



Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

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Administrators' Message

December Newsletter 2011

Few times during the year are more sacred for a family than Christmas. Along with the Advent season, Christmas time is rich in traditions which, despite commercialism, still stir our hearts and imagination. The Christmas tree, the manger scene, the music and carols, the lights shining in the winter darkness joyfully proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ and call us to come and adore him.

Advent Season is already upon us! This is a time of anticipation for both young and old alike. It is a time of gathering and rekindling old friendships and starting new ones! Our Lady of Mount Carmel School celebrated the start of advent during our Advent Celebration on Tuesday November 29th during our school wide celebration. We will also be celebrating Advent in each classroom throughout the season with small gathering celebrations in each classroom each week.

Our school is abuzz with excitement as we prepare for our school Christmas Concert! This will include all of our students from kindergarten to grade six along with the band students in Junior High! We look forward to seeing and hearing the sights and sounds of Christmas come alive in our gymnasium on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome for this joyous celebration!

As well, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and students that came out to our Demonstration of Learning and Parent-Teacher Interviews. This is truly representative of the fact that it does take a community to raise a child. Your commitment to your child's education was certainly clear and we appreciate your involvement and input in your child's education.

The January newsletter will go home after the Christmas Break.

Finally, on behalf of the staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I want to wish all the families and students of Our Lady of Mount Carmel a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes of health in good fortune in the upcoming New Year!

Best Wishes and God Bless!

Mr. Michael Kovacs, Principal

Mrs. Theresa Lema, Assistant Principal



School Council News

The December SAC meeting will be on Wednesday, **December 7th at 6 PM in the library**. There will not be an SAC meeting in January. Everyone is welcome to attend. This meeting is usually a short one and a social will follow so drop by to share some Christmas cheer! The following meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**.

The SAC would like to thank the many volunteers who were able to come out on November 3rd and 4th to work the Casino in support of our school.

Their support for this fundraising cause will enable many projects at the school including the purchase of netbooks and iPads, installation of wireless in the school, school wide performances, the music program, library and many other activities in the school.

Our most heartfelt thanks go out to:

Sue Despina, Dawn Mitchell, May Janzen, Peter Lema, Melanie Grant, James Worums, Shawn Mitchell, Darla Finley, Hugh Ehm, Kari Waddingham, Theresa Lema, Dale Voaklander, Matthew Kinnish, Cynthia Zutter Kinash, Amanda Woodward, Erin Blazey, Paula Riehl Tonn, Shawna Wilson, Brendan Fitzgerald, Paul Grandmaison, Cliff Hanson, Brian Lema, Richard Kuna, Patti Brown, John Mervyn, Laura Klassen Russel, Jade Quin, Darcy Perterson, Nicci Reves, Dale Voaklander, Rachelle Panchyshyn, Sigrid Olsen

A special thank you goes out to our casino chairperson **Sigrid Olsen**. Putting to getting and organizing such a big event requires a lot of time and energy and we are grateful for Sigrid's time and devotion to the benefit of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel school community.

Thank you also to all parents who participated in our SUTP, magazine sales and the Front Row Raffle. All proceeds will go to supporting activities we support within the school. Leadership students will be selling Christmas Basket Raffle tickets at lunch until Tuesday, December 13. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. They will also be sold before the Christmas Concert.

On behalf of the School Advisory Council ~ We would like to recognize the following businesses & families for their generous gift basket donations:

MTC Hockey and Soccer Academies, Holt Renfrew, Woodhaven Renovations, Panchyshyn family

Proceeds from raffle ticket sales will be used to sponsor school wide activities and projects for the students of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Thank you to **Rachelle Panchyshyn** for the coordination of the Christmas Basket Raffle donations and Front Row Raffle.

The CCRP magazine fundraiser continues into December. Magazine fundraising catalogues went home with your children in November. Extra catalogues are available in the school office. Magazine subscriptions make great Christmas gifts & it's easy to order online! Thanks to Debbie Buterman for organizing!

Thank you for your support on all of these events!

MTC Classic



The Hockey Academy is extremely proud to present its 8th annual Mount Carmel Classic! Students will be playing against each other instead of the motley crew of high flying teachers! The game will take place Thursday, December 22nd at Southside Arena (10525-72 AVE) at 9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and will involve the entire Mount Carmel community.



