



Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

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Administrators' Message

October Newsletter 2011

It seems like we have just started the school year yesterday, however, September has closed and month 2 has started!

At this time, we would like to extend a sincere thanks to all parents and guardians who attended our Parent Program Evening "Meet the Teacher Night"! It was wonderful to see such a large turnout and to meet many of you for the first time.

As we look forward to the month of October and the many activities and celebrations we have planned, we realize that it is also a time of Thanksgiving. It is a time of family, a time of sharing and a time of giving thanks. The staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel would like to wish our school community a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

This year Our Lady of Mount Carmel has selected as their theme the book "The Book of Awesome" by Neil Pasricha. The book shares a simple universal truth on how to live a more positive life, regardless of one's personal circumstances. The book doesn't tell us we must change the way we think and live our lives. It merely brings to life — and reminds us about — the small occasions that will likely have you saying to yourself, "yes, that is so right, why didn't I think of that...that's awesome!"

Pasricha doesn't mandate us to live a better life and change our ways. In many simple ways, he just reminds us that we already do. We just have to stop and see the great things that happen to us, our friend, our families.

We all have positive and negatives that happen to us everyone day...the question you have to ask yourself is: do we worry about the negatives or look and appreciate the positives? The book reminds us that little things are extremely important to happiness, and the book of awesome reminds of a thousand little things that will make you happier.

Inspired by The Book of Awesome, the Grade 9 Leadership class hosted the first school celebration with the theme of Awesome on September 27th. They focused on what makes OLMC an awesome school. The Leadership class is excited to play a part in making the 2011/2012 school year an awesome year. Look for your children to be engaged in a variety of activities this year that will focus on this theme. We will also look deeply into how Christ inspires us all to be witness to the awesome wonders of the world and in our faith.

Mr. Michael Kovacs Principal

Mrs. Theresa Lema Assistant Principal

Superintendent's Message: October 2011

October, 2011

“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 2011-2012 school year opening has gone very smoothly thanks to the thoughtful planning and organization of District staff and the cooperation of our students and their families. Our enrollment figure as of September 7, 2011 was higher than September 2010, and we expect that number will fluctuate throughout the month especially in the high schools as students confirm their registrations. Thank you to all for the cooperation shown in expediting the registration process for our students.

On Wednesday, October 5, we will be celebrating World Teachers' Day. This year's theme, “!nspiring students, Awaken!ng potential,” corresponds wonderfully with our District theme of “Life of Grace: awaken our senses, stir our hearts.” Each and every day, may you find time to reflect on your day in order to think about a moment of grace – a moment of blessing to celebrate with your children, other members of your family, friends and colleagues.

Read –In Week 2011 will be celebrated in our schools from October 3-7. This year's theme is: All Ages, All Stages. Please look for more information coming from your children's schools inviting you to take part in this important event. Come and share your favorite stories with our students!

Thanksgiving Day, Monday, October 10th will be a holiday for our staff and students. I would encourage all families to take advantage of the opportunities to celebrate this feast with others in their school community at the various celebrations and activities that will be offered at your children's schools. Let us pause to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us!

Late last spring Alberta Education announced to all Alberta school jurisdictions the opportunity to submit a proposal to receive additional funding in support of inclusive education as a ‘change agent’ jurisdiction or as a ‘capacity building’ jurisdiction. Edmonton Catholic Schools was successful in the ‘change agent’ category and was informed in early July that our jurisdiction would receive \$815 614.00 in additional funding to support our continuing work in inclusive education. As a District, we have also made some significant steps towards developing greater capacity for inclusion through the District initiative “Katholos – Education for Life for All”. The Katholos Steering Committee is currently considering several plans for use of the funds, and is pleased to be participating in a province-wide community of practice so that we can continue to share with others and more importantly learn from others.

We are excited to announce that on September 20th 2011, the Board of Trustees of Edmonton Catholic Schools passed a motion to enter into a partnership with The City of Edmonton to construct a new High School Completion Centre at the Clareview Recreation Centre site. This innovative partnership enables our District to provide programming for students wishing to complete their high school programs, while accessing recreational facilities, the Edmonton Public Library and other multi-cultural support areas that the City will build on that site. Edmonton Catholic School's design also includes a daycare component that will allow for extensive Early Learning Programs. We are extremely grateful to the City of Edmonton, Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure for this opportunity. Look for future updates!

