

Social Justice in Edmonton Catholic Schools
2021-2022



God Calls Us
EACH BY NAME

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,...
plans to give you a future with hope.

- Jeremiah 29:11 -





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INTRODUCTION

Catholic Social Teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (Matthew 25:45). Indeed, our commitment to the Catholic social mission of the Church must be rooted in and strengthened by our spiritual lives. In our relationship with God, we experience the conversion of heart that is necessary to truly love one another as God has loved us.

Edmonton Catholic Schools has a long and proud tradition of participation in acts of social justice. Schools are encouraged to take their children through a broad range of activities that allow them to experience the many ways that they can make a difference in the world. Indeed, when we consider the Five Marks of Catholic School Identity, our acts of social justice provide a visible and tangible embodiment of our Catholic worldview.

The beautiful stories of our students and schools as agents of change are captured in our Social Justice Report 2021-2022.

On August 31, 2021, ECS D staff were challenged to carry out an act of social justice as part of our School Opening Mass. The story of their response to God's Call to Serve is captured in a video available at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yt80HyUkWs>



ANNE FITZGERALD

We collected food items in December to go towards making baskets for members of our school community. Items such as pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, jam, peanut butter, soup and crackers were collected and put into baskets. The baskets were sent home to our families in need before Christmas holidays. This was a project we have done in previous years. It was amazing to see how involved the students got, and how proud they were to see how much we were able to collect. It was another reason for us to all be so grateful for our school community. Students learned about the importance of giving back and sharing with those in need. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to collaborate, and engage in lessons about caring, sharing, being grateful and helping others.

In December, we collected toques, socks, and mitts for the Hope Mission. The Hope Mission is a huge part of our school community providing our students with a bagged lunch three days a week. Our Mental Health Student Leaders decided they wanted to give back and planned this social justice project to help this organization. This project was huge for our school community. It taught students about giving back to those who provided to us. It was a great way to teach them about being thankful and helping those in need.

Staff created a basket of favourite things where each staff member brought their favourite treat. The basket was huge! Staff then purchased tickets to win the basket with proceeds going to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dream Builder's Challenge which provided food each day for students.

The Grade 2 class hosted a cereal drive from April 25th-May 6th. They collected 121 cereal boxes. These boxes were divided amongst our Anne Fitzgerald Food program and the local food bank. This project was student led. A class brainstormed ideas they could do as a social justice project attached to our Easter Celebration. They wanted a way to give back to the local community and the school.

ANNUNCIATION

All classes at Annunciation participated in the Terry Fox Run. Through www.terryfoxschoolrun.org, families made donations in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Students with the highest donations received a Terry Fox t-shirt. All classes had 20-minute time slots to run laps in the field. We doubled our school fundraising goal! Terry Fox represented the best that Canadians have to offer. He was an example of courage, humility, determination, and perseverance. Through videos, read-alouds, writing and drawing activities, students were able to develop a better understand as to the importance of the Terry Fox Run and why collecting donations was important.

In preparation for the season of Thanksgiving, our staff and students held a food drive collecting a variety of canned and jarred food to donate to the Edmonton Food Bank. Over the course of a week, the school collected over 18 boxes of food for donation! Students were in awe of the amount of food they collected. It was quite impressive to see it all together lining the walls of the hallways. The students reflected on all they were thankful for and felt concerned for those who had to access the foodbank for their Thanksgiving celebrations. It prompted some of the children to add thoughts of hope and love for those who access the food bank to the prayers of thanks they wrote.

Students walked over to the Benevolence Care Centre and shared some Halloween excitement by doing an outdoor costume parade. They were excited to share their costumes, and many were asking questions about the patients they waved to through the window. It was an act of service but also a lesson on empathy.

The Grade 2 students created Remembrance Day postcards which included heartfelt messages. The postcards were then delivered to several veterans thanking them for their service. The class made approximately 30 cards. The students were proud of their work and felt good about acknowledging those who had served our country. They were excited about the project and gained a deeper appreciation for those who had served. Participation in this project allowed them to make a concrete connection with Remembrance Day and why it was important.



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Students brought in food items for hampers for families in need from our school community. Staff provided grocery gift cards for perishable food items and Christmas gifts for the family. Students were excited to contribute to a great cause. They were aware that they were supporting families in need of support.

A Grade 4 class made Christmas cards for the veterans living in residence at Capital Care Kipnes Centre for Veterans. The students enjoyed being able to give back something to the people who stood up for the freedoms of others.

Each class decided on an act of gratitude that they could do for various community groups around the school. Examples of these acts included writing thank you cards to the staff at Safeway, putting thank you notes on the windshields of hospital staff, creating Valentine's decorations for a long-term care facility, dropping off gratitude notes to Annunciation Church, placing thank you cards on the staff cars at surrounding schools, or placing notes in community mailboxes. Students were able to see the impact of their gratitude and reached out to the community who helped throughout the pandemic. Many of these organizations now have a long-term relationship with our school (e.g., Benevolence Center).

A class made 26 cards for children in the Ukraine sent with the plane delivering supplies to the Ukrainian people in need. Students felt like this was an action they could take to bring a little bit of joy and a message of hope to the children in Ukraine. They learned more about the situation going on in that country and the difficult circumstances the children and their families were facing.

As part of the Grade 6 IB PYP Exhibition, students took action as part of their inquiry project. One of the groups chose to collect books for St. Francis of Assisi School. This small group of students made announcements to the school community and wrote a blurb for the newsletter. They were excited to see students and staff participate. One student with the assistance of her parents delivered the books to St. Francis of Assisi School and was thrilled to see the smiles she brought to the staff.

An integral part of the Grade 6 IB PYP Exhibition required the students to take action. The students focused on ways to cope with mental health. Several groups focused on bringing awareness to improving one's mental health. Some of the ways the groups raised awareness around mental health was by creating bookmarks,

videos on ways to get active, stretching activity cards for classes, and a healthy food challenge. All of the groups prepared a presentation and videos on mental health that was shared on a website with community members. The students were proud of the work they completed and were thrilled to receive written feedback on the website from community members. They were more aware of how they could cope with stressors impacting their mental health.

Students took action at home to complete chores for family to earn money. In total, our students and staff raised \$1,340. The money was raised for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton to support the people of the Ukraine. Students also created prayers and sunflower art to post around the school. Students felt empathy and compassion for their Ukrainian peers and their families. They learned about the struggles faced by the people of the Ukraine and how they could take action to positively impact, even in a small way, the lives of others.

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH MACNEIL

This year our school collected over 5 huge boxes (close to 7 or 8 even) of food donations for Edmonton's Food Bank beating our previous Thanksgiving food drive. This made our Thanksgiving food drive a great success as we surpassed our fundraising goal. We could not have done it without the help and support of our students, families, and staff. Students were really invested in this food drive and went above and beyond to support those who needed it most. They were engaged and participated at an impressive level. They were proud to see how much they were able to collect which was displayed in our gathering area for all to see.

The Kindergarten students collected lonely mittens/gloves from across the school community for the Edmonton Mitten Match Up Project. The students then sorted these mittens/gloves by colour, size, and type in an attempt to make any potential matches. All the mittens were donated to the Project which further attempted to make matches and then donate the pairs to community groups for distribution to those in need. The students were proud that they were able to help by using the sorting skill set that they had been working on. The project was completed over the month of January, and students were also very aware of how uncomfortable it was to be outside when they did not have mittens. Although we only successfully made



10 pairs, we donated around 100 mittens to the greater Project, and hopefully many more were made.

The Student Leadership Team sold candy grams for Valentine's Day. They raised a total of \$446 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Student Leadership Team chose to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation so that they could help sick children experience a special wish. They connected with the idea of kids helping kids.

ARCHBISHOP MACDONALD

Our Social Justice Club chose to focus on food insecurity in the Edmonton region and our initial project supported this focus. Prior to our Thanksgiving celebration, members of the Club created a presentation for the school on statistics related to food insecurity. Further, the whole school participated in a collection in support of the Edmonton Food Bank.

The Hope Mission suffered a tremendous loss when their warehouse was destroyed by fire. Our school community was inspired to collect winter clothing and personal hygiene products to help replace what was lost. Our focus was on one item per student to increase awareness and participation as we wanted to focus the power of the individual in being able to make a difference to large-scale social problems. We were able to collect 200 jackets and clothing items and many personal products to fill a truck. This was delivered to the Hope Mission as in-person volunteering was still suspended due to COVID. Students learned that there were many less fortunate individuals that found it challenging to meet basic needs particularly in the winter in Edmonton. Students were recognized for contributing which helped increase donations.

Organized by classrooms, we created Christmas hampers in support of the Edmonton Food Bank and those in need in our own school community. There were many initiatives to support our fundraising efforts. Food was donated in each of our classrooms supported by our Social Justice Club. Three hot chocolate sales as well as a Travelling Donkey singalong allowed us to meet our goal. We created 30 hampers that were delivered to the Edmonton Food Bank as well as \$3,850 that was used for gift cards for those in our school community. The leftover portion was

donated to the Edmonton Food Bank. This was our most successful social justice project to date. We assigned one Social Justice Club member to each classroom to advocate for donations and remind students of those in need in our community. We used donated red Rubbermaid bins that were visually appealing. We found that our students really connected with this project. They organized it, gave of their time to advocate, ran hot chocolate sales as well as packed and loaded the food for transport.

Students created over 70 beautiful Christmas cards that were given to one of the senior homes in North Edmonton. One of our teachers delivered the cards because of COVID restrictions. The seniors loved the cards. Our students were creative and made use of their PLT time voluntarily to spread messages of joy to our senior community. It's been a challenge to interact as much as we would like with seniors in our community due to COVID.

Our Social Justice Club undertook a long-term commitment to volunteer at the Edmonton Food Bank. February to May we volunteered a minimum of two times per month with approximately fifteen students each time. This had such a tremendous impact on all of us. The mission of our Social Justice Club was one of service rather than focusing on redistributing donations. COVID has limited the opportunities for students to be of direct service. We were so thankful to be able to go and work sorting food and creating hampers for those in need in our community. The students felt much more connected to the people they were serving. We hope to continue this relationship for the long-term.

Our students felt very strongly about acknowledging and advocating for Black History Month. There were numerous activities undertaken including visiting and creating awareness of local Black owned business, bringing in a guest speaker on Black mental health, participating in the 1st Black Student's Association Summit organized by the Black Teachers Association, daily announcements on prominent Black leaders in Canada as well as Black History Month bingo. For our Black students and allies, this was tremendously impactful. It strengthened the school community and gave us a forum to discuss challenging issues around race in our society.

In solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine, our social justice group sold sunflower pins and raised approximately \$2,000 for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton humanitarian project. The bright yellow sunflower pins were still being worn by



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students throughout the school in memory of all of those who had been displaced and died during this war. The awareness of the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis was phenomenal in our school and the outrage of the impact of this war for those injured, displaced or dying was truly internalized.

