



## Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

10524 76 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1L3

Phone: (780) 433-1062 Fax: (780) 439.0105

Website: [www.ourladyofmountcarmel.ecsd.net](http://www.ourladyofmountcarmel.ecsd.net)

## Administrators' Message

## February 2012

Dear Parents,

February always brings an abundance of opportunities for us to express our love and appreciation for each other. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, our District Wide Faith Development Day gave the staff of Edmonton Catholic an opportunity to share our faith and celebrate together. On Valentine's Day we celebrate each person's giftedness. In addition, in February we celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week and Family Day.

Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 13<sup>th</sup> – February 17<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to raise the "kindness consciousness" by reminding people that each of us has the power to make our world a better place by reaching into our hearts each day and demonstrating simple acts of kindness to one another.

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel **Open House will be held on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 PM.** We are very happy to answer any of your questions about attending Mount Carmel and you will be able to get information on one of our many Academies offered at the school.

**Our Family Dance will be Friday, February 10th at 6:30 pm. Please bring a snack to share.**

Interim Junior High Reports: please check powerschool at <https://powerschool.ecsd.net> for your child's marks to date (interim). Each teacher has an email link if you have any concerns or questions about your son or daughter's marks. If you would prefer a hard copy please email the subject specific teacher and he/she will send one home with your child.....

To be a 21<sup>st</sup> century school, we are interested in environmental issues. As a result, we will no longer send a full newsletter. Students will receive a 1 page newsletter/calendar. For a complete newsletter please visit our website at: <http://ourladyofmountcarmel.ecsd.net/newsletter.htm>. We will also be posting the newsletter to Parent Connect <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>. Please log on to view our newsletter

Mr. Michael Kovacs Principal

Ms. Theresa Lema Assistant Principal



## Kindergarten Registration

We are now accepting kindergarten registrations for the 2012-2013 school year. If you are interested in our **full day program** for next September, please call the office at 780-433-1062. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before March 1, 2013 to register. Word of mouth is our best advertising for new registrations so if you know of families who have kindergarten-aged children please share the news.

## IS THE INFORMATION WE HAVE UP TO DATE ...?



In case of emergency, it is imperative that the school has up-to-date and accurate information on file. If you have recently moved or changed jobs, if you have a new cell phone number please stop by our office, call us at 780-433-1062 or send a note with your child.



## Jr. High Interim Reports on Powerschool

During the week of February 6-10 Jr. High Core subject teachers will have updated marks on the Powerschool website. Please contact the office if you do not have internet access we can send home a hard copy of your marks. Please check Powerschool for updated marks at <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>

## Family Day

We remind you that all schools will be closed on Family Day, Monday, **February 21**, as we all take time to enjoy and celebrate our families. There are many free community events that have been planned throughout the city.



## Stollery Fundraiser

This month we are selling baked goods at the canteen. Baking will range from cinnamon buns, cookies, muffins and squares. All baking will be geared towards healthy options such as whole wheat, low sodium and low saturated fats. All grades are welcome to purchase items. Items will cost \$1.00 to \$2.00. Thanks for all your participation!



## MTC Tigers Basketball

Congratulations to all the players who made the Senior and Junior Basketball teams this year at OLMC. The Senior boys had their first home game on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Senior girls first home game will be Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The senior teams will be playing in two tournaments this year:

- 1) St. FX (January 12 and 13)-Congratulations to our two Tournament All Stars: Victoria G and Stewart S.
- 2) LSL (February 10 and 11)

The Junior team will also be participating in several exhibition games throughout January, February and March.

Sr. Girls Basketball Team: Victoria G, Cassidy D, Gaby R, Winta G, Courtnee R, Brandis G, Brittany K, Kailee K, Sophia G, Mary J, Jenny J  
Coach: Mr. Bill McKenna

Sr. Boys Basketball Team: Andrew S, Chris SH, Duncan M, Jared S, Jayden TK, Jordan P, Jose M, Nick C, Scott D, Scott P, Stuart S  
Coach: Mrs. Lindsay Fraser

Jr. Boys Basketball: Adam H, Asher F, Brandon S, Daniel A, Darrell B, Dylan N, Gabe J, James K, Mackenzie M, Pieter B, Tommy O, Tyler P Coach: Mrs. Lindsay Fraser  
GOOD LUCK TO OUR TEAMS IN THE 2011-2012 BASKETBALL SEASON!

