

January 2021

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace among those whom he favours!’” (Luke 2:13).

In the Christmas season, we reflect on what the birth of Jesus means to us and for us. Pope Francis describes Christmas as “a feast that is heart-felt, participatory and capable of warming the coldest of hearts, of removing barriers of indifference towards our neighbors and encouraging openness towards others and a free gift (of self).” We are asked to take time and find the true meaning of Christ’s birth in our lives.

The year 2020 is finally over. Now we turn to the future and look forward to brighter days, Christmas holidays, special times with our closest family members, a vaccine for COVID, and a hope for better things to come. We miss seeing our online students and cannot wait for school to ‘get back to normal.’ To our in-person students, we are blessed to see you every day, and teachers are working diligently, helping you to learn.

Parents/Guardian, we miss seeing you around the school, but know that the work you do at home to prepare your children to learn makes a difference at school. Some days it is not easy to get your child ready to learn, but your efforts are appreciated. I would also like to take this time to thank the staff at Our Lady of Peace. The team goes above and beyond to enrich learning and remain flexible in this environment while simultaneously mitigating health risks. We are truly fortunate to have outstanding students, families, and staff members at Our Lady of Peace.

Our Christmas wish for all our school families is that you have a peaceful and holy Christmas season. Enjoy the time together as a family and treasure every moment. The greatest gift of God’s Son is best experienced as a family.

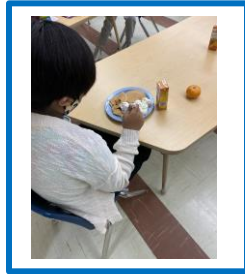
May God bless us all! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



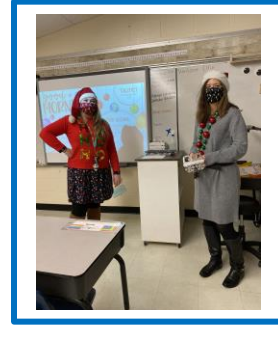
Fun Activities

Pancakes: We would like to thank a Philanthropic organization, under the direction of Jackie Fetter for providing our students with a pancake breakfast on December 13. We would like to thank Right Choice Camps and Catering for all the food, Divine Catering for volunteering their time to make the pancakes, Marc Barylo for the candy canes and Joshua Fetter for pulling it all together. Our students ate their fill of pancakes, orange juice, whip cream, and oranges. Our Lady of Peace students and staff are thankful!

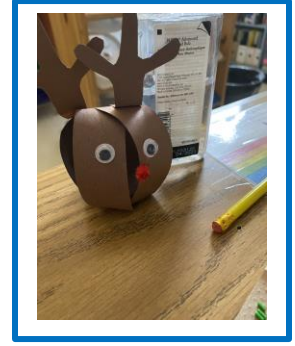
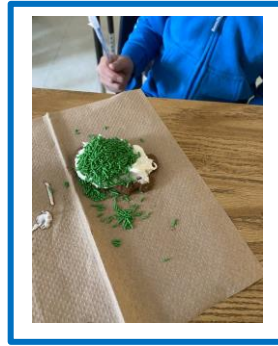
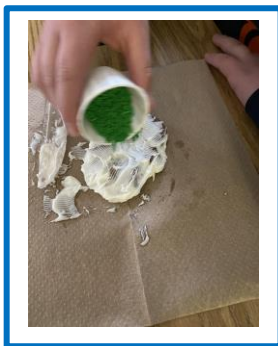
Thank you Embrace Orthodontics for donating gift cards to some of our families!



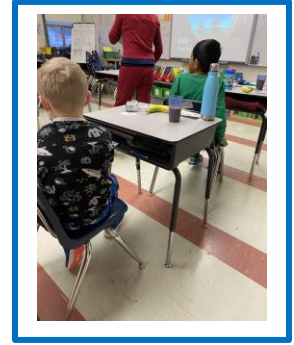
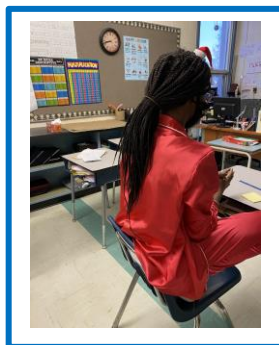
Dress Christmassy was so much fun this year. Thank you to all who dressed up!



Cookie Decorating and Christmas Craft Day



Pajama Day



COVID: We need your help!

We would like to thank everyone for adhering to Alberta Health Services guidelines. Remember to do the COVID daily check. If your child is exhibiting any symptoms, go through the following link from AHS:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/20d4bb45-0eb4-42cc-8553-94eafc34ee58/resource/a45d715b-8e4f-43f7-b3a8-c4d3b07e2c37/download/covid-19-information-student-illness-if-a-student-has-covid-19-symptoms-2020-10.pdf>

We understand that keeping your child at home, when sick, can be difficult, but it helps to stop the spread of any illness.

