

(Newsletter Message for December 2008)

Vehicle Idling Awareness Campaign

The Board of Trustees has approved an Anti-Idling Awareness Campaign for this school year. As part of this awareness campaign, we have produced posters that will be displayed in all schools in our District. In addition, teachers will be discussing the effects of idling vehicles on the environment and we are inviting you to join us by turning off your vehicle when you are sitting in it. Here is some information on vehicle idling that will be shared with students:

- There are 40 hazardous air pollutants released in engine exhaust that are associated with increased illness and even death. (source: Climate Change Central)
- The by-products from the combustion of fossil fuels decrease lung function, cause asthma, increased respiratory, cancer and cardiovascular deaths. (Source: Climate Change Central).
- A notable public health concern is the fine particulate matter found in air contaminants. The primary source of this fine particulate matter is vehicle exhaust.
- The World Health Organization has identified diesel fuel exhaust as a known or probable carcinogen.
- Vehicle idling wastes fuel, money and also increases unnecessary vehicle wear.
- If every citizen in Alberta with a registered vehicle decreases idling by five minutes per day, green house gas emissions in our province would drop by 302 thousand tons a year and would equal a savings of 125M litres of fuel – more than \$146 M at today's rates.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is committed to ongoing efforts to promote health awareness for our students, staff and families. Our Vehicle Idling Awareness Campaign complements the City of Edmonton's Idling Awareness Campaign.