

Catholic Elementary School  
3310-107 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5W 0C7  
Tel: (780) 479-5847 Fax (780) 479.7727  
[www.stjerome.ecsd.net](http://www.stjerome.ecsd.net)



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

## May 2009 NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we move into our final months, the school year seems to be quickly coming to a close. We are looking forward to the excitement which comes with year end. Students will be focused on preparing for year end tests, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate all they have learned during the school year.

They also start to enjoy the warmth of a new season and are already anticipating special classroom fieldtrips and much more. These are all signs of energy and new life.

During the month of May, in which we honour Mary, let's all remember our own mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers. We give thanks for; all they have done and continue to do for us; for their love, care and patience; and for the influence they have on our lives. We hope you all have a Happy Mother's day!

Have a wonderful month of May!

Sincerely,

Mr. G. Antonakis  
Principal

Mr. W. Kowalchuk  
Assistant Principal

## 2009-2010 Kindergarten Registrations

We are continuing to accept kindergarten registrations for the 2009-2010 school year. Please note, we offer a **FULL DAY** Kindergarten Program at St. Jerome.

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 479-5847. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before March 1, 2010 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.



## Registration For 2009-10

Students currently registered in Kindergarten through Grade 5 automatically have their spot reserved for them for next year at St. Jerome, A Science Academy. We are welcoming new students on a regular basis and have already registered many new students for next year. To help us plan, if your child will not be attending St. Jerome (with the exception of grade 6 students) we ask that you please write a note to your child's teacher or contact the school office to let us know as soon as possible.

## School Council Compost Sale Fundraiser

Please  
Lend a Green Hand



St. Jerome Science Academy is planning our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Compost Sale! The fundraising sale will be held on **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 9am - 2pm** at the school. It would be wonderful if we had some **green** volunteers to help us out with this event. This is our biggest fundraiser each year and a very important one. This money is used for funding the snack program as well as other projects that cannot be paid for by casino funding.

**In order for this to be a success we need your help!**

**WE need the following items:**

- Shovels to be loaned out (at least 5) and work gloves (at least 10 pair) for the period of May 6-9<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure the items are clearly marked.
- 2 wheelbarrows

**Volunteers:** (shifts are as little as 2 hours and are great for fulfilling youth volunteer requirements at school)

- Throughout the day, **May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** to assist some classes with shoveling and bagging at designated times. We have buckets to help you measure accurately.
- During the evening on **May 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm** to shovel compost and fill orders.
- A minimum of 10 volunteers are required on the day of the sale, May 9<sup>th</sup>, to help:
  - Shovel and bag compost on the day of the sale.
  - Sell bedding plants.
  - Load the compost into vehicles
  - Organize refreshments for the workers (i.e. hot chocolate, juice, etc)
- Collect money and prepaid slips.
- Sweep and tidy up on the day of the sale

Please call ROSE at 780-477-2649

if you can help out by giving your time or loaning the above items.

Thank you for helping make a difference at St. Jerome!

**School Uniforms**



St. Jerome School is identifiable not only as a science academy but also as a uniform school. Please ensure that your child(ren) have adequate school uniform clothing to wear for the remainder of the school year. If your child(ren) are outgrowing their uniforms please stop by the office and pick up a uniform order form.

Please note that jeans are not to be worn at St. Jerome and that if wearing shorts they too must be navy blue in colour. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

### Mother's Day Tea

Kindergarten students will be honouring their mothers with a Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 8 at 2:30 p.m. in the gym. The students are excited about this tea and hope to see you there. More information will be forthcoming from kindergarten.

### Grade 6 Birch Bay Fundraisers

The grade 6 students and parents have organized fundraisers in support of their trip to Birch Bay Ranch on May 21<sup>st</sup>. They have organized cookie sales, hot lunch days, and lemonade sales.

| Cookies                             | Lemonade & Cookies                     | Hot Dog Lunch | Hamburger Hot Lunch |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Every Monday and Wednesday at lunch | Saturday May 9 during the compost sale | Friday, May 8 | Friday, May 15      |

### Wasteless Wednesdays

On the heels of Earth Day, the Green Group Environmental Club has been formed at St. Jerome. They have met and concluded that we can continue to help the earth by having wasteless Wednesday every Wednesday for the rest of the year. From now until the end of the school year, every Wednesday is **Wasteless Wednesday** at St. Jerome!

- Garbage free lunch!
- No microwave use!

Let's work together for our planet!

### Provincial Achievement Tests

Students in **grades 3 and 6** will be writing Provincial Achievement Tests (P.A.T.) in May and June.

