

October 2009

The month of September has flown by. The students are excited to be here and are getting back into the routines of school. We want to thank you for all the support we have received as we start up this new school year. It was great to see so many parents at our Meet the Staff evening. Your presence shows that you care about your child's education and support us in educating your children.

In October, we take time to give thanks for our many blessings. We have much to be thankful for in our community. Most importantly of all, we need to take time to give thanks to God for the gift of life and the blessings of family and friends that he has given us. We give thanks for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

May we give thanks to God for his many blessings.

*M. Dombroski
Principal*

*K. Desmarais
Assistant Principal*

STAFF CHANGES

Since our last newsletter, there have been some changes to our staff. Mrs. Kaban has joined us and is teaching grade one. Mrs. Van de Walle is our new music teacher.

ANNUAL CROSS COUNTRY RUN



Congratulations to our students who participated in the District Cross Country Run. Our students were great ambassadors for St. Elizabeth. Three of our students placed in the top ten for the whole competition. Congratulations!

INCLEMENT WEATHER



As the weather changes to the cooler temperatures of the fall and winter season, please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. Hats, mitts, and a winter coat may be necessary on any given day. Please check the temperature and ensure your child has the necessary outdoor clothing with them when they come to school.

Students will be outside before school and at all recess breaks unless the temperature with wind chill is colder than -20°C , or if there is heavy rain. This is the policy of The Edmonton Catholic School District.



ST. THERESA PARISH NEWS

St. Elizabeth School has been asked to provide volunteers to help with the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Oct. 31. We celebrate Catholic Education Sunday that weekend. If you and your family could help by being greeters or the offertory family, please phone the school to let us know.

A letter went home recently in grades 2 to 6 with information about First Communion and First Reconciliation. Please sign and return these as soon as possible to the office.



PARKING AND STUDENT DROP-OFF

For the safety of all our students, we ask that you do not drive into the parking lot to drop off or pick up your children. Please use the available street parking or the community league parking lot.

Remind your children to cross the street at the crosswalk where the safety patrollers are working.

Important Dates



Oct. 2: Picture Day

Oct. 5-9: Read-In Week

Oct. 5: STARS Assembly

Oct. 6: Grade 6A to Oilers Game

Oct. 7: NO KINDERGARTEN

Oct. 7: Gr. 5 to TELUS World of Science

Oct. 8: Thanksgiving Mass at St. Theresa Church
10:30

Oct. 9: Gr. 2 Friendship Party

Oct. 13: Parent Council Meeting
6:15 p.m.

Oct. 14:: Gr. 4 Field Trip to Waste Management Plant

Oct. 14: Gr. 6 to Strathcona Wilderness Centre

Oct. 23: Gr.1 Teachers Pet Presentation

Oct. 26: Kindergarten and STEPPS go to Fred Penner concert

Oct. 28: Safety for Kindergarten in class presentation

Oct. 30: Halloween activities in the afternoon

CONDUCT POLICY



HALLOWEEN

A copy of the school conduct policy was sent home for each family last Friday. Please read through this policy with your children and sign and return the last page. It is important that you, as parents, are aware of the conduct policy of the school.

Classroom Halloween activities will take place on the afternoon of October 30. There will be a parade in the gym and then each classroom will have their own activities. We ask that any weapons (swords, axes, scythes, guns) that are part of your child's costume NOT be brought to school. Also, try to avoid really scary or gory costumes that may frighten our younger students.

H1N1 Information for Parents from The Edmonton Catholic School District

Prevention of H1N1 has been the focus of our schools throughout the month of September, and this focus will continue. All schools have instructional hand washing and cover your cough posters as well as hand sanitizer stations. In addition, we ask parents and guardians to also play a part in keeping your child healthy. Please ensure that your child is well-rested before going to school. A well-rested child is less likely to contract any illness, including the flu. Please encourage your children to wash their hands regularly, particularly after playing.

You will find additional preventative measures in the H1N1 and Flu Season Fact Sheet that you should have received from your child's school in late September. We will make every effort to keep schools open during a pandemic. If schools do close, this information will be on school websites, the District website at www.ecsd.net as well as on Shaw TV on the bottom of the screen. We continue to pray for the health of all students, staff and families in our District and thank you for your continued support.