May you and your families continue to be blessed and nurtured by God's grace throughout this Thanksgiving season!

Sincerely,



Joan Carr
Superintendent

Bishop Motiuk Message: October 2011

Message from Father Mike Mireau

Dear Parents,

So what's Catholic Education anyway?

Why do we have our own school board? Why do parents choose to send their kids to us? What is so special, and so important, about what we do?

The answer is a person – its Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the teacher, and Jesus is also the lesson.

The Gospel tells us that there is but one teacher; that is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the compassionate one, who challenges the students to be as they are created to be, who can relate to them all, having walked in their shoes, who sacrifices time, energy, personal needs, for the sake of those he was sent for.

It also teaches us that there is one truth; that truth is also Jesus Christ. Jesus is the message of infinite love from our Creator, who will go to any end, to heal and redeem us.

As such, our mission, in Catholic Education, is to provide an Encounter, and facilitate a relationship, between our children, and their loving Savior, who gives everything for them.

So, we aren't here just to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. We're here to guide our students into a community of love and fellowship, that we call the Body of Christ.

To be Jesus to them – that's our mission – that's what Catholic Education is.

Rev. Michael Catfish Mireau
District Chaplain
Edmonton Catholic Schools
(October, 2011)

A Message to Parents and Guardians in Ward 75

From Trustee John Acheson

September 2011

As your Trustee for Ward 75, I would like to welcome the students, parents, and staff of the Catholic schools in Ward 75 to a new school year. Notwithstanding the budgetary challenges with which our schools are faced, we can have every confidence that the children enrolled in your school still have a full opportunity to complete the mandated Alberta Program of Studies. In this they will continue the history of academic excellence that has been a hallmark of our schools as evidenced over the years on Provincial examinations. Further confidence in the quality of the program offered can be found in the fact that the academic achievement of Alberta students is the best in the English-speaking world. This was recently recognized by the Prime Minister of England in his address to the Canadian parliament.

In addition to the academic domain you will find that the students will also be given a full opportunity to develop their other God given abilities and talents to the fullest through a broad variety of teacher led co-curricular activities. Finally it is noted, in a particular way, that our gift of funded Catholic education provides you, the parents, the additional opportunity to have your children come to know and develop the spiritual dimension of their lives. We must continue to treasure and when necessary to defend this relatively unique Canadian privilege—the privilege of providing an authentic Catholic education for our children.

I wish all of you the very best for the coming year. I ask in a special way for God to bless, protect, and guide our students as they continue to grow and develop. As the year unfolds I invite the parents, directly or through your School Council, to be in contact with me to provide feedback and suggestions regarding the governance of our schools.

Sincerely,
John Acheson Ph.D.
Ward 75 Trustee

john.acheson@ecsd.net

780 434-5457

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

We thank Thee Lord with hearts filled with gratitude.
We thank You, Lord our God, for gifting us with good friends.
We are grateful for all those persons in our lives who have chosen us to be their friends for truly this is a rich and sacred trust.
By the sacrament of friendship, we share our mutual journeys with You.
Sower for All Love and Life,
In sharing, we find our happiness expanded and our sorrow lightened, and, for this blessing, we are grateful.

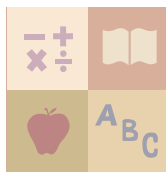
We prayerfully rejoice that your Son, Jesus has called each of us from the position of servants to the honor of being His friends.
Blessed are You, God of Unity, for entering our lives, through friendship.
Make us worthy of such a gift by being faithful but non-progressive, by being loyal and honest and by being ever grateful for the gift of good friends.
Blessed are You, Lord our God who gifts us with the joys of friendship.

Amen.



School Wide Professional Development Day

There were **no classes** on Friday, September 30, 2011 while all staff members participated in professional development. The staff was lead through activities based on the "positive playgrounds programs" a program used in many schools in Alberta. The program emphasizes different ways to promote active living, cooperative games and how to interact with peers.



Professional development for our staff is an essential component in the educational journey of the children in Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. Our Thursday early dismissal days are spent engaged in professional development activities with the staff. Staff members work in teams where they can learn from each other, seek new methods of teaching and learning, test the methods, and then reflect on the results. This year, professional development will continue to focus on growing and learning as a professional learning community, assessment, evaluation and reporting, and literacy.