## Soccer and Hockey Academy Players of the Month

January has been a fantastic month for the soccer and hockey academies. We would like to congratulate our student athletes of the month for January:

**Soccer:** Calum -grade5, Jesse - grade 6., Skylor - grade 8, Cooper - grade 8, Courtnee -grade 9

**Hockey:** Junior High: Tyler Benson, Elementary: Ryley Cardinal

All the hockey, soccer, recreation and performing arts students will be attending the "Hockey Hooky Oil Kings Game" for all Academies on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Fine Arts Cafe

We invite parents to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Fine Arts Café and silent auction on Tuesday, **February 14** at 7:00 pm. This is an evening of art and music in a casual 'Coffee House' setting. Come and enjoy. All proceeds from the silent auction will go to support our fine arts programs.

### Silent Auction Items Needed!

During the Fine Arts Café Night at Mount Carmel a Silent Auction is run to help raise funds to support students that may not be able to afford to attend band camp. Anyone wishing to make a donation can contact the school office or Mr. Chapman. Items could include, but not limited to: jewelry, tickets, CDs, gift baskets, store discount or gift cards, passes to sporting events, etc. use your imagination AND use your business connections. The quality of our auction will help our Fine Arts Programs though out the school. Last year three students who could not afford to go to band camp were able to because of our silent auction. You can show your support for the fine arts by: donating to the auction, attending the Fine Arts Night, and bidding on your favorite items.

## Open House

**February 15, 2012** is when we host our open house at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This is an opportunity for us to showcase the wonderful talents of our students and staff. Word of mouth is the best advertising that we have, so tell your extended families, friends and neighbors to come out and discover what Mount Carmel has to offer. The grade nine band plus alumni will be performing at the commencement of the Open House. This should show the Junior High band music at its finest. All the academies will also have students at the school highlighting the types of activities that they do during a typical day when registered in an academy at the school.



## Attendance

We have started using the Synrevoice phone system to confirm attendance for students in grades 4 - 9. You may receive a phone message and/or an e-mail regarding your child's attendance. **Please ensure you call the office to let us know if your child is away from school.**

## Teachers' Convention

The Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention will be held on Thursday, March 1 and Friday, March 2. Our teacher assistant conference is also held on Thursday, March 1. All schools will be closed these two days to facilitate our teachers' participation in this professional development activity, featuring guest speakers from across North America.



## Spirit Team News

### Valentine's Candy-Grams from February 6-10!

The Spirit Team will be selling candy grams at lunch beside the gym from 12:20-12:45 pm. Send one to a special friend or staff member to let them know how much you care! The prices will range from 25¢ to \$5.00.



### Valentine's Day Dance on Monday, February 13th!

The Spirit Team will be hosting a dance for the junior high students from 1:05-3:00 pm. There will be a full sound system, light show, prize giveaways and an extensive music library to fill requests. The Spirit Team members will be water at the dance.



### Extreme Pita Healthy Lunch on Friday, February 17!

The Spirit Team will be putting on an Extreme Pita healthy lunch. Watch your child's agenda for order forms.



## Jr. High Interim Reports/Powerschool

Junior high student and their parents are able to track their marks at any time using the Powerschool web based program. During the week of February 6-10 Jr. High Core subject teachers will have their subject marks updated. If you do not have internet access the school can provide you with a hard copy. Please contact the school office if you require a paper copy.

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel Family Dance



**Mount Carmel and the SAC invite YOU to our  
10th Annual Family/Valentine Dance**  
(dress in red, white or pink )

**Friday February 10<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 – 9:00 pm**

**In the school gym**

**FREE Admission & Face Painting**

**Bring a snack to share**

**If you are available to volunteer for the Family Dance, please  
contact the school (433-1062)**

**(Food Bank Donations will be gratefully accepted)**

**See You There!**

## Be an Educational Assistant!

Join Edmonton Catholic School District

*Make a difference by assisting children to reach their potential*

***Edmonton Catholic Schools is hiring Educational Assistants for our Substitute Roster***

☐ ***Enjoy working with students & staff***

☐ ***Flexible hours***

☐ ***Choice of schools***

Submit your application on-line at: [www.applytoeducation.com](http://www.applytoeducation.com)

## FNMI Activities

FNMI students are invited to attend "Lunch and a Movie" every Wednesday in Room 110 with Amanda Woodward.



The Braided Journeys Program continues through the month of February. Students have the opportunity to have fun, strengthen their identity and participate in cultural activities. The program runs from 12:20pm - 2:20pm on Thursday afternoons in Room 110. Some of the upcoming activities include symbolism & mini tipis, dream catchers & Mandela. For more information about this program, please contact Amanda Woodward at [Amanda.Woodward@ecsd.net](mailto:Amanda.Woodward@ecsd.net) or 780-477-2133 Ext. 325.

## St. James Boys Academy

Edmonton Catholic Schools will be holding an information night for students and parents interested in attending a boy's only programming on February 23, 2012 at 7:00pm. The school is located at 7814-83 St. Contact the school for more information @ 780-466-1247.