PARENT WORKSHOP

Effective Collaborative Learning Teams

October 7, 2009 from 7-9 pm

St. Peter Centre

7330-113 Street, Edmonton

The Learning Team is central to the successful inclusion of any child with special needs. This session will help families develop various skills and approaches to help contribute to the creation of an effective, collaborative Learning Team. A range of practical approaches for building relationships with teachers and school staff will be explored to further develop communication to be maintained throughout the school year. The session will focus on sharing your child's strengths, home-school communication strategies, promoting collaborative actions that will produce positive, productive meetings, and IPP preparation. The session will support family members

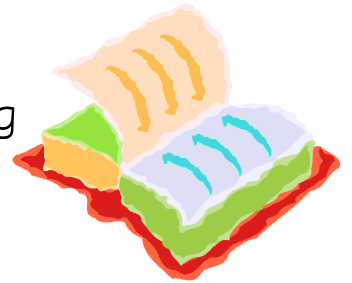
PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

Our Parent Council is looking for new members. We are looking for someone to take on the role of Hot Lunch Coordinator. Please consider joining us. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 13, at 6:15 p.m.

The Library Page

St. Elizabeth – October 2009

A good book has no ending. ~R.D. Cumming



It is hard to believe that the month of September has gone by so quickly. I'm excited to once again be part of the Library.

It was great to meet so many families on the evening of "Meet the Staff Night". If you haven't had a chance to visit our "Family Corner" in the library yet, stop in at the end of the school day while you are waiting to pick up your children. We have magazines, books and toddler books to look at while you are waiting.

The students have already had the chance to take out some books from the library, please remind them to return their books weekly. Every week the students have the opportunity to enter two draws, one for returning their books and one for entering the library contest.

Please look for "The Library Page" in the monthly St. Elizabeth newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering in the library just come and speak to me.

In October we have two special events:

October 5 – 9 is "Read-in Week". During this week we will have many guests visiting the classes to read. On Wednesday, Oct. 7 we will have a multicultural reading day. If you would like to read to a class in English or in another language, please let me know.

On **October 6 David Bouchard**, a well known Canadian author will be visiting our school. He will be giving a presentation about his new book called "The Seven Sacred Teachings". We look forward to his visit.

If you have any suggestions for the library I'm always open for ideas or just stop in and say hello.

I'm looking forward to another fantastic year.

Mrs. Muchortow
Media Resource (Librarian)



October 2009

*“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.”
(2 Corinthians 9: 11-12)*

This quote from the New Testament ties together several themes that I wish to touch upon this month. The school year began with staff attending this year’s School Opening Mass held at the Winspear Center and presided over by Archbishop Richard Smith and Bishop David Motiuk. In his homily, Archbishop Smith stated that the role of Catholic education is to announce with clarity the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in doing so, our school district participates in the mission of the church.

Archbishop Smith went on to say that to “assure consistency of meaning both from the heart of the speaker and in the mind of the listener,” our vocabulary has to be used with clarity and consistency of meaning. Not an easy message to hear in these challenging times - challenges that are presented to us by government, society and within the struggles that many of our families find themselves.

I would like to whole-heartedly thank the many individuals and organizations that responded so quickly to the needs of our school community at Annunciation School by helping our staff and students and their families cope with the loss of their school due to the fire. Having so many people willing to assist with the clean-up and rebuilding of the damaged areas of the school surely demonstrates a whole community working together in a time of need.

Some great news to share is that Edmonton Catholic Schools’ district-wide enrolment (33,491 students as of Sept. 11) is higher than both the projected numbers from earlier this year, and the number of students in our district at this time last year. The growth in enrolment is quite evenly distributed across the city; however, there is a significant increase in our senior high school numbers.

Budget reductions to education funding just announced by the Alberta Government will pose challenges for school districts. The budget that has already been prepared by Edmonton Catholic Schools will have to be reduced by \$ 341,000. How to best meet the ongoing needs of our students while maintaining the integrity of programming within all of our schools will be discussed by administrators and trustees alike. Seeking parental input and support is a necessity. Please consider getting involved with your school councils in order to advocate for continued high quality Catholic education.

I wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving – one in which we examine the gifts that God has showered so generously upon us in order to more fully understand our mission here on earth as we continue to serve God and each other in a loving ministry.

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent

MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP RICHARD SMITH

I am very happy to have the opportunity early in this school year to share with you some information regarding Year 2 of *Nothing More Beautiful*.

Evangelization is now one of the priorities of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. Within the context of evangelization we have begun a major initiative called *Nothing More Beautiful* (NMB). The name was chosen after the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “*There is **nothing more beautiful** than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is **nothing more beautiful** than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.*” Nothing More Beautiful is an opportunity for the people of the Archdiocese of Edmonton to reacquaint ourselves with the truths of our faith and to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ so that we, too, are ready to share this experience with others.

In our second year of NMB, we ponder the beauty and mystery of the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made flesh, who gave His life for the salvation of the world. The foundation and lifeblood of Christians is their encounter and living union with Jesus. Our mission is to make Him known as the world’s only hope.

I invite you, this year, to “Encounter Anew the Beauty of Christ” through the 5 encounters scheduled to take place at St. Joseph’s Basilica and the various initiatives undertaken in your local parish and school.

Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
October 2009