During September and October, teachers are busy analyzing student data and creating learning goals for children. In setting our learning goals for this year we examine the answers to three questions: What do we expect children to learn? How will we know what students have learned? And how will we respond to students who are not learning? The answers to these questions help form the school growth plan.

Literacy and Religion Residencies

From October 4 through 7, Mount Carmel junior high students will participate in a Literacy Residency with consultants Aaron Ball & Sonia Mangieri. The focus of this residency is on 21st century skills that connect technology and literacy. Junior High teachers have identified skills that they want their students to focus on and some examples may include virtual classroom applications, Prezi presentations, smartnotebook software and video editing.

The junior high students will also participate in a Religion Residency with consultant, Patti Lioger from October 5 - 13. During this time Ms. Lioger will visit religion classes to investigate the changes in the mass and the creed. Mount Carmel elementary students will participate in a Religion Residency from Oct 3 - 13 with consultant Janice Stefanik. Ms. Stefanik will visit each class once or twice to work with staff and students on one of the main themes of their religion curriculum.

These two residencies are part of our school growth plan for improvement.

Read In Week October 3-7

Read-In Week is an opportunity for the students to listen to stories read by guests to our school who have volunteered to read. We have invited a variety of readers to share books/stories with our students. A special thank you goes out to Father Paul Moret for coming in to read to the students this year again. Father Paul will be visiting the school most Wednesdays during the year to speak to different classes and to join us in our celebrations.

Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT)

During the dates of October 18-29 students in Grade 6 and 9 will write the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT). This test measures students' overall ability levels. Although it's not possible to study for this test, students can be prepared for this test by being well rested and ensuring that they have a good breakfast in the morning.

School Council

Your input as parents into the life of the school is very important. At the Meet the Staff Night in addition to being your opportunity to meet your child's teacher, it was also the beginning of a new year for the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Advisory Council. The annual general meeting both of the school council and the school fundraising society was held on this night. Our school depends on great volunteers like you! We look forward to seeing you at our **first School Advisory Meeting on October 5 at 7 pm** and throughout the year at our school council meetings. The executive will be chosen at this meeting and a number of committees will be looking for volunteers to help throughout the year. Please take the time to introduce yourself to the current SAC members and to explore ways that you can become involved in your school. You can contact Sigrid Olsen at: sigridolsen@shaw.ca if you wish to help out in some way but cannot attend the first meeting.

School Council Casino Help needed

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School has the opportunity to raise a projected \$70 000.00 to help fund curricular enhancements for our students. The funds we raise from the casino will help support athletic teams, literacy in classrooms and the library, cultural activities in the school. We are also very excited about supporting the purchase of **NETBOOKS** and **wireless infrastructure** at OLMC. These items are important to enhance student learning and engagement in our learning community.

We require 45 parents to step forward to volunteer at a Casino on November 3rd and 4th. (We need about 4 parents per grade) If you would like to help us with reaching our goal, please email: Sigrid Olsen at: sigridolsen@shaw.ca for further information and available positions. If you are unavailable to volunteer, please consider approaching family members who might be able to volunteer such as grandparents of students or students over the age of 18 in your family. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to volunteer and receive letters of reference for their involvement. This is very important to students as they build their employment portfolios.

Parking Lot

As all parking stalls in the staff parking lots in the front and rear of the school have been assigned to our staff members we thank you for not parking there. We have also moved all of the buses to the rear of the school freeing up more parking at the front of the school.

At present there are bus parking signs on the north of the school but we are in the process of having them removed now that our yellow bus service is all in the back of the school. This consolidation of the buses in one location has made it easier for you to pick

up and drop off our children in front of the school. Pick a designated spot to meet your child to avoid congestion around the school. Elementary students should be using the west doors on the north and south of the school while junior high students should use the north-east and front doors.

The north parking lot is for staff only! Please do not use it to drop your children off. Junior high students enter through the door in this parking lot but elementary students should not be in this area as it is not their designated entrance.

Transportation

REMINDERS FROM EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

- Information regarding routes, fees, maps, boundaries etc. can be found on the Edmonton Catholic Schools web site (www.ecsd.net) under the '*parent*' tab and under '*student transportation*' tab.
- Parents of kindergarten and grade one students are reminded that there must be an ADULT (not an older sibling) at the stop to receive the student. If there is no adult at the stop, the student will remain on the bus and will be returned to school to await pick up.
- Bus pass replacement costs are: ETS \$49.75 and yellow bus \$5.00
- All transportation enquiries/concerns are to be addressed to the Edmonton Catholic Schools transportation department at 780-441-6078, NOT the school, bus driver or bus carrier.