## High School Registration News

ON BEHALF OF THE  
**LOUIS ST. LAURENT**  
SCHOOL COMMUNITY WE INVITE YOU TO  
ATTEND TWO EVENING PROGRAMS:

Focus Program information session on February 13th. at 7:00 PM where we will provide you with information about our IB, Hockey Academy, Fine Arts Focus and New High School Intensive Dance Program.

Open House on February 28th at 7:00 PM. This year's theme is **iLouis**. This is an evening where we showcase the many programs and courses offered at LSL. Both evenings are designed to provide you with an opportunity to see first hand why Louis St. Laurent should be your school of choice.

## **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 our 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 kindergarten to grade 9 to take home to their parents. For parents of students currently in grades 10-12, parent surveys will be mailed directly to your home. 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.

## **Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Survey**

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with this school.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success. Your participation in the survey helps, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to jurisdictions in May 2012, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

# Superintendants Message

**February 2012**

**“For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works...” (Ephesians 2: 8-9)**

The Board of Trustees and all Edmonton Catholic School District staff will participate in our annual Faith Development Day on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at the Shaw Conference Centre. The formation and education of children, regardless of one's role, is a tremendous vocation and responsibility. Catholic schools are involved in the teaching mission of the Church and as such, Faith Development Day provides our staff with an opportunity to become more informed as a faith-filled people. We will begin our day with a Eucharistic Liturgy, followed by an opportunity to hear guest presenter, David Wells, a noted religious educator, offer his insights into how we can continue to learn about our faith. There will be no school for any students on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and all school sites and facilities are closed for the day.

Beginning in the month of February, many schools host their Open Houses. Parents wishing to enroll their children in Early Learning programs as well as those students who are transitioning into other schools for junior high or high school programming need to be aware of the various opportunities to 'check out' our schools. Please refer to the ECSD calendar that you received at the beginning of the year, access our 2012 Guide to Schools <http://ecsd.net/pdf/Guide2Schools-11.pdf> or note the following open house times listed at [http://ecsd.net/parents/open\\_house.html](http://ecsd.net/parents/open_house.html) to make informed choices regarding your child's education.

Thank you to all students, parents and school communities who supported the 2011 Sign of Hope Campaign either through personal donations or by supporting one of the many activities taking place at their children's schools. Nearly 60 of our school/sites/departments participated in the Kids' Care Challenge portion of the Campaign netting over \$57,000, while employee contributions added approximately another \$41,450. It is so gratifying to receive this kind of support for the Sign of Hope as many of our families throughout the District benefit from the over 130 services offered by Catholic Social Services.

It is anticipated that news regarding our District allocation of budget dollars should be received sometime this month. Thank you to our parents who provided us feedback via our website. Along with school principals, District administrators have already begun the work of identifying priorities within the District to best meet the needs of our students.

Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk has rolled out 10 new initiatives for consideration in the months ahead: some are trial projects, some may become longer term practices while others will require formal policy consideration by government. Proposed initiatives include: examining full-day kindergarten, reviewing the Provincial Achievement Test program, working with communities to update school design specifications and playgrounds and creating more opportunities for students to earn credits in high school and post-secondary at the same time. More information is available at: <http://alberta.ca/NewsFrame.cfm?ReleaseID=/acn/201201/31784C87E013F-07B2-09FF-E745E76F1B9DFC1F.html>

Monday, February 20 is Family Day – a holiday throughout Alberta and no school for students. Wednesday, February 22 is Ash Wednesday and the first day of the Lenten season. Please check your child's school newsletter for special celebrations or activities to mark this day.

**“Grace must find expression in life, otherwise it is not grace.” Karl Barth**

Sincerely,



Joan Carr  
Superintendent

## Bishop Motiuk Message

### Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: “Festival of Lights”

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is celebrated among Eastern Christians on February 2. This same feast is known in the West as the Purification of the Mother of God or Candlemas. It is celebrated forty days after the birth of Jesus and brings to a close the Christmas-Theophany (Epiphany) season.

As I child, this feast was among my favourites as at the end of the Divine Liturgy each parishioner – including me! – was presented with their very own candle to take home and light before an icon in prayer. Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem on the fortieth day after his birth:

“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons’” (Luke 2: 22-24).

The Christ child was met by an elderly man named Simeon: “Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word: for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people in Israel’” (Luke 2: 28:32).

This meeting is significant. It tells us that the Old is over and the New has begun. The two Covenants have now met: Israel’s glory has dawned in the person of Christ, who is a “light of revelation to the Gentiles.” Christ’s birth has brought about for the whole world a new creation.

The symbol of light in Simeon’s prayer – which found its way into our daily vespers or evening prayer – is a constant reminder that Christ is the “Light of the World.” Christ has come to enlighten and guide us as Christians on our earthly path towards eternal salvation: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8: 12).

