



# Knightly News

## May 2021 Newsletter

Hello St Nicholas Families,

As we move into the month of May, we are faced with yet another shift in our learning mode. Based on the information we have from our Provincial government our return to in-school learning is Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Over the course of this first week of remote learning I had the opportunity to sit in on many Teams classes and witness how learning is continuing to happen. A huge thank you goes out to our staff, who yet again have made the shift as seamless as possible for all our students. We would also like to take this time to acknowledge the efforts of all our students. Attendance rates are above 80% and their ability to shift back and forth between different modes of learning must be commended. Lastly, we would like to thank all our parents for the support you continue to send our way. Together we will prevail and ensure that amidst all this uncertainty we will be successful and continue to work towards preparing our students for the years to come.

We would also like to thank our School Council Executive. Last month they approved the purchase of updated student technology, athletic equipment, and furniture to create alternative seating/learning spaces within the school.

During the week of May 10 through to May 14 we celebrate Catholic Education with Thursday May 13 being Catholic Education Day. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta.

May also marks the month where we celebrate the Mother Mary and honour not only her, but all the mother figures in our lives. These women teach us to be understanding, compassionate, confident, and determined, and approach all the successes and challenges in our lives with a strong, yet gentle hand. To all our mother we would like to wish you a very special...

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!**

Please take some time to read through this Newsletter and as always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school at (780)-474-3713.

God bless,

*Alex Buttigieg*

Principal

*Julie Francois*

Assistant Principal

# May 2021

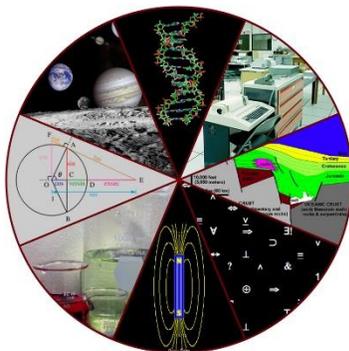
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;">                 Students are to follow the regular class schedule (May 3 – May 14)             </div>						
9 Mother's Day	10 School Council (6:15-Teams)	11	12	13 Catholic Education Day	14	15
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">                 CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK             </div>						
16	17 Students return to in-person learning	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Victoria Day (No classes)	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



**Also feel free to visit the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton for up to date news and live stream liturgies at:**

<https://caedm.ca/PastoralScene/entryid/788/livestreamed-masses-and-events>

# Science Academy



The Science Academy 2021-2022 is in the planning stages! Most likely, the Academy will run in Semester 2 from February to June due to continued Covid-19 restrictions to facility openings. Usually there are multiple field trips to various city and area facilities. Currently, the Science Academy is open to students going into grade 8 or grade 9 next year.

Parents who have expressed interest have included Science Academy on the registration intentions page on PowerSchool. A separate detailed paper application form with more information will be distributed to interested students at the beginning of May, as soon as we return to in-school learning.

The Science Academy runs for one semester every Thursday morning (8:17-11:20am). There are up to 7 field trips in the planning stages, and other activities are held at the school science lab. We accept only 23 students, so when the paper applications are distributed, please return your application as soon as possible.

Once your student is accepted, you will be notified by early June, and there will be a required deposit and fee.

As Academy planning continues, there will be more information to come!

Any questions, please feel free to email: [Linda.Lush@ecsd.net](mailto:Linda.Lush@ecsd.net)



# Soccer Academy



Congratulations to Hermela Mekonen and Ethan Darpoh on being named our Soccer Academy Athletes of the Month for April.

Ethan has been excellent in our Academy League Play and leads all grade 7s in goals, assists and total points. He currently has 13 goals and 7 assists in all competitions since September. Ethan is turning into a strong attacking presence with his dynamic movements, blistering pace, and clinical finishing.

Hermela has been one of our most consistent and reliable athletes in the Soccer Academy. She continues to improve every game and every session. She is self-motivated and has a strong work ethic in every training session. Hermela is incredibly strong on the ball and is fearless in every tackle. This is Hermela's third athlete of the month for this school year.

We look forward to continuing our soccer sessions and Academy League at either Clareview Turf, Clarke Park or at the St. Nicholas Field.



