

April
2022

MONSIGNOR
FEE



PERSON
Catholic Elementary/Junior High

Principal's April Message

Hello MFO Families and welcome to April.

We hope you had a restful and healthy Spring Break and now we are into the last 3 months of this school year. It seems to be going by fast!

Thanks to everyone who joined in on our parent teacher conferences in March. It is great to connect and see what goals lie ahead as we move towards June.

This is also a busy time for planning for next year: thank you for filling out your intentions so we can begin. We are already looking at school hours, calendars, budgets, and starting into staffing for September 2022. Lots to prepare for!

With Covid, we continue to log and report cases. Thanks for your cooperation in letting us know if it has impacted your family. With some restrictions lifting, things are getting a little back to normal as we plan for some field trips or some assemblies where we can gather together. But we are also still being careful and know that Covid is not done with yet. It is a balance.

We celebrate Easter this month and give thanks to the generosity shown during Lent in support of our goal to support needs in Ukraine. We are also supporting a school in Kenya (see below). We are blessed in this community by your support in so many ways. Thank you!

Mr. Lema
Principal

Principal: Mr. Patrick Lema Assistant Principal: Ms. Julie Francois Assistant Principal: Mr. Rob Madunicky

You can help our school make a difference in Kenya!

To Donate: <https://secure.e2rm.com/p2p/fundraising/367084/team/978436/en-CA>

Grapesyard Community Primary School is in Kenya, and the students struggle to access education. They face various challenges in supporting the whole learning process in order that students can give back to their community someday. I am excited to tell you that my school, Monsignor Fee Otterson School, is participating in "School Connections Campaign" with Chalice and we've connected with Grapesyard Community Primary School as our Sister School!

This year we are going to be praying for Grapesyard Community Primary School, exchanging videos, and raising funds for the Grapesyard Community Centre's water taps installation they desperately need. Our goal is \$2000. I would like to invite you to donate to our campaign and would love it if you prayed for the children and staff of Grapesyard Community Primary School.

Asante sana (thank you) and God bless! PS - Check out the video they made us!

<https://youtu.be/LYszilQE0xY>.

Upcoming Hot Lunches:

Our parent volunteers are planning 2 more hot lunches on **May 13** and **June 10** for our students. These will both be Subway lunches. Please go to Healthyhunger.ca to order! Thanks to everyone who makes these days possible!

Student Leadership

Thanks to our student leadership group who ran our Mental Health Day for grades 6–9 as well as providing snack for the whole school on that day. We had great guest speakers and the students had a chance to sign up for session geared at looking at ways to improve or balance our mental health. There were sessions indoors and outdoors that let everyone explore hobbies that might help bring us into balance. We had sessions on yoga, running, singing, dancing, art, cooperative games, cooking, playing, writing, and so much more. There were 5 different times which 12 choices each time for students to pick and learn. We also started out together in the gym with a guest appearance and message from Jason Strudwick (former oiler and current broadcaster). Thanks to all the staff and guests who ran sessions about things they love! It was a fun focus for the day.

Next up for leadership will be an 80's theme day on April 29. This will be a good chance for me to dig back in the closet and see what I can find!

Important Dates for April:

Friday, April 15—Good Friday—no school

Monday, April 18—Easter Monday—no school

God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

April 2022

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:12-15)

We encounter this scripture on Holy Thursday as Jesus prepares for his impending death. He gathers with his disciples and is breaking bread with them for the final time. During the meal, he performs the work of a humble servant by washing their feet. It is a mirror of the way he is about to serve all of God’s children through his death and resurrection. It is also a lesson to us all; ‘serve others in the way that I serve you’. That message of loving one another is one that we encounter over and over again as being that most fundamental tenet of our faith, love God and love one another.

The eyes of the world are turned to the war in Ukraine. A heartrending situation, it touches deeply in our Edmonton Catholic Schools. We have longstanding ties to the Ukrainian community in Edmonton and beyond. The response of our schools and sites to this humanitarian crisis has been humbling. Students and staff alike are engaging in awareness campaigns, fundraising, collecting items, and writing letters. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to serve in any way that they can. This is one of the ways that we wash the feet of others.