Elementary School Picture Day

Elementary students' individual photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, October 4**. The Junior High Students received their individual pictures on the first day of school. **Retakes** for K – 9 will also be taken on **Tuesday, October 4**. Only individual photos will be taken at this time; class pictures will be taken in the springtime.

Fire Prevention Week

October 9 - 15 is Fire Prevention Week. In preparation for this week, we have already practiced our school fire drills. I am pleased to say that our practices were smooth and all the children and staff know what to do in the event of a fire. Well done everyone!

MUSIC Notes

Welcome back to another wonderful year of music. The grade 8 and 9s are off to a great start as they refresh their memories and embouchures! The grade 9s first

performance will be for the Remembrance Day program, so we are working diligently towards that day.

The grade 7s have selected their instruments and have just recently participated in Jumpstart: a fun morning to get a first lesson on their instruments. I'm looking forward to working with these eager young musicians.

The Performing Arts Academy, the Guitar Program and the Band program have joined forces to help sell Entertainment coupon books. These sales help programs provide outstanding facilities and access to events and Field trips. As well the students get prizes as they sell the books. Please encourage your young musician to bring home his or her instrument. Practicing away from school is very important to their progress.

For more information at your fingertips please check out the Mount Carmel Music Web Site. http://web.me.com/dalewchapman/Music_at_MTC/Welcome.html

Mr. Chapman
Music Director

BAND JUMP START – Grade 7



Spirit Team



Spirit Team 2011/2012

It was difficult for us this year to select which students should be on the team because all the applicants have very special talents and unique leadership skills. If you are in grades 7 or 8 please do not let this keep you from applying next year. If you are in grade 9 please continue to share your skills with your communities by volunteering with the many different local organizations.

We are very excited to be working with:

Maya E.	Julian K.
Darrell B.	Suzanne W.
Clark R.	Justin C.
Brittany K.	Brittany M.
Reilly P.	Jordan P.
Daniel K.	Blake S.

Upcoming Spirit Team Activities:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21: SUBWAY HOT LUNCH



The Spirit Team will be putting on a Subway hot lunch. Watch your child's agenda for order forms.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28: HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Back by popular demand, the Spirit Team will be hosting a school wide carnival. More information will be sent home later in the month about activities and ticket purchases.



Kimberly Clarke
Spirit Team Coordinator

MTC TIGERS ATHLETICS

The Tigers soccer season is now in full swing. Both teams are doing very well. Good luck to both teams as they charge towards playoffs. Thank you to our very dedicated coaches: Ms. Tymkow and Ms. McEwen – Boys Coach and Mrs. Poulin-Biro – Girls Coach.

The Junior High Boys Soccer team has had an outstanding season so far. After 5 games this season the boys are heading into playoffs with a 3-2 record. Our 2 loses were very close and the games could have gone either way. The team is looking forward to its first playoff game on October 12th against St. Basil.

Girls Soccer is always a quick season to start and finish in the fall. While everyone was settling in to their school routines, our soccer girls had already joined and begun preparation for another exciting district soccer season. As was the case last year, we just had enough girls to complete the regular season. For that reason, the girls had to play hard and be willing to compete to the best of their ability from the first to last whistle of every game. The girls stayed very positive and supportive of one another and showed what being a team player was. MTC is very proud of their girl's soccer team. Good luck to both teams in the playoffs!

Volleyball:

Tiger's volleyball tryouts have already started. All interested junior high students to participate in the team tryouts. **This year will be having a senior and junior team so lots of opportunities to participate for our students!** Please stay tuned to announcements on times and dates.

Canteen Price List

The school canteen is up and running with emphasis on HEALTHY EATING CHOICES. The canteen is open daily from 12:20 to 12:35 PM.