ARCHBISHOP O'LEARY

Staff in our school were involved in confidentially identifying families in our school community that would most benefit from a food hamper for Christmas. Classes were tasked with collecting food and money to buy food. Our numeracy students worked together to sort the food donations, and to assemble the food hampers of different sizes. Staff were involved with delivering hampers, and supervising hamper pick-up to protect the privacy of families receiving the hampers. The students enjoyed the act of service. Many of the students learned the challenge of accurately sorting and collecting the food items. The school community was proud of once again following this tradition. It was particularly meaningful that we supported students and families that we may have interacted with daily.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise uses Indigenous methodologies, and the goal is to build an understanding of our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization, and resistance. Students were actively involved as they stepped onto blankets that represented the land and into the role of Indigenous peoples. The Blanket Exercise effectively educates and increases empathy with students in Canadian society by engaging emotionally and intellectually. The Blanket Exercise allowed the students to participate in an interactive learning activity and better understand the historical relationship between Canada and its Indigenous Peoples. The students were surprised to learn how the government treated the Indigenous people of Canada. It was also a way to open or continue the conversation about decolonization. Having the opportunity to explore Canadian history in this way has profoundly impacted the students involved.

Students volunteered at the Edmonton Food Bank. They helped by sorting donations, shopping, and packing boxes for clients. Volunteering was a rewarding and meaningful way to help students and communities grow and thrive. The students felt a sense of pride as they provided an invaluable service. It kept the

students grounded and content, knowing they helped make a difference in people's lives. The students were very passionate about hunger relief and seeing their help make an impact. The students enhanced their social awareness, learned about themselves through community service, gained self-confidence, and discovered their strengths and talents. Above all, the students felt the true meaning of giving is receiving.

Our school wanted to introduce to students the value of Indigenous women's and girls' lives and honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada as well as learn more about the history of those schools. The sharing of this information opened the minds and hearts of our students. Students completed projects for both Orange Shirt Day and MMIWG Day. Students led the school's daily announcements, created a bulletin board, and promoted wearing orange on September 30th and red on May 2nd. In addition to these events, the students also participated in a photoshoot for MMIWG Day. Each student had a red handprint stamp on their face. Photos were displayed throughout the school. The goal was to help shine a light into the dark corners of our collective history, the impacts of colonialism and racism on the lives of Indigenous peoples. The students felt the power to change by educating themselves and others. They felt one way of doing this was by remembering and honouring. It made them feel good, but at the same time, it made them feel bad to know what the Indigenous people of Canada had gone through and continue to go through today. The students believed it was an eye-opener and very educational.

AUSTIN O'BRIEN

School staff collected food items that were used in two ways depending on the food item: (a) snacks and breakfast items were provided to our students who were hungry or (b) the food items were used to create food hampers which were handed out to three school families experiencing food scarcity prior to Thanksgiving. Students were able to access snacks (granola bars, pudding, etc.) that they could access if they were hungry.

In late September/early October, the school community engaged in a food drive to collect non-perishable breakfast, snack, and lunch items for student consumption

for those students who came to school without food or if they became hungry throughout the day. AOB supported access to food while students were at school in three ways: (a) through the provision of hot breakfasts in our cafeteria, (b) snacks (fruit and cheese) were provided to students on Thursday mornings, and (c) students could access non-perishable food items (granola bars, noodle cups, cheese/cracker snacks, etc.) at the main office throughout the school day.

Students in Block 4 Day A classes were paired up into groups of two, and along with staff and families collected food items and fundraised to create 25 Christmas hampers. The hampers included a turkey as well as 10 lbs. of potatoes, 4 cans of vegetables, 454 grams of butter/margarine, 1 Stovetop dressing, 3 pkgs. turkey gravy, 2 of 398 ml. cans cranberry sauce/jelly, 1 Christmas cake or 1 pkg. cookies, Christmas candy or nuts, 1 box of mandarin oranges, 3 cans fruit, 5 canned or dehydrated soups, 3 pkgs. pasta, 3 jars of spaghetti sauce, 3 of 1-liter cartons of real fruit juice, and 1 box of tea or instant coffee. These were delivered to AOB families experiencing food scarcity. This provided families of students with the opportunity to participate in an act of service for others in our community, regardless of their financial situation as there were a variety of food items on each list. Additionally, those families who were experiencing food scarcity and received the hampers were able to not have to spend funds on a hot turkey dinner for their family.

BEN CALF ROBE - ST. CLARE

Students collected a variety of items to help those in need and to give back to our local community. Being able to collect donations of food, toiletries, and monetary contributions, as well as 200 handmade cards, taught our students a lesson on compassion, empathy, and love for all of God's creation. The impact of collecting for those in need also connected with the teachings of the Circle of Courage which places emphasis on generosity, courage and belonging. Our students were dealing with their own paths of intergenerational trauma and yet still put forth their best effort to give back to others and show generosity of spirit.

The students in Grades 4 and 5 at our school collected food for the Edmonton Food Bank. Non-perishable items amounting to four boxes were collected and distributed to families in need. Students felt a sense of generosity and belonging to our

municipal community. Students who had accessed the food bank in the past were proud to be able to contribute to the well-being of others.

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK

In preparation for Thanksgiving, students were encouraged to express their love of neighbour by donating soup to benefit individuals and families who accessed Edmonton's Food Bank. Our Kindergarten classes decorated a Thanksgiving tree with colourful leaves. As the donations arrived, they were placed in our large common area around the tree. During our Thanksgiving Mass, the donations were presented and acknowledged. Our students truly saw those less fortunate as children of God, deserving of human dignity. They were humbled to share what they had with those suffering food insecurity. Even if their family could only donate one can of soup, it was done from the heart. Some older students expressed a desire to become more involved in Social Justice Service projects. It was a good beginning to the year, which was limited by the difficulties presented by the pandemic.

Students from Grade 9 completed a community project entitled the Green Tree Project. They wanted to be part of a world where animals, human beings, and plants could coexist happily and bring life to our planet. However, they were worried that our earth could no longer handle the destruction we have caused as humans, especially pollution! Their overall goal was to educate their school community on environmental issues created by our own personal choices due to the materials we use during our daily lives. They recognized that the greatest way to teach younger people, in their opinion, was to make an art piece. Through their research, they learned that children were more likely to pay attention to issues if they could see, touch and envision them. For this reason, they created an art project to inform our school community about the consequences of using materials that affect our environment such as plastic, straws, Styrofoam, fabric, etc. They built an approximately 6-foot tree using biodegradable





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and non-biodegradable materials. The tree was split in half with one side made of materials that benefit (+) and the other side materials that harm (-) the environment. For example, on the non-biodegradable side there were materials such as plastic bottles, plastic straws and fabric. Alternatives to these materials could be seen on the right side. Cardboard, paper straws, and reusable bags were among the items they used. They constructed their tree in this approach to compare and demonstrate substitutes for everyday items that were not environmentally friendly. Students in the school were drawn to the tree placed in front of the learning commons. The tree was used for people to deeply understand ways they could prevent further damaging our earth. As part of their project, they visited the Grade 1 to 6 classes in our school to engage them in their project and to teach them about their choices. Some classes were assigned to bring in materials to help build the tree and some classes built tree houses to decorate the tree. Students who completed the project commented that they learned to work together to achieve something, became conscious of how humans impacted the earth, and learned how powerful one person could be in a cause.

During Advent, students participated in a used book drive for the Carmen National High School in the Philippines organized by one of our teachers. Students brought in a total of 4 large boxes of used books which were in good condition for all ages, Kindergarten-Adult. This school acts as the public library for its area and the library was decimated in a flood the result of a typhoon. Students, staff, and parents were very generous in answering the call to donate books that were no longer of use to them to rebuild the school/community library at this school in the Philippines. A teacher mentioned in their Religion classes that literacy was the first step to human freedom and how we were contributing to this for a community of learners. Students appeared excited and brought books in up to the last day of donations prior to Christmas break.

BISHOP GRESCHUK

Traditionally, every Thanksgiving, the families of Bishop Greschuk gather food items to donate to a school in need within our Division. We gathered over 70 boxes of non-perishable food ranging from macaroni to tuna, and everything in between. Our school's Grade 6 Leadership Team and staff worked together to pack boxes for

delivery and send them to St. Teresa of Calcutta School. The students felt like they really helped another community in our Division.

The Grade 6 Leadership Team guided the whole school in collecting about 25 boxes full of food for St. Teresa of Calcutta School. Each day the students brought in items from their pantry at home for their friends at another school. The students announced the item of food to be collected on a specific day. The amount collected was amazing. The food was delivered, and we received a thank you note from St. Teresa of Calcutta School indicating that they would have snacks for many months. Our students realized that there were students here in Edmonton who could not go to their pantry to get food each day. Our students enjoyed helping others and achieving a sense of friendship with fellow students.

Our school Motto is Share the Warmth. Our staff decided to collect hats, gloves, and scarves for the Marian Centre for the homeless in Edmonton. Our staff felt a sense of closeness to our school's patron, Bishop Greschuk, who was a warm individual.

Our community collected tabs at home during COVID restrictions for Tabs for Wheels through the Knights of Columbus. We also had tabs stored at the school until we were able to safely donate them to Tabs for Wheels. The tabs donated were enough to purchase a wheelchair for someone in need. We now collect the tabs annually. This year we collected 6 large boxes full. Thank you to the member of the Knights of Columbus who arranged for the pick-up of the tabs. The students and parents were happy to help someone in need. As well, the parent community enjoyed collecting the tabs at home and the students feel they were doing their part as part of recycling.

ÉCOLE BISHOP SAVARYN

Our staff and students collected food items for the Edmonton Food Bank at the beginning of the year and during Thanksgiving. The food we collected went directly to families in our school community. Staff and students were proud to provide food for families within our community. We realized that there was a great need and that when we worked collectively, the results could bring joy and support to others.



Staff and students jumped into February with a Ninja Jump Rope Challenge. Once we successfully completed a skill level, we earned a different belt colour with only a few successfully reaching the prestigious black belt status. Staff and students were invited to bring in a donation to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We collected funds and had fun supporting Heart Health Month! Staff and students enjoyed tracking their progress with skipping skills and were motivated to see how working towards a goal could help to support an important organization. Some students shared stories of how their family was directly impacted by heart health. We bonded as a school community to show our support for others.

Bishop Savaryn students partnered with St. Charles Parish and worked with the Deacon for our Lenten projects focusing on Prayer and Almsgiving. The first project involved our Grade 6 students leading a devotion to the Stations of the Cross on a Friday evening at St. Charles Parish. The evening was full of reverence as the Deacon and our students led over 100 parishioners through moments of meditation and prayer. The Deacon joined us for our March and April virtual assemblies sharing personal stories of social justice initiatives and the importance of service to others. Students had the opportunity to experience and lead a devotion to the Stations of the Cross. They learned the importance of reverence and were very happy to return to church in-person. Leading the devotion at the church helped students gain a deeper understanding of Jesus' passion and death and connected our faith to global issues and concerns with meditations provided by Peace and Development. Being actively involved with our school parish has ignited a passion with our Social Justice Leadership Team and they were eager to initiate their next project to support others. Our Almsgiving project focused on collection. To build a stronger connection to our school parish, each grade was tasked to collect specific food items for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chapter at St. Charles Parish. Food items were collected throughout Lent and distributed during Holy Week. Our school community felt a sense of urgency and connection by building a partnership with our parish and knowing our food collection was for people within our community. The Deacon explained that the shelves for food donations emptied as quickly as they were filled. Students were proud to work collectively towards a common good.

CARDINAL COLLINS ACADEMIC CENTRE - WESTMOUNT

Students brought in their bottles and cans to place into our collection bins for the Winnifred Stewart Society. The Society picked up the collections monthly. Students felt proud to be helping the Society and were happy that their containers were not going into the garbage.

CARDINAL LEGER

Students and staff at the school collected donations for the Terry Fox Foundation during the last week of September. We also spent an afternoon participating in a Terry Fox Run in our school yard, and students learned more about cancer and the positive impact donations make towards cancer research. Students learned background information on cancer and cancer research. They learned how far cancer research has advanced thanks to the Terry Fox Foundation and the donations that they received. They also learned about the seriousness and impact that cancer has in Canada and the need for further advancement in medical research to develop treatments and cures for cancer.