Used hockey equipment donations will be accepted at the game and all proceeds will be donated to Sport Central. A food collection bin will be on hand to accept donations for the Edmonton Food bank. There will be a concession available at the game.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Christmas Concert

Our students in Kindergarten through Grade Six, our Junior High Band and Performing Arts Academy students are diligently working in their classes to prepare for Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Christmas Concert. This year each class will be presenting a musical number or play. The concert will be on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 PM in the gym. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Elementary students need to be in their classrooms by 6:30 PM and band students need to meet in the library at 6:30 PM.



Junior High Honors

Congratulations to our many students for receiving an honors standing for term one for the 2011/2012 school year. The criteria for achieving honorable mention, honors and honors with distinction are as follows:

HONORS:

Students must have a minimum overall average of 80% in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science and a minimum mark of 65% in all other subjects.

HONORS WITH DISTINCTION:

The Honors with Distinction Award recipients must have a minimum overall average of 90% in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science and a minimum mark of 65% in all other subjects.

In keeping with the district philosophy, the school is using a cumulative marking system. Students who achieve these levels on the third/last reporting period will be honoured at our awards reception in June 2012.

We are proud of all our students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. They are leaders with a fine tradition of both academic and social excellence!

Inclement Weather

We are entering the cold season and we encourage students to dress appropriately for the weather. Students go outside at recess and lunchtime unless the weather is inclement. Components of inclement weather are: continuous rain, extreme wind, extreme cold (combination of temperature and wind-chill factor, **-20 degrees Celsius**).

Students stay inside during inclement weather. We are in contact with the weather bureau and we also follow a weather chart that gives us the necessary information. Rest assured that we would not allow the little ones to freeze. We also rely on students to follow good judgment when it comes to freezing temperatures. When students arrive early at school, students may use their respective entrances when severe conditions arise.

Dismissal Changes

It is hard to believe that Christmas holidays are so close already! On **Thursday, December 22nd** students will be dismissed at **3:17 p.m.** On **Friday, December 23rd** we will dismiss at **12:17 p.m.** Classes will resume on **Monday, January 9, 2012.**

Book Fair

Thank you for the overwhelming support for a successful book fair. Because of your generous support the school will get over \$2000.00 worth of Scholastic books for our school library.

Thank you to the following volunteers who donated their time to help organize and work the book fair: Cathy Ehm, Rachelle Panchyshyn, Melanie Grant, Tami Horn, Amanda Woodward, Norma Kasowski, Sue Wasson, Kendyl Wiberg, Sabine Harb. Without your support it would not have been so successful!

The Children's Stollery Hospital Foundation

Our Lady's of Mount Carmel's Partnership with The Children's Stollery Hospital Foundation

We want to thank everyone who supported our fundraising lunch in November, we are well on our way! So far our school has raised over \$100.00!

This month's menu:

Junior High Lunch.....Tues. Dec. 6. Meat lasagna with salad.....\$5.00

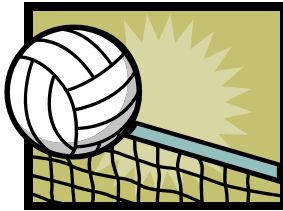
Elementary Healthy Snack..... Fri. Dec. 9. Milk & pocket pita with cheese.....\$2.50

Elementary snacks must be ordered and prepaid....watch for the order form! Junior high students must purchase a Stollery ticket at the canteen then proceed to the lunch table. Last year we sold out quickly so don't delay!

MTC Sports



MTC TIGERS



Volleyball

Congratulations to the Sr. Boys, Sr. Girls, Jr. Girls and Jr. Boys Volleyball Teams on a great regular season. This year we had four teams competing which gave a large number of our students the opportunity to play team sports and represent their school this year. The girls team has a recorded of 5-0 and the boys are 2-4 at this time. Playoffs

start Dec 1 for both senior teams. The senior teams also played in the O'Leary, St. FX and Holy Trinity Tournament this year.

Good luck to the Jr. Girls and Boys teams who will play in their last of 3 tournaments at Holy Family Dec 2 and 3rd.