As a constant reminder of Christ’s light enlightening our way, even today the fourth century custom continues of having two lighted candles, one on each side of the Gospel when it is proclaimed during liturgical services. Saint Jerome (fourth century) explains: “In all the churches of the East, whenever the Gospel is to be read, candles are lighted although the sun is already shining. Of course, it is not done to dispel the darkness but to express our joy... Under the material light that Light is represented of which the psalmist speaks: ‘Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path’” (*Against Vigilantius*, 7).

Whether candles are held at the reading of the Gospel or placed in front of icons at prayer time, they – and the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – help to remind us of our own personal encounter with Christ the True Light and that our hearts and lives are to burn with the love of God.

Bishop David Motiuk  
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton

## Faith Development Day 2012

On Tuesday, January 31, 2012 all staff members were involved in a district-wide Faith Development Day at the Shaw Conference Centre.

Joan Carr, our Superintendent, calls Faith Development Day, "an outstanding opportunity for the staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools to come together to articulate and celebrate our faith."

This year, our theme is: *Life of Grace: Awaken our senses, stir our hearts.* We were pleased to welcome David Wells as our guest speaker this year.

Catholic education is an awesome vocation and responsibility. By being involved in the education mission of the church, Catholic schools provide a hopeful response to the great mysteries of life in an increasingly complex world. Faith Development Day provides us, as a community of faith, with the opportunity to become more deeply aware of the faith foundation of our lives and to find inspiration to enter into our life's work with deeper conviction.

I am confident that you will agree that such a day is critical to realizing our mission: *"to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully to serve God in one another."* (ECS Mission Statement)

## Trustee Message

*A Message to Parents and Guardians in Ward 75*

*From Trustee John Acheson*

*January 2012*

We are now well underway with the second half of the school year and I wish all members of the school community great success and happiness in 2012! I trust the great Christian celebration of the Nativity was one that brought families a renewed sense of their Christian heritage.

As we proceed with the school year I can share with you:

- a) that discussions are under way among the Province, Teachers' Association, and Trustees' Association to settle a "longer term" collective agreement that would prevent any major labour distractions from affecting the classroom;
- b) that, in the view of this trustee, the most complex challenge facing Catholic education is how best to share the very good and hope-filled news of the gospel with the students and parents of the District;
- c) that the students of the District continue to do well academically and this as measured by provincial examinations;
- d) that at the time of this writing the Province has not announced its funding formula for the coming year. However, given the Provincial deficit and other political realities, I am not expecting that education will receive a significant increase.

It is noted that one of the correlates of effective schools is the existence of a positive working relationship between the home and the school. There is no doubt in my mind that your children are being better served because of the willingness of you, the parents and staff, to work cooperatively for the well-being of the children in the school – I congratulate all in the school community for the existence of such good working relationships and the positive ethos that results from it!

I continue to invite you as individuals and as School Councils to be in contact with me regarding matters involving the District (including budgetary matters) and how these might best be addressed.

Sincerely,

*John Acheson*

Phone: 780 434-5754 Residential

780 691 4814 Cell

★ Dr. Wiener's Float Stand

★ Grade 6

★ Feb. 6-10th

★ Hot Dogs and Floats

★ Junior Achievement of Canada

★ Business Basics Program

★ All profits support our Lenten

★ "Pack-a-Backpack" for Y.E.S (Youth  
★ Emergency Shelter) Social Justice

★ Mission.



I'm a  
Float!



Hi!!



# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> SAC Meeting 7 PM	<i>2</i> Braided Journeys	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Candy Grams on sale this week	<i>7</i> Hockey Hooky Gr. 6 to Yardbird Suite Immunization gr. 5 & 9	<i>8</i> Grade 6 feeder school visits in pm Gr. 9's to LSL in am	<i>9</i> Braided Journeys	<i>10</i> Family Dance 6:30 pm  P. Arts Glee Performance at Citadel	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> Random Acts of Kindness Week	<i>13</i> J. H. Valentines Dance pm	<i>14</i> St. Valentine's Day Fine Arts Café 7 pm	<i>15</i> Open House 7pm	<i>16</i> Braided Journeys	<i>17</i> Extreme Pita Hot Lunch	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Family Day (no classes)	<i>21</i> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast	<i>22</i> Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Anthony	<i>23</i> Braided Journeys	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> F.C. Edmonton Soccer visits school	<i>29</i> <i>Jasper/Rabbit Hill Ski Trip</i> <i>Kinder's to Royal Alberta Museum</i>	<i>1</i> Teachers Convention	<i>2</i> Teachers Convention	<i>3</i>