In December, our school collected food and money donations to create Christmas food hampers for families in our school community that were in need. This was an annual social justice project for our school. Each class in the school was challenged to collect all of the food items needed to create a complete food hamper that was then given to a family in our school community. This year, students raised and donated over \$1,000 in cash for our food hamper campaign and donated enough food for 10 identified struggling families. We also received over \$1,000 in donations from businesses outside of the school community in an ongoing partnership that has grown over the last 10 years. All remaining food items from this campaign were donated to St. Matthew's Parish and the Bissell Centre. Our Social Justice Club, the Charitable Chargers, were greatly impacted by running and organizing this Christmas hamper campaign. Likewise, when the rest of the students in the school realized that the campaign was going to directly impact their friends and families



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within our own school community, they were overcome with emotion and compassion. Many students did not know that there were students within their school that were struggling to get by every day, let alone have food for a special Christmas meal. As privileged as we are living in a wealthy province and country, many of our students did not even realize that there were still many in our community that needed help. Once students were made aware of this information, many found ways to go above and beyond to help, including joining the Social Justice Club, collecting donations outside of the school, and volunteering in the community.

Normally during the month of December (and other times throughout the year), our Grade 9 students' Social Justice Club, and Leadership Club visit the seniors at Capital Care Dickensfield. During these visits, students talk and listen to the seniors, play cards and other games, drink tea and sew or do crafts. Many of the seniors do not have families in the area who come to visit them, so the seniors and care residents always look forward to the visits. Due to COVID, our students were not able to visit the seniors in person, instead, our Grade 9's made over 100 Christmas cards, including visuals and personal written messages, which were then delivered to the residents at Capital Care Dickensfield. Most of our students look forward to seeing their families, especially their grandparents, over the holidays. When our students learned that there were many seniors in our city and community that did not have any family members to visit with over the holidays, they were determined to find a way to connect with the seniors. Although the students knew that Christmas would be tough this year because COVID restrictions prevented the seniors from gathering with their families, they were devastated to hear that many of them go months and years without anyone visiting them (even prior to COVID). This activity helped students to re-evaluate their relationships with their own families and grandparents and focus more on those in our society who were not as fortunate as they were.

As part of a week of numeracy activities, the Math Department held a fundraiser where students could donate money to the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund. As a bonus to donating money to this fund, every student who donated would also be allowed to Pi(e) a math teacher in the face for charity. A total of \$507.55 was raised by this initiative. Students were impacted by this project in many ways. First of all, students gained an understanding of what the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund was and who it helps and were proud to be able to

support this cause. As well, students had a fun time participating in the activities connected with their donations, which showed them that helping those in need and donating to charity could be fun as well.

For the entire month of March, our school participated in many different events, activities, prayers and liturgies in support of Ukraine and raised awareness and stayed informed with what had been taking place. The Social Justice Club at the school wanted to raise money to support Ukraine and Ukrainian peoples displaced by the events taking place in Ukraine. To do this, students decided to sell ice-cream sandwiches with the proceeds going to the Red Cross in support of Ukraine. In total, the school sold over 400 ice cream sandwiches and raised a total of \$864. Throughout the entire month students gained a better understanding of what was taking place in Ukraine and how it impacted people globally. When it comes specifically to the fundraiser that was held, many students offered donations without wanting or needing something in return for their generous donations. This showed that many students felt deeply about this specific cause that we were fundraising for and wanted to contribute in any way that they could. Many students and families in our school are Ukrainian, so this was a strong show of solidarity with those in Ukraine who were suffering at this time.

Every year we celebrate the legacy of our school namesake, Cardinal Paul-Emile Léger, who was known globally for his tireless efforts in social justice and charity. As part of a Cardinal Léger Day set of activities, a dozen students from our school, as well as a staff member, went to the Edmonton Food Bank to volunteer for the morning. Our volunteers spent the morning sorting food donations, checking the quality of food items, and packing food hampers for families. Some students were nervous about volunteering at the Edmonton Food Bank as it was their first time helping out in a capacity like this. However, everyone who volunteered returned with a warm feeling of happiness, joy, and satisfaction. Our school has completed many food drives to support the Edmonton Food Bank before, and all of the students who attended the Food Bank volunteer trip have donated food to these drives. All of the volunteers said that this was a much more profound as well as fulfilling experience to actually work at the Food Bank and make a direct impact in the community. All of the students asked for another trip to be arranged to the Food Bank before the end of the year so that they could spend more time there, and so that they could talk to their friends to get them to help out as well.



As part of a Cardinal Léger Day set of activities, 60 students and staff members volunteered their time to help the students and staff at our neighbouring Elementary School, St. Philip. During our visits to St. Philip, our students did one-on-one peer mentoring, guided reading, tutoring, and more. For over a decade, our two schools have had a close partnership that has fostered strong connections between the students and staff at both schools. Now that most COVID restrictions have been removed, we were looking forward to renewing our volunteer commitment and relationship with our friends next door. Our hope was that we could return to weekly mentorship visits with the students at St. Philip School as soon as possible. There were many feelings that our students felt by attending this volunteer experience. For some students, they were excited at being able to go back to their former Elementary School for a day to help out. Some students were looking forward to being able to help their former teachers and be in a classroom in a different capacity other than that of a student. All of our students felt joy and responsibility at being the older students that the elementary students looked up to and learned from. They were viewed by the younger students as sources of knowledge and help. Our students rose to fill that description. Many of our students have never been that older person that was looked up to by others. This was truly an enlightening experience for them to be able to share their talents and knowledge with a younger group of students.

Throughout the month of May, students and staff at the school completed a book drive for the kids at the Boys and Girls Club of Edmonton. Students were tasked with bringing in new or gently used books for kids in Grades Kindergarten-Grade 9. In total, our school collected over 1,500 books and \$287 in this initiative. Our school is uniquely situated right next to a Boys and Girls club location. As such, our students already felt connected to the organization due to its proximity to our school. When our social justice club announced that we were going to be doing a fundraising event to support the Boys and Girls Club, our students were instantly engaged and wanting to participate. Furthermore, knowing that the proceeds of our initiative were going to support kids their age simply made our students want to help even more. Our initial goal for this drive was 500 books, approximately 1 book for each person in our school. When this goal was passed in just a few days, our students got even more enthused with the book drive. When the final tally of over 1,500 books was announced, our students realized that a little bit of help from everyone could go a long way to making a big difference for others in the community.

Every year, our students benefit from a science presentation given by an Associate Professor at MacEwan University. In exchange for his presentation, he requests that students bring in cash donations for an organization that he supports, the Alberta Science Network. This year, our students donated over \$200 to this great cause. Although the primary reason for his visit to the school was to show some of the many interesting and exciting aspects of science and experimentation, many students were also amazed at his extreme generosity. Students recognized him as a man who was very knowledgeable and passionate about science and were even more astounded to hear that he willingly donates his time and experience to give presentations to schools freely. All he asked in return for his presentation to the students was that the students themselves gave back to help others. This was a fantastic lesson for students to learn as well when it came to social justice in our world. You did not always need to get something back when you used your gifts, talents, and passions for others. Instead, you could use the things that you were passionate about in life to help make a difference for others.

CHRIST THE KING

The Terry Fox Marathon of Hope is a cause close to the hearts of Christ the King with staff, students, and their families having faced battles with cancer. Our goal was to raise \$1,500. Our community came together, and the total amount raised was \$6,618. Through Terry Fox's story, students learned the value of goal setting and were inspired by his perseverance in achieving these goals despite facing many obstacles. Continuing his legacy gave our school community a sense of pride and unity.

Leadership Students created messages of hope and thanks to our frontline workers. The students felt that it was essential for us to recognize their hard work and continued support of our most vulnerable. Also, this ensured that our frontline workers knew that we were thinking of them and continuously supporting them. In addition to this, one of our parents donated almost ten dozen roses. The lead teacher of one of our Student Leadership Committees delivered 45 cards and the roses to the Stollery and Royal Alexandra Hospitals. This came at a perfect time



God Calls Us EACH BY NAME

since it was Thanksgiving weekend, and this was how our school gave thanks to our frontline workers. This made a huge impact on our students because they felt that this was a great way to say thank you, to show our gratitude, and love even though we didn't know these frontline workers personally. They learned that recognizing others for their hard work also filled our hearts. Our students saw by the pictures that their messages of hope and thanks reached the frontline workers and made an impact on their day. Seeing others happy makes us happy!

Thanksgiving is an awesome opportunity to give thanks for what we have and to reach out to those in need. To offer our support, the Christ the King community came together and collected non-perishable food items for the Edmonton Food Bank. A total of 10 large bins totalling 527 kg. of food was donated. It was amazing to see the joy on students' faces as they placed their donations into the Food Bank boxes. It did not take long before these boxes were overflowing with bags of food. Through these acts of

charity and the discussions that took place in the classrooms, students gained a greater appreciation of what they had and the importance of reaching out to those in need.

The Grade 4 students wrote special messages and prayers to veterans. Over 100 messages were completed. These special messages were shared with a soldier who passed these along to fellow veterans. Students wanted to let our veterans know that their dedication to our country was truly appreciated. These notes were also written and sent to thank the veterans for their commitment, to acknowledge them for the work that they did which at times was dangerous, and prayers were offered to keep them safe.

Over the 2021 Advent Season, our school participated in a social justice initiative called CTK's Caring Christmas Tree. Staff and students of all grades donated items to the Mustard Seed where each grade was responsible for a different item. The community was aware that during the holidays there was a lot of need and as a

school, we hoped that we could come together to support the Mustard Seed during the busy holiday season. The initiative allowed us to teach our students about taking care of people that were less fortunate and recognizing the blessings that we had in our lives and community. As the donations were brought in, our junior high leadership team collected them from the classes and placed them under our Christ the King Christmas Tree. With this idea in mind came the name CTK's Caring Christmas Tree, inspiring caring for others in many ways. Being a school with Grades Kindergarten-Grade 9, we were able to witness a diverse student impact from this initiative. Many of the Kindergarten-Grade 3 classes set goals and discussed how donating items to others showed kindness and how this could impact others. Having the donations presented under CTK's Caring Christmas Tree allowed for students to witness all the donations we had collected and the impact we could make as a school when we all came together for a good cause.



Our Grade 6 Leadership Team came together to successfully execute a Candy Cane Gram fundraiser for the Edmonton Food Bank. The students sold the Candy Grams during their lunch breaks. They handled the money and helped our younger students fill out the tags that would be attached to the candy canes. The week before the candy canes were distributed, our Leadership Team came together to attach the tags to the candy canes. This was no small feat as there were over 1,300 tags that needed to be organized and tied off. A wonderful thing happened while our Leadership Team was hard at work getting the tags attached, the other Grade 6's saw that they needed help and jumped in to assist. We ended up with the majority of Grade 6 students chipping in during their lunch break! The Leadership Team distributed the Candy Cane Grams to each class and returned with giant smiles. When asked why they were helping, they responded, "It felt good to help out my friends," and "I wanted to help people in need." When we shared that approximately \$1,125 had been raised for the Food Bank, cheers erupted. Our Leadership Team's response showed that they felt proud to have raised so much money and were grateful for the help received from their friends.