Senior Girls Volleyball: Coach Mr. Beck

Victoria G, Shelby C, Cassidy D, Gaby R, Anna Maria C, Victoria R, Sacha R, Annabella C, Winta G, Elizabeth P, Mariana C

Senior Boys Volleyball: Coach Miss McEwen, Mrs. Murphy

Nick C, Scott P, Chris S, John S, Jayden T, Taylin L, Luke C, Tyrell C, James K, Pieter B

Junior Girls Volleyball: Coach Mrs. Pinto, Miss. Connor, Mrs. Murphy

Sophia Gregory, Brittany Kopra, Elizabeth Lema, Reilly Panchyshyn, Kallie King, Jillian Capulong, Maya Escobar, Vanessa Torres, Jennifer Johnson, Mary Jagt

Junior Boys Volleyball: Coach Mrs. Fraser

Alex S, Blake W, Casey C, Curtis P, Daniel A, Darell B, Dylan N, Josh E, Mackenzie M, Quinn S, Ryan F, Scott D

Basketball

Basketball tryouts for junior high students for both junior and senior teams will be starting soon. Watch for posters and listen to the announcements for more details.

Hockey and Soccer Academy

Soccer: The academy would like to congratulate the following student athletes for achieving "**Athlete of the Month**" for November. They have earned it through their hard work, focus and excellent participation.

Khaya - Grade 4

Pieter - Grade 7

Mick - Grade 8

Curtis - Grade 8

The junior high soccer academy will be participating in the 2nd annual St. Thomas More **Soccer Tournament** being held at the West End Soccer Center on **December 16th and 17th**. There will be five academies from Edmonton and surrounding areas participating. We are very excited for our student athletes to have the opportunity to compete and have fun with these academies.

Hockey: The academy would like to congratulate the following student athletes for achieving "**Athlete of the Month**" for November. They have earned it through their hard work, focus and excellent participation.

Elementary "Thunder": *William Zapernick* (Grade 6), Junior High "Silvertips": *Carter Brown* (Grade 8)

Spirit Team Christmas Activities



Food Drive at MTC Classic December 22nd

The Christmas season is upon us and in the time of giving and sharing. There are some families that need some help so let's try and collect non-perishable food items so they have a merry Christmas season. Our student teachers are organizing this event with the assistance of the Spirit Team as part of a Christmas Classroom Competition. Each item you bring will increase your class' chance for a pizza party!



Candy-Grams from December 12th-16th!

The Spirit Team will be selling candy grams at lunch beside the gym from 12:20 pm to 12:40 pm. Send one to a special friend or staff member and spread the Christmas spirit! The prices will range from 25¢ to \$5.00.



Gingerbread House Judging on Tuesday, December 20th!

Each class will receive a gingerbread house at the beginning of December that they will decorate together. The houses will be brought down to the library for display and will be judged on December 20th.



Classroom Decorating Challenge on Wednesday, December 21st!

According to fire regulations we are no longer allowed to decorate our doors but we won't let that stop us from decorating our classrooms! Let's get in the spirit and bring Christmas into the classroom.

Crazy Christmas Hat Day on Thursday, December 22nd!

Christmas is just around the corner and we need to show our Mt. Carmel Spirit by wearing our crazy Christmas hats, reindeer antlers, and elf ears. The class with the most participation will be awarded points towards winning the Christmas Classroom Competition.



Movie Morning on Friday, December 23rd!

Enjoy a movie and a snack with our family at Mt. Carmel before we let out for Christmas holidays.

Visitors to the School/Parent Pick up

For the safety of all students in the school ... We are asking that all parents picking up their child/ren from school to please come to the office to sign out your child/ren. All visitors to the school must sign in at the office prior to entering the school.

Kindergarten Registration

We will begin accepting applications for our Early Childhood Program in the New Year. This program is offered to children who will be five years of age on or before March 1, 2013. If you have any relatives or friends who have children in this age group, please make them aware of our early childhood program. On registration, we require a copy of the birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization record and Alberta Health Care Number. Registration forms may be picked up from the office during the month of January. Once your registration document is in, with a copy of the birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization record, and health care number, arrangements can be made for you to come in with your child to meet Mr. Kovacs the Principal, and tour the school.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel follows the District Policy by giving priority to resident families in terms of acceptance into the school. While enrollment priority is given to Catholic residence students, the selection of non residence students is the responsibility of the school. Catholicity, catchment area residency, gender balance and assessed needs of students are all used to make class placements. District guidelines for Kindergarten classes are a minimum of 14 students and a maximum of 20 students. Registration into the kindergarten program does not guarantee acceptance into the regular Grade 1 program although every attempt will be made to ensure students continue on providing space is available. Should you have questions about registration, please call the office.

