

*September 2009*

*Welcome to the new school year! We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with engaging and exciting learning activities for your children. We extend a sincere welcome to our returning families and our many new families. We also welcome new staff to our school community.*

*As parents, you entrust us with the education of your children and we are dedicated to providing the best educational opportunities possible. We believe that a strong positive partnership between family, school, and parish will enable your children to grow academically, socially, physically, and spiritually.*

*May God's blessing be upon all of us as we begin the journey of this school year.*

*M. Dombroski  
Principal*

*K. Desmarais  
Assistant Principal*

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

8:30 First bell  
8:33 Classes begin  
10:15 Morning Recess  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Afternoon classes begin  
3:04 Dismissal

THURSDAY:  
Dismissal is a 12 noon.

## **STAFF LIST**

Principal	Ms. Dombroski
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Desmarais
Kindergarten	Mrs. MacLean-Tuff
Kindergarten	Mrs. MacAuley-Boyne
Grade 1	Mrs. Gibson
Grade 1	Ms. Berryman
Grade 2	Mrs. Zyla
Grade 3	Mrs. Hartman-Gatti
Grade 4	Mr. Harris
Grade 5	Mrs. Anderson
Grade 6	Mrs. Zimmermann
Grade 6	Ms. Guzzo
STEPPS	Mr. Mahoney
Music	Mr. Mallach
French	Mrs. Desa
Support Staff:	
Secretary	Mrs. Gates
Librarian	Mrs. Muchortow
Family Liaison	
Worker	Ms. Siu
Teacher Assistants:	Ms. Frederickson
	Mrs. Wasylkiewicz
	Mrs. Frenette
	Mrs. Mochniuk
	Mrs. O'Connor
	Mrs. Langdon
	Mrs. Robertson
	Ms. Schroeder
Head Custodian	Mr. Leo
Evening Custodian	Mrs. Padakootil

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance at school is essential for your child's success. Arriving on time is important. If your child is late, he/she must stop at the office for a late slip. If your child is going to be absent, please call the school. We will call you if your child is absent and we have not heard from you.

## **PARKING AND STUDENT DROP-OFF**

The safety of our students is a top priority. Please do not drive into the parking lot to drop off your children. Use the parking available on the street or in the community league parking lot. The parking lot is for staff parking only.

## **EMERGENCY BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

We are able to offer emergency breakfast and lunch to those students who require this due to various circumstances. Please call Mrs. Desmarais for more information. Students who participate in this program will need to get a permission letter signed and inform the school of any allergies. Students requiring breakfast are asked to come in the front door. Breakfast will be available at 8 a.m. until 8:30.

School phone number: **780-462-7022**  
School website: [www.stelizabeth.ecsd.net](http://www.stelizabeth.ecsd.net)

### **MILK PROGRAM**

Milk will be available for purchase. Milk cards are \$12.00 for 20 milk or a half card for \$6.00 for 10 milk. Individual milk may be purchased for \$0.60 per carton.

### **H1N1 UPDATE**

Parents and guardians play a vital role in the health and wellness of their children. We ask parents and guardians to monitor your child's health closely. If your child displays any flu-like symptoms we are encouraging parents and guardians to keep your child at home. These symptoms include a fever, coughing, sore throat, fatigue, lack of appetite, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and muscle aches.

All related questions can be directed to Health Link Alberta (phone 780 408-5415 or website <http://www.health.alberta.ca> ) Links, information and updates will also be provided on the District and individual School websites.

Our school has added hand sanitizer stations near the front entrance. Our custodial staff will give extra attention to cleaning high touch areas such as doorknobs, etc.

Our staff will remind students of good preventative measures with the focus

on hand washing, coughing/ sneezing etiquette and other prevention strategies including hand washing routines after recess, lunch and physical education classes.

### **CONDUCT POLICY**

A copy of the school's conduct policy will soon be sent home with your child. Please review this policy and send it back to the school by September 18.

### **ST. THERESA PARISH**

St. Theresa Parish will be offering preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion beginning in October. Registration information will be available at the school office soon. Students in any grade who wish to receive these sacraments may participate. If you would like your school-age child baptized, please contact the parish office at 780-463-8646.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Sept. 23, 7 p.m.:

#### **Meet the Teacher night**

Sept. 24, 10:30 a.m.:

#### **School Opening Celebration**

Oct. 2 **School Photos**

September 2009

## **New Beginnings and Monarch Butterflies**

I love butterflies. I always have. Even before I was old enough to go to school, I would sit in the backyard for hours and watch them dance among the flowers and garden. With their exotic colours and designs, they live up to their fabled nickname of “Wings of Paradise.”

For some reason I am particularly drawn to the Monarch Butterfly.

In the spring, the Monarch Butterfly begins a unique journey from the mountains of Mexico, travelling some 5,000 kilometres one way to southern parts of Canada, then in the fall begins the trek home. The first generation of flyers may have only reached the lower United States, where after as few as six weeks of life, they lay their eggs and die. The next generation continues the trek northward, taking as many as five generations to complete the round trip.

The mere magnitude of the distance travelled by such a unique creature in the insect world is enough to boggle the mind. For me, what is even more amazing is the Monarch Butterfly undergoes this annual migration without GPS or a roadmap!

How do they do it? From Mexico to Canada, then back again? No tour guides, road signs, no maps.

The answer is simple Dear Watson: God has placed a wonderful homing instinct in animals. For example, the robin flies south to a warmer climate for the winter, then returns in the spring to the same tree in the same backyard to build its nest. The salmon swims thousands of kilometres from the Fraser River to its feeding flats in the Pacific Ocean, then when its life cycle is about ended it returns to the same river it left, fighting its way up the falls and rocky shoals, refusing to stop until it comes to the same bend in the river where it was hatched. And there’s the Monarch Butterfly.

Is it only in animals that God has placed a homing instinct? No, anyone who has been away from home for any length of time knows what it means to be homesick. God has placed within the heart of each of us a profound homing instinct for our real home, heaven, the Kingdom of God. Nothing on earth can satisfy our longing except for God. It is a precious, divine gift, a constant reminder that the most permanent dwelling place on earth is but a body, a tent, and that we are really pilgrims on our way to our permanent home in heaven with God.

The meaning and goal of life for each of us is to respond to this homing instinct and to go home to God. We were made to live with God and nothing less will suffice.

Now that the summer is drawing to a close, and we begin a new school year, what better way to start anew than by being more attentive to our homing instinct? With each new breath, with each new day, with each new friend, let us respond evermore to God’s never-ending call to come home, to regain our true nature as God’s sons and daughters.

“ET,” call home!

Bishop David Motiuk  
Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

September, 2009



"Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead." (1 Peter 1:6 adapted)

Recently, I had the opportunity to see and hear the sheer delight expressed by a youngster who is anxiously getting ready to enter grade one this year. As we, the staff, students, and parents prepare to begin another school year together, may all of us take a piece of this simple "uplifting joy" into our school sites. I would like to welcome all families that are new to our district and to welcome back all those whom we have had the pleasure to serve in previous years. My wish for you this year is that you will be conscious of God's great love as lived out in our daily relationships with others who come into our lives.

The summer weather has provided much time for the ongoing construction and modernization occurring in many of our school sites. Following are short updates of some of the projects:

- Edmonton Catholic Schools' three new schools ( Monsignor Fee Otterson, Monsignor William Irwin and Sister Annata Brockman) continue to be under construction with school opening dates for these sites remaining for September, 2010. Presently, these three schools have their exterior work completed and construction is taking place inside in each of the sites.
- The major modernization at Archbishop MacDonald High School is well underway with the project presently on budget and on schedule. Class disruption during the 2009-10 school year will be kept to a minimum with full project completion expected by September, 2010.
- The construction is progressing on the field house at St. Francis Xavier High School with a projected date of October, 2009 to have that building completely enclosed. Occupancy and use of this new field house is scheduled for September, 2010.

Thank you to our Facilities Services staff who also worked in many schools this summer to complete upgrading projects.

I would also like to commend our custodial staff members who worked so diligently throughout the summer to clean and renew our schools, and to the other staff members who have efficiently closed off one school year and prepared the systems and environments to welcome our students for another year.


In district satisfaction survey results for 2008/09, each group - staff, parents and students – showed increases in satisfaction affirming that their school provided a good learning environment and most importantly felt that their school or site embraced faith and learning and celebrated its Catholic identity in a number of ways.

These results continue to underpin our 2009-2010 District Plan for Continuous Growth – celebrating and promoting our Catholicity in a responsive and responsible manner, and providing high levels of student learning with an emphasis on success for the First Nations, Metis and Inuit students we serve. As well, the health and safety of all students and staff continue to be a high priority as all district personnel will work closely with Alberta Health Services to strive for the highest level of compliance and provide parents with ongoing communication regarding the H1N1 virus.

Along with the Board of Trustees, I have developed the following goals to support the District Plan for Continuous Growth:

- Develop plans for greater community engagement in Catholic education
- Continue to implement strategies for high school completion with a focus on Aboriginal students, ESL students and at risk students
- Develop instructional leadership along with its dimensions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner
- Facilitate the implementation of Cycle 4 AISI projects
- Continue to foster relationships/partnerships with external organizations and institutions
- Prepare for further financial challenges in preparation of the 2010-2011 District budget.

I, along with the staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools, look forward to working with you this year as we serve each of your children with a rich, faith filled education. May God bless each of you as we journey together this year.

Sincerely,  
  
Joan Carr  
Superintendent