We were delighted by and grateful for the announcement of a new K-9 school in Lewis Farms (west) and of construction funding to build the high school in Castle Downs/Dunluce (north). These much-needed schools will ease enrolment pressures in the schools that currently serve those areas and are over-capacity. These two schools were the top priorities on the Capital Plan that we submitted to the Government of Alberta last year. Our 3-year Capital Plan, which is updated and approved annually to indicate what our greatest infrastructure needs are, was approved for the 2023-26 cycle at the March 23 Public Board meeting. You can find it [by clicking here](#).

The results of our own ECSD Assurance Survey were presented to the Board of Trustees at the March 23 Public Board meeting as well. In the upcoming weeks, these results will be populated into our [Division Assurance Dashboard](#). You can check this valuable visual tool throughout the year to see how we are doing as a Division. You can also read the consolidated report [by clicking here](#). We know that there have been many surveys that families have been asked to complete over the past year, but this is at the heart of the Assurance Framework. Whenever possible, we create opportunities for our families to share their thoughts on various aspects of our Division, both so that we can ensure that we are meeting your needs and to assure you that we value your voice and are listening.

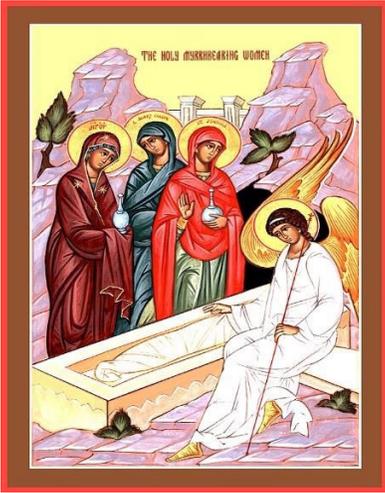
As we complete our Lenten journey in the upcoming weeks, I will share a thought from our Holy Father that shines a light on yet another aspect of being humble servants: *#Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely.* (Pope Francis, Twitter, 03/15/22)

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent



Who Will Roll Away the Stone for Us?



On Easter Sunday morning the women were on their way to perform their last work of love for Jesus. Expecting to find him lifeless, they were to anoint his body with sweet-smelling spices. Worrying about the massive stone they were sure that they would find at the entrance of the tomb, they said to one another, *“Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”* (Mark 16:3)

The huge stone sealing the tomb of Jesus impresses us. For we, too, meet with many such challenging stones in life: stones that block our doorway into the future, the stones of sin, sickness, sorrow, loneliness, war, and ultimately death.

Like St. Paul we cry out, *“Who will deliver me from this body of death?”* (Romans 7:24) We think of the great stones that stand in our way: the regrets for the way we have often taken in the past, the uncertainties that plague us this moment, the fears that are in our hearts concerning things to come, and we cry, *“Who will deliver us? Who will roll away the stone for us?”*

Now the women find that the stone to the entrance of the tomb had been rolled back. It has been removed in the way that they had not foreseen. In the book *Jesus: A*

Dialogue with the Saviour a monk of the Eastern Church writes: *“In order to remove the stone, nothing less than a cataclysm was necessary. A push, a slight readjustment would not be enough. Likewise, the stone which seems to immobilize and paralyze Jesus in my soul can be taken away only by an earthquake, that is to say, by a violent interior revolution, by a complete and radical change. A jolt like lightning is required to unsettle me. Jesus rises from the dead in me only if the one who I was ceases to exist, giving way to the new human. Not a retouching or a tuning up will do; but a death and birth are necessary.”*

Friends of Jesus, death is never the end of the story. It is not the end for the infant who dies at such a tender age. It is not the end for that loved one whose life is ravaged by cancer or snuffed out by a failing heart. It is not the end for that young soldier killed in the prime of his youth fighting for peace in Ukraine. It is not the end; for the stone has been rolled away.

As we approach the Feast of all Feasts - the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I hope and pray that you and your families are in good health. Let us always remember that we are connected as One Body in Christ. Our love in Christ is forever!

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is Risen! – Indeed, He is Risen!

ECSD Chaplain
Fr. Julian Bilyj