Professional Development

Thursday afternoons are providing us with large blocks of time for the purpose of going into greater depth in a wide variety of curriculum areas. Throughout September, October, and November we have focused on the following:

- ✓ In-depth analysis of our Provincial Achievement Exam and District Exam results. Staff analyzed each question and examined strengths of our programs as well as identified areas for growth. Even though our results went up in every area, we still have areas to develop.
- ✓ Development of school goals for growth this year. Staff established goals to improve student performance. Our learning teams meet on monthly basis to develop common programs and strategies to reach our learning goals.
- ✓ Our School Growth Plan has been completed with Four SMART Goals we will be working on over the next three years. The areas we will focus on are aligned to the district goals. The goals are in the areas of Literacy (Leveled Literacy and writing), 21st Century Learning (Technology), Catholic Education (Safe and Caring Schools) and Personalized Learning (Adapted learning and classroom modifications.)
- ✓ A new focus area in the Edmonton Catholic School District this year is on 21st Century Learning. At one point the teacher was the sole purveyor of knowledge. We are now in an information age where we can pull knowledge from all over the place. One of the focuses of the 21st Century Learning concept is to create inquiry-based classrooms where the teacher is a facilitator that promotes critical thinking through collaborative effects. We are continually looking at strategies to improve student learning and collaborating within our learning teams to implement these strategies.

Edmonton Catholic Schools Annual Satisfaction Survey

You have an important role in your child's education. At Edmonton Catholic Schools, we believe that the parent is the primary educator of the child. Every year, Edmonton Catholic Schools surveys students, their parents, and school staff to see how satisfied they are with the quality of education provided. Your feedback is used by the schools, district, and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved. It allows everyone (parents, school staff, district staff, and students) to respond to successes and challenges together.

This year, parent satisfaction surveys will be distributed to all students in grades kindergarten to grade 9 to take home to their parents. This year's satisfaction surveys will be going home on Friday December 2. Please complete the survey and have your child return it to school, or use the prepaid Canada Post envelope and mail the completed survey to the school district office.

Message from the Superintendent

December, 2011

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13)

Sunday, November 27th is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church, and for English-speaking Roman Catholics, there are some changes and revisions to prayers and responses given during Mass. Thank you to Fr. Mike Mireau, District Chaplain, for his leadership in assisting our staff by providing sessions regarding these changes and to Fr. Paul Kavanagh and Jean Sault for their session on the newly approved music for liturgies.

In his Advent 2010 message, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us:

“Expectation or waiting is a dimension that flows through our whole personal, family and social existence....One could say that man is alive as long as he waits, as long as hope is alive in his heart. Every one of us, therefore, especially in this Season which prepares us for Christmas, can ask himself: What am I waiting for? What, at this moment of my life, does my heart long for?... no one would ever have imagined that the Messiah could be born of a humble girl like Mary, the betrothed of a righteous man, Joseph...Let us learn from her, the Woman of Advent, how to live our daily actions with a new spirit, with the feeling of profound expectation that only the coming of God can fulfill.”

The Board of Trustees along with District administrators is preparing to submit Edmonton Catholic Schools' final Budget for 2011-2012 to the Minister of Education for approval. It has been a challenging year, and along with the restored government funding announced in October, the needs of our students have continued to be at the forefront of our decisions. A letter detailing our restored funding allocations is included in this newsletter.

We would like to thank all students and their families for the support of various activities in your schools to support the Sign of Hope/ Kids Care Challenge fundraising campaign. Many of our students benefit directly from various services funded by the Sign of Hope.