We need your help. If your child is feeling ill, go through the link above. **Keep your child at home until all symptoms have disappeared.** We are in this together.

School Fees



School Fees are now past due. Please go onto Parent PowerSchool and pay the \$13.00. We appreciate it!

Weather

Please be advised that the following Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements concerning transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

RADIO STATIONS

630 CHED AM, CISN FM 103.9, THE CHUCK FM 92.5, INEWS880 AM, KISS 91.7, UP! 99.3 FM, POWER 107, AM 930 The Light CJCA, SHINE 105.9, TSN 1260, 95.7 CRUZ FM, THE BEAR 100.3 FM, SONIC 102.9 FM, 104.9 VIRGIN RADIO FM, CBC, CHFA (CBD Fr.), CFCW 840, The Breeze 96.3, K97 97.3, 102. NOW!
Radio

TV STATIONS

CITYTV, CTV Edmonton, GLOBAL Edmonton, CBC TV

Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.

Cold Weather. A reminder to parents to dress their children appropriately for the cold weather. All our students are **required** to go outside for recess (down to -20 C, including wind chill). They will have more fun playing outdoors if they are dressed warmly. They need to get fresh air and have an exercise break. Fresh air and activity ensure better health and better learning! Items that enhance the outdoor experiences include: dry gloves or mittens, nylon shells help keep hand warm and dry, dry sock and boots contribute to staying warm, a warm hat or tuque goes a long way towards keeping a body warm. Thank you for your support.



Christmas Break



Christmas Break. Please note that the last day of school will be Friday, December 18. The Christmas holiday is from December 21 – January 1. We will return Monday, January 4, to online learning, with the exception of 100 voices. Check your child’s agenda for information about how to log onto Google Classroom.

Many children might wish to bring their Christmas toys to school. We are asking that **ALL** toys stay at home. It poses a problem at school, in that toys become lost or broken, leaving our children and parents disappointed. Thank you for supporting this decision.

Online Learning January 4 - 8

When we return to classes on January 4, we will be starting **FROM HOME**. Online learning will take place for the week of January 4 – 8, 2021. Please review with your child(ren) their shared responsibility of being online for learning. Teachers have setup activities so that students do not need to be in front of a computer screen for the entire day. If you have issues or concerns in assisting your child access their Teams channel or Google Classroom please contact their teacher by email.



Social Justice Activities: At Peace we are generous

The school community raised **\$433** for our Christmas Gift box raffle in support of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. That is fabulous! The Edmonton Catholic Foundation has supported our school, so we are glad we could give back.

The Grade six class spearheaded a canned food collection drive; **234 cans** were collected to support our families.

We also sent letters, Christmas ornaments, Dreamcatchers, and Christmas artwork to the Shepherd’s Care Seniors’ Centre in Millwoods to brighten their days. Our students are so thoughtful.

Attendance



Students need to be at school **consistently** and **on time**. Students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend. When students fall behind for lack of attendance, they may feel anxious returning to school, knowing they do not understand the material covered or the routines established; this may cause a child’s self-esteem to diminish and increase anxiety. Not only does academic achievement decrease with lack of attendance, but so do peer interactions. Friendships are essential, as well as learning how to interact with others. When children are absent from school, they may lose touch with friends and find it difficult to re-engage once they come back. If you need help getting your child to school, please call the school for assistance.

Round Dance

In January, we usually host a Round Dance. Because of COVID restrictions this will not be possible. We will still have Miss. Nicole give the teachings of the Round Dance to our students.

January Student Activities

We would like to thank Mr. Oberhofer for arranging a free Trickster Residency for one of our classes on the week of January 18. The residency will occur virtually. We are excited to use our acting skills during this cold month.

In the month of January, the grade 6 students are the leaders of the school. They have chosen our school theme day as 'Decade Day'. Children are asked to dress in the attire of a decade of their choice, 90's, 80's, 60's etc. The 'Decade Day' will happen on January 14, 2021.

The theme activity the grade 6 students chose is read with a buddy day on January 26. We are following AHS regulations and do not allow our students to mix cohorts inside the school. The students will be reading with another student in the school through TEAMS. It's a different way to connect with one another.

With the cold weather, there may be times when the students stay inside for recess. The students are expected to go outside until the weather reaches -20°C, with the wind chill. We would like to thank an anonymous Edmonton Catholic School who has purchased indoor games, and puzzles for our students to use during indoor recess. It is comforting to know that there are others out there taking care of our students. Edmonton Catholic Schools are one big family.

CTBS

Our grade 6 students will be writing their CTBS (Canadian Test of Basic Skills) tests when school resumes in the new year. Students do not need to prepare for the tests. Getting a good night sleep will help on test day just as it does on every other day.

Braided Journeys

We are blessed to have Miss. Nicole, as our Braided Journeys instructor. She has worked with our students in literacy and engages our Indigenous students in cultural activities. Each month Miss. Nicole picks an Indigenous focus book for our teachers to use in their classroom and she shares it with the online teachers as well. She also organizes hampers for our families. Thank you for all you do Miss. Nicole.

School Council

Our next school council meeting will be virtual on January 20 at 5:30 pm. Please call the school and we will add you to our meeting which you can attend from the comfort of your home.



Numeracy



How to help your child with their Math Skills at home:

Comparing objects and describing which is longer, shorter, heavier, or holds less.

Playing with and describing 2D shapes and 3D objects.

Describing where things are positioned, for example, north, outside, behind, opposite.

Describing, copying, and extending patterns found in everyday situations, for example: red, green, green, red, green, green, etc.

Using time-words to describe points in time, events and routines (including days, months, seasons and celebrations).

Playing addition and subtraction games in the car. Baking and measuring ingredients.

Using numbers to describe and compare collections (I have three cookies, and you have four. Who has more? How do you know?)

Using perceptual and conceptual subitizing (recognizing quantities based on visual patterns), counting and matching to compare the number of items in one collection with another. (Guess how many cookies are in the box? How long do you think it will take to get to grandma's house?)

Reflections

Now that the New Year is upon us, we reflect on the first four months of this school year. While many events needed to be cancelled due to health restrictions, we were able to adapt many. We are looking forward to hosting unique educational and cultural experiences for all Our Lady of Peace School community members. Some of our accomplishments were:

Meet the Teacher Virtual event. Teachers set up virtual presentations for parents and guardians to view at their leisure. The event was week-long. We hope you all had an opportunity to attend.

Orange Shirt Day. In-class activities and virtual presentations made up this year's event.

Moving in the Hallways. This program continues to be active, this year with masked Ninjas, especially in the school's East wing.

Métis Week. A Métis Week Mini- Museum was set up in the Braided Journeys room; it was available for

classes to tour all week long. We also posted it on Twitter and Instagram.

Liturgical Celebrations. School Opening Mass, Thanksgiving mass, Remembrance Day Celebration, and Blessing of the Wreaths

School Council Meetings. We had a socially distanced in-person meeting. Future meetings will likely be virtual; watch for meeting notices.

Read in Week. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to health restrictions. However, some guest readers came into classes virtually.

Halloween Parade. We had a fun, successful virtual parade. All the students were able to share their costumes with the school.

School Clubs.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of our clubs have not been meeting.

Our Lady of Peace Leadership Club. Our students are demonstrating their leadership abilities and skills daily.

Mindfulness Club. In class and virtual events have been hosted by staff.

Card making Club. While there was no official club, the Cree classes made Christmas Cards to be distributed to Seniors. The Multidisciplinary Team helped with Card making in individual classes.

Craft Fair. No official craft fair, but classes made many different crafty items to be shared with Senior Care Homes around the city.

Visiting the Indigenous Seniors' Center. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are not able to see our Elders and Knowledge Keepers in person. However, our Cree classes took the lead on making cards and items to share with Elders at several centers.

Theme Days. Students organized Crazy hair day and dress 'Christmassy Day' as well as yoga and cookie decorating. Other theme days are coming up; watch for them.

APPLE Flex and Christmas Party Flex Days. These fun and educational days are much appreciated even with classroom confined activities, virtual sharing added to the fun.

Toonies for Turkeys. Students and their families raised \$200 for this event. Thank you all for your contributions

Book Fair. As our Demonstration of Learning was virtual; we could not host a book fair, looking forward to the spring.

Report Cards and Parent/Teacher interviews. We have moved to continuous progress reporting. Please go to PowerSchool to review your child(ren)'s progress. If you have any questions or concerns, email your child's teacher. We were able to host a virtual Demonstration of Learning.

Sports Teams. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have not set up any sports teams.

Christmas Concert/Gala. Mr. Oberhofer worked with the classes to construct a virtual Christmas Concert. Due to COVID-19 restrictions creating challenges, alternative methods were needed. Mr. Oberhofer will post the concert video in the Google classrooms closer to Christmas.

Field Trips. While out of school events have been cancelled thus far; virtual field trips are happening. The grade fours toured the Edmonton Waste Management Facilities and the Tyrell Museum and Badlands. The Grade sixes got to go to the University of Alberta. Virtual field trips allow our students to go places they usually would not. If you hear of any exciting virtual field trips or events, contact the school, we may be able to arrange something.