The warm weather, as well as many outdoor sports programs, often makes it difficult for children to stay focused on their studies. We ask you to support your children in putting their best efforts into the final weeks of school.

We encourage all parents to help their children to understand the importance of proper rest, nutrition and completion of homework and assignments. A good night's sleep and healthy breakfast certainly help!

The provincial achievement tests dates are listed below.

## May

| Date              | Grade | Subject              |
|-------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Tuesday, May 12   | 3     | Language Arts Part A |
| Wednesday, May 13 | 6     | Language Arts Part A |
| Thursday, May 14  | 6     | Math Part A          |
| Friday, May 15    | 3     | Timed Number Facts   |

## June

| Date               | Grade | Subject              |
|--------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Tuesday, June 16   | 3     | Language Arts Part B |
|                    | 6     | Social Studies       |
| Wednesday, June 17 | 6     | Language Arts Part B |
| Thursday, June 18  | 3     | Math                 |
|                    | 6     | Math Part B          |
| Monday, June 22    | 6     | Science              |

### School Council News

## Treasurer Needed

**We are still looking for a parent/guardian from St. Jerome, who is interested in taking on the Treasurer's position for the 2008/09 year.** As this is Mrs. Seller's last year with the school, it would be good to have a new treasurer in place while she is still here as a valuable resource and mentor. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact me at 780-477-2649.

## **Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> - M&M Meat Fundraiser**

M&M Meats will be providing a percentage of their proceeds toward St. Jerome school for purchases made on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> between 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. You don't need to do anything except shop at M&M meats on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> between 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. Make sure you mention you are supporting St. Jerome school because other organizations will be fundraising that same evening.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.



# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Growing in the

# SPIRIT

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



## Superintendent's Message –May 2009

*Mary said to the angel: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

May, the month of Mary, is a special time at Edmonton Catholic Schools. Our thoughts and prayers honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patron saint of our school district. We pray that Mary will continue to guide us on our journey. Mary, through the joys and sorrows of her calling, devotion and commitment, serves as a model for us all.

May is also a special time as staff and students at many Edmonton Catholic Schools are busy preparing for the annual Celebration of the Arts at the Jubilee Auditorium on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This year we proudly celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event in our District. This evening celebrates the accomplishments of students in the fine arts of music, art, drama and dance. We look forward to enjoying the student performances for parents, teachers and peers as they showcase their talent. This evening also displays the outstanding work that goes on behind the scenes and in the classrooms as district staff prepares and encourage students to succeed to the best of their ability and what they have learned through arts education.

Work is well underway in preparing our Three Year Education Plan for 2009-2012. As the make-up of our student population continues to change we are developing strategies to enhance learning for our fastest growing groups of students. These include English Language Learners, First Nations Metis and Inuit students and special needs students. Our education plan places a central role on social justice in the lives of our schools. Staff and students remain committed to learning about the causes of poverty, discrimination and injustice while they explore how they can make a difference. By encouraging social justice action our school community is actively creating hope for the future. Our education plan also places a significant emphasis on developing the use of technology as a teaching and learning tool. Our aim is to create learning environments that reflect the learning styles and needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners to prepare them to live fully and to serve God in one another.

Thank you to the many school advisory councils that completed the education plan survey. Your input is important to the development of our plan. Our Three Year Education Plan 2009-2012 will be available on our website after June 30<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to visit [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net) at your leisure.

As part of our student health initiative, Edmonton Catholic Schools is promoting and supporting the "Little Big Run" held at Sir Wilfred Laurier Park on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. This event promotes fitness, exercise and healthy lifestyles. Last year more than 5000 students participated. More information is available at [www.littlebigrun.ca](http://www.littlebigrun.ca). We encourage your participation in this.

Many blessings to you in May, the month of Mary! Enjoy the warmer weather and longer days; may they be filled with healthy and fun-filled activities. Best wishes to our students as they complete the last two months of their studies and learning this year.

Sincerely,

Joan Carr  
Superintendent



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 2009

To: Catholic School Districts in the Archdiocese of Edmonton

Re: March for Life, May 7, 2009 in Edmonton

Human life is a wondrous and beautiful gift of God. Since God has created members of the human race in His image and likeness, every man, woman and child is endowed with an inalienable dignity. As Pope Benedict taught in his first homily as our Holy Father, each individual person is willed, loved and necessary in the sight of God.

In our country, we are witnesses to the sad truth that human dignity is not always honoured. The obvious and most tragic example of this is abortion. It is manifest also in embryonic stem cell research, which destroys a human embryo, and in the promotion of euthanasia and assisted suicide. These practices call us to speak out clearly in defense of life.