# School Amalgamation



In February, Educational Planning met with our school council to update us on the progress for the amalgamation of St. Nicholas, St. Bernadette, and St. Jerome school. You may find more information regarding the amalgamation by clicking this link:

<https://www.ecsd.net/page/16019/amalgamations>

The Board of Trustees approved the 2022–2025 Capital Plan at the March public board meeting. The first year of the three-year plan highlights the increasing need for three new Catholic schools and one replacement school.

- New high school in Castle Downs/Dunluce
- New K-9 school in Lewis Farms/Secord
- New K-9 school in Heritage Valley/ Cavanagh
- Replacement K-9 school in Rundle Heights

Please click on this link to read more information about the Capital Plan.

<https://www.ecsd.net/page/1510/three-year-capital-plan>

If you have further questions regarding the amalgamation, please speak with your school administrator or call Educational Planning 780-441-6000

# School Council



If you are interested in joining this fabulous group of likeminded parents, please contact the school for more information and come on out to our next meeting.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for  
Monday, May 10, 2021 @ 6:15 pm via Teams**

Many hands make light work, and the more parents we have involved in the school, the more we can accomplish together.

## Google Classrooms/Sites

Many parents have had multiple inquiries related to accessing Google Classrooms and Google Sites. All our students should be very familiar with these processes and can be a valuable resource in helping you with this. In addition, the following links have very user-friendly videos and Google Slides to help you navigate your way through these platforms:

A parent's Guide to Google Classroom:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nA0JFW7VpKErKn\\_yopFyxvhKgxqlMck\\_qfCtpOmrec/present?slide=id.g4f60ec15fb\\_1\\_0](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nA0JFW7VpKErKn_yopFyxvhKgxqlMck_qfCtpOmrec/present?slide=id.g4f60ec15fb_1_0)

Google for Education:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rqAzJ24OheBme-PafWZXjOCfB\\_JnWyXx/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rqAzJ24OheBme-PafWZXjOCfB_JnWyXx/view)

## May Bus Passes



With the announcement of the suspension of in-person classes for grades 7-12 for at least two weeks, beginning May 3, ETS has received a request to allow April Youth passes to be used as valid fare in May once in-person classes resume in Edmonton.

ETS is agreeing to this request. When in-person classes resume in May, students may use their April passes as valid fare for their travel to / from school. If students are using their passes to commute to jobs, appointments or other travel reasons, we ask that they purchase a May pass at a retail outlet for these travel purposes or use youth/senior tickets as fare payment.

# God Calls Us



# EACH BY NAME

**May 2021**

**“Education is a dynamic reality, it is a movement that brings people to the light. It is a peculiar kind of movement, with characteristics that make it a dynamism of growth, aimed at the full development of the person...” (Pope Francis, Address to Participants in the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for Catholic Education, 02/20/20)**

The month of May is one which is very special for Catholic schools in Alberta. This month, beginning May 10, we celebrate Catholic Education Week. The pinnacle of this week is the celebration of World Catholic Education Day on May 13. Our students will have ample opportunity over the course of this week to explore the richness to be found in our Catholic schools. It is a time for families to reflect on the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta. We encourage everyone to wear blue in support of Catholic education over the course of the week. Please also keep your eyes on our social media accounts for our annual Humans of ECSD campaign; we are so proud to share some exceptional stories of the students of Edmonton Catholic Schools!

On March 15 and 16, 2021, the Board of Trustees engaged with the executive members of our School Councils and the administration teams of our schools to gather insights on the four Board Priorities for our various planning endeavors. This rich opportunity for stakeholder engagement was the first of its kind for our Division and provided invaluable feedback on the practices and supports that our families feel are of greatest value in the education of their children. The four priorities are Growing in Faith, Student Success, An Excellent Place to Work and Learn, and Building our Future Together. The report for the Community of School Councils (COSC) was presented at the Public Board Meeting on April 28 and can be found in the Board Agenda Package by clicking [here](#) and scrolling to the report. The overarching themes from this engagement were used at the Division level to inform the Division Plan for Continuous Growth and the Division Budget. Individual schools will use their specific results to inform their School Plan for Continuous Growth and their School Budget.