Indigenous Learning Services. Ms. Nicole Tekie hosted and facilitated guests from Indigenous Learning Service in sharing their many gifts and talents. We were fortunate to have Mr. Gary Gagnon come in Tuesdays and Fridays during October and November to share his knowledge through story-telling. In November and December, Ms. Erin Meetoos came in to share her teachings and experience of Pow Wow dances and some Christmas crafts.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Student illness

If a student has symptoms

Students with new or worsening symptoms that are not related to other known causes must not attend school.

The duration students need to stay home from school depends on the type of symptoms.

Parents and household members of a student who has symptoms are not required to quarantine if:

- the child with symptoms has not been identified as a close contact of a COVID case
- the child has not tested positive

Symptoms

If a student has any of the following core COVID-19 symptoms (new, or worsening and not related to other known causes), the child is to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms.

- **Fever** (temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher)
- **Cough** (continuous, more than usual)
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing** (continuous, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)
- **Loss of sense of smell or taste**

A student can return to school before 10 days only if a COVID-19 test is negative AND symptoms are gone AND the student is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Use the [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing and to receive additional information on isolation.

If a student has one of the following other symptoms, they can return to school if their symptom is improving, as long as it has been at least 24 hours.

- **Chills** (Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather)
- **Sore throat/painful swallowing**
- **Runny nose/congestion**
- **unwell/fatigued**
- **Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea**
- **Unexplained loss of appetite**
- **Muscle/joint aches**
- **Headache**
- **Conjunctivitis** - Commonly known as pink eye

Testing is not necessary if the child has only one of these other symptoms and it improves after 24 hours. If the symptom does not improve, gets worse or another symptom develops, continue to keep your child home until their symptom(s) go away.

If a child has two or more of the other symptoms, they can return to school once their symptoms go away, as long as it has been 24 hours since their symptoms started. A COVID-19 test is recommended but not required.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Use [AHS Online Assessment Tool](#) or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended.

Book a test

Book a testing appointment online with the AHS assessment tool or call Health Link 811. <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

Tested positive for COVID-19

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- The isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

Close contacts of confirmed cases

- You are legally required to quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.

If you are isolating or quarantining:

- Stay home — do not go to school, work, social events or any other public areas or community settings.
- Avoid close contact with other people, including household members but especially seniors and people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
- Do not use public transportation or ride sharing.
- Do not go for walks in public places. This includes children isolating.
- If you go outside, you must remain on private property not accessible by others.

If a student has symptoms related to allergies or a pre-existing medical condition

- The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result.
- These symptoms would be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school.
- Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition.

Note

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, information regarding COVID-19 will be updated as required. Please check online for the latest information and links to testing, symptoms and isolation requirements: alberta.ca/covid19

For more information: alberta.ca/covid19

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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

To my very fine Parents, Grandparents, and Families,

In past years it has always been my great delight to greet you at the doors of our Catholic Schools during the Season of Advent. I appreciate each opportunity to meet you in person as I connect with which child you belong and so converse on the matters of combined importance we share in reference to our Faith. This year will indeed be different, but I still look forward to preparing with you for the Sacraments of your children, with your families on Sunday Mass, and eventually back together in our Schools.

For this year, I therefore request a very important favour of you. As we are unable to attend Mass together on Christmas Eve nor on foreseeable Sundays, I will ask you read to your children the story that absolutely must be relayed on this night: the **Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-21)**. (*For my Students in Grade 4 and above, they will know how to find the passage.) This is our Tradition, and while many traditions and customs near and dear to us must understandably be paused, this is one that need not, nor should not be so. As someone special once read the story to us, we now share it with our children. So, designate a quiet time after dinner, set the mood with only minimal lights to make everything more wondrous, gather attention, and then proceed to share in the best voice you have the story that is our heritage. I assure you, it will be something that will leave a memory in their minds and forever touch their hearts: it will be one of the finest gifts you can give to them. You will have my deepest gratitude.

To my Students: oh, Fr. Dean has not forgotten you! I have a special task for you too. I will ask you take the best of your Religion Class efforts and compose a special Dinner Grace. And if there is more than one child, you can divide it up: one for Christmas Eve, one for Christmas Day, etc.. Remember: it should come from the heart, and you can prepare by writing it down to help you keep your focus. Before Dinner, make sure everyone is around the table, hands together, begin with the sign of the cross, and then share your prayer. Know I will be thinking of you and I know you will do so well: I have great confidence in each of you. If you would like to share your prayer with your Teachers, they will certainly send them my way: I would love, love to read what you prayed as a family!

Thank you for doing this: in living our Faith together, we are understanding the great strength and immense value of the Home-School-Parish Partnership to which you have entrusted your children.

A very blessed Advent and Holy Season of Christmas to you all.
Most sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Dean

Christmas Masses

Due to the recent restrictions our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are already full. It is *not* possible for anyone else to attend. Please check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for information about livestreamed Masses. We hope to share a Mass at 6 pm on Christmas Eve, and a Mass at 10:30 am on Christmas Day.

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