

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)

## JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Administration

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that you had a very restful and joy filled break with your family.

We were amazed at the incredible level of support received this year for our acts of social justice. Your support has helped to make a difference in someone's Christmas season. Thank you to all of the parents and families who donated to our Christmas activities.

As we resume classes in January, we come to school knowing that a new year is upon us and that it is; a time of new beginnings; a time to reflect on what is good in our lives and be thankful for what we have; and a time to set new goals and priorities. We look forward to continuing to provide the students with the best possible education and we encourage the students to refocus on their learning after a much deserved break.

We wish you and your families all the best in the new year!

Sincerely,

Mr. G. Antonakis  
Principal

Mr. W. Kowalchuk  
Assistant Principal

## Looking Back

December was a month in which many activities had taken place. The children prepared for the coming of Jesus through our Advent celebrations which were led by Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Khan.

We came together as a community (parents, students and staff) through our spirit of giving to those less fortunate families both within our immediate community and the greater Edmonton community. We collected an overwhelming amount of non-perishable food bank items; toiletries for the Marion Centre and Youth Emergency Shelter; and donations for the CBC Turkey Drive which equated to 28 turkeys. Thank you all for your overwhelming generosity and caring.

The St. Jerome Christmas concert was a great success and we would like to acknowledge the students and staff for all their hard work and dedication toward this endeavour. It was wonderful to see the excitement of the children as they practiced and rehearsed during the last month. Their excitement and joy was evident in their two performances.

## 2009-2010 Kindergarten Registrations

We are now accepting 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.



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

All students in grade six will be writing the Canadian Test of Basic Skills between January 12-23, 2009. 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.

## Edmonton Journal Indoor Games

Each year the Edmonton Journal sponsors a running event for elementary, junior and high school aged students. Over the next months we will be organizing a Journal Indoor Games Running Club. All students in grades 4-6 are invited to join. There will be scheduled practice times at school for interested students. Races will be run during February and March at the U. of A. Butterdome. More information will be forthcoming.



We look forward to promoting fitness and fun, and to entering teams this year to represent St. Jerome School.

## Faith Development Day



All staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools will join together on **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** to share a day of prayer and faith development. There will be **NO SCHOOL** for students on this day.

## Junior High News

St. Nicholas Junior High will be visiting the Grade 6 students of St. Jerome in the latter half of the month of January (more information will be forwarded). The topics which they will present will include school programming, Academy choices, "Grade 7 life at St. Nicholas" and the Open House. The St. Nicholas Open House is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

## School Council News

**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.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.



# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Growing in the

# SPIRIT

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



*Compassionate Companion and Faithful Friend,  
thank you for the opportunity to walk into another year of life.  
Help us to be faithful, to be generous, to be yours.*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Edmonton Catholic Schools believes in nurturing strong partnerships between schools and the community. As part of these partnerships, we include organizations with strong ties to the community. Some examples include: Catholic Social Services, Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton YMCA, City of Edmonton, Junior Achievement, NAIT, MacEwan College, Edmonton Public Library, Alberta Health Services, the University of Alberta and many others. Community partnerships are one of the many ways Edmonton Catholic Schools helps to provide families with additional supports in our city.

A good example of this type of partnership is a new initiative that will begin in January. As part of our commitment to literacy and in an effort to enhance the quality of life for children and families in our District, we have worked with the Edmonton Public Library to develop a program where every student in our District will receive a free library card with access to a library close to their school. The program will be phased in and the first schools will have their cards early in 2009.

In January we will be holding our annual Second Language Learning evening. This evening will provide information on the benefits of giving your child the gift of a second language. In addition, there will be school group performances, student testimonials and Senator Claudette Tardif will also be in attendance. Join us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at West Edmonton Mall – Centre Fountain (close to The Bay).

Satisfaction surveys will be delivered to all schools at the end of January. The satisfaction survey provides our school district with important information about what works well and what needs to be improved. This is your opportunity to add your voice to the future of your child's education. Please make every effort to complete and return the parent survey by February 13, 2009.