On the afternoon of December 8, all teachers within the District will be attending sessions with their colleagues from other sites around the topic of “Permeation: Finding Grace within Curriculum.” The aim of the afternoon is to have teachers delve into the Eight Characters of Catholic Education in order to enable them to discover ways in which these traits can be intentionally permeated into the content area in which they teach.

Please check out Edmonton Catholic Schools' Annual Health & Safety Fact Sheet at:

http://www.ecsd.net/pdf/ECSH_Health_safety/ECSHS11.pdf for tips on how to keep your family healthy and safe this school year.

**May the Spirit of the Christ Child live in your hearts during this holy season,
and guide you throughout the year ahead!**

Sincerely,



Joan Carr
Superintendent



November 17, 2011

A Letter to our Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Re: Distribution of Restored Government Funding in Edmonton Catholic Schools

Following Premier Alison Redford's appointment in early October, \$107 million in Education funding was restored to school jurisdictions throughout Alberta. In the Edmonton Catholic School District, a committee was formed consisting of a number of principals representing different levels, a Trustee and senior administration to decide how our District would distribute the over \$5 million we received.

At the end of June, 2011 approximately 97 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) certificated (teaching) positions, 63 FTE support staff positions and 24 FTE custodial positions were eliminated. In September, 2011 due to an enrolment increase of 840 students, the District was able to reinstate 29 FTE teaching positions.

Here are highlights of how the restored funding of **\$5,487,591** was allocated:

- **Class Size: (\$956,156)**
Each elementary school was allocated funds to work towards achieving provincial **average** class size guidelines.
- **Support for Severe Special Needs Students: (\$1,000,000)**
Additional funding was directed to schools as support for severe special needs inclusive students in order to better meet identified needs.
- **English Language Learners: (\$488,700)**
A total of 100% of the restored funds allocated by Alberta Education for English Language Learners (ELL) were directed to the schools.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ward 76

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Ward 77

Joan Carr
Superintendent

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- **AISI and Classroom and Community Supports funding: (\$3,042,735)**
The Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) funding, and Classroom and Community Supports funding was allocated to all schools to be used to support learning teams. The intention was to directly support students. Schools may have chosen to increase the time allotted for their learning coach, graduation coach, special needs teacher assistant, social worker or other staff that will directly support student learning.

The table below shows the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions restored as of November 4th, 2011 from funding allocated in all areas:

Additional Staff	
Learning Coach	7.42 FTE
Graduation Coach	.3 FTE
Social Worker	.2 FTE
*Classroom Teacher	32.3 FTE
Special Needs Teacher Assistant	25.4 FTE
**Other	3.84 FTE
Total – Additional Staff	69.46 FTE

*Classroom teacher numbers have been restored to 2010-2011 staffing levels.

** (Other - Counselor, ELL Teacher, Guided Reading Teacher, Literacy Teacher)

Goal #1 in Edmonton Catholic Schools' District Plan for Continuous Growth 2011-2014 is "Success for every student." Therefore, after consultation with our principals, we are pleased to share how these restored funds support this goal in every school across our District.