The Grade 1 students at our school took on a project to promote acts of friendship during the Christmas season. After discussing how they might feel to be away from their families during Christmas, each student was excited to make a card and a gift for patients at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. A chaplain at

the Hospital delivered 90 cards to patients the week before Christmas noting their reactions and comments. The reactions and comments were shared with students after Christmas break. Students were thrilled and surprised to hear how much their gifts meant to those who received them. A few became emotional when hearing their gifts brought tears to the eyes to some of the patients and how appreciative they were. When asked how they felt about the activity, students commented, "That makes me happy," "I feel like crying," "We can do a lot for other people," "We were being good neighbours," "We could make more cards for the hospital," and "We could make cards for other people." Most students quickly made the connection to the virtue of empathy and the story of the Good Samaritan which had recently been discussed. This project really empowered students with an understanding of how they could spread God's message of love to others.

The Grade 3 students at our school were given a morning question to discuss as a class each day. In the month of February, the questions had a focus on kindness. The students reflected on the question, "How could we spread kindness to the people in our community?" Like many young students who want to change the world for the better, they had many big ideas! However, they were encouraged to think on a smaller scale. Then we asked them, "What are things that make you smile?" From here our idea was developed! The Grade 1 students usually deliver cards to the houses around our school in the month of February, so we needed to think beyond the streets across from our building. We agreed to make cards for the seniors at McConachie Gardens. We contacted the facility and found out how many residents there were to ensure each person would get their very own Valentine's card. The four Grade 3 classes created 120 handmade cards! They were dropped off on the Friday before St. Valentine's Day to quarantine, so that the cards could be delivered safely to the residents on Monday, February 14th! With COVID restrictions, the students were unable to take the cards to McConachie Gardens themselves, however, they got to see pictures to show how far their kindness

travelled! They made connections of what they learned in Religion, in that the power of the Holy Spirit works through them to share God's love with others. They also learned the importance of how a small act of kindness could brighten the day of others in a big way.

Christ the King community came together to support the people of Ukraine. Between March 7th to March 18th, monetary donations were accepted. In total, \$2,550 was raised. The donations were sent to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. The entire community was very receptive to this social justice project. Students, parents, and staff all understood the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the desperate need of our support and solidarity. Aside from the monetary donations, prayers were offered, and a day of recognition was held on March 2nd.

Our school's Lenten social justice project Healthy Starts, Healthy Hearts successfully collected and delivered 323 boxes of cereal for breakfast programs at Ben Calf Robe and St. Teresa of Calcutta Schools. The hope was that this would stretch their breakfast budgets to afford fruit, milk, and other healthy foods. The impact on our students was impressive with comments such as "I didn't know that other schools served breakfast, or why," "I feel happy to give this to other students. When I was eating my cereal I was thinking of those kids," and "Jesus would want us to share food, just like he did with the loaves and fishes."

CORPUS CHRISTI

Each year, schools across Canada participate in the Terry Fox Run. This year, our school combined our Friendship Day with the Terry Fox Run. The day was organized with activities to celebrate student friendships and classes were organized to participate in the Terry Fox Run/Walk at some point during the day. Collections were made and a total of \$797 was raised for cancer research. Teachers and students also learned about Terry Fox and the determination he had. Students learned about resilience through Terry Fox's story and learned about being considerate of others. Some of the discussion revolved around being considerate of others because we may not always know what else was happening in their lives. We discussed the importance of being kind to others at all times because people might be dealing with situations beyond school.



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For Thanksgiving, we collected and delivered a truck load of non-perishable food items to the food bank at St. Theresa Parish. Students learned that there were people in our community that did not have enough food and that it was important to be kind and considerate of these people. It was an opportunity for students to assist people in our community.

Our Grade 1 students wrote Christmas thank you letters for the nurses at the Stollery Children's Hospital. These thank you cards were then delivered by one of our teachers. Students had the chance to recognize the hard work that nurses and caregivers provided to help children. It was impactful to our students because the Stollery cares for children which made it very real for our students who were children themselves. It helped them to realize that there were children just like them who needed care for their health and survival.

Our school families donated over 20 bags of used outdoor clothing which was donated to Coats for Kids and needy families in our school. Students and families were able to provide other families with winter clothing rather than these items being disposed of. They were used to benefit others in our school community and the community of Edmonton.



Grade 2 students made 100 Christmas cards for residents at the Laurier Heights Seniors Lodge. This is a tradition that began last year and has continued. Students had the opportunity to bring joy to a group of seniors. They were able to do something for others without any reward other than knowing that they brightened the day of others.

Our Elementary leadership students made the decision to write Christmas cards for either healthcare workers or seniors. Grade 1 students created 175 cards for the residents of the Silver Birch Seniors Residence. Students came up with this activity on their own and did this activity during recesses.

Students in Grades 4-9 collected personal toiletries to be donated to YESS (Youth Empowerment and Support Services). Students donated more than 20 boxes of toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and clothing. Through this collection students were able to support other youth and better understand that there were people their age who struggled with basic necessities.



Our Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes donated items to create 16 Christmas hampers. These hampers were distributed to 9 families within our own school community and the remaining 6 hampers were donated to the St. Elizabeth School community. Students had the opportunity to sign up and bring items in to make a Christmas hamper for a family in need. The students worked as a class to create these hampers and it became a class project involving teamwork through the different donations.

Our school had a fundraiser in support of Ukraine. Administration challenged staff and students to raise money and volunteered to do face paint, dye their hair, and shave their head at certain levels of fundraising. All staff and students also made blue and yellow hearts with prayers which were hung throughout the school to help remind us to keep the people of Ukraine in our thoughts and prayers. Students were very proud to support this very worthy cause and understood the many blessings we have.

DIVINE MERCY

All students decorated a Valentine for seniors in two different retirement communities. In total, 190 Valentines were created. Students were so happy to know that they would be bringing joy to those in retirement communities. They



learned that a small and simple action such as making a Valentine would have a larger impact on those who would be receiving them.

For the month of February, the school collected food donations to help replenish the food bank at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, our community parish. Students were able to talk in school and at home about the impact of not having food and how donating something that we were fortunate to all have could help so many others.

Students participated in a presentation from the Humane Society. They then created a pet enrichment toy for a bunny, cat, or dog with a partner. They created either a tug toy, cat chaser, and bunny treat puzzle. Students were excited to learn about what animals needed and their freedoms. They enjoyed creating an enrichment toy for the pet. They even wanted to create one for their pet at home, which showed that they learned about enriching their pet's life.

Our students learned about the Heart and Stroke Foundation as well as the Jump Rope for Heart event. Following the kick-off assembly, each class was encouraged to set a fundraising goal and determine a prize that they would like to receive if they achieved the fundraising goal. The school goal was to fundraise \$500. Students were able to raise \$2,696! On top of the fundraising, on Thursday, May 19th, students participated in the Jump Rope event. Whether they skipped during Physical Education class or outside during the day, the classes took about 20-30 minutes to engage in the Jump Rope for Heart event. Students were able to learn about the Heart and Stroke Foundation, healthy habits, and the benefits of daily physical activity.

FACILITY SERVICES

Staff donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dream for Kids Challenge in lieu of a Christmas gathering.

ÉCOLE ESCUELA FATHER LEO GREEN

The Grade 6 students oversaw organizing a donation campaign to collect items needed to create gift bags to donate to patients at St. Michael's Extended Care Centre for Christmas. The students also decorated 150 Christmas cards and handmade gift bags. The students felt very empowered overseeing this project from start to finish. They were impressed by the amount of donations collected. It was very humbling for them to realize that some people did not have a family to spend Christmas with and that the gift bags they put together could bring joy to the people of St. Michael's during this special time of year.

Our school applied for a grant from the United Way called Make Your Mark. This grant allowed students to learn about poverty in Edmonton and to think of a way to use \$1,000 toward solutions. After learning about poverty and homelessness, the students started a backpack to be filled with items a person suffering from homelessness would need. We asked our school community to donate as many items as possible from the list the students made, and we used the grant money to buy the rest. We contacted the Mustard Seed to come pick up 15 backpacks. These backpacks were filled with a blanket, masks, hand warmers, gloves, toques, Chapstick, sanitizer, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, wipes and a handmade card with affirmations made by the students. Students learned the meaning of poverty and how many people needed help in Edmonton. We used the Good Samaritan story as our religious perspective on this project. Through this process we discussed other ways to help by donating to other charities and thinking that many people need help that were not always in poverty. It allowed them to be kinder in class and with others in school. Students expressed that they felt happy helping others and grateful that they did not need a backpack. Students were excited to do this again and realized that these were only 15 people that would be getting help and that maybe we could do another project. We created a video expressing everything we learned and shared this video with our school community.



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FATHER MICHAEL MIREAU

Our school provided parents with the option of purchasing lunches once a week through the Healthy Hunger program. All proceeds from these lunches were donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. At School Council meetings, families expressed their gratitude in supporting this worthwhile cause. These donations made it possible for our parent community to give back to other school communities who required the support.

Students participated in Toonies for Terry to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. The life and legacy of Terry Fox was explored by all grades through direct teaching, stories, and videos. The perseverance, dedication and compassion displayed by Terry during his Marathon of Hope was an inspiration for students to "Try like Terry!" and go the extra mile for cancer research. Students completed a loop around the school, and many wore stickers with the names of friends and family members who had been impacted by cancer. Students learned about Terry's legacy, the challenges that people with cancer face, as well as the power of a school community coming together to support one another. It was a day that students will never forget!

Lessons were created and shared with all staff to support student awareness around the peaceful and respectful process of Truth and Reconciliation. Through conversation, listening to stories, prayer, and working with our school's Indigenous Learning Services Consultant, we provided opportunities for all students to be engaged in critical learning to better understand the situation of Indigenous children and young people whose lives were changed through the tragedy of the residential schools. Resources were gathered and reviewed with the Indigenous Learning Services Consultant who also provided teaching resources, including EduKits for student learning and growth about Indigenous culture. All culminating projects were displayed at the front of the school for the month in addition to specific teachings around the history of Orange Shirt Day. The Learning Commons continues to have an area designated to Truth and Reconciliation. The impact on students was an increased awareness of residential schools and the impact on Indigenous families.

For Thanksgiving, Grade 4 students held a food collection in support of the St. Theresa's Parish food bank. Every school day, a Grade 4 student would provide the school with information on the food collection including items most needed. At the culmination of the collection, our front foyer contained two giant boxes that were overflowing with food items. This is a yearly project that our Grade 4 students undertake. Through their posters and announcements, the school community gained an understanding of how we could make a difference in the lives of those in our own Parish community.

Students paid \$1 for a tag that they filled out for a person in the school. These tags were attached to a candy cane and these Candy Grams were delivered by Grade 8 elves. The money collected was donated to the Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope Campaign. Every day, a Junior High student would make an announcement about the Candy Gram Initiative and would include information about the Sign of Hope Campaign. Students were very excited to participate and send friendly messages to their peers, as well as to raise money for the Sign of Hope.

Our Grade 3 classes collected toonies on Tuesday, March 15th and, during the month of March, Junior High students spent some time crafting yellow and blue friendship bracelets from embroidery floss. These were sold by donation with all collected funds going to the effort to aid Ukraine. Finally, proceeds from our weekly Healthy Hunger for the Month of March was also donated. The entire school was united in its efforts to support the crisis in Ukraine. Several bulletin boards were dedicated to messages of hope, support, and prayers on the shapes of sunflowers and hearts. These shapes were used to make a Ukrainian flag.

