WHAT IS CATHOLIC EDUCATION?
Our Catholic Competencies are permeated throughout our school day through our Catholic Education, which is a precious gift. 5 Marks of Catholic Identity, fiscal responsibility, core values, pastoral letter, Edmonton Catholic Schools Patron Saint, and celebrations are all part of our cross-curricular competencies.
Over 42,000 students in the City of Edmonton are part of our Edmonton Catholic Schools family. We are blessed to be able to embrace our Faith throughout our school day.

Our Faith is a part of everything that we do, as we learn to live and love fully with Jesus.

Our Faith surrounds us and moves within us, and is infused together with the curriculum from Alberta Education. We teach all curriculum as authorized by the Alberta Government.

Our Faith is permeated throughout the educational program and is part of every moment of every day.

SISTER ANNATA BROCKMAN

Sister Annata passed away after a full life dedicated to the Catholic Church, to her community and to education. Sister Annata was a pioneer—she was the very first woman to earn a Masters of Education from the University of Alberta. She served for 21 years as a teacher and principal with Edmonton Catholic Schools. As an educator, she pushed for equality long before it was topical. She believed every one of her students had the potential to be great. Since the first day that Sister Annata Brockman School opened, Sister Annata greeted all of the students and parents as they arrived for their first day of school. Sister Annata will always be remembered as one whose desire it was “that Christ may touch the lives of many through her.”

HOLY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATIONS

We began in our classrooms where a school-wide reflection of the Stations of the Cross was led over the broadcast system. Then, our community gathered in the gym for the Liturgy of the Word where Father Dean, our District chaplain, demonstrated how Jesus taught his disciples to live a life of service by washing their feet. As Father Dean washed both students and teachers’ feet, he explained how we are called to be servants of Christ. Students sat in reverent silence as a group of drama students acted out the Passion Play. The entire school then walked the Way of The Cross, listening to music and reflecting on the Stations of the Cross.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FAIR

“The Grade 6 students at St. Lucy held a Social Justice Fair. They chose topics they were passionate about and created displays and presentations to showcase. We had representatives from YESS and the Mustard Seed. The students are using this event as a catalyst to guide them on their journey this year to discover how they can be a “light” in the world.

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Our Faith is permeated throughout the educational program and is part of every moment of every day.
Did you know that the Alberta Government funds education based on each student? Each student is funded on a per pupil basic grant. The District then uses all of the combined student grants to distribute the dollars across the school district to meet the needs of the students in the best ways possible. These grant dollars are used to pay for teachers, purchase resources, provide specialized supports and so on. Transportation grants are provided per student who qualifies. Additional grants are also provided to support diverse learning / inclusive programming, English language learners and students who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit. In early learning, an additional grant for children who qualify is provided for more targeted intervention. The Government also provides dollars to build schools. Edmonton Catholic Schools has an excellent utilization rate— that means that our school space is being used very effectively, and most of our students are at or near full capacity.

BOOK BLESSING WITH MOST REVEREND GREGORY BITTMAN

In the 2017-2018, we will be in year three of implementing the new religious education program: Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ. This program has been developed collaboratively between those provinces in Canada that have publicly funded separate schools. It also carries the bishop’s blessing from these dioceses. We were so fortunate to have our very own bishop bless all the resources that are sent to our schools! Most Reverend Gregory Bittman shared scripture and prayer, and blessed all the new religion resources. And then we finished the celebration with chocolate cake!

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange shirts were worn today to honour the experiences of survivors of residential schools. Our school theme for this year is “Don’t be cool, Be awesome,” so we tied the school theme with the orange shirt experience. In Grade 5 they made an “If you came to 5A, I would…” wall. The walls gave messages of support and inclusion for all. The younger grades prayed for the survivors and talked about how they might feel if this happened to them. Some classes made a handprint or an orange shirt with messages that focused on helping others to feel that they truly do matter. Other classes did reflections in their visual journals. It was an excellent experience and we already have ideas for next year.

