

P_{arent} W_{EEK} A_t a G_{lance}

Welcome to our new newsletter! Instead of one long newsletter monthly there will be a short update weekly. Please let me know what you think!

Our school start this week was great! The staggered entry allowed our teachers and students the opportunity to really get to know each other! We look forward to having everyone back on September 8th including our online learners!

Mon, Sept 7	Tues, Sept 8	Wed, Sept 9	Thurs, Sept 10	Fri, Sept 11
Labour Day No School!	First day for all students together, including our at home learners! Kinder bussing starts		Noon dismissal	

Reminders

Our breakfast and lunch program begins on Sept. 14. Breakfast will not start until after the bell. No one needs to come to school early!

Please complete the [Health Screening Questionnaire](#) everyday before coming to school. We need everyone to stay healthy!

Please have your children arrive between 8:20 am-8:30 am when supervision begins. The playground is not open before or after school.



COMMUNITY MOVIE NITE

Celebrate BACK TO SCHOOL with a fun night out for Parents and Kids! Bring your lawn chair as we watch Disney's newest remake of Beauty and the Beast. The movie is free, and so are the pop and chips!

Richfield Christian Fellowship
*parking lot
Saturday, September 12 8pm
www.richfieldchurch.ca

DISNEY BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

RICHFIELD
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

P_{arent} W_{EEK} A_t a G_{lance}



... I have called you by name, you are mine. ~ Isaiah 43:1 ~

August 2020

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year! Whether you have chosen to return to the classroom or to participate in an online environment, it is wonderful to have our students and staff connecting in a more 'normal' manner as we work together to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another. This is going to be a year unlike any we have ever experienced, and we are all going to draw on our ability to be flexible, nimble, and responsive to the ever changing demands placed on us as we learn to exist in a Covid world. As you navigate through the quartermesters this year and revisit your learning options, it is important that you know that there are no wrong choices for your child and family with respect to the in-person vs. online learning environment. We are so pleased to be able to offer the advantage of multiple shifting points through a quartermester model.

Our theme for this year is *God Calls Us Each By Name*. It is grounded in scripture from Isaiah: "I have called you by name, you are mine." This provides the beautiful vision of our work in Edmonton Catholic Schools as being work for God; this is the essence of Catholic education. It also provides a beautiful vision of what we are trying to instill in our students: the understanding that they, too, have been called by God to serve. Over their time with Edmonton Catholic Schools, as our students come to know and love Jesus ever more deeply, they will discern how God has called each of them by name to serve Him and the world.

There are some exciting things that are happening in our Division right now. Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School will have its first students this year. Within just a few short weeks, we are going to be having a site blessing and ground breaking for our new 950 student K-9 school in Keswick. We are preparing for a new 1300 student high school in Heritage Valley, and the construction of the Ben Calf Robe replacement school has begun. As a nod to our agility and nimbleness as a Division, we will be creating a K-12 online school as a viable option for our families.

Each year, ECSD establishes a [Division Plan for Continuous Growth](#) that sets out our primary goals for the year and the global strategies that we will use to achieve them. Our schools ensure that their site-specific plans for continuous growth are aligned with these goals. You can explore our Division plan by visiting www.ecsd.net or clicking on the link above.

I would like to share just a few additional words about our re-entry plan. I can't begin to emphasize the countless hours that our re-entry team has put in getting ready for our start up. They have put so much effort into being sure that we are well prepared and consistent across the Division as in person learning begins again.

This team is simply amazing! You can see the diversity of membership on this tremendous team by visiting the [ECSD Re-Entry Plan page on www.ecsd.net](#).

I will leave you with a thought from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world. *Gaudete et Exultate*, that reflects the essence of how God has called us each by name: "The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence... We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." (Pope Francis, 2018, sections 1, 14)

Have a wonderful year of learning and growing in relationship with Christ!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent

P_{arent} W_{ee}k A_t a G_{lance}

Parent Community Newsletter
Edmonton Catholic Schools
August 2020

Seeking God's inner beauty.

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Welcome back!

I pray you and your family had a restful and fun-filled summer. I appreciate it may have been different with the pandemic still upon us, and that you had to be creative in finding ways to enjoy God's creation while physical distancing and staying safe.

Well, a new School Year begins. The principals, teachers, and staff look forward to journeying with you in the education of your children. We know things will be different, and will require some adjustments along the way, but together we walk hand in hand as we explore God's love and beauty in our lives and in the world around us.

Beauty. Inner beauty. I spent a lot of time this summer reflecting on beauty, and I'd like to ask you to do the same during this school year.

Thinking about beauty came to me early on at the outset of the pandemic. One day, I was in my office at the Pastoral Centre, chatting with someone on the phone. As I often find myself doing, I spun my chair around and looked out the window at the passersby on the street. I was startled by someone who had stopped and was staring back at me through the window! Well, she wasn't really staring at me. Let me explain.

You see, the windows to our Pastoral Centre have a reflective film on them, so you can see out from the inside but you can't see in from the outside. From the outside, the reflective film is like a mirror, and you can see yourself in the mirror. Ann, we'll call her, wasn't really looking at me; she was looking at herself. She was combing her hair, putting on her lipstick, fixing her blouse. In my eyes, and in my heart, she was beautiful. She was a princess!

The reality is that Ann lives on the streets. She's homeless, as are many who live around our Pastoral Centre and Saint Josaphat Cathedral. That doesn't mean that Ann's not beautiful. That day, looking at herself in the "mirror" of our window, she saw beauty – beauty on the outside, and beauty on the inside. That day, God gifted me with a glimpse of how beautiful Ann is, in God's eyes, and in mine.

God "has made everything beautiful" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We are beautiful. Everything around us is beautiful. That's the way God created us, created in God's image and likeness.

This school year, take time to see God's beauty in every sunrise, every sunset, in the world around us, in your child, and in each other. Let us remind ourselves, we are baptized into Christ, that God's love, beauty and glory are best revealed in the life of God's son, Jesus Christ. The best way to see God's beauty is to be in relationship with Christ, each and every day.

And if you don't see God's beauty, clean your glasses, then look again!

May God bless us and our new school year!

Bishop David Motiuk
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton