



OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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October Newsletter 2020

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this
day for giving thanks, mindful of
your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the
abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a
reminder to be generous with others,
as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.

“To be able to offer thanks, to be able to praise the Lord for what He has done for us:
this important!” Pope Francis



When we are grateful, we recognize the love of the God in our world. Often we take our surroundings for granted. When we look at Luke 17: 17 – 18, Jesus emphasizes that of 9 ungrateful lepers, Jesus spoke up, “There were ten who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?”

At Our Lady of Peace, we are grateful to be the teachers of
your children.

September 2020

We are thankful for a wonderful school start. Our opening mass on September 11 was well received by our students. The grade 6 students participated in the gym with Father Dean and Sophie while the rest of the school watched as it was televised to the rest of our population as well as our online students. On September 23 we launched our virtual Meet the Staff night. Thank you to the families that watched it. And on September 30 we celebrated Orange Shirt Day. Our Braided Journeys Instructor, Miss. Nicole, prepared our teachers to discuss with our students the meaning of the day.



Keeping Our Students Safe



Thank you to our grade 6 students who are doing a wonderful job patrolling this year. You are great leaders!

A reminder that supervision on the east and west sides of the school does not begin until 8:15 a.m. Thank you to parents and guardians for helping us adhere to COVID-19 regulations by waiting outside the school when picking up or dropping off students during school hours. We are continuing to maintain the 'Peace Bubble'.



Remember that the speed limit around elementary and junior high schools is 30 km/h. Picking up and dropping off children can happen west, by the field and on the east side of the school. Remember to obey traffic laws. You must be parked at least **5 meters from a crosswalk**. We have patrols near the crosswalks, and it is important that oncoming cars see them. Thank you for your co-operation. Last week we had a constable giving out tickets.

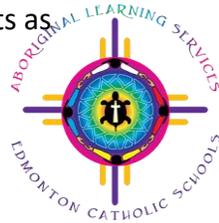


Learning is Important at Our Lady of Peace

Our focus this year is numeracy and literacy. Everyday, our staff develop engaging lessons that follow the Alberta Curriculum. When a child does not attend school, learning is interrupted and the future understanding of concepts may become more difficult. Everyday is important. We have noticed that attendance drops significantly on Thursdays. **Thursday is not optional even though it is a half day.** Learning occurs everyday of the week. Please help us increase attendance rates on Thursdays.

Braided Journeys

We are excited to have Nicole T back to lead the Braided Journey's program at our school. The function of the program is to provide literacy and cultural support to our Indigenous students as well as promote parental engagement. We were the first elementary school to start this valuable program. We thank Edmonton Catholic for supporting this initiative. If you require supports for online



Appreciation Days

Thank you to our dedicated day custodian and light duty custodian for keeping our school clean. This has become a big job especially during COVID-19. We thank them for their efforts to keep us safe. Oct. 2 is Custodian Appreciation Day. Thank you for all the behind the scenes work!

Oct. 5 is Teacher Appreciation Day. We have the best teachers! They have worked hard to increase safety in the school, while delivering lessons in a new 'COVID safe' way. Most of our teachers were in school weeks before school started to prepare for a year unlike any other. Thank you teachers for everything you do!



Read in Week



October 5 – 9 is Read in Week and the theme is 'Read Around the World'. This year students will be listening to special guests read to them from an online platform. 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.

Thanksgiving

Our grade four students will be in the gym for our Thanksgiving Day celebration on Thursday, October 8 at 11:00 am. Father Dean will celebrate mass and it will be televised to every class in the school.

As part of the celebration, we are asking students to bring in a 'toonie for a turkey' from October 5 -9. For every 'toonie' a student will be able to put a feather on our turkey at the front of the school. The monies raised will support a family from our school. Thank you for your generosity.

Thanksgiving is October 12. There will be no school on that day. Enjoy!



Grade Four Bible Celebration

We welcome Father Dean and Sophie from St. John the Evangelist to our school in October for our annual grade 4 Bible celebration. The date and time will soon be set. Father Dean will be presenting our grade four students with their own Bible. We will also try to include our online students in the celebration.



Smile! It's Picture Time



'Smile', picture day is Tuesday, October 13. Life Touch is our photographer. **All** students will be able to have their picture taken. If your child is learning online this quarter, you will be asked to book an appointment between 11:00 – 12:00 pm on October 13. You must call the school to set up an appointment. You will be asked to enter and exit the gym through the west exterior gym doors (from the outside near the ball diamond), and you must wear a mask when in the gymnasium. All students will have the opportunity to be part of their class picture. The photographer will create a composite picture of all students at a particular grade level.

APPLE Flex Thursday

On Thursday, October 22 the students of Our Lady of Peace will be learning about what it takes to have a healthy mind and body. On this Thursday, students go through fun, interesting and educational sessions on Nutrition, Social Emotional Well-being and Physical Literacy. All topics will adhere to the Alberta Curriculum of Studies. We will have different 'flex' sessions throughout the year for our students on various topics.

Testing

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test is a routine test that is administered to our grade 6 students every year. It helps to determine your child's general cognitive ability. The test will be given to gr. 6 students between Oct. 19 – 30.

School Council

Our next school council meeting is in October. If you would like to see what a school council is all about, stayed tuned for an email. We are looking for new members. No experience is necessary.



Staff Professional Development Day

On Thursday, October 29, our staff will be engaged in a school Faith Permeation Professional Development Session. There will be **no school** for students on this day. During this day, staff will have the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker and spend time learning how to build faith infused lessons for your children.

Halloween

Halloween: On Friday, October 30, our students will be celebrating Halloween in their classes. Students are asked to come to school in costume. Cloth, personal protective masks are still to be worn during Halloween. Please follow these guidelines when preparing to send your child to school that day.

- Costumes must be appropriate for a Catholic School setting. School dress code still applies on Halloween
- No violent costumes
- No full face masks
- No weapons or objects, which may be harmful to others
- Students may bring costumes to wear OR wear Halloween colours (orange and black)
- We will be following AHS regulations. Do not bring any treats or snacks to share in the classroom.
- Wear costumes that are easy to move in.



Literacy

Creating a Literacy Rich Environment in Your Home

Strong literacy skills are essential in today's society. Your children's teachers work hard every day to assist your children with their literacy skills. But you can help!

What can you do to support your child's literacy at home?

- Surround your children with **books!** (Give books as gifts... visit the library...)
- Create a bedtime routine that includes **nightly read aloud**. (There are picture books appropriate for children of all ages.)
- For older children, in addition to picture books, **read a novel together**.
- Give your child **authentic reasons to read**. For example, leave a note in their lunch kits.
- Build **regular talk time** into your day: during car rides and at dinner time are especially effective. Choose **one question a day** that everyone in the family can answer:
 - What was the best part of your day?
 - Was there something that surprised you today?
 - What did you find challenging today?
 - Did you notice someone being kind today? What were they doing?
- Involve your children in **authentic writing experiences**. How?
 - Send a letter or card to Grandma and Grandpa.
 - Have your children write thank you cards or emails when they receive birthday gifts.
 - Buy each of your children a journal where they can write or draw