TERRY FOX TOONIE WALK

One World One Centre LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) staff and students participated in their first annual Terry Fox Toonie Walk. It was a beautiful day when these adult-student newcomers to Canada from all over the world ventured out, wearing the Canadian colours of red and white, on a two-kilometer walk/run throughout the Alberta Avenue district to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. 278 students and 35 staff from LINC and the District helped to raise $925.76—in toonies!
THERE ARE 5 MARKS THAT IDENTIFY A SCHOOL AS CATHOLIC

Each Mark is used to help schools reflect and assess areas where they are doing well, and areas where they can continue to grow and evolve. The 5 marks are an assessment tool and used to evaluate progress in meeting benchmarks of five areas of importance:

1. Grounded in Christian Anthropology
2. Imbued with a Catholic Worldview
3. Animated by a Faith-Infused Curriculum
4. Sustained by Gospel Witness
5. Shaped by a Spirituality of Communion

The Archbishop Joseph MacNeil community gathered together to welcome a new year. We were blessed to have Father Saga, a pastor at St. Thomas More, come to celebrate with us. The readings of the morning reflected on the many gifts that God has given to us and reminded us that although we all have separate gifts, we use them as one body (Ephesians 4:1-13). We can’t be great at everything, but we all have friends and family who can complement our gifts. Our new book, Unstoppable Me!, talks about how everyone in our community matters as a person, created by God. The same goal is in all of us—to be like Jesus.

SCIENCE ACADEMY

St. Jerome Science Academy kicked off the school year with an inspiring assembly, led by our students and our staff. Students were presented with their own school T-shirts, introducing the motto they will be using throughout their work and play this year: Watch Me Roar. They will explore the many ways that they “roar” as citizens of the St. Jerome community and the world: as friends, learners, partners, thinkers and scientists, and children of God. Students are wearing their new T-shirts and mottos with pride and we look forward to the many ways that our students will say “Watch Me Roar” this year.

UNSTOPPABLE ME! – OPENING CELEBRATION

Science Academy

St. Philip School celebrated the beginning of Lent with a “Carnevale!” As one important stage of our Catholic religion ends, another has begun. Shrove Tuesday marks Jesus’ departure into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. It is a time for all of us to change our hearts and to prepare for lent, and being part of “Carnevale” allowed the students, staff and community of St. Philip School to have an authentic Italian experience.

CARNEVALE
An excellent Catholic school is driven by a mission which views all people with an inherent dignity as children of God.

INSPIRED BY:
- Love of the Father
- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Hope from the Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE IN GOD AND WE BELIEVE:
- that each person is created in the image and likeness of God
- that each child is a precious gift and sacred responsibility
- in the goodness, dignity and worth of each person
- that Christ is our model and our teacher
- in celebrating and witnessing our faith
- in transforming the world through Catholic education
- that Catholic education includes spiritual growth and fulfillment
- that learning is a lifelong journey
- that all can learn and develop their gifts
- in building inclusive Christ-centred communities for service to one another
- that all have rights, roles and responsibilities for which they are accountable
- that Catholic education is a shared responsibility in which parents have a primary role

The mission of Edmonton Catholic Schools is to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another.

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MISSION

Our students will learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.

To learn and work fully in one’s life also includes the ability to discover one’s greatest strengths and passions. The teachers in ECSD work very hard in helping students to discover where their greatest passions are, so that they can pursue career pathways that build on their strengths and passions, and so that when they enter the world as adults their work can become their play.

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS VISION

An excellent Catholic school has a visible and tangible Catholic vision evident in its physical space, liturgical celebrations and prayer life.
Edmonton Catholic teaches the competencies as defined by Alberta Education and all the curriculum (Program of Studies) by Alberta Education.

Edmonton Catholic Schools also teaches an accompanying layer of competencies that are infused with the Faith. These competencies are (and are adapted from Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations 2011):

A DISCERNING BELIEVER WHO
- Actively reflects on the role and meaning of God’s Word
- Develops attitudes and values founded in Catholic education
- Respects the faith traditions, world religions and the life-journeys of all people of good will
- Integrates Faith with life
- Recognize that Jesus’ death and resurrection brings redemption and forgiveness.

AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR WHO
- Listens attentively and critically to understand and learn in light of the Gospel values
- Shares information and ideas clearly and honestly with sensitivity and respect
- Uses and integrates the Catholic Faith Tradition in the critical analysis of arts, media, technology and information systems

A CRITICAL THINKER WHO
- Recognizes that there is grace in our world and that hope is essential in facing all challenges
- Creates, adapts, and evaluates new ideas in light of the common good
- Uses Gospel values to evaluate situations and make decisions, with an informed moral conscience
- Approaches life holistically by integrating learning from various subject areas and experiences

A LIFELONG LEARNER WHO
- Demonstrates respect for the dignity of self and others
- Demonstrates flexibility and adaptability in response to God’s call
- Reflects on personal values, abilities and aspirations
- Sets appropriate goals and priorities in school, community and personal life to fulfill their vocation
- Strives to achieve a balanced and health lifestyle for the well being of body, mind and soul

A COLLABORATIVE CONTRIBUTOR WHO
- Works effectively as an interdependent member of Christ’s body
- Develops their God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society
- Finds meaning, dignity and fulfilment and contributes to the common good
- Accepts responsibility and respects the rights and contributions of others
- Strives for excellence, originality and integrity

A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN WHO
- Lives their life with Christ as their model and guide
- Acts morally and legally
- Seeks and grants forgiveness in a Christ like manner
- Advocates for the sacredness and dignity of human life
- Respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures
- Respects and understands the historical, cultural and religious diversity of society
- Demonstrates stewardship of the environment and uses resources wisely
An excellent Catholic school hires and nurtures its teachers. Teachers are living disciples of the Gospel...

Teachers in Edmonton Catholic Schools have all taken university religion courses. Many teachers also go to graduate school at Newman College for additional theology courses. Our teachers are of the Catholic Faith and model our Faith throughout the day. And our teachers love kids! God is love – and loving our students is at the heart of all that we do...

We are also delighted in Edmonton Catholic Schools to have a Chaplain in every one of our schools! A chaplain is one of our leaders in a school who coordinates liturgical celebrations, builds capacity with the rest of the school staff regarding theological/moral issues according to the Church’s teaching, leads prayer, helps build the environment of our schools with symbols and is able to talk and listen to students. Chaplains also coordinate and enhance the school/home partnership and support children and families as a link to the church with the preparation of sacraments. They also help with the school’s social justice projects.

Edmonton Catholic Schools has also received for the 2nd year in a row a special award given to organizations for being excellent employers and caring for their staffs. ECSD is one of Alberta’s top 70 employers. Staff are cared for and also have many learning opportunities to continue to grow.

An excellent Catholic school embraces the common good. Social justice projects are lived in every school. Children learn to care for one another.

The call to faith filled life of service includes teaching our children how to care for one another. Students learn the value and impact of living social justice in their schools. We strive to create many opportunities for our students to learn the value and internal rewards for social justice, that include simple activities such as donating, to organizing and advocating for the marginalized. All schools, no matter where they live, experience the gratification of caring for someone else.
Seventy Grade 7 Pre-AP students were invited to H.E. Beriault to participate in a leadership conference. The theme of the day was in line with our District theme: “We are called to be Leaders of Hope and Mercy.” Ten delegates from each Pre-AP school worked together in mixed teams to complete a series of curricular challenges. Students explored the challenges that the homeless of our city face, and the poverty that third-world countries are facing. Father Dean led the students in exploring how they as Catholic students can make a global difference. Each group of delegates is expected to go back to their schools and live out their plan to bring Hope and Mercy.

**Grade 7 Pre-AP Leadership Conference**

The International Languages and Culture Club of St. Joseph High School held its annual cultural celebration, “A Taste of St. Joe’s.” It was well showcased through prayers in many different languages, music, creative and informative exhibits, beautiful traditional dress, fabulous performances, outstanding presentations and mouth-watering ethnic food. The positive energy in the courtyard was contagious. Our theme this year is: Opening Our Hearts to the World. Regardless of where we come from or who we are, we all come together as one strong and faith-united family.

