
- If teachers are handing out treats – all treats must be individually packaged and handed out by the teacher

### **School Council News**

On Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup>, the School Council will hold their first meeting at 6:30 pm in the school gym. All parents are welcome to attend to give your suggestions and input on decisions made by the School Council. Please consider attending the next meeting to give support to the School Council and to the school.

### **School Absences and Illness**

Please remember to call the school prior to 8:30 a.m. if your child is going to be absent for any reason (780-461-2551). Remember it is the parent's responsibility to get their children to school and on time for school. Being late for school is not only disruptive for your child, but for the whole class. When a child is late as little as ten minutes a day, it adds up to your child missing almost a full day of instruction in one month.

As important as it is that children should attend school, it is more important that they stay home if they are sick. Please make sure that you are completing the "COVID-19 Safety Screening Questionnaire" every day. Children who present any symptoms need to stay home. Please help to keep our community safe and healthy by keeping your child home if they are sick.

### **Bus Pass Money**

Bus pass money is due before the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month. Bus passes are \$35.00. If you qualify for the family plan, bus passes are \$31.50. If payment is not received by this time your child may not be able to take the bus.

If your child is not going to be taking the bus this “Quarter” please contact the office and let us know. Also if your child is not going to be taking the bus home from school on any day, please contact the office so we know. Attendance is taken on the bus everyday so we need to know if a student will be absent from the bus.

### ***Online Payment Instructions:***

1. Log in to PowerSchool at: <https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/>
2. Select “School Fee” from the Navigation Menu and then click on to connect to the Student Quick Pay website
3. Select the Student’s tab to view itemized fee details
4. Click to Add to specific items to the Cart or choose to Add All at once
5. Once selected, View Cart or proceed to Checkout.
6. Enter the credit/debit card information and Submit

### **School Office Hours:**

Office hours are 8:00AM – 3:30 PM (MTWF) and 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Th). During these times someone will be available to take your calls. A reminder that all students should be dropped off and picked up at their designated doors.

If a child is late please come to the front door. Remember that only students are allowed in the school at this time, so parents please help them in the door and then only the child can enter the school.

### **Hours of Operation 2020-2021**

#### ***Grades 1-6***

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	8:10am—2:40pm
Thursday	8:10am—12:01pm
Recess (Grade 1 – 3)	10:20am – 10:35am
Recess (Grade 4 – 6)	10:00am – 10:15am
Lunch Recess (Grade 1 – 3)	12:00pm – 12:20pm
Lunch Recess (Grade 4-6)	11:30am – 11:50am

#### ***Kindergarten***

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday classes)	8:10am—11:10 am (morning
classes)	11:40am—2:40 pm (afternoon

### **Safety Around the School:**

Students should not be dropped off at school before 7:55 am. Supervision does not start until 7:55 am and any students dropped off before this time will not have access to the school or be supervised.

The Parking Lot is for Teacher use only! This is to help protect the safety of our students. Parents are not allowed to drop off or pick up students in the school parking lot. Also please do not park in the bus loading zone which is located to the south of the school. We have 6 large buses that take up a lot of space and we need all of the space provided in the bus loading zone. Please read and obey these signs.

The crosswalk is to be used by students when crossing the street. Dropping students off in the cross walk is illegal and can bring a fine. Please ensure that you are obeying all signs around the school and are not doing u-turns. Always choose safety over convenience.

### **ONGOING REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT**

Edmonton Catholic Schools continues to work toward academic success for every student. PowerSchool helps parents monitor their child's academic growth throughout the school year. This student progress program was successfully implemented last year and we will continue reporting to parents in this way for this school year with a few minor changes. Through the PowerSchool site, parents will view their child's on-going progress at the time of student assessment with Level of Achievement marks related to curricular outcomes, in addition to occasional comments and/or assignment information. Parents will be able to access information about their child's progress during the learning process, as well as at key points during the year when summary information about achievement is posted. There will also continue to be a student progress summary report available online at the end of January and June.

### **ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING**

Assessment serves several different purposes, depending upon the needs of the student and teacher. It may be diagnostic, used to find out what students already know and can do. It may be formative, used to help students improve their learning, and to help inform teachers' next steps in planning. It may be summative, letting all stakeholders know what students have learned in reference to the outcomes of the Program of Studies at a specific time and/or within a prescribed time period. Assessment is planned and purposeful with both instruction and assessment aligning to the Program of Studies. It is also important that assessment be balanced, including conversations, observations, and products (oral, performance, and written). It must be flexible in order to improve learning for all students.

### **REPORTING PERIODS**

The student's progress is reported on an ongoing basis. Student progress will be formally reported to parents two times per year in the form of an online summative report card in January and a final report card in June which will be posted to PowerSchool where the next grade level placement recommendation is made in June.

**Important Dates:**

<b>October/November</b>	
October 5 - 9	Read In Week Food Drive for Community Food Bank
October 9	Opening Celebration (Staff and Students only)
October 12	Thanksgiving Day – No School
October 29	No School – District Wide Faith Formation Day
October 26	Round #1 Immunizations-Grade 6
October 30	Halloween Activities
November 11	Remembrance Day – No School
November 13	Picture Re-Take Day



# COVID-19 SAFETY

## SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Parents/guardians/students must use this questionnaire daily to decide if the student should attend school.

### Risk Assessment: Initial screening questions

1	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	Muscle / Joint aches	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
2	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

\* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

\*\* "ill" means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.

If you have answered **YES** to any of the above questions, please **DO NOT** enter the school at this time.

You should stay home and use the [AHS COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

If you answered **NO** to all the above questions, you may attend school.

\*the screening questionnaire is subject to change as needed.



## PLEASE HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY



# Mary Hanley

## Thanksgiving Project



Dear Mary Hanley School Community,

In the spirit of giving to others in need during these unprecedented times, our school would like to support a worthy cause in our community. This year, we are looking to collect food in order to help make a change. We are asking families to bring in non-perishable items during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. These items will then be used to help families in need in our own community. Please consider donating a non-perishable item.

As always, we will have five Theme days with a different food focus for each day:

**Macaroni Mondays**-boxes, cans or bags of pasta or Kraft Dinner

**Tuna Tuesdays**- tins of canned fish or other meats

**Wheaties Wednesdays**- boxes of cereal (choose healthy kinds please)

**Soup Thursdays**- cans of soup or boxes of crackers

**Fruit Fridays**- cans of fruit or vegetables

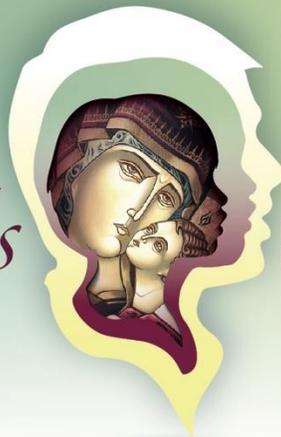
These are just suggestions for donations. Please feel free to donate any other non-perishable food items. Please note that you do not need to donate to each day! Your donations create a great discussion opportunity for families to have about why we need to support a foodbank and the needs of many people in our city that have to access food this way.

Thank you for your support!

The Staff of Mary Hanley



# God Calls Us



## EACH BY NAME

October 2020

*“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

## 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