We have an opportunity to do so. I invite you and the staff and students of your district to join with me and the other Bishops of Alberta on May 7<sup>th</sup> of this year for a peaceful march in defense of the beautiful gift of human life. We shall begin with Mass at St. Joseph's Basilica at 10:30 a.m., and then make our way to the grounds of the Alberta legislature. Following some initial speeches at 1:00 p.m., we shall march through downtown Edmonton, and then return to the legislature grounds for concluding talks and prayer.

I realize that this event will take place during normal instructional time and so may be difficult to accommodate on such very short notice for which I apologize. Distance will also be a factor for some of you. However, I ask that you do what you can to free some staff and students to attend. For future planning purposes, please note that the March for Life will be scheduled annually on the first Thursday in May.

Enclosed is a brochure providing further details of this year's march. Our Communications Office will also be sending a brochure to each Catholic school in the greater Edmonton area.

It is vitally important that we take every opportunity to stand up for the precious gift of life whenever it is threatened. I hope that you will join us on May 7<sup>th</sup> for this collective witness to the dignity of human life.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton

## The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary, sometimes shortened to The Blessed Virgin or The Virgin Mary, is a traditional title used by most Christians and most specifically used by liturgical Christians such as Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholics, and some others to describe Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ.

Since the first century, devotion to the Virgin Mary has been a major element of the spiritual life of a vast number of Christians. From the Council of Ephesus in 431 to Vatican II in the 1960's, the Virgin Mary has come to be seen, not only as the Mother of God, but also as the Mother of the Church. In 2003, Edmonton Catholic Schools also chose Mary, Mother of God, as the district's patron saint. The stain glass windows in the Board room on the main floor of the Catholic Education Centre depict the Annunciation, the Birth of Christ, Mary at the Foot of the Cross, major events in Mary's life as well as depicting Mary, Mother of God.

The key role of the Virgin Mary in the beliefs of many Christians, her veneration, and the growth of Mariology have not only come about by the Marian writings of the saints or official statements but have often been driven from the masses of believers, and, at times, by reported Marian apparitions, miracles and healings.

There is a long-standing and widespread Christian tradition of giving special honor and devotion to the Virgin Mary. A popular Marian devotional is the Holy Rosary, a form of prayer in which an "Our Father", ten "Hail Marys" and a "Glory Be to the Father" are recited five times while meditating on the mysteries of the life of Jesus and Mary. The rosary as a devotional path to the Virgin Mary has been a source of inspiration for a number of Roman Catholic figures, and during the month of May, and traditionally in the month of October, the faithful are encouraged to pray the rosary, if possible.

The central role of Mary in the belief and practice of Catholicism is reflected in the fact that many Roman Catholic churches contain side altars dedicated to the Virgin Mary. She is also celebrated through major religious sites where it is claimed apparitions or appearances of the Virgin have occurred, often with claims by witnesses that messages to humanity were delivered.

The Virgin Mary has been one of the major subjects of Christian Art, Catholic Art and Western Art since the third century. The strength of devotion to her is reflected in the number of people who pray to her, visits shrines dedicated to her and in the literally hundreds of thousands of artworks that have been produced, from masters such as Michelangelo and Botticelli to humble peasant artists.

Sandra Talarico, Religious Education Services

# Positive Parenting: Strategies to Support Your Child's Behavior

*for all parents/families in Kindergarten, JK, 100 voices or Hand in Hand programs*

So I have a “Spirited” Child; NOW WHAT? Join us for a **FREE** and **FUN** evening to discuss simple, effective strategies to bring peace to your home.

## Discussions will address:

- ✓ Tantrums and Meltdowns
- ✓ Bedtime Battles
- ✓ Picky Eating
- ✓ Sibling Rivalry
- ✓ Anxiety and Aggression

All participants will receive free onsite childcare and dinner.

### **Tuesday May 19, 2009**

John Paul I 5675-38 Avenue

### **Thursday May 21, 2009**

Annunciation 9325-165 Street

### **Monday May 25, 2009**

Father Leo Green 7512-144 Avenue

### **Tuesday May 26, 2009**

Mother Teresa 9008-105A Avenue

### **Wednesday May 27, 2009**

St. Pius X 12214-128 Street



### **Missed Previous Session: Raising Your Spirited Child?**

Final Session Offered **Thursday May 7, St. Monica, 14710-53 Ave. 6-8 pm**

**Please contact Patti Brown, Early Learning, to register at:**

**780-471-5724 or [brownp@ecsd.net](mailto:brownp@ecsd.net)**

*If you need childcare or transportation, contact Patti at least 3 days prior to your session.*