



Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

10524 76 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1L3

Phone: (780) 433-1062 Fax: (780) 439-0105

Administrators' Message

September Newsletter 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone. We hope that you all had a terrific summer and are ready for an exciting year of learning.

As your new principal I am excited to be involved in a school with such a rich history. For the last four years I was the principal of St. Paul Elementary School. I have worked in a variety of Junior and Senior High Schools in the previous twenty years. I am particularly excited about working in a school with such a diverse range of programs. Mount Carmel provides a strong academic program while allowing students to excel in athletics, recreational pursuits and the opportunity to excel in the arts with the introduction of our new Performing Arts Academy this year. The school is scheduled to receive a new \$1 000 000 theater renovation in the summer of 2012 to enhance the quality of this program and for general use by all the students of the school.

My administrative partner this year is Mrs. Theresa Lema. Mrs. Lema comes to us from Austin O'Brien High School. Mrs. Lema has specialized in science and math programing, differentiating instruction and brings an extensive background in the arts that should prove to be invaluable at Mount Carmel School. We are both excited to work with such a dedicated professional staff here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. We encourage all parents/guardians to become active and involved in their child's school. There will be many opportunities presented throughout the school year to become involved. We welcome all new families and welcome back returning students and their families.

At Our Lady of Mount Carmel School we believe that communication between home and school is an integral part of your child's success. We encourage you to attend our initial Program Night on Wednesday, September 14th at our **Meet the Staff Night**. (7:00pm *Meet the Staff & SAC*; 7:30pm *Visit classroom/teachers*). You will have an opportunity to meet your child's homeroom teacher and discuss expectations for the year. We will also host our SAC AGM this evening.

We are presently overhauling our web site to better serve our community and increase the communication link between the school and home. This month you are receiving a paper newsletter. In October, newsletters will be posted on our school website and in Powerschool for your convenience.

We are excited about working with you to ensure we create the best possible learning environment for your children. May God's blessing be with us all this year!

Mr. Michael Kovacs
Principal

Mrs. Theresa Lema
Assistant Principal



Hours of Operation 2011-2012

Grades 1-9 and Full Day Kindergarten:

- ✓ "First Bell" at 8:40 am
- ✓ Classes from 8:40 – 3:06 pm (Elementary)
- ✓ Classes from 8:45 – 3:06 pm (Junior High)
- ✓ Thursday dismissal time is: 12:20 pm

Lunch and Recess

- ✓ 10:18 am - 10:32 am (elementary morning recess)
- ✓ 12:20 pm – 1:00 pm (lunch break)
- ✓ 2:05 pm - 2:10 pm (elementary afternoon break)

Junior High Block Rotations:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday

Warning Bell: 8:40 am

Registration: 8:42 am

Block 1:	8:45 – 9:38 am
Block 2:	9:39 – 10:32 am
Block 3:	10:33 – 11:26 am
Block 4:	11:27– 12:20 pm
Lunch:	12:20 – 1:00 pm
Registration:	1:09 pm
Block 5:	1:14 – 2:08 pm
Block 6:	2:11 – 3:06 pm

Thursday

Warning Bell: 8:40 am

Registration: 8:42 am

Block 1:	8:45 – 9:27 am
Block 2:	9:28 – 10:10 am
Block 3:	10:11 – 10:53 am
Block 4:	10:55 – 11:37 am
Block 5:	11:38 – 12:20 pm

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Staff

Staff List 2010-2011

Name	Home Room	Classroom
Mr. Kovacs	Principal	Office
Mrs. Lema	Assistant Principal	Office
Mrs. Mailhot	Secretary	Office
Mrs. Kanevets	Clerk	Office
Mrs. Lamoureux	KG	Kindergarten
Ms. Labbe	Grade One	102
Ms. Pinto/Mrs. Bondy	Grade Two	101
Mrs. Clarke	Grade Three	104
Mrs. Siewert	Grade Four	106
Ms. Burnett	Grade Five	111
Ms. Rozycki	Grade Six	107
Mr. Chapman	Grade 7A	Band
Ms. D'Agostini	Grade 7C – ASP	202
Mrs. Wood	Grade 8A	Home Ec.
Mrs. Fraser	Grade 8C – ASP	205
Ms. McEwen	Grade 9A	204
Mr. Cormier	Grade 9C – ASP	108
Ms. Connor	Hockey/Elite	110
Mr. Beck	Hockey/Elite	109
Mrs. Poulin-Biro	Soccer	201
Mr. Leason	Recreation/Perf. Arts	203
Mr. Strzelec	EE3 7-9	128
Mrs. Jenkins	EE2 8-9	200
Mrs. McVea	Learning Team	Office
Mrs. Sieben	Media Resources	Library
Teacher Assistants	Mrs. Daniluck, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Mercier, Ms. Woodruff, Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coco.	
Custodial Staff	Mr. Smolik, Mr. Huynh, Mrs. Perla	
Stay Team	Rocky Maze, Debbie Brown	

School Council (SAC)

Your input as parents into the life of the school is very important. Our Parent Information Evening, in addition to being your opportunity to meet your child's teacher, is also the beginning of a new year for the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Advisory Council. Our gathering will begin with the annual general meeting both of the school council and the school fundraising society. Our school depends on great volunteers like you! We look forward to seeing you at our Program Planning evening and throughout the year at our school council meetings. **Our AGM is on Wednesday, September, 15 at 7 pm.** Parents will be available to answer questions before and after the main presentation on this night, so please take the time to introduce yourself to the current SAC members and to explore ways that you can become involved in your school.