FATHER MICHAEL TROY

As part of Spirit Week and Father Troy's birthday celebration, our Social Justice Team sold cupcakes to raise money for Father Troy's favourite charity, the Holy Childhood Association. Students also engaged in other school spirit activities such as inclusive posters and staff trivia to build community. Students were happy and excited to be able to participate in a school event while helping others. They also learned some history and made a connection to Father Troy's charitable spirit and



generous outlook on life. Students expressed their eagerness to start the next social justice initiative.

Thanksgiving cards were made for children in the Stollery as part of the Cards for Kids Program. Students made 25 cards in which they coloured and wrote words of encouragement and prayers for children's health. Students were grateful to have an opportunity to impact someone else's Thanksgiving in a positive way. They also reflected on how fortunate they were to have family, health, and/or food during this season.

For the month of October, our school was responsible for collecting food bank items for the Millwood's Community of Schools run through St. Theresa's Parish. Students brought in 317 food items which were then delivered to St. Theresa's on November 4th. Announcements provided statistics on the number of people that accessed the Edmonton Food Bank and how this number had increased over the years. Posters were also made by students and hung in the hallways to encourage others to bring in items throughout the month. Students were proud when they brought in the items and happy that they could help someone in need. It was also interesting to see their reaction to the statistics of families in need. They were surprised the numbers were so high.

For two weeks in November, students gained awareness and information/facts about prostate cancer and men's mental health. Different announcements were broadcasted daily, along with a Google Slides presentation with information on the hallway TVs. At the end of the two weeks, students had the choice to donate \$1 for prostate cancer awareness. In turn for their donation, they received a paper mustache in their choice of style and colour to wear for the day. The amount raised for Movember was \$263. Students gained knowledge on a topic that was not highly discussed. It created conversation in the halls about mental health and how males needed to be supported too.

Students created 40 placemats for The Mustard Seed which were used to serve Christmas dinners to the less fortunate. A short Christmas wish, or prayer was also written on the placemat. Students explored The Mustard Seed website, examined the services they provided, and discussed the impacts COVID has had on individuals requiring support from the community. Students reflected and discussed how we sometimes take for granted all the lovely things we get to enjoy over the Christmas

season. They remembered that not all individuals have this luxury, and that they should do their part to help spread the Christmas spirit.

International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8th and fell within the season of Lent. Our school decided to give alms to those women who were experiencing hardship in the City of Edmonton. In collaboration with Catholic Social Services, a list of most-needed items was determined for their women's shelters. Over the course of two weeks in February, the students were asked to donate these items! The call was made for items such as toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products as well as pampering items to help the women feel special on International Women's Day. After sorting and packaging all that was donated, we were able to stuff 30 gift bags each with a wide array of items from soap to socks to bubble bath! Our hope was that each woman who entered the shelters run by Catholic Social Services would not only be handed a gift bag but also receive the gift of knowing that we celebrated who they were no matter what circumstances they found themselves in. During the campaign, teachers shared a slide presentation with their homeroom classes with the objective of explaining what International Women's Day was about, what Catholic Social Services did in the community to support women in need, how we could help, and the Church's appreciation for women. Pope Saint John Paul II was known for his teachings on the feminine genius. He emphasized the importance of women in the Church and in society and their unique perspective. He recognized women as a gift. This was an opportunity for the students to acknowledge that as a Catholic school community, we were called to affirm the dignity of all and to reach out to those who were vulnerable. This social justice initiative was a response to that call in a practical and meaningful way.

Throughout the month of March, our school participated in various activities to raise funds for humanitarian aid for Ukraine and awareness for Ukraine. Grade 9 students organized a bake sale, as well as a "Break Dress Code Day" from our typical navy and white school colours to yellow and any shade of blue. In total, \$628.15 was raised and sent to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton where an anonymous donor matched our donations. In addition, students created 374 paper sunflowers that contained prayers and thoughts of encouragement and support. Lastly, on Thursday mornings we played the Ukrainian National Anthem with English translations at the bottom of the screen. As a community, the students were proud to know that even though there were issues on the other side of the world, their efforts could still make a difference. Our Grade 9 students showed great



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initiative and leadership skills to organize themselves and carry out successful social justice initiatives. Our Ukrainian families were also very grateful for our efforts.

Our school ran a Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser for 3 weeks to raise money to support Ukraine and the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids Campaign. Students acquired brochures and engaged in fundraising within their own families and communities. We raised \$786 through the selling of 131 kits. The funds were split between the two charities. Our students were concerned with the injustices that were happening in Ukraine and were happy to know they could help in a monetary way to provide support. Students recognized the commitment it took to make a difference and going outside their comfort zone as well as speaking to communities outside of the school to help them reach their goal.

ÉCOLE FRÈRE ANTOINE

Throughout the month of October, Grade 2 students at our school collected food gift cards for St. Theresa's Parish food bank. Everyday Grade 2 students were proud to be able to speak in French during our morning announcements, to explain the project and encourage everyone to donate. As gift cards were received, Grade 2 students were responsible for bringing them to the office. At the end of our collection, the students raised \$1,406.05 in gift cards. We celebrated our total amount raised during morning announcements. Students were delighted to have the opportunity to oversee such a special project and make a difference in their communities. This created a sense of pride. Students watched a video of the collection process at the Edmonton Food Bank. This made them aware of how much there was a need for food in their very own community and as such, their level of empathy increased as did their willingness to give.

Students in Grade 3 wrote letters of gratitude to the veterans of our country. They also filled out postcards to hand out to the veterans. Approximately 75 postcards and 24 letters were collected. They were given to veterans along with a food basket. Students developed a sense of understanding, gratefulness, and empathy towards veterans. After many discussions as a class, they were able to recognize the importance and the role of each Veteran in our country.

During the beginning of December, students from Grade 2-6 donated mittens, toques and scarves for those in need at St. Elizabeth and St. Teresa of Calcutta Schools. The Mill Woods Seniors Association also generously donated 38 pairs of hand knitted mittens to this collection. Students reflected on what it meant to share our resources with others and seeing Jesus in others. Students from our school will continue to build a long-lasting relationship with St. Teresa and St. Elizabeth Schools and continue to develop a sense of thankfulness and appreciation for the things they have.

Kindergarten to Grade 3 students examined and reflected on their own racial differences and celebrated their uniqueness and individuality through art, handprints, self portraits, books, plotting their ancestry and others for Black History Month and racial diversity awareness. Students felt proud of their individuality and openly talked about race and diversity in a safe and caring environment.

For Black History Month and racial diversity, Grade 4-6 students examined important Black historians and culture, their struggles, and contributions to Canada. They selected inspirational quotes and videos on equality to share. They researched organizations that fight racism and researched how to be an ally. They wrote announcements and reflections on what they learned from this month-long activity. Many students felt proud of their culture and their personal experiences were validated. Others felt brave and safe to talk about race and inequality, as well expressed their allyship. All students felt proud of their diversity.

Students in Grade 6 selected a social justice issue of their choice. Then, students researched the issue and reflected on what was learned. Students then presented their information to the class in the form of a Google Slides presentation. Finally, students voted on an issue/organization that we could support as a class. Students loved this project as they got to research an issue of their choice. They were able to inform their teacher and classmates about what was learned, and it was student-led. Students also practiced critical thinking skills through researched appropriate websites and brainstorming ways that we could help as a class.

Students from our school collected hygiene products for the needy at the Hope Mission. Grade 5 students also created cards with messages of hope. Students were moved by the generosity of our school community and took great pride in knowing

that these donations would help the less fortunate and make a difference in their lives.

GENESIS CATHOLIC ONLINE

Our Thanksgiving committee asked staff to bring in food to support St. Teresa of Calcutta's food bank. Food collected was given to the school's food bank which goes to school families in need.

Grade 2 students made Christmas cards for the lonely senior citizens at Touchmark at Wedgewood Retirement Community. Many students mailed their cards, but some of the students hand-delivered the cards they made to the seniors themselves. The students communicated that they felt a sense of connection. Since we are an online school, they quite often feel disconnected and out of touch because of COVID.

Organized with a local Veterans Society, students wrote Christmas letters spreading the love of Christ during the Christmas season to Canadian veterans. Reflecting on what brought them peace and joy, students wrote letters to bring joy and peace to those who had served our country making it and keeping it a safe place. There were approximately 150 letters written and sent through to the Royal Canadian Legion to veterans. Students reflected on their lives, and the beauty of Canada, and that which had been gifted to them thanks to the sacrifices of others. In this project, students focused on how they could put their gratitude into writing to bring love to others over the Christmas season.

GOOD SHEPHERD

Students wrote 200 cards with words of encouragement to healthcare providers at the Misericordia Hospital during the state of emergency in the province and some negative protesting. Students created these thank you cards to demonstrate appreciation For Words Change Worlds. Students were motivated and shared how

important healthcare was for everyone. Some students' family members were healthcare workers as well and these students understood the challenge of the job.

To raise funds for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation, students participated in a Movie Day, Bend-the-Rules Day and families purchased tickets for a raffle to receive a basket valued at \$250. From all these events, a total of \$2,734.68 was donated to the Foundation. Students, staff and families learned how the Foundation supported students and families in our Division, and how they were able to contribute.

One of our challenges for our 12 Days of Christmas Challenge was for students to bring in socks to donate to the Bissell Centre. In total, 1,198 pairs of socks were donated. Students and our families were very proud to see the number of socks that were collected at our site and were happy that they were going to help individuals in our city who were struggling.

Students made 300 Christmas cards for the long-term residents at Touchmark at Wedgewood. Many of our classes participated. Our students were happy to share some Christmas cheer with the long-term residents at Touchmark. It made our students really reflect that not everyone lives with a family and that many people living in facilities were alone most of the time.

During Random Acts of Kindness Week, we collected items of food for the Edmonton Food Bank. Our Kindness Food Bank Drive followed a theme. Each day we collected different food items such as Macaroni Monday (pasta items), Tuna Tuesday (Tins of meat and/or alternatives), Wheaties Wednesday (cereal/oatmeal), Tin of soup Thursday (tins of soup), and Fruits/Veggies Friday (tins of fruit and vegetables). This project included the whole school community. The food donation collection area was in a central location within the school. Each day after morning announcements, the students brought down their food items and placed them in boxes. Each day students had an opportunity to visually see their generosity and kindness grow. The students were proud of their accomplishments and could see how much food they





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donated to help others in need. Through class discussions, morning announcements, and student conversations, students realized how small donations could grow to help others in need. A total of 46 boxes of food was donated to the Edmonton Food Bank.

Good Shepherd families sent in cash donations to our site on March 9th in support of the humanitarian effort for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. Students and staff also wore yellow and blue on that day and participated in activities that showed their support for the Ukraine and for an end to the war. Our school collected \$765 that was forwarded on to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for the Aid to the Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine Campaign on behalf of our school community. Good Shepherd students were proud to participate in wearing blue and yellow that day as well as bringing in funds from home in support of the humanitarian effort. Student thoughts and prayers were focused on the Ukrainian people and with those here in Canada who worried about friends and relatives in the Ukraine. Students also recognized that this act of charity (almsgiving) was part of our Lenten journey as a community.

Our school sold tickets for a Pysanky Easter egg raffle to raise funds in support of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton's "Aid for Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine" Campaign. Raffle tickets were purchased for \$1 each in order to have the opportunity to win a Pysanka Egg created with love by the hands of one of our Grade 1 teachers. Five beautiful eggs were created and raffled off. In total, \$679.15 was raised and donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton's Campaign. Students were happy to bring in raffle tickets and recognized the importance of fundraising for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who were in such need. It also initiated other activities in support of the Ukraine across all grades.