**A TASTE OF ST. JOE’S**

St. John Paul II Polish Bilingual Program at St. Basil School ended Advent and began the Christmas Season through an assembly at our school. We reflected on the real meaning of Advent and our own preparation for Jesus’ birth. At the celebration, Grades 6 and 7 students presented Polish traditions observed and practiced around Christmas time, and all students and staff sang Polish Christmas carols.

**Polish Bilingual Program**

EDMONTON

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**IS GROUNDED IN 5 CORE VALUES**

These values are foundational, and help guide us in every decision and action that we do as a District. The core values are:

- DIGNITY AND RESPECT
- HONESTY
- LOYALTY
- FAIRNESS
- PERSONAL & COMMUNAL GROWTH
In September 2017 Archbishop Smith wrote us all a letter. The Pastoral Letter guides us in how we can listen and do, as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

LIVING IN THE WORD: What does it mean to follow Jesus? In fact, that question can be answered rather simply. It is a matter of listening and doing. An authentic disciple of Jesus Christ is one who first listens to his Word and then puts it into practice. . . This was expressed simply and beautifully by the prophet Isaiah: “Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.” (Isaiah 50:4)

LIVING IN THE WORD: Pope Francis said, “These are the two conditions in order to follow Jesus: to listen to the word of God, and to put it into practice. This is the Christian life – nothing more. Simple, simple. Maybe we’ve made it a little difficult, with many explanations that no one understands, but the Christian life is thus: listening to the Word of God and practicing it.” (Homily at Daily Mass, September 23, 2014)

LIVING THE WORD OF GOD - BAPTISM

Pope Francis wants us to be fully aware of what it means to be baptized, to rejoice in the gift, and to embrace completely the Christian way of living. So, let us ask: “What does it mean to follow Jesus?” In fact, that question can be answered rather simply. It is a matter of listening and doing. An authentic disciple of Jesus Christ is one who first listens to his Word and then puts it into practice.

Are your children baptized? If not, or if you are interested in considering, please visit our website for church locations. You can then contact your church and begin the journey to Baptism if you wish.

Beginning this school year, baptism information packages, developed by Edmonton Catholic Schools, are also provided at Edmonton hospitals when babies are born.

St. Brendan’s Music Club sang at the City of Edmonton’s annual “Holiday Magic” program. Schools from all over the city participated and showcased their talents. The choir rang in the holiday season with a delightful performance. The songs chosen focused on our Catholic faith and offered heartwarming music celebrating the birth of our Saviour, capturing the spirit of Advent hopes and Christmas joy!

Singing at “Holiday Magic”

The students at Louis St. Laurent continue to be models of authentic service action. Inspired by the life and message of Father Michael “Catfish” Mireau, the students register in a flex block called “Superhero Service” in which they volunteer at various community service agencies. Ranging from providing recreation therapy to patients with Alzheimer’s disease/dementia to baking delicious goods for Edmonton’s homeless, the students are constantly displaying a Christ-like love in the community. The Holy Spirit is definitely permeating through the walls of Louis St. Laurent and Edmonton!

Superhero Service

At Annunciation School our District Chaplain Father Dean came in, and the Grade 4s went to the library. We talked about the birth candle and the meaning behind some of the other candles. After that, Father Dean did a trick with paper and fire that surprised us all! We then received our very own Bibles, which Father Dean blessed. He even brought and read from the Bible we received.

District Chaplain Father Dean

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PASTORAL LETTER

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A SPECIAL VISITOR FOR HOLY WEEK

For the beginning of Holy Week, the staff and students at Bishop Greschuk school got to see a real miniature donkey. The children enjoyed listening to the story about how the donkey got the shadow of a cross on its’ back.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Parents, students and staff gathered at Ecole Escuela Grandin for the annual tourtière making event. Participants prepped, rolled, filled and decorated over 600 traditional French Canadian meat pies. This longstanding tradition dates back decades. Selling the proceeds from the tourtières is a major fund-raiser for the school community. This year, the tourtières sold out in less than a week!

