



# Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

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## Administrators' Message

## January Newsletter 2012

*At Christmas we contemplate God made man, divine glory hidden beneath the poverty of a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger; the Creator of the Universe reduced to the helplessness of an infant. Once we accept this paradox, we discover the Truth that sets us free and the Love that transforms our lives. On Bethlehem Night, the Redeemer becomes one of us, our companion along the precarious paths of history. Let us take the hand which he stretches out to us: It is a hand which seeks to take nothing from us, but only to give. (Pope Benedict XVI)*

Some of the most interesting sounds of the year occur during Advent and Christmas. None of the sounds we hear are more beautiful than what we have heard during the past few weeks at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The nervous sounds of anticipation before going on stage for the Christmas Concert; the whispered exchanges of surprises for teachers; and of course the joy of Jesus' birth and the celebration of Christmas. The children are the best gift the staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School could receive at Christmas. Every year they allow us to renew our faith and belief in the spirit of Christmas.

We hope that you will enjoy the Christmas break! January is going to be busy! There is basketball coming up, regular assemblies and celebrations that occur along with all the projects and learning in the classroom.

Have a "peace-filled" Christmas and a wonderful new year! See you in January.

Mr. Michael Kovacs

Principal

Mrs. Theresa Lema

Assistant Principal



## January P.D. Day-January 26, 2012

On the morning of Thursday January 26, there will be no school as the staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will have a professional development day. The staff will be working on a number of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills as we prepare for the implementation of our wireless network which should be installed and operational by the end of January. Please remember that there is no school on this day.

The school has 115 netbook computers ready to use and upon completion of the wireless network installation we will be ready to support mobile computing within our school environment. The wireless system will complement the Smart Boards that the school has installed in each classroom. This will improve the skills of our students—critical thinking, problem solving, inquiry based learning, relational skills, and information and communications literacy by:

- Establishing and supporting a research-based wireless learning environment.
- Sharing the expertise, experience and lessons learned in a wireless learning environment.
- Increasing research-based professional development through better use of online educational tools—teachers will use online tools to develop, assign, deliver and assess educational resources for their students.
- Providing staff and students with the tools and skills to personalize student learning within the required program of studies—thus making student-centered learning a reality.

Electronic lessons and resources will be inquiry-based and will improve the ability of students to learn independently and collaborate with peers to accomplish independent and team goals. Ultimately, students will move from dependent to independent/interdependent learners.

## Faith Development Day-January 31, 2012

On Tuesday, January 31st our District Wide Faith Development Day gives the staff of Edmonton Catholic an opportunity to share our faith and celebrate together. This 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)

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

Please remember that there is no school on this day.

## School Council News

Our next SAC meeting will be on February 1 at 7PM in the library. Thank you to all families who supported all of the fundraisers we hosted this past fall. The proceeds will support a variety of upcoming events. Please mark your calendar: we will be hosting the Family Dance on Friday, February 10.

## Fine Arts Café and Silent Auction

Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be celebrating our third Fine Arts Café and Silent Auction on Tuesday, February 14, Valentine's Day! We are looking for silent auction items to be donated for this event. If you can help us gather items, please send them to Mr. Chapman. Letters for donations are available from Mr. Chapman. All proceeds will go to support our fine arts program/options.

## Braided Journey Program

### Early Dismissal Thursday's at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

All First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students are invited to participate in Braided Journey Early Dismissal Program. Please contact Amanda Woodward for a form if you plan to attend.

**Email: [amanda.woodward@ecsd.net](mailto:amanda.woodward@ecsd.net)**

**Office: 780-477-2133 Ext# 325**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>• WHO</b>   | Aboriginal Students; First Nations, Métis and Inuit.   |
| <b>• WHAT</b>  | Cultural, Recreational, and Art Project Activities.  |
| <b>• WHEN</b>  | Early dismissal Thursday's January 12 - February 23.   |
| <b>• WHERE</b> | Room in school to be announced...  |
| <b>• TIME</b>  | 12:20 pm to 2:20 pm  |
| <b>▪ WHY</b>   | To have fun, strengthen identity and to encourage student success!   |
| <b>▪ HOW</b>   | Each student is responsible for getting home after the program & parent/guardian needs to make arrangements for transportation home. |

Every **Thursday** early dismissal's  
12:20 pm-2:20 pm

Jan 12	The Inuit ; mini Inuk Shuk
Jan 19	Medicine Wheel
Feb 2	Symbolism ; mini Tipi
Feb 9	Dream Catchers
Feb 16	Mandela ; framed hide
Feb 23	Dressing Up Your Spirit ; choker

## Christmas Concert

On December 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our annual Christmas Concert. The students did marvelous job acting, dancing and singing a wide variety of Christmas and religious songs. The concert showcased the talents of the Kindergarten to grade 6 classes, the junior high bands and the elementary and junior high performing arts academy students. Our K- Gr. 6 teachers, our music teacher Mr. Chapman and the performing arts academy teacher Miss D'Agostini worked hard with the students to put on a very entertaining and memorable concert.