H. E. BERIAULT

On Friday, September 24th, 320 students and all staff participated in a 3-kilometer loop in our neighboring communities of Patricia Heights and Wolf Willow for the Terry Fox Foundation. A beautiful sunny afternoon provided a perfect setting for our annual event to fight cancer and continue to "TRY LIKE TERRY!!" Our school raised \$1,666.95 to support the Terry Fox Foundation. The Terry Fox Run is an annual event at our school, and it continues to have a profound impact on our students. Over the week prior to the event, students learned about Terry Fox and his legacy in Canada in the fight against cancer. As students ran through our community, they wore stickers on their backs to dedicate their run and fundraising efforts to a person who was battling or had lost their life to this disease.

Each homeroom collected items to create beautiful Christmas hampers full of food items and gifts for seven of our school families. Students were pleased to be able to support members of our school community and ensure that they had a Merry Christmas and that they knew that they were loved.

The MAD Club (Make A Difference) created an initiative called, Christmas Around the World. Students met together to decorate a Christmas tree with flags of the world that represented the culturally diverse makeup of our community. They also researched the different ways the diverse languages of our student body greeted each other to celebrate Christmas and the various holidays. These messages were displayed around the school. A multimedia presentation was created to highlight the beautiful cultures and their Christmas traditions and shared with each homeroom class before the Christmas break. The students felt included and represented through the activities created. They learned the different ways to greet each other in various languages with Christmas messages and discovered how truly diverse our school community was.

Students in Braided Journeys made 54 handmade Christmas cards to provide Christmas Cheer at the Meadowlark Seniors Lodge in our community. A small group of these dedicated Braided Journeys students worked weekly after school in order to complete the full set of unique cards with uplifting messages. The students were really invested in completing this project and reflected on what it might be like to not be able to see your family at Christmastime. They were proud and were



encouraged to complete the project by remembering the impact of COVID on seniors lodges and wanted to demonstrate Christmas spirit through their cards.

Sport Central contacted our school to have our CTF classes build wooden bins to store sports equipment on shelves. We paired with Father Michael Troy School to complete this task and support an organization which provided equipment to under-privileged children in the City of Edmonton. Our students were excited to be part of this meaningful project and to be of service to such an important organization.

ÉCOLE ESCUELA HOLY CHILD

We collected toonies for the Terry Fox Run. A Kindergarten class learned about Terry Fox, his incredible feats and about helping people with cancer.

Grade 2/3B students made Christmas and Easter cards for the retired priests of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton as a way to thank them for all the work that they did in service to our community. They sent them well wishes and shared a piece of art with them. This was well received as seen by the mail we received in return from some retired priests thanking the children for taking the time to reach out to them! Students in the school also made some Thank You cards for the workers in the ICU's in the province. They wrote a message of hope and encouragement and sent a little Life-Saver candy as a gesture of thanks for all their hard work. The cards were not only for the doctors, but also nurses, custodians, specialists, etc. As a whole class, we had a discussion about the role of priests and what they do in the community. After their time of service to the community and beginning retirement, many can feel lonely, especially when they get much older. Students felt a sense of purpose when making their cards knowing that they were going to bring a smile to someone's face. Upon seeing the cards we received in return from different priests thanking the students, the kids loved knowing that their card was received and that such a simple gesture could make a person feel loved. During our time of prayer, they included the retired priests in their intentions.

The invasion and consequent war in Ukraine reminded us that in times of conflict there were people on both sides who were innocent and suffered due to the

decisions their leaders made. We must always be mindful of praying for world peace throughout the year and pray that leaders around the world, regardless of religion or faith, keep peace at the forefront of their decisions. Beginning March 7th, for our Lenten Project, each student in our school created a prayer/intercession for peace that was read during morning announcements (students read their own prayer). In creating prayers, our students were able to concretely demonstrate how our own actions could help alleviate some of the pain and suffering they saw around them. For example, a student in Grade 2 wrote a prayer describing how each of us could act in peace as a way to balance out the effects of war on the world. Each student was asked to create an individual prayer that reflected their own hopes for those directly impacted. It allowed our students to understand that although the war was far away from us, we were all still responsible for creating and keeping peace. This project allowed students to also understand that we had the power to choose our leaders, and that we must choose leaders that reflected how we believed people should be treated and that they take care of our community.

Students created blue and yellow peace cranes for peace in Ukraine to be hung from the school ceilings on March 16th as part of our school Lenten project. Students were asked to donate \$2 that day as a fundraiser for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton and its Aid to the Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine Campaign. We purposefully asked students to create an origami Peace Crane to pray for peace but to also reflect on why we needed to raise funds for the families who were suffering due to the war. Teachers played music or read prayers and reflections as students made their cranes. Once the cranes were completed, we strung them and hung them in the main hallway to remind us daily of Ukraine's struggles and that we needed to continue helping them as long as we were needed. Students understood that the Peace Cranes helped us send our prayers and hopes to God but also so they could reach those who needed it most. Some wrote prayers or letters to those in Ukraine on the Peace Cranes as well.

As a culminating activity for Easter, "Peace be with you," students created a whole class canvas prayer and art piece to be hung on the school yard fence. The canvasses were hung to bring peace and prayers to our neighbours and community. Each class was provided with 3 large canvases to create an art piece(s) that offered their prayers to the community. There were a variety of prayers, from the war in the Ukraine to the importance of love and taking care of each other. Each child was



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provided a part of the canvas to express their creativity and prayers. Students were given an opportunity to talk about the different ways we could love and take care of our neighbours and create a community that looked out for others.

Students participated in the Moose Hide Campaign which raises awareness about violence against Indigenous women and children in Canada and the US. Students wore moose hide pins. They felt connected and responsible to make a change and to treat others with kindness. They felt ready to talk about what the pin represented and wore it with pride!

Backpacks of Hope was a project created to raise awareness among students about the realities faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and our human capacity to be agents of hope and change in our communities. As a school community, we began the journey by discussing what hope was and how it could be brought to those in need. The book, "Hope is an Open Heart," was read in all the classrooms and used as inspiration for each class to write a poem about hope. Poems were displayed in the hallways of our school. The experience was followed by a classroom conversation about the Seven Catholic Social Justice Teachings. To illustrate a possible option to practice some of these teachings, the book, "The One with the Scraggly Beard," was read by a former Mayor to introduce Edmonton's homelessness reality to our students. As a school located downtown, seeing individuals experiencing homeless sleeping along the walls of our school building in the morning was not an unfamiliar site for our students. Many of them had expressed concern and desire to help these people. Reading the book helped students draw connections and heart felt discussions as to how they could bring hope and help to those individuals. At this point, the Backpacks of Hope Project and an explanation about it was provided. The students were invited to choose from a list of items required and bring donations to fill 100 backpacks to give to Bag of Hope and the Mosaic Center. After two weeks of collecting items, a day was scheduled to create a school assembly line. Classes were scheduled to come to the gym where each student in the class was assigned a specific job or item to help with the backpack assembly. Students and our school community were able to assemble 100 backpacks with all the items requested at the beginning of this journey. With the help of a representative of Bag of Hope, Holy Child donated 100 bags to the Mosaic Center and a large number of items to Bag of Hope to assist them in filling other bags themselves. The feedback received was very positive from students, teachers, and parents alike. The students found the initiative insightful and

rewarding. Most importantly, the project reinforced the Principles of Catholic Social Justice by planting seeds of empathy, understanding for human dignity and community responsibility in our students' minds and hearts. More than just a moment in time, this experience left a lasting life lesson in these young people. A teaching to treasure and use as inspiration to become the future caring leaders of our world.

ÉCOLE HOLY CROSS

Students and staff participated in a fundraiser for the Terry Fox Run/Walk. Funds were raised for the fight against cancer. This raised student awareness of the terrible and debilitating effects of cancer on our society. As well, it taught students empathy and the importance of helping others when we can. The Grade 3 students in collaboration with a Truth and Reconciliation Consultant wrote their own land acknowledgements. Students learned lessons about the history of our country and our culture.

Staff and teachers donated funds to assist Catholic Social Services in supporting Afghanistan refugees. This provided students with a lesson in empathy and the importance of understanding the difficulties that refugees live with.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 9 were asked to collect items during Advent for the Mustard Seed to help those in need. Each class were provided a list of items to be collected, for example: Kindergarten and Grade 1 toiletries, Grade 2 soap and hand warmers, Grade 3 gloves or mitts, Grade 4 reusable water bottles, Grade 5 socks, Grade 6 face cloths, Grade 7 hats, Grade 8 shaving cream, Grade 9 deodorant. The students learned a lesson that a lot of the things that we use and need on a daily basis were not always available to those in need and that they should never take things for granted.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 9 were asked to create Christmas cards for our neighbors to demonstrate the importance of being a valuable and good member of the community. Cards were also created for members of our Military to thank them for their service. As well, cards were also sent to the Stollery Children's Hospital to help lift the spirits of individuals experiencing a difficult moment and



cards were distributed to the elderly who may have been experiencing loneliness. Students learned that by completing simple acts of kindness, the benefits were felt by many different members of society in a positive manner.

For our staff gift exchange, staff were asked to purchase a gift that represented their favorite things to enjoy as a child. The gifts were then collected and were given to Santa's Anonymous for families in need. The students learned that Christmas was not just about receiving, it was also about giving, and that the giving could provide every bit as much joy.

Students from the Grade 3 class participated in an online event with immigrants from all around the world during Black History Month. Students learned that they were citizens of the world that included many diverse cultures.

Grade 5 students created a safe space for students to reach beyond themselves to discuss and self-reflect on social justice issues, diversity, race, bias, stereotypes, privilege, oppression, and equity. The aim was to promote a widened worldview with a focus on individual and collective change.

The Junior High Leadership Team hosted a successful Pi Day fundraiser event with proceeds going towards helping Ukraine. Just over \$500 was raised thanks to the donations of all of our students. The fundraiser helped to raise awareness to the serious issues that were happening in the world.

Jesus gave prayer, fasting, and almsgiving a place of great prominence when He spoke about them in the Gospel of Matthew. They are now known as the three pillars of Lent. During the 40 days of Lent, students decided which of the three they wanted to focus on for our Lent-A-Thon. Once they decided on something specific, they were to find as many sponsors as they could in order to raise money for Catholic Social Services, the charity École Holy Cross supported this Easter season. Students learned that sometimes by sacrificing very little great things could be accomplished. A grand total of \$2484.75 was raised for Catholic Social Services in support of Ukrainian refugees.

Students in Grade 2 used their recess time to help clean-up the school yard. Every day the students would work hard during recess to collect the garbage to make their schoolyard a wonderful and safe space for their classmates and community.

The students learned the importance of respect for their environment, the community that they lived and played in as well as shared with others.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 9 participated in the Run Wild - Run/Walk, to raise awareness and funds for the Zebra Child Protection Centre. A total of \$384 was raised in donations. The students were reminded that there were many difficult situations in the world today and the importance of stepping up to help support and protect individuals in need.