The April 28 Public Meeting of the Board also saw our Board of Trustees naming our new schools which were announced by the provincial government last year. In January, we asked our students, staff, and the greater community for help naming them. We received more than 300 submissions. We are delighted to share that these schools will bear the names of two lifelong advocates for Catholic education: Joan Carr Catholic Elementary/Junior High School (Keswick) and Father Michael McCaffery Catholic High School (Heritage Valley).

We are looking forward to welcoming our junior and senior high school students back to in-person learning after another hiatus from the classroom. It is never an easy decision to move to a virtual learning environment. Like our students, we all long for normalcy, certainty, and routines to return to our educational system and look forward to being together again.

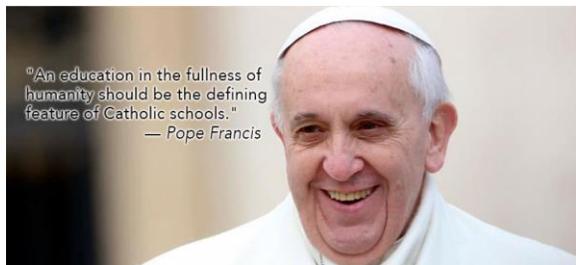
May is a time to celebrate and give thanks for the mothers and maternal figures in our lives, and it also a time where we turn our eyes to our Holy Mother. Mary, Mother of God is the benefactor of Edmonton Catholic Schools. “(She) reminds us to be constantly attentive to the Christ-centeredness of Catholic education. She also reminds us to give ultimate respect to all persons in recognition of their dignity as daughters and sons of God, made in the image and likeness of the Creator and Gi ver of all good gifts.” (Edmonton Catholic Schools, *Holy is Thy Name*, 2017)

Have a glorious May!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin  
Chief Superintendent

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK – THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH



Friends of Jesus,

Every year, on the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord (40 days after Easter), Catholics across the globe give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education through the celebration of the World Catholic Education Day. This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week in the province of Alberta is *Those Who Hope in the Lord Shall Renew Their Strength*. The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is taken from the book of Isaiah 40:31. It offers us the prophet's words of hope and prophetic fulfillment in the face of challenges that we have experienced throughout this school year. "Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!" – *Pope Francis' Homily for Inaugural Mass of Petrine Ministry, March 19, 2013.*

How wonderful it is to celebrate Catholic Education Week in the month of May that in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar is dedicated, in a special way, to Mary! Mary, the Mother of God, is also the patron saint of our Edmonton Catholic Schools.

Today, I invite you to reflect and learn more about Mary, who was the first evangelizer and the first disciple of her own Son, Saviour, and Lord, Jesus Christ. Mary gave the first Gospel

testimony to her cousin, Elizabeth, without words. She understood the work of the Holy Spirit unlike anyone else in the history, other than her beloved Son, Jesus Christ. There are very few records of Mary's obvious words in the texts of the New Testament. However, there is no lack of her presence at the most important events in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of her Son. Mary always encountered God in profound ways from the beginning to the end of her earthly life. In every encounter, she surrendered to love and was changed.

From antiquity, Mary has been called the Mother of God – *Theotokos* – the Greek word that means God-Bearer. The word *Theotokos* is used throughout the Eastern Catholic Church's Liturgy. It is also at the heart of the Latin Rite's deep Marian piety and devotion. An insistence of the Early Church Council on the use of the title, *Theotokos* – the Mother of God, reflected an effort to preserve the teaching of the Church that Jesus Christ is both divine and human and that these two natures are always united in His One Person (The Third Ecumenical Council of Ephesus, 431 A.D.).

On May 13, in honour of World Catholic Education Day, we are encouraged to wear blue, and that way be united in faith and prayer for Catholic Education. As Mary, the Mother of God, is traditionally portrayed in blue in many of the paintings and icons, we stand united in prayer with her and grateful for the Catholic Schools as we offer our prayer to God. As we celebrate Catholic Education Week, from May 10th to 14th this year, I invite you to join all the faithful in praying for Catholic Education, the students whom we serve, their parents and families, and our trustees, administrators, teachers, and staff who make it all possible.

Fr. Julian Bilyj  
ECSD Chaplain