

May  
2022

MONSIGNOR  
FEE



PERSON  
Catholic Elementary/Junior High

## Principal's May Message



Welcome to the month of May. We have a very busy month ahead!

During the month of May we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God as well as our own precious mothers who touch our hearts and fill our lives with love, each and every day. We strive to be like Mary in our faith and we are inspired to learn and serve one another through her example: she was one who answered yes to the call God put out to her.

It is a time for us to be grateful for the beautiful gifts of love our mothers share with us in so many ways. We would like to wish all mothers and their families the peace, love and joy this special month brings.

In May, we also recognize Asian Heritage Month and will be planning activities through the month that will highlight contributions to our school and society from many people who have this as a part of their heritage.

Grade 6 and 9 students will write their first of the Provincial Achievement exams this month. These first tests will test their writing skills in a couple of assignments (essays and stories to write). These are the first PAT exams in the last couple of years as Covid interfered with the writing of them. We look forward to our students showing their best work and will help have them as prepared as possible. Then they will have 4 multiple choice exams in the 4 core subjects at the end of June to finish off their year.

We are also pleased to be planning a School Wide Faith Day on May 26. We will begin with mass and then have speakers and activities to lead students through a day where we celebrate our faith! This is a part of Catholic Education Week where we give thanks for the ability to have a public Catholic School in Alberta!

Then in finishing the month, we will have our Junior High musical theatre group present their production Beauty and the Beast. They will be helped by some of our elementary music classes as well. We look forward to performing in person!

Add in a Hot lunch, some theme days, and hopefully an Oilers' playoff run and it should be a wonderful month!

Mr. Lema  
Principal

*Partners in Technology & Innovative Learning*

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## 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](http://Healthyhunger.ca) to order! Thanks to everyone who makes these days possible. Please order at least 5 days in advance so your order can be included.

## Student Leadership

Thanks to our student leadership groups who led a very fun 80's theme day at the end of April. They made a specific playlist to start our day, created welcome signs and hopscotch on our sidewalks in chalk, greeted the students with bubbles, and set a great example for all. It was nice to see many students and a lot of staff show off their best 1980's looks. As someone who lived through that time in high school, it brought back many fond memories. Thanks!

Thanks also for your support in the lollipop sales held to raise funds for our sponsor student in Burundi. The grade 7 leadership students worked through great long line ups in selling lollipops for the different age groups through a weeklong sale,

## Junior High Athletics

Congratulations to our Junior High Badminton Team and coach Mr. Oberst. There are 5 different divisions and we qualified teams for the playoffs in **all 5 of those divisions!** Yay! These include girls' singles, boys' singles, girls' doubles, boys doubles, and mixed doubles. Playoffs are the first week in May. Good luck and Go Otters!

On May 20, we will head to Rollie Miles field for our Junior High Track and Field Day. Students have been practicing in gym classes and will have a chance to compete in a variety of events. If you are available to help with timing or judging, please let Mr. Bunch know. If we have enough people to help, it makes the day run a lot smoother. Thanks!

## School Council and Parent Fundraising Association

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 pm. All parents are welcome to attend. We will be looking at upcoming events, deciding on funding priorities, and begin to plan for next year. We will be meeting in the staff room for this.

Thanks to the parents for their support of technology and learning initiatives through our school. They help fund recess equipment, Chromebooks, technology, and special events for our students.

Thanks also to one of our families for the generous donation of a foosball table for the school. In looking for things to do during indoor recesses or when we have the ping pong table set up, this gives another option that does not take a lot of space. It was in great use during our 80's Day as well. Thank you!

**Please check out the MFO May Calendar for all the events for the month ahead!**

# God Calls Us



May 2022

## EACH BY NAME

*And in the journey of life, let us allow ourselves to be taken by the hand. Mothers take their children by the hand and lovingly introduce them to life... We need to learn from mothers that heroism is shown in self-giving, strength in compassion, wisdom in meekness. ([Pope Francis, Homily, 01/01/2019](#))*

In our Catholic faith, Mary, the Mother of God, plays a central role for us. Through her “yes” to God, salvation was born into this world in the person of Jesus. We begin our calendar year with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and have many other special days to honour her. The month of May is one in which our eyes are turned toward our Holy Mother, so it is only fitting that we also celebrate Mother’s Day this month. Pope Francis has given us a beautiful picture of the importance of those who fill the role of mother for our children. Love, heroism, compassion, wisdom; these are the gifts we receive from Mary, and from those who fill this sacred role in our lives!

As the 2021-2022 school year is fast coming to a close, our Division is well into planning for the upcoming school year. Our Board of Trustees has approved our [Division Plan for Continuous Growth 2020-2023 \(Year 3\)](#), and our schools will now spend the month of May aligning their School Plans for Continuous Growth with our Division’s work.

In Edmonton Catholic Schools, we believe that each person is created in the image and likeness of God and in the goodness, dignity and worth of each person. We honour the dignity of each person by treating one another with empathy, compassion, and respect. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (EDIAR) are guiding values consistent with Catholic Social Teaching, reaffirming dignity at every level. In the spring of 2021, our Division began a project with Norquest’s Colbourne Institute for Inclusive Leadership and MNP to determine our strengths and opportunities for growth in furthering the work of EDIAR from a Catholic worldview in our Division through a formal strategic plan. Our new EDIAR strategic plan outlines the strategic priorities and key strategies identified through surveys and focus groups and explores possible actions that will shape the way in which EDIAR values are embedded in the ongoing work of the Division. You can read the strategic plan and explore more about EDIAR in ECSD by clicking [here](#).

This year, we celebrate Catholic Education Week from May 23-27. It is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the gift of publicly funded Catholic education that we are blessed with in Alberta. The cornerstones of our Catholic educational community are found in the relationship between the home, the school, and the parish as we lead our students into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Watch our Division social media to see examples of the great things that happen in our schools as #ECSDfaithinspires!

As we continue to celebrate the season of Easter, I leave you with a thought from our Holy Father: *“The Easter joy is not to be kept to oneself. The joy of Christ is strengthened by giving it, it multiplies sharing it. If we open ourselves and carry the Gospel, our hearts will open and overcome fear.”* (Pope Francis, Twitter, 04/18/2022)

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin  
Chief Superintendent



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## Mary, the Mother of God

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Mary has been venerated since early Christianity, considered by millions to be the holiest and greatest saint, and served as a favorite subject in Western art, music, and literature. During the month of May, we celebrate our devotion to Mary and commemorate her extraordinary role as a mother to both Jesus Christ and the whole of humanity.

According to the gospels of Matthew and Luke, Mary was a first-century Jewish woman of Nazareth, the wife of Joseph, and the mother of Jesus. She conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and accompanied Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

The Catholic Church holds distinctive Marian dogmas, namely her status as the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity, and her Assumption into heaven. Popular devotions in the form of feasts, services, and the rosary, have played a tremendously important role in the lives of Roman Catholics.

*Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*

Indeed, Mary is a central figure in the Catholic faith and her life illustrates how our Almighty Father works in our lives. Mary's humility, simplicity, and charity embodied the way she lived her life. Her freedom to serve Christ's mission, bring him into the world, and ponder the significance of his life became the pattern for both collective and individual discipleship.

This is what Mary proclaimed when she became the mother of God, and this is the mission we continue today. Being called by God requires total commitment and a willingness to sacrifice everything out of love. When we say 'yes,' God is inviting us to what is already within our capacity; inviting us to see our ordinary roles as sacred.

Sandra Talarico  
Manager, Religious Education Services

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