Canteen Prices

Soup of the day, with crackers	\$1.00	Mini cheese pizza	\$1.50
Milk	sm. \$1.00	Juice box	\$.75
	lg. \$2.00		
Cheese stick	\$.50	Bread sticks & cheese	\$.50
Cookie crisps	\$.50	Sesame snaps	\$.50
Fruit bar	\$1.00	Granola bar	\$1.00
Frozen yogurt tube	\$.75		

Alberta Education

Alberta Education Parent Handbooks

Parent handbooks, summaries and *Curriculum Express* are available on the Alberta Education website at www.education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/handbook.aspx. This is an overview of what your child will be learning at each grade level.

Alberta Learning's Online Reference Centre:

The Learn Alberta.ca website provides Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers, students and parents with learning resources anytime, anywhere (see www.learnalberta.ca for more information.).

Learn Alberta.ca

- offers many new digital learning resources for Alberta students, teachers and parents including: International Languages, Sciences, Mathematics, English Language Arts and much more!
- offers improved navigation making it easier to find resources.
- provides English user interfaces customized for different grade levels.
- French interfaces will be available soon.

Learning Alberta.ca is password protected! When using the site in school, your user ID and password will be automatically filled in. If you are accessing these resources from a computer outside of school, you will need to enter your user ID and password to login. See below:

User ID: LA12 Password: 2953

Skating Lessons for K - 3

Grades K – 3 will be taking skating lessons in every Wednesday from November 3 to December 1. We are looking for used skates and certified helmets that can be used by these students. If you have skates or helmets that your child has out grown, please donate them to the school. We will be collecting until October 30.

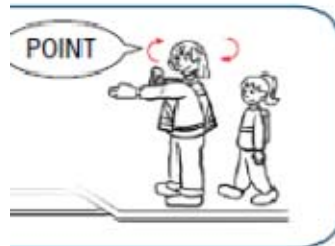
School Patrols

Thank you to our responsible Grade 6 students for patrolling the crosswalk at the front of our school. We are asking for parental cooperating when these patrols are working. Please follow the patroller's directions when crossing the street. As a parent, you are modeling correct behavior for all students waiting to cross the street. For your convenience we have attached the AMA School Patrol Brochure.

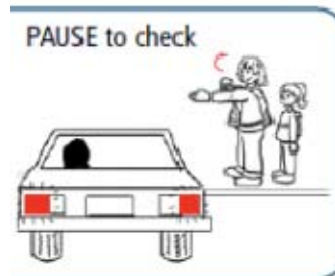
IT'S THE LAW:

Stop when an AMA School Safety patroller points their arm

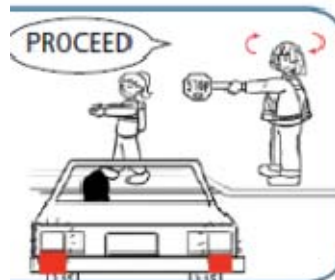
AMA School Safety patrollers model what every pedestrian should do when crossing the street. They point, pause and proceed.



POINT: Patrollers point their arm to indicate to drivers that pedestrians wish to cross the street.



PAUSE: They check traffic in all directions and wait until it is safe to cross the street.



PROCEED: They will extend their stop sign and allow pedestrians to cross when it is safe to do so.

AMA SCHOOL
SAFETY PATROL™



Working to make our community safer.

*AMA School Safety patrollers do not control or direct traffic.
Their main job is to help students cross the street safely.

1.03.20

ama.ab.ca/SchoolPatrol

Working to make
our community safer



Each year, approximately 16,000 students and their teachers from 500 schools join local law enforcement and community organizations in the AMA School Safety Patrol™ program.

Together they play an important role in helping promote, educate and foster traffic safety.

AMA funds and coordinates the program and supports schools in their efforts to teach traffic safety. Our goal is to help students make safe and responsible choices.

**AMA SCHOOL
SAFETY PATROL™**



ama.ab.ca/SchoolPatrol

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>Read in Week Oct 3-7</i>	4 <i>Picture Day Elementary and Junior High retakes J. H. L.A. Residency starts</i>	5 <i>Religion Residency starts SAC Meeting 7:00 Library</i>	6 <i>Gr. 6 F.T. to Homeless Connect</i>	7 <i>Thanksgiving Celebration 8:50 a.m.</i>	8
9	10 <i>Thanksgiving — No School</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Gr. 9 CCAT Tests this week</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>Subway Hot Lunch</i>	22
23 30	24 31 <i>Halloween</i>	25	26	27	28 <i>Halloween Carnival PM</i>	29