School Picture Day

The Junior High Students had pictures taken on the first day of school. These pictures were for the student ID cards. This year our elementary students' individual photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, October 4th**. Only individual photos will be taken at this time; class pictures will be taken in the springtime.

S.U.T.P. and Entertainment Book Fundraising

Next week we will be distributing Student Union Ticket Pack (SUTP) books as a parent-raised fundraising initiative. The funds raised from this effort will be used to reduce the cost of a variety of activities organized by our parents throughout the year. We will also be distributing Entertainment Books later in September. Monies raised through the sale of Entertainment Books will be used to support our Junior High Band program.

Thank you for your continued support. We are enjoying an excellent start to the 2011-2012 academic year and look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

School Concession

The canteen opens September 20. We encourage students to bring a healthy bagged lunch. Microwaves are available in the classroom for elementary and in the gym for junior high students. We will also have vending machines. We have a closed campus; therefore no students may leave the school grounds during the school day. Some students who live within walking distance of the school may choose to go home regularly for lunch. If your child does go home for lunch on a regular basis, you must inform the office. Special thanks to Mrs. Jenkins, our concession coordinators who have created a healthy menu with a compliment of nutritional choices for our students and staff.

New Performing Arts Academy

The fine arts program will offer the students the opportunity to develop the performing arts. They will also have the chance to branch off into specialized areas such as guitar (acoustic and electric), art, dance, voice and production design.

The Performing Arts program coincides with the other school Academies. It will be offered at both the elementary (grade 4-6) and the junior high level (grade 7-9). Through creative scheduling, the Academy will occur with simultaneous scheduling of same grade physical education classes, health and option classes. The students in the Academy of Performing Arts must maintain an excellence standing in homework completion, attitude, and effort, as well as meeting the school organizational and study goals of the student body. The Performing Arts students receive Theatre programming delivered during the instructional minutes of physical education, where students will utilize the Theatre consisting of a large half gym with stages. Any needed upgrades will be paid for from the school and academy funds.

Spirit Team 2011/2012

At Our Lady of Mount Carmel we offer Catholic leadership opportunities to all students in junior high. The Spirit Team is made up of approximately 15 students from grades 7, 8 and 9.

- Do you like to promote school spirit?
- Do you want to choose and participate in school-wide activities?
- Do you like to have lots of fun?
- Do you like to help in your school community?
- Are you interested in learning about social justice issues?



Students selected for the Spirit Team will be involved in monthly team building and social activities. Once a year we travel to the Star of the North Centre for a weekend retreat where we participate in faith formation and fun team building activities.

The Spirit Team offers students an opportunity to make a difference in their school community while having fun and making new friendships.

Junior high students interested in joining the Spirit Team can pick up applications in the office starting Tuesday, September 7th.

Please hand in completed applications to Miss Clarke by Friday, September 16th.

Upcoming Spirit Team Activities:

Hot Lunch on Wednesday, September 22

The Spirit Team will be putting on a Cheeseburger Lunch. Watch your child's agenda for order forms.

Thank you,
Kimberly Clarke
Spirit Team Coordinator

MTC Athletics

We are looking forward to a wonderful year for our teams. We begin the school year with soccer tryouts for both boys and girls teams. Please listen for announcements as to when these will occur.

Curriculum Information

“What did you do at school today?”

Are you satisfied with the answers you get when you ask your children what they learned at school? There are a couple of ways to help answer your questions about your child's education:

- Curriculum Handbooks for Parents – Catholic version – provides an in-depth view of the subjects and programs available from Kindergarten to High School
- Curriculum Summaries – Catholic version – provides a quick overview of each grade from Kindergarten to High School.
- The handbooks and summaries are available on the Alberta Learning Web site at www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks and may be downloaded to print as required
- Alberta Learning Web site contains information on learning from the early years to adulthood. www.education.gov.ab.ca
- Edmonton Catholic School District Web site also contains valuable information about the programs and services offered throughout the district. www.ecsd.net

Protocol For Parents

Edmonton Catholic Schools recognizes the freedom of all members of the school community (students, staff, parents and neighbours) to voice their concerns in an appropriate manner to the appropriate school personnel. The principle of “**first contact**” needs to be followed. This means that the person(s) who have the concern, have the responsibility to address the concern directly with those persons with whom they have the concern, before taking their concern elsewhere.