HOLY FAMILY

For the month of October, students and staff at our school participated in making cards and/or writing letters for various people in the hospital setting as a message of hope. Students and staff were encouraged to write to a doctor, nurse, patient, security guard, chef, volunteer, custodian, or any other person in the Grey Nuns Hospital that they appreciated and wanted to recognize the hard work or courage the person possessed. During COVID, hospitals have consistently been a place of overwhelming emotions, workloads, and tragedy. This project was completed to ensure that these people knew that we saw them, we prayed for them, we loved them, and we appreciated them. Around 400 cards or letters were completed and sent to the Grey Nuns Hospital on November 2nd. Throughout this project, students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of different people in the hospital setting, and how they all helped keep us safe and healthy. Instead of only focusing on doctors and nurses, students were encouraged to write to other valuable people that were often not thought of. Discussions about how each person was a part of the Body of Christ and contributed to the well-being of all were important in helping shape the students' perspectives. Students learned that every person and role contributed to the common good, and that it was important to recognize the hard work and courage of each person. Through this project, students were also able to reflect on and share their gratitude for others and with others.

The Grade 8A and 9A homerooms researched and then presented information about the meaning of the poppy and the reasons for fund-raising in November for Remembrance Day for the Poppy Fund for Canadian veterans. They presented briefly to all the grades from 1 to 9 and made it clear for those students where their



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donation would be going and why it was so important to care about such things in a country that seems very removed from war and its effects. This work was tied into a virtual assembly and the school's broadcast of our November 10th Remembrance Day celebration which both classes had responsibility for. The students were able to learn about and reflect on the proud history of Canadians regarding caring about and defending their fellow humans around the world and at home. They also learned that veterans were often in need of financial assistance, as well as emotional and physical support, often for many years after their service or perhaps for the remainder of their lives. We as citizens of a country such as Canada, a place of relative peace and harmony, have a duty to care for our peacekeepers and first responders. This has become even clearer during the pandemic and this simple truth was not lost on the students during this project.

As part of our December social justice project, the students in Grade 3A and 6A sold Christmas Candy Grams to staff and students. The Grade 6 students created posters to advertise and promote the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation and Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope Campaign. Grade 3 and 6 students visited each homeroom classroom daily for one week and sold a total of 2,400 Candy Grams and made \$600 for the two organizations. This project was featured in our December school assembly. While the project took a lot of time, work, and organization; the students felt very proud of their efforts and the amount of funds raised for these worthy causes.

The Grades 1A and 2B classes collected essential baby items and offered them to families in our community as part of a Ray of Hope social justice project. The items collected were donated to ensure precious babies and their families were supported during difficult times, like what we experienced the past two years. Our social justice project was inspired by the book "What Matters." This story was a great way to show children how their small actions could make a big difference, even if they didn't realize it, or see the change. Our students learned that together we could make a big difference and help other people.

Each month of the year, one of the Mill Woods Family of Schools collects food to support all community members. May was our school's turn. Grade 5 and Grade 8 students coordinated a food bank drive with an extra 'push' for the St. Theresa's Catholic Parish food bank. Grade 5 students were excited to visit each class. They assessed the amount of food collected by weight, coordinated daily

announcements, and collected the donations from each classroom. Junior High students participated as well, both by contributing and competing in a fun culminating activity. The class who collected the most food items won the opportunity to play the teachers in a game of wheelchair basketball. This activity spurred greater donations and helped in giving the students an appreciation of the many obstacles that physically challenged individuals face every day. Our hearts were warmed as even those who had little shared what they could, and students were reminded that we could all share whatever we had, whether that was food, time, love or encouragement. We learned that God's abundant gifts took many forms!

During Epiphany, students connected to the book, "What Matters," and what mattered to Baby Jesus. They collected essential baby products. The children were very involved reflecting, making posters, collecting items, and making baskets. To show that support matters to Holy Family, our school participated in a two-part social justice project. Part one was to collect monetary donations to help relief aide in Ukraine. Part two was letters of gratitude, support, and appreciation to ECSD Facility Services. A presentation was given at an assembly centered around the book, "What Matters." Emphasis was placed on the idea that support matters. Students learned that as all God's people, we were here to support one another and do what we could for each other. They felt a sense of pride and belonging knowing that such small acts, when we worked together, could have a big impact and could truly make a difference in the world.

HOLY TRINITY

Students raised \$615 for the Terry Fox Foundation by participating in an outdoor physical activity (short cross-country run). A greater awareness was brought to our student body about the mission of Terry Fox and fundraising for cancer in general. The impact on students was that they contributed to an excellent cause and raised awareness for cancer research as well as getting fresh air and exercise.

Students collected food in their Religion classes for the St. Theresa Parish/ St. Vincent de Paul Society food bank. A large group of students helped to load the bus with all collected food so that it could be brought over to the St. Vincent de

Paul Society food and donation warehouse. Approximately 600 pounds of food was collected (all cans). Students felt good about contributing to a worthy cause. They understood that at certain times of the year, a greater need existed for non-perishable food donations for groups such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

One of our teachers applied for money from The Bear radio station Community Fundraising campaign and \$2,000 was received. Also, our Student Council raised \$800 towards our Breakfast Club through the sale of Christmas Candy Grams. Students served food every single morning offering breakfast for those in our school community who needed it using these funds. The appreciation from our vulnerable student population could be seen every day when they received breakfast from Breakfast Club. This program ensured that none of our students were trying to learn on an empty stomach. It has been a huge addition to our school culture.

Students at Holy Trinity donated toiletry items to be delivered to YESS (Youth Empowerment and Support Services) Edmonton. Students were informed that their toiletry donations would go to vulnerable youths in the Edmonton community (those dealing with homelessness, abuse, addiction, etc.). Holy Trinity collected approximately 500 pounds in toiletry donations including toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, soap, etc. Our students were happy to donate to such a good cause. Students understood that there were those youths in Edmonton who were less fortunate than they were. They gave openly and happily. It was a blessing to see for all in the school community.

Holy Trinity students donated 300 pounds of canned non-perishable food to the St. Theresa Parish Food Bank. May was our assigned month and Holy Trinity students stepped up to the task. Holy Trinity students knew how much hardship many families were facing with food costs this year and so they wanted to do something to help support those who were vulnerable in their community. Our partnership with our local parish is always strengthened when we contribute to this initiative every May. We appreciated the opportunity to work with St. Theresa Parish to contribute to a very good cause. Our students are always impacted positively when we participate in this initiative every year. Many of our own Holy Trinity families received support from the St. Theresa Food Bank and our students knew that they were supporting each other when they were able to give to this cause. This initiative builds a sense of community for our students.

ÉCOLE J. H. PICARD

With the assistance of a \$500 School Urban Agriculture Seed Grant, J.H. Picard was able to install a self watering system in the school courtyard. Last summer, the school was able to grow fresh vegetables. In September, High School students participated in harvesting beets, zucchinis, carrots, and basil. We were able to give two full bins of vegetables to the Food Bank. By being involved in the growing process, students had a better appreciation of the chance they had of being able to access fresh vegetables every day. Also, students were excited to give back this privilege to our community by donating the harvest of our school to the poor.

Students and staff were asked to participate in the Terry Fox Run/Walk and raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. During this project, students learned the importance of setting goals to succeed in life and to make a difference in our community like Terry Fox. Students made their own goal for their Terry Fox Run/Walk and funding. Also, students understood the impact of cancer (person and community) and were grateful for health and access to healthcare.



Kindergarten to Grade 12 students at our school collected non-perishable food donations for our Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of Edmonton's Food Bank. Grade 3 students made posters and delivered presentations to the Elementary classes to promote this cause and to practice their French language skills. Students were able to see physical evidence demonstrating how many small actions contributed to one big action.

During the 2021-2022 school year, J. H. Picard Fashion Studies 20 students engaged in direct service work by participating in our Student-Made Mittens for the Mustard Seed initiative. Each student followed a pattern to construct one pair of lined mittens to donate. Six pairs of mittens were completed. The mittens were donated to the Mustard Seed for use for fall and winter. At the beginning of this project, students brainstormed what qualities and characteristics Mustard Seed patrons



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would want to find in a pair of mittens, for example, warmth, durability, etc. This process helped students to empathize with those who would be receiving the donations. The students were excited to see their completed mittens, and they were hopeful that those receiving the mittens would enjoy wearing them.

Students from Grades 1-6 created Thank You cards to support doctors and nurses during the pandemic. In total, we collected 126 Thank You cards from the students. They enjoyed creating these cards since they knew the cards would be highly appreciated by the doctors and nurses that were working hard during the pandemic. The students learned that even doing a simple task, such as creating Thank You cards, could do a lot to help support the doctors and nurses and boost morale.

Our students on the Junior High Student Council felt very compelled to help fundraise for Ukraine after hearing about the war. As the Division was doing a collection, our students decided to collect funds in a way that felt significant. Fundraising was done in two phases. Both fundraising collections were offered in our Kindergarten-Grade 12 classrooms. The first involved selling blue and yellow ribbons on our Blue and Yellow Day, so students could show solidarity and donate to the cause. A couple of weeks later, our students prepared blue and yellow envelopes with 10 sunflower seeds inside, which we sold during lunchtime. Prior to



each of these steps, one of our Junior High teachers, who was an active member of the Ukrainian community in Edmonton, prepared a Google Slide presentation for Junior High classes to help them understand the importance of the sunflower and the Ukrainian flag colours. The sunflower fundraiser was also significant as our staff planned a sunflower pin project in the weeks before the

sunflower seed sale. Students from all grades were given the chance to make a small sunflower pin with a prayer intention or symbol of peace drawn in the centre. The pins could be worn the week they were made. Our High School students supported our Elementary classes with the creation of the pins. This allowed all our students to associate the sunflower with Ukraine, and so our sale of sunflower seeds was a nice way to wrap up this awareness project for our school. During this

difficult time, our students felt helpless in the face of suffering and war. This project allowed them to feel that they could make a difference, no matter how big or small. We ran into challenges as we planned the fundraisers, but students overcame them by thinking of creative ways to put our plan into action. This was a way for our Student Council students to share their leadership gifts with the whole school. They were proud to be able to coordinate such a larger community initiative. It also allowed our students from all grades to unite and reflect on the issue at hand. Even two weeks after the ribbon fundraiser, many students left the ribbons tied to a magnet on the front of their lockers. Other students wore their pins or put them in their lockers. They wanted to ensure to remember Ukraine through this difficult time, even if our social justice project had ended for the month.

Students used code to mix a song to build awareness of racial injustice, encourage self-reflection, and inspire listeners to take action, Your Voice is Power. High School students discussed racialized media, artists, and culture. They learned that they could recognize racial injustices in media, culture and our wider world and participate in the dialogue about these issues.

J. J. BOWLEN

Students made donations to the Terry Fox Run for cancer research campaign and the entire school did a Terry Fox Run to support and experience the effort and courage that he demonstrated in his attempt to run across Canada despite having cancer himself. Students learned about Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope to collect money for research. Students donated more than \$2,600 for this purpose. Students learned about the commitment required by Terry Fox to help find a cure for cancer.

Students were given pink ribbons and donated \$150.05 for the cause to fund raise for Breast Cancer Awareness and research. Students learned more about the impacts of breast cancer on people who were cancer survivors and their loved ones. Students had an opportunity to help raise funds to go towards ongoing research and support.



The Physical Education Leadership Team of Grade 9 students headed up a Christmas food drive for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. John Bosco Parish to provide extra food for families in Northeast communities. The school collected \$879 in funds and over 3,200 food items for these families. Students worked together to collect money to help make other less fortunate families have a less stressful and more enjoyable Christmas. Our students went all out in getting this amount of money and food in only a week's time. They went home and talked with their parents about this wonderful cause and families supported this in a very strong way. Students were excited to help others and to participate in some healthy competition both among classes and individually too.