We are so fortunate to be able to celebrate Christ's birth every year during our Christmas Concert. Thank you to all the staff and students that put in hours of work in helping to make the show a great success. We collected \$300 selling off the front row seats to help pay for lighting and backdrop rentals. Thank you to all the families who purchased tickets and Mrs. Panchyshyn for organizing the draw.

## MTC Sports



### Volleyball

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Volleyball teams on their awesome seasons! Congratulations to the Sr. Girls volleyball team on an incredible season. The girls went undefeated in their regular and playoff season and beat St. Elizabeth Seton in the city final on Tuesday, December 13th, 3 sets to 2. Special thanks goes out to their coach Mr. Matt Beck for his time and commitment to the team.



### Basketball

Thank you to all athletes who tried out for the MTC basketball teams. Congratulations to those who made a team. We have a Senior and Junior Boys team and a Senior Girls team. Good luck to our Senior teams who have their first tournament January 13th and 14th at St. FX. Their regular season will begin the week following the tournament.

## Spirit Team



**Pajama Day on Friday, January 13!**

Wear your favourite pair of pajamas to school and don't forget your teddy bear!

**Hot Lunch on Friday, January 20!**

More information will be sent out in January.



## Ski Trip

We are planning 2 ski trips this year. On Jan 13, 2012 the grade 4-9 students will be participating in a field trip to Rabbit Hill Ski Resort. The grade 7-9 students will have the option of participating in a fieldtrip to Marmot Basin Ski Resort in Jasper on February 29, 2012 or returning to Rabbit Hill for a second day of skiing. To be eligible to participate in the Jasper trip, our district policy states that the student must attend a local ski trip with the school first. Therefore, students wanting to ski in Jasper must attend the Rabbit Hill trip.

## Soccer Academy

December has been a fantastic month for the soccer academy. We engaged in many team building activities, we had a sports psychologist come to present to both the academies and our Junior High Academy had an excellent showing at the annual St. Thomas More Soccer Tournament. We would like to congratulate our student athletes of the month for December:

Cameron Gr. 6, Julian Gr. 7, Tyrell Gr. 8, Blake Gr. 9

## 2012-2013 Kindergarten Registration

We are now accepting kindergarten registrations for the 2012-2013 school year. Please note, we offer a **FULL DAY** Kindergarten Program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

If you are interested in our program for next September, please stop by our office to pick up a registration package or 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.



## Personal Electronics and Toys

Many students received very expensive electronics, telephones, and toys for Christmas. Students are very excited about them and want to bring them to school. Please be reminded that we are asking students NOT to bring them to school as the school will not be responsible for any lost or broken items. Sometime in the New Year we expect to implement a school policy where students will be able to bring educational tools such as iPads into the school for educational purposes. Until then, we ask that you continue to respect the current school policy on these devices.

## Canadian Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) – Grade 6

All students in grade six will be writing the Canadian Test of Basic Skills from January 9-20, 2012. These standardized tests are written by all grade six students in Edmonton Catholic Schools and provide measurement of growth in vocabulary, reading, writing and mathematics. They help determine the

achievement level of each student in order to adapt programming, materials and instructional procedures.

While students cannot study for these tests, ensuring a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast and being on time for school will assist children in doing their best.

## Social Justice

Thank you to all the students and parent for their support during our advent season. The many charities we supported: the Edmonton Food Bank, Sports Central, the Children's Stollery Foundation are very appreciative of your generosity.

For the month of January, we will be fundraising for the Stollery Foundation:

Junior High Lunch - Tuesday, January 24..... Chili and a Bun... \$5.00 (while quantities last)

Elementary Snack - Friday, January 27..... Muffin and Milk... \$2.50

## Visitors/Parent Pick up/Parent-Teacher Appointments

For the safety of all students in the school, all visitors to the school must sign in at the office prior to going to your child/ren's classroom. We are asking that all parents picking up their child/ren from school early to please come to the office to sign him/her out.

If you need to talk to a teacher about your child, please make an appointment with the teacher directly or you can leave your phone number with the office. It is difficult for staff to fit in a lengthy discussion prior to starting the school day. This will ensure the required time is devoted to the needs of your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Survey

Alberta Education is conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Surveys from January to the end of February 2012. Parents of students of grades 4, 7 and 10 students will receive a survey mailed to their homes directly from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online through their schools.