If resolution is not found *please* then involve school administration and School Operations Services (SOS) as needed. SOS can be reached at 780-441-6090.

All parties will deal with concerns in a manner that is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Student drop off and pick up areas

STAFF 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. Please use the side streets around the school to drop off and pick up your children. Pick a designated spot away from the front of the door and meet your child there to avoid congestion in front of the school.

The staff parking lot is not to be used for dropping off or picking up students. Children are continually in this area before, after and during school hours and driving in the back parking lot area possess a significant risk to the children’s safety.

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.
- 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.

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.



MEDICAL INFORMATION



If your child has a medical condition (asthma, allergies, etc.) please stop by the office to pick up the necessary medical forms to provide information to school staff. These forms provide invaluable information to school staff in the event of a medical emergency. A recent school photo is required with the forms so all staff can easily identify the children. If your child is required to take any medication

at school, forms also need to be filled out. Please contact the school administration if you have any questions about these forms. **Medical Information forms need to be filled out at the beginning of every school.**

PEANUT/NUT ALLERGIES

A significant number of our students have life-threatening allergies to peanuts/nuts and nut products. Please refrain from sending nut products to school with your children.

Medical Alert

MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline.**
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline** Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.

Message from the Superintendent: September 2011



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 2011

"The grace of God has appeared on earth bringing salvation to all." Titus 2:11

This quote from Titus heralds in Edmonton Catholic Schools' theme for the 2011-2012 school year, "Life of Grace...Awaken our Senses, Stir our Hearts." Building upon last year's theme of the Beauty of Life, this year we want to emphasize the great gift of life that we have received from God, and therefore are called upon to both nurture this gift and to offer caring service to others. On August 24th, all District administrators gathered together to examine and gain inspiration from this theme and to celebrate liturgy.

Recently, I had an opportunity to hear a presentation by Sr. Sue Mosteller, a Sister of St. Joseph, in which she emphasized that those who are in care-giving roles must take time out to take care of themselves. She used words such as "enjoying Sabbath, finding a sacred space where we embrace quietness, solitude and time to restore our energies, and enjoying time with loved ones and beautiful things around us such as the arts." I truly hope that some of Sr. Mosteller's words which will enable us to become "beloved sisters and brothers for each other" were a reality in your summer experiences. My wish for you is that you are re-energized with renewed hope for this new school year!

Thank you to our school custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work and dedication in cleaning and preparing our schools for the new year, and for all efforts to complete modernizations.

This year, three schools - St. Catherine, Mother Teresa and St. Alphonsus - welcomed back their students on August 8, as they are using year round calendars.

The goals of the Edmonton Catholic School District Plan for Continuous Growth (2011-2014) are based on Alberta Education goals:

- Goal 1: Success for every student
- Goal 2: Transformed education through collaboration
- Goal 3: Success for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students

all within the context of Catholic education and the permeation of our faith.

At the June 28th, 2011 meeting, our Board of Trustees elected Debbie Engel to serve as Board Chair, and Becky Kalal as the Vice-Chair for the 2011-2012 school year. On Wednesday, August 31, 2011, the Board of Trustees, members of the Edmonton Archdiocese and the Ukrainian Eparchy along with all Edmonton Catholic staff members gathered together as a community to celebrate the Opening School Liturgy at the Winspear Centre.

May God continue to bless each of you as embrace your life of grace and respond in loving and caring ways to those around you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Carr".

Joan Carr
Superintendent

Message from Father Mike Mireau, District Chaplin

Dear Parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! By that I mean school year – welcome back to all of the students, into a new school year, a new step on their journeys toward adulthood, and toward Christ-ness.

What does that mean? Well, I've come to believe that the marks of a TRUE adult, as we see in so many of our parents, is that they are willing to put their own needs LAST, and put the needs of their children first. This is what it means to be a true “grown-up.”

AND it's also what it means to be a Christian. This is what we endeavor to do in the Edmonton Catholic School District – raise ADULTS.

First we teach these young people that they are loved by God, simply because they are God's.

They'll learn HOW MUCH God loves them – by looking to Jesus, by looking to the Cross, by learning that Jesus is the best friend that they've ever had.

And then, by realizing it, they learn how to follow in Jesus' footsteps – to give, to build up the Kingdom of Heaven, right here on earth, and to experience Jesus' own JOY in doing so.

In doing so, we seek to raise up disciples for the Lord – which is another way of saying:

- we seek to make our kids know how special they are
- we seek to teach our children to love others as they are loved by Jesus
- we seek to show them how much of a difference they can make in the world
- we seek to help our kids see that – they are God's superheroes!!

A prayer:

God in Heaven

Help us to teach your Good News to the children you entrust to our care:

That they are important, that they special, that they are chosen,

That our children our loved

By you, with ALL of the love that you have to give.

Bless them, and bless this year,

Through Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who was sent to teach us all – that God is Love, Amen.

Rev. Michael Catfish Mireau
District Chaplain
Edmonton Catholic Schools
(August-September, 2011)