



ECOLE ST MARY

November 2020

NEWSLETTER



House Team Activities and Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars!

Winning House Team for September was the Brown Mustangs

November Events

November 13 - Jersey Day

- November 30 - Crazy Hair Day and Assembly (virtual)

December Events:

- December 9 - Christmas Clothing Day
- December 14 - Christmas Character Day
- December 16 - Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- December 18 - Pajama Day and Bingo (in homerooms)

Principals Message

I am constantly reviewing previous years' messages to compare what had been shared and ensure its relevancy for the present circumstances. For the past few years, I have always begun my November message asking our community to be aware of and to celebrate the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education. I would then make reference to the specific day that our diocese has set aside for this recognition, Sunday, November 8, 2020. I might then remind everyone that, currently, there are only three provinces in Canada that still fully fund Catholic Education: Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. I would also remind everyone that it is essential that we recognize our right to Catholic Education as something that is precious and that must be maintained within our province. Finally, I would make a plea to ask that each and every one of you continue to advocate for the right to have Catholic Education fully funded.

I did notice that in previous years' messages, I typically failed to share with our community the theme for Catholic Education Sunday. This year's theme comes from Isaiah: "Those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength." Why do I feel compelled to share this with our community this year? My answer is quite simple – I believe we are all looking for strength. The strength to continue in our roles as if the pandemic did not exist. Interestingly, the majority of people who have attempted to do this on their own have not met with a lot of success. By the very nature of our school system, we acknowledge that we do not have to do this alone – the Lord our God is always by our side.

As blessed as we are to have the right to an education rooted in the Good News of Christ, we are also blessed to be living in a country at peace. Remembrance Day, as the name indicates, is a time when we are called to reflect on the sacrifices that so many have made that we can live in peace. As a school, we will celebrate these sacrifices on November 6. The grade 1 classes will combine their efforts to put together a presentation, 'A Celebration of Peace', to be shared with all our classes. Unfortunately, due to FOIPP restrictions, we cannot make this available to our public.

Previous calendars would have indicated that the school-based Remembrance Day celebration was to be on Tuesday, November 10. In light of recent news where our superintendent announced that he will be declaring Monday, November 9 and Tuesday, November 10 as non-operational days, we were required to change the date to November 6. While I know the decision to close the schools for two days was met with mixed reactions, I was very appreciative of Mr. Sampson's letter to families that pointed out how draining our current reality can be, as well as his informing our parents that our schools were well over the instructional hours required by the province. I share in his hope that all will be well rested and rejuvenated upon our November 12 return.

The last Sunday of November is also the first Sunday of Advent. Advent begins the new liturgical calendar and is the season consisting of the four Sundays prior to Christmas where Christians prepare for the coming of Christ. More information regarding our Christmas festivities will be shared in the December newsletter as so much is still contingent upon restrictions that may be in place as a result of the pandemic.

In the meantime, I would ask for your continued prayers for all our community as we continue to do our best to serve the students entrusted to our care.

God bless!



Mme Bouchard's November Message 2020

Well November here we are! October was a busy month. There has been a lot going on here at ESM. We continue to learn about and work on our Faith Theme for this year: Transformed by the Journey. Throughout October, we focused on prayers of thanks. We worked on being grateful and we have been exploring what it means to be gracious. It is so interesting how they go hand in hand. I commended the student this week about being so polite, being so gracious and creating such a culture of faith, love, acceptance and graciousness. I am very proud of our students every day, and you should be proud of your child for how they carry and present themselves at school. It is a blessing and an honour to be a part of such a wonderful school community.

During the Gospel Time throughout October, we shared a decade of the Blessed Rosary. As previously mentioned, we continue to share our Gospel time with students virtually. Students have been taking part and helped by sharing a Decade of the Rosary and prayers of thanks. For November, we will focus on prayers of 'Intercession,' thinking of and praying for others. We will learn about the saints and how they pray for us. We will continue on our journey of Making Our Mark: Journey of an Intentional Disciple. The students are recognizing God's presence every day and working on being grateful for their blessings. We have examined our gifts and the gifts of others. We will begin to delve more deeply into the Fruits of the Spirit and we will challenge students to live them out as they focus on one of the Fruits a week: love, peace, joy, goodness, gentleness, patience, kindness, faithfulness and self-control.

November is the month of remembrance. November 1st is All Saints' Day where we pray to the saints already in Heaven. November 2nd is All Souls' Day, when we pray for all those who have gone before us. Our grade one students are preparing a **Celebration of Peace**. This will be sent out to classes on **Nov. 6th**. November 11th is Remembrance Day, when we take time to remember all the brave men and women who fought for our freedom and those who lost their lives. We truly are so lucky to live in Canada.