REMEMBERING HOLODOMOR

The students from Ukrainian Language Arts 8 at St. Brendan School, prepared and presented a heartbreaking play narrating a tragic story of one family in Ukraine during Holodomor. The Grade 9 students presented information about the history of this event and shared the powerful poem Through The Eyes of The Child. St. Brendan’s music club performed the opening song, Where Have All the Flowers Gone, and concluded the event by singing I Will Remember You. All students from and staff of St. Brendan prayed together for the victims, families and communities who suffered as a result of the Holodomor.

DID YOU KNOW...

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

HAS A PATRON SAINT?

In the spring of 2003, the Edmonton Catholic Schools chose Mary Mother of God as the District Patron Saint. A series of stained-glass windows located in the Catholic Education Services on the main floor depicts four significant aspects of Mary’s life:

PANE 1: ANNUNCIATION
Hail, Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you .. The Annunciation commemorates the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary to announce to her that she was chosen to be the Mother of God. Mary’s courageous response inspires everyone to be open to God’s call. “The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary - she was conceived by the Holy Spirit.”

PANE 2: THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
Blessed are you among women, and blesses is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. The Birth of Christ commemorates the incarnation - the event of God becoming human for the life of the world. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

PANE 3: MARY MOTHER OF GOD
Holy Mary, Mother of God ... Mary Mother of God illustrates Mary holding the young Jesus with great tenderness and bearing Him to the world. In this way she is truly a God bearer (the literal meaning of the word “Theotokos” which is the formal name for her), offering Christ to all who search for meaning and purpose in life.

PANE 4: MARY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Mary at the Foot of the Cross represents both Mary’s faithfulness to the end and her identification with and consolation towards suffering humanity. Mary sees in the death of Christ the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Did you know...
On behalf of our staff, students and parents at St. Elizabeth School, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. We were recently awarded $2300.00 from the "Dream Maker Fund" to help subsidize our overnight spiritual retreat to Camp Encounter in June. Our grade six students are excited for this opportunity to pursue excellence in Catholic education and have time to reflect and receive Christ. Subsidies for our families help provide the means to make this experience possible. Thank you to our donors!

Faith Day Flex
To celebrate St. Clement Feast Day, over 800 of our students from Grades K-9 engaged in a multi-age/multi-grade Faith Day Flex. All students participated in a differentiated, personalized, collaborative and multi-modal learning experience. The over 35 faith day flex sessions were inspired by our staff member’s personal passions and interests. Participating in this day empowered our students to make cross-curricular choices while developing the competencies of creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, personal growth and wellbeing.

Students for Social Justice: Caring for Creation
Students and staff of Our Lady of Victories were proud to host their first Social Justice Fair. The fair was a culmination of learning, researching and reflecting on our call to care for creation. Students were challenged to answer the essential question: how are we called to be stewards of creation and promote ecological justice? Students demonstrated how the poorest of our brothers and sisters in the global South are most affected and explained how it is our responsibility as Christians to live and work in solidarity for the common good. In addition, they offered practical solutions to making small personal changes. Our students also grew seedlings which were sold as a fundraiser in support of development and peace.

Father Gabriel Visits St. Dominic
Fr. Gabriel from St. Dominic Parish came in during the month of May to teach our Kindergarten classes about Mary. Since May is the month of Mary and also the month of mothers, his message was to love our mothers as Jesus loves Mary and Jesus loves us. “Jesus wants us to respect our mothers, help them and listen to them,” said Fr. Gabriel. He also taught our students the Hail Mary, a prayer we will be saying everyday this month.