Planning for next school year is well underway as we complete our goals and priorities for 2009-2010. Our list of new and expanded programs for next school year has also been updated and is available on our website at [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net).

Many blessings during the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Joan Carr  
Superintendent

January 2009

### **“O Christ, What Shall We Offer You?”**

Whereas all too often the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord ends soon after December 25 (or January 7), having feasted upon turkey, exchanged gifts among family and friends – then tossing out the Christmas tree, sometimes as soon as “Boxing Day.” In reality, the celebration of Jesus’ birth continues well into the New Year as the carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas” reminds us.

As we continue to celebrate our Lord’s birth, permit me to share with you an early childhood memory of Christmas.

As the youngest in my family, my sole task on Christmas Eve was to keep watch for the first star in the night sky and to announce “God’s star shines!” With this my family would gather around the table and sing the ancient carol “Boh predvichnyj” (God Eternal is born to us) and then begin the Sviat Vechir, that is, the traditional Christmas Eve Supper with its twelve lenten dishes specially prepared for the occasion.

[At first I suspected that the task assigned to me was a sneaky way of keeping me occupied and out of trouble as a young boy; however, having checked it out with friends my age, I quickly learned that it indeed was a valid Christmas tradition practiced for generations!]

A star. The Star. The Star of David. The Star of Bethlehem.

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage’.... And there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Mt 2: 1-11).

The Wise Men from Persia clearly recognized the heavenly King born on earth. Led by a star, they arrived in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And when they found the Christ-child lying in a manger, they adored him, the Eternal God.

The gifts of the Magi are of particular significance.

The gift of gold is a recognition that Jesus is the king of Israel, of the entire universe, and of the Kingdom of God to come.

The gift of frankincense signifies that Jesus is indeed God, since incense is used for worship, and we worship the One True God.

And the gift of myrrh, which was used to anoint bodies for burial purposes, reminds us that Jesus, already at his birth, is the one who has come to die as a perfect sacrifice for the people.

In these gifts, therefore, are contained all the mysteries of Christ. They point to the purpose of his coming to earth: royal king, divine God, and perfect sacrifice.

What about us? What gifts might we offer our King and our God?

Well, the verses taken from the Byzantine vespers for the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord offer us some insights:

“O Christ, what shall we offer you for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake?

“Every creature that has its being from you gives thanks to you: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the magi present their gifts, and the shepherds their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert a manger.

“As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother!”

Gold. Frankincense. Myrrh. A virgin mother. Indeed gifts fit for a King.

And today, as we continue to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, what gifts might you and your family offer the newborn Christ? Faith? Love? Hope?

*Christ is born! Let us Glorify Him!*

Bishop David Motiuk  
Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



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

January 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

**Re: Staff Faith Development**

This is to inform you that on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, all staff members will be involved in a District-wide in-service on faith development at the Shaw Conference Centre. There will be no instruction of students at school on that day

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 *Walking Together ... The Feet of Social Justice* and addresses social justice as expressed in our care for creation. We are pleased to welcome Sr. Alexandra Kovats as our guest speaker to address this theme.

Ours 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 hope to enhance our capabilities to inspire and to prepare our students “to learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service (ECS Mission Statement).

For more information, please feel free to call our school office at 780-479-5847.

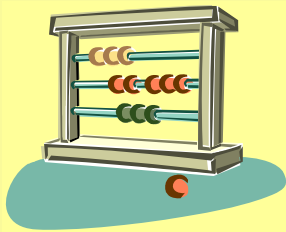
Peace and blessings,

George Antonakis  
Principal  
St. Jerome



*Did you know that the Mathematics program is in the  
process of changing?  
Interested in learning about this new Mathematics program?  
Interested in learning how to support your child with the  
Mathematics program?*

Come attend:



# Changing the Face of Mathematics Parent Information Session

St. Anthony Meeting Centre  
\*\* Parking will be validated\*\*  
10425-84 Ave  
Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
7:00 – 9:30 pm

Please register with Jan Doblanko by January 20<sup>th</sup>  
(989-3011 - [doblankoj@ecsd.net](mailto:doblankoj@ecsd.net))