November 8th is Catholic Education Sunday. We will be praying a Novena for Catholic Education from Oct. 29th-Nov. 6th. We are so blessed to be able to celebrate as a faith filled community, especially in times like this.
#IbelieveinCatholicEd.

May God Bless you and your family. I pray that he keeps you and yours safe and healthy.

~Mme Bouchard



House Keeping Items

All Holy Spirit Schools' are a CLOSED campus, this includes ESM. We are asking that parents/guardians or visitors to please call the office to book an appointment prior to visiting the school. To reach the office call 403-327-3098. All visitors are required to wear a mask and sanitize upon entering and check-in with the office. Just a reminder that Gr. 4-6 are required to wear a mask – Kindergarten to Gr. 3 is mask wearing is optional but recommended. There are currently no water fountains in the school that can be used but we have had multiple water bottle filling stations installed over the summer and they are still accessible to everyone. Please remember to send a water bottle with your child. Microwaves are still NOT available for student use at this time. Please pack their lunches with this in mind.

Transportation Information

effective September 2020, we will only be able to provide bus transportation to and from school for students who reside 2.4 kilometers or further from their designated school. This means that, for the 2020/2021 school year, we will not be able to accommodate bussing students less than 2.4 kilometer away from their designated school or those students who attend a school of choice. All students from Kindergarten to Gr. 6 are REQUIRED to wear a mask while riding the bus.

Parking

The west side of 20th Street is the Bus Zone. From 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there will be a 15 minute drop off zone. This will allow parents of our younger students to accompany their child to the school entrance. Please be aware, however, that the entire area will remain a NO parking zone from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., and you may be ticketed during these hours.

Dress for the Weather

At Ecole St Mary, we believe in the importance of fresh air to clear the mind and energize the spirit! For the morning and afternoon recess if the temperature is – 20°C or warmer, students will be going outside. For the lunch break if the temperature is -15°C or warmer students will be going outside.

Please ensure your children dress for the weather. Gloves, toques, jacket, boots, and snow pants are recommended.

Medication Information

If your child is in need of medication (occasional or ongoing), the School District requires forms to be filled out by a doctor and parent These forms are available on the Holy Spirit website: www.holyspirit.ab.ca, under Forms - Medical, or in the school office. All medication is kept in the office for safety reasons. The school does not give out any over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or cough medicine and we do not use antiseptic creams such as polysporin. Please do not send over-the-counter medication or prescriptions to school to be kept in lockers, etc. as this poses a danger to other students.

Items from Home Being Brought to School

We are encouraging all students to not bring play items from home. We would like to have the items being brought in to a minimum as we cannot ensure that items from home are being properly sanitized. Each class is equipped with a recess bag and is properly sanitized.



Staff Mask Meet and Greet

We will be featuring a few Ecole St. Mary staff members every month in our newsletter as well as on our website. You will see them with and without their masks.



Mlle. Ashley



Mrs. Bugg



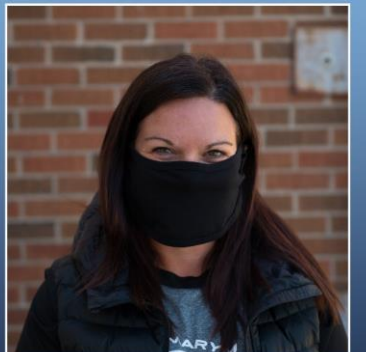
Mme. Darilyn



Mme. DeBoer 1DI





Mme. Talbot




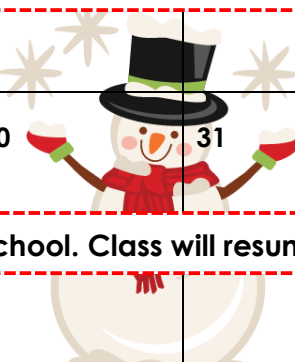


Mme. Campmans KCI

November 2020 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Wellness Day No School	10 Wellness Day No School	11 Remembrance Day No School 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 PD Day No School	21
22	23	24	25 Board Meeting @ CEC 6:00pm	26	27	28
29 Advent Begins 1 st Sunday of Advent 	30					

December 2020 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Advent Mass week 1 @ 9:00AM (6MI in the gym – Google Meet for everyone else)	4	5
6 2 nd Sunday of Advent 	7 Advent Mass week 2 @ 9:00AM (2MI in the gym – Google Meet for everyone else)	8	9 Christmas Clothing Day	10	11	12
13 3 rd Sunday of Advent 	14 Advent Mass week 3 @ 9:00AM (2/3P- SI in the gym – Google Meet for everyone else)	15	16 Ugly Christmas Sweater Day Board Meeting @ CEC 6:00pm	17	18 Pajama Day/Bingo in homerooms	19
20 4 th Sunday of Advent 	21	22	23	24	25	26
Christmas Holiday – No School. Class will resume Jan. 4, 2021.						
27	28	29	30 	31		
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