Faith Day 2017!
The community of Katherine Therrien celebrated its second annual KT Faith Day. The day began with a mass at St. Edmund Church followed by activities presented by our District Chaplain, our Elementary Education Consultant and our parish team. Activities highlighted our namesake Katherine Therrien, the Sacraments of baptism, communion, reconciliation and confirmation and our school theme, “Growing our Faith through Stewardship and Service – The Jesus Way: Love, Serve, Give.” Each child created a rosary bracelet and a prayer intention and the day culminated with the entire school community gathering in the Learning Common, where rosary bracelets were blessed by Father Patrick and Father Julian led us in praying one decade of the Rosary. It was truly a blessed day!

Students for Social Justice: Becoming Leaders of Hope & Mercy
Our Lady of Victories accepted The Great Kindness Challenge in promoting kindness matters at a community and global level. Through meaningful acts of kindness visible throughout our school – such as creating a graffiti wall to share messages of gratitude, displays of art promoting kindness in action and completing kindness checklists – our students transformed their thinking about the strength that comes from living gospel values in a sometime challenging world. Through simple gestures filled with great love we are reminded of the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta “Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier, be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”
Every year, at the end of August and prior to the students starting school, all staff in the District gather for an opening mass. This is a wonderful time to re-connect with colleagues, with renewed energy and excitement to begin a new year of learning and growth. As well, during the month of February, all of our staff gather together for one giant Faith Day – we both celebration and inspiration occur with our staff.

Since this has been such a rewarding day for everyone, the Grade 8’s each year are also now having a special Faith Day and this is in honour of our beloved Father Mike Catfish. During his short life, Father Mike had a charismatic, energetic and almost magical way of connecting with our students. He loved Star Wars and often spoke of Yoda and Darth Vader. He loved Superman and Superheroes – with God being the greatest superhero of all. He always reminded us that God is love. We are so fortunate to have recently opened up one of our new schools with Father Mike Mireau as their namesake. The students have chosen their school team to be The Force – and we know that Father Mike would be pleased!

Just like Father Mike Mireau School, all of our schools are named after Saints are very important people in the Catholic Faith. Each school has a celebration to honour their feast days of their namesakes, where the students get to hear the stories and lessons learned from these special people.

And of course, in addition to the ongoing permeation throughout each day, all of the traditional celebrations are honoured and practiced ...the true meaning of Christmas, the Last Supper, Thanksgiving, the Resurrection and joy of new life.

Each of your children, every student, is a reason to celebrate in Edmonton Catholic Schools.

**WE CELEBRATE**

**YOUR FAMILY.**

**WE CELEBRATE THE LEARNING.**

**WE CELEBRATE**

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION.**
Much reverence and peace filled the classrooms and hallways at Ecole Bishop Savaryn School on Holy Thursday. Throughout the morning, 100 Voices to Grade 6 students re-enacted the Last Supper in their classrooms sharing “wine” and breaking bread together. To end the morning, Father Jack led all students and staff through the hallways, classes joining the procession in silence and exiting through the front door of the school. All students and staff gathered on the front lawn, not a sound to be heard, as Father Jack blessed us all as we entered into Easter weekend.

This month at St. Edmund was another busy one for our Hockey Helps Kids group—it was full of making new connections and gaining so much more knowledge than before! First, we welcomed, a video guru to assist us in learning all about videography. We learned the do’s and don’ts of video production and what materials to use. We now feel knowledgeable enough to rock out the best Hockey Helps Kids video ever! Storyboarding and filming begins next week and we couldn’t be more excited to help raise money and awareness for the Guardian Angels Fund!

Celebrating our Past... Envisioning our Future - 1966-2016
Annunciation Catholic Elementary IB School celebrated quite a milestone...50 very successful years of Catholic education! The day began with a special school-wide mass that was celebrated at Annunciation Parish with Archbishop Richard W. Smith, Bishop David Motiuk, Father Dean, Father Julian, Father John, and other members of the Catholic Archdiocese. The morning culminated in a delicious luncheon at the school followed by Annunciation’s Student Faith Development Day, where students participated in sessions with guest presenters. It was a beautiful day of celebration! Annunciation was opened by Edmonton Catholic Schools because there were families in the area who wanted the best Catholic education for their children. While much has changed in the last 50 years, this goal has not!