Seniors of the North Edmonton Seniors Association gave students knitted toques and mitts. The Grade 9 students wrote back thanking them and wished them a very Merry Christmas! Students came to appreciate the importance of showing appreciation to others and to value seniors today, tomorrow, and forever!

We collected donations for the people of Ukraine which were given to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for their humanitarian campaign. Students understood that there were people in need both near and far away. It was important that they realized that they could make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Students participated in a Springtime food and money donations drive for the community surrounding our school. The food gathered from student donations was enough to help 39 families with food hampers from the St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. John Bosco Parish. Many students live in our J.J. Bowlen community and some of the families accessed the food bank due to the financial difficulties that COVID caused. Students in our school were very diligent and conscious of the need for food items to help these families.

ESCUELA JOHN PAUL I

For our Thanksgiving celebration, we collected \$550 to purchase grocery store gift cards for our families in need in the John Paul I community. Students felt happy and

proud to help those in need, and connected to Religion and Gospel teachings, giving them the opportunity to practice generosity.

Students made beautiful Thank You cards for the ICU doctors and nurses at the Grey Nuns Hospital. Over 300 cards in total were delivered to the hospital on October 13th. Students were involved in class discussions and reflections about the importance and sacrifice of doctors and nurses, especially during the pandemic.

The Giving Tree is an annual tradition in our school whereby our families support our school families in need. Families in need provided the ages of their children who would benefit from a Christmas gift donation. We provided approximately 55 children from our school with gifts at Christmastime. The project provided a sense of community within our school. The families who supported this project commented how they were so grateful for the opportunity to provide for our own school families in need. The students rushed to the office to choose a child off our tree and were so proud when they returned with a wrapped present. They knew that these gifts provided joy to the students they sat beside and played with at recess time.

Families brought in a variety of personal items which were sent to Poland as emergency support for people in Ukraine. Students grew in their understanding of the political issues Ukraine was facing. They gained a more global perspective on how the rights of the people of Ukraine had been impinged on as well as the trauma and harm they were facing.

KATHERINE THERRIEN

Students participated in our school's annual Terry Fox Run. They raised funds for cancer research by collecting on-line donations. Students learned about Terry Fox's life, the Marathon of Hope, and the legacy he created. Many students made connections to their own lives and dedicated their run to a loved one who had been affected by cancer.

After Halloween, students recognized the abundance of treats they had received. They donated their personal goodies to the Halloween for Hope collection at the



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school. Each morning, many of our students eagerly took their donations out of their backpacks so that they could drop them into our school's collection bin. In just three days, 50-60 lbs. of sweets and treats were collected and donated to those less fortunate at the Hope Mission. This act of charity brought awareness about the vulnerable and those in need. In participating in this act of stewardship, students learned that every act of kindness, whether big or small, mattered.

This year for our annual Lenten project, our Bend the Rulz fundraiser (silver collection and/or good deed doing) donated funds raised to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for Ukraine humanitarian efforts. With the war in Ukraine, the students learned more about the war at the appropriate age/stage and knew that through the little bit of fun we had, we helped people who were not having fun at all. This helped to instill gratitude for the peace we currently have.

LEARNING SERVICES

The FSLW team spent two evenings in November at the Edmonton Food Bank. They worked alongside Food Bank employees to prepare food hampers that would be distributed throughout Edmonton.

The Chew Project serves youth from the 2SLGBTQ+ community who experience homelessness and face risks of living on the street. The Chew Project provides access to services, food, a day shelter, clean showers, and other basic necessities. They depend heavily on donations. Staff collected snacks, hygiene products, winter clothing and bus tickets and donated to the Chew Project.

Staff held a Cash for Christmas 50/50 raffle and of the money raised \$403 was donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids Fund.

The FSLW team collected donations to build hygiene bags for students in need. The team put the bags together and determined a plan for distribution to students in need at schools throughout the Division. The bags included items like deodorant, period products, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, and body wash. Students needed to have their basic needs met so that they could come to school ready to learn. These hygiene bags were paid for out of pocket by the

FSLW team as they care deeply for the students and wanted to ensure they were breaking down barriers to learning for them.

At our April staff meeting, we collected donations for treats, Toonie for Treats, and donated the money to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation.

LOUIS ST. LAURENT

Staff held themed fundraising charity projects each month throughout the year and the collections were donated to the Edmonton Food Bank. In Shiny September, staff brought toiletry items for the month. In Orchestrated October, healthy school snacks were collected and donated. Diapers and baby formula were collected for Newborn November. Christmas foods such as canned cranberries, meats, and vegetables were collected in Dashing December.

Our school Socktober campaign ran in October as part of our CSI (Christian Service Initiative) Club which encourages student-led Social Justice Initiatives. Each homeroom in our Junior High collected as many clean, new socks as possible to prepare to help Edmonton's homeless population in the cold winter months. Our CSI students created posters, campaign slogans, school announcements, and a video advertisement to encourage each homeroom to bring in donations. In total, our school was able to donate 487 pairs of socks, 6 pairs of gloves, and 10 hats. Our donations were given to the Mustard Seed's winter clothing donations. The impact on our CSI students was numerous. Our students were passionate to care for some of the most vulnerable in our city. With the rise of homelessness in our city and with the complication of COVID, our students not only knew the value this campaign could have on those who were chronically without safe homes, but they were also eager to live out the Catholic teaching of social justice into our greater community. The students wrote the school announcements, created posters, and verbally promoted the event among their peers. It was a joy to see how they injected their passion and creativity into these resources to spread the word of our campaign in the school. The impact in our greater school population was also noticeable as we were able to witness families bringing in these much-needed resources. It was humbling to see that our Christian Service Initiative was able to make a small difference in the lives of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who



challenged us to live out our Christian call and responsibility to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. It was an inspiring start to the year of our campaigns "...to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8 RSVCE) Thank you to our students and community.

The entire school embarked on an initiative to collect food to provide families with food over the Christmas season. Each Junior High homeroom and Senior High Block 1 class were assigned one item which they were asked to collect. The week before Christmas, items were distributed between 34 Christmas hampers. All Christmas hampers were given to our school families in need. Students were able to be part of a long-standing tradition at our school. Students were aware that the hampers went to their peers which made donations more meaningful.

Students created 50 cards at Thanksgiving and 50 ornaments at Christmas for the residents at Whitemud Lifestyle Options, a long-term care facility for people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia. The cards and ornaments were handmade and contained scripture verses reminding the residents of God's eternal love for them. The students learned about these diseases, and in this, they learned about the bible teachings of showing love for the marginalized and shut ins. We reflected on Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."



Students brought \$25 to school on a flex day and travelled to the Dollar Store, where they shopped for gifts to fill a shoe box for a certain age of child from 3 to 18 years of age for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton Bridge of Hope. They assembled the gifts in a shoe box, and then created a Christmas card for the child, containing a scripture verse demonstrating God's infinite love. The shoe boxes were then delivered to a

delivery company that specializes in overseas shipping to the Ukraine. From there, they were shipped to an orphanage in Ukraine to be distributed at Christmas. The students learned of the global impacts of their actions. They learned of the poverty that exists on a global scale and the need for action, no matter how small. They also

learned that although Christmas was a joyful time for them, there were millions of people around the globe, and here at home, that really struggle at Christmas. It was our job as Christians to spread joy at this often-challenging time of year.

The Great Cereal Challenge project began with a friendly challenge between our school, Louis St. Laurent, and some of our feeder elementary schools, Monsignor Fee Otterson, St. Stanislaus, and St. Boniface, to see how many cereal donations we could bring in as a community to help support Breakfast Programs in ECSD. Each school decided to stagger their donation period, which allowed for us to collect boxes of cereal to donate to St. Leo and St. Francis of Assisi schools gradually to help them stock their breakfast program throughout the year. At our school, our student club, the Christian Service Initiative (CSI) began to plan our Great Cereal Campaign after returning from Christmas Break and our students honed their initiative and design skills creating posters and video advertisements on Canva to spread throughout the school. Our plan was to collect donations during Lent to encourage our Junior High students to give alms. During this Lenten Season, we were able to collect 210 boxes of cereal which were split between our two recipient schools' Breakfast Programs. Our students were impacted in a variety of ways. Our students participating in our Christian Service Initiative group grew in their awareness of food insecurity in Canada, Edmonton, and how access to healthy food had been impacted by the COVID pandemic. They not only grew in awareness, but how to creatively and effectively communicate the importance of charity, almsgiving, and social justice. It was impressive to see how quickly they brainstormed slogans and learned a new computer program to design posters to spread word about bringing in donations.



Students were involved in a Baron Block Flex Session and created bookmarks thanking our healthcare heroes. These bookmarks were then delivered to the Royal Alexandra Hospital by an active parent in our school community. Students recognized the importance of thanking those who were working so hard during the pandemic. Great conversation occurred during the creation of the bookmarks and



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students reflected on how difficult it must be on our healthcare professionals. Gratitude and the importance of it were discussed.

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, staff and students were invited to pray the Rosary together in our chapel every Monday at 3:10 p.m. Cognizant of peoples' personal time, the length of the prayer sessions was limited to only 20 minutes. Additionally, the students were instructed on the significance of the Rosary and how to pray it. As a reflection of the atrocities of war, it was pointed out to the participants that the Sorrowful Mystery would be the focus instead of the Joyful Mystery. It was hoped that the participants would continue to attend and pray on their own when school ended for the summer holidays. As well, that they began to understand the power and necessity of daily prayers in good and in bad times.

Our Christian Service Initiative Club at school was made up of a group of highly motivated students who were very politically and socially engaged. Beginning in February when Ukraine was invaded, we had many discussions about what we wanted to do as a school community to raise awareness and organize an effort to show support. After discussing it as a Club, the consensus among the students was that we should raise money through a bottle drive. At the same time, our Parent Council at Louis St. Laurent was organizing a bottle drive of their own, and after some discussions, it was decided that we would run the Bottle Drive for two weeks as a joint effort between the PAC and the CSI group. Over our 2 weeks of the bottle drive, we were able to raise a grand total of \$728.45. Parents, students, neighbours in the community, and staff at the school, all chipped in and dropped off their donations and the proceeds were donated to help Ukrainian refugees. Our students who were participating in our CSI club were passionate about helping raise awareness and money to help victims of violence in Ukraine. Again, using their design skills and passion they created posters and advertisements to hang around our school to inform the rest of our student body about the Bottle Drive. We had students helping load pop bottles into the Bottle Drive trailer before school in the mornings. We also had a student who bravely stood up in front of our entire school during a lunchtime assembly during our Multicultural Week to encourage others to support Ukraine and donate to our cause. Lastly, we also had some students who canvased for bottles in their neighbourhoods, raising a sum of money that was added to our overall total.

Students learned about the long and short-term impacts of Alzheimer's and dementia. We examined our call from Christ to reach out to those in our society who were shut ins, while reading the Bible verse Matthew 25:40. The students spent the afternoon designing and making Easter cards of hope for the residents with Alzheimer's and dementia that live at Whitemud Lifestyle Options. The cards were delivered and distributed on Holy Thursday. The students were deeply moved by the project, as many of them had someone in their family who was living with the aforementioned diseases. Many of us shared stories about the impacts of the diseases, and how these cards would make someone feel whenever they looked at them. They learned that Christ's call to us goes far beyond being nice to our friends and family, but to reach out to those who were sometimes hard to love or rejecting of love.

MARY HANLEY

During the month of December our Grade 1 class and their families collected non-perishable items for the Edmonton Food Bank. We began by discussing what it means to give and how we could give to others. We then talked about how not everyone had enough