All surveys are anonymous and no reports will be issued if the number of respondents is fewer than six to further protect the privacy of respondents. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experiences they have had at their school. Responses for parents of students who have moved during the current school year will be attached to the school in which the student was registered on September 30, 2012.

We strongly encourage your participation as the results help us identify our school and jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses. Survey results will be available to school districts by the start of May 2012, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of the Annual Education Results Reports in the fall of 2012.

## Superintendent's Message

**JANUARY, 2012**

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” (John1:14)

In a Christmas message, Pope Benedict said: "God is not distant: He is 'Emmanuel,' God-with-us. He is no stranger: He has a face, the face of Jesus... 'Emmanuel' has come as King of justice and peace."

As we begin another new year, let us pray with Pope Benedict that all people may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect. The Pope reminds us that, “Peace will come only when all people recognize the God-given rights of each person. Only through genuine dialogue will we grow in mutual understanding that leads to harmony and peace.”

In early December, the Board of Trustees and some District staff members had the opportunity to hear Robin Sharma, a noted Canadian author, present on the topic of leadership. Sharma reiterated that leadership is about service: having a passion to serve others, and unlocking the hidden potential in each of us in order to become the ‘very best that we can be’. He also maintained that tasking risks, learning from our failures and that connecting and creating are necessary skills for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners and leaders.

As we enter into a new year, with the cooperation and support of the various levels of government, Edmonton Catholic Schools will continue to look for opportunities to continue to offer a high quality Catholic education to our students. Recently, the District entered into formal partnerships in the following areas:

- With the City of Edmonton to deliver early learning programming at various sites including recreational centres and other child care facilities
- With the City of Edmonton to build a high school completion centre connected to Clareview Recreational Centre
- With Junior Achievement to engage more business and community organizations to offer a greater number of learning opportunities to our students

Good luck to our students in our semestered high school settings who will be writing Diploma exams as we near the end of January. As well, it is time for all parents to discuss transitions with their children and to think about attending various schools' Open Houses. Look for specific dates in the District calendar or check out both school and District websites.

May Emmanuel's message of peace, hope and love renew each of you and your families in your ‘Life of Grace!’

Sincerely,



Joan Carr  
Superintendent

# Message from District Chaplin

## Message from Father Mike Mireau

### 2012 - The Second Coming is Upon Us!!

So we've all heard the tabloids, seen the movies, viewed the documentaries - it's 2012 - the end of the world!!

That's what the Mayans guessed. It's also what the National Enquirer has guessed.

So is it true? Kind of scary if it is, isn't it?

Well, our faith identifies the end of the world with something else: the Second Coming of Christ.

Well, that's not so scary. In fact, it's kind of a great thing - that Jesus is returning, to right every wrong, to turn all the evil in the world around.

Is he coming back? in 2012?

Sounds like a strange topic to be talking about, as a Chaplain for Catholic Schools. But I guarantee, the kids are asking.

AND, it just so happens that, in our Catholic Schools, second comings of Christ are something that we see all the time.

Whenever a teacher stays after school to help tutor their struggling student, Christ has returned!

When a school janitor takes extra time making sure a teacher's classroom is immaculate for the incoming students, Christ has returned!

When High School students prepare lunches in the inner city for the homeless, Christ has returned!

When a little girl helps a little boy pick up his books after tripping and spilling them all over the ground, Christ has returned.

The return of Christ is indeed upon us, and we have cause to rejoice, because Jesus is HERE, in our Edmonton Catholic Schools!!

Rev. Michael Catfish Mireau  
District Chaplain  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
(January, 2012)

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Classes Resume</i>  <i>CTBS Gr 6</i> <i>Jan 9 - 20</i>	10	11	12 <i>Braided Journeys program starts</i>	13 <i>Rabbit Hill Gr. 4-9</i>  <i>Pajama Day K-3</i> <i>St. FX bball tournament</i>	14 <i>St. FX bball tournament</i>
15	16	17	18	19 <i>Science Olympics for Gr 9</i>	20 <i>Hot Lunch</i>	21
22	23	24 <i>Music Alive Presentation K - 6, 9am</i>  <i>Stollery Jr High Hot Lunch</i>	25 <i>No Kindergarten</i>	26 <i>School P.D. Day</i> <i>No School</i>	27 <i>Stollery Elementary Snack</i>	28
29	30	<i>Jan 31</i>  <i>Faith Development Day - No School</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>  <i>SAC Meeting 7 PM</i>	2	3	4