Sincerely,

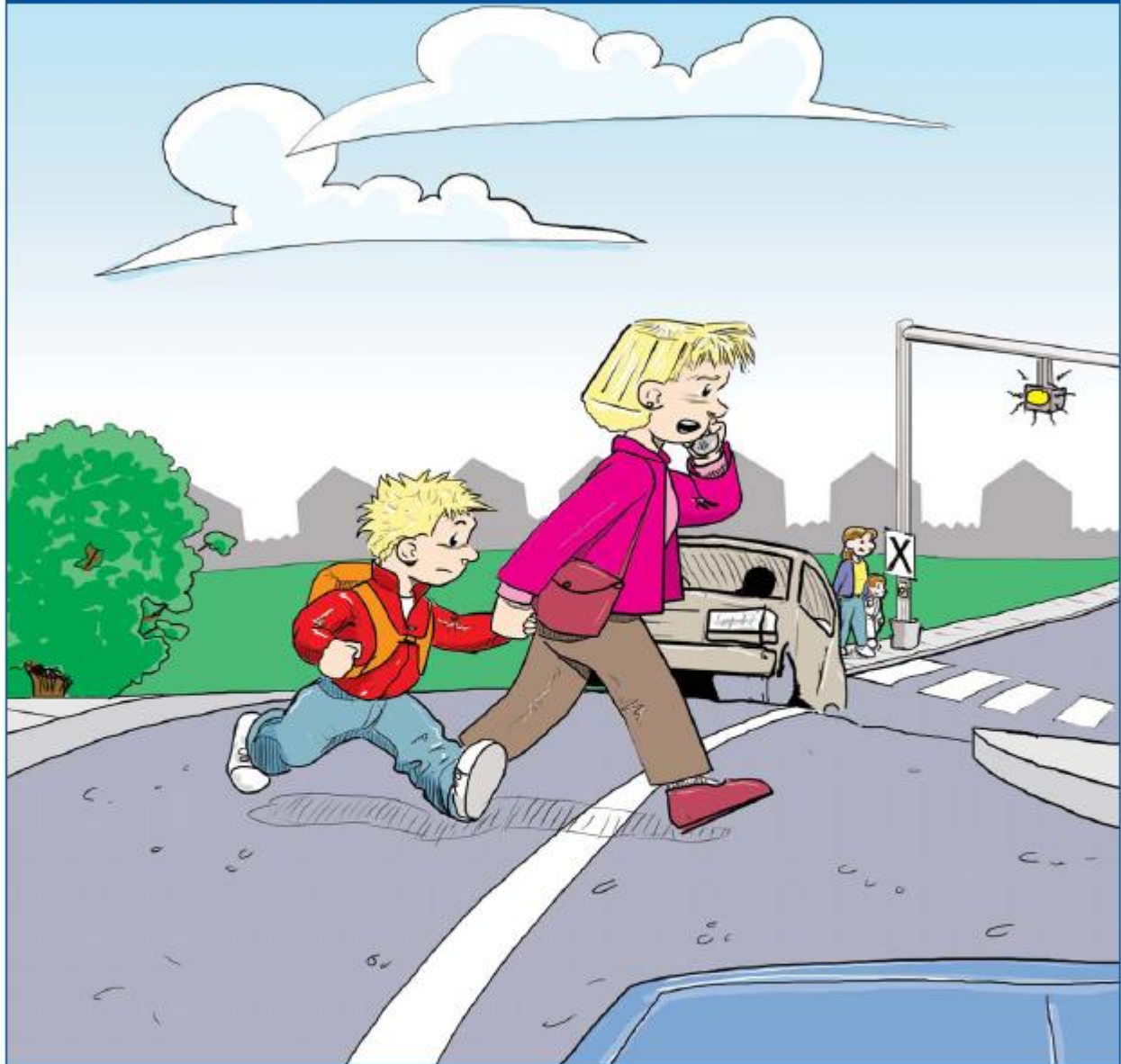


Debbie Engel
Board Chair



Joan Carr
Superintendent

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



Are you setting a good example?

Jaywalking is dangerous. Always use the crosswalk.

Be part of the solution.

Let's work together to keep all children safe.

AMA SCHOOL
SAFETY PATROL



www.ama.ab.ca/SchoolPatrol

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	28	29	30	1 <i>Food Drive Dec 1 - 14</i>	2	3
4 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	5 <i>Skating Lessons k-3</i>	6 <i>Stollery Lunch for Jr. High</i>	7 <i>SAC Meeting 6:00 Library Gr. 9's to visit L.S. L. in the p.m.</i>	8	9 <i>Stollery snack for Elementary</i>	10
11 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	12 <i>Candy Gram Sales Start Dental Screening K – Gr. 2 Christmas Play for K-Gr.1@ 12:30 p.m.</i>	13 <i>Gr. 5 & 9 Immunization Dental Screening K – Gr. 2</i>	14 <i>Christmas Play for K- Gr.2-3 @ 2:30 a.m.</i>	15 <i>Christmas Concert 7PM</i>	16	17
18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	19	20 <i>Gingerbread House Decorating Day</i>	21 <i>Classroom Decorating Day</i>	22 <i>MTC Classic 9:15 a.m. Dismissal 3:05 p.m.</i>	23 <i>Movie Morning Dismissal 12:17pm</i>	24 <i>Christmas Vacation Begins Christmas Eve</i>
25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26/3	27	28	29	30	1 <i>Happy New Year Classes Resume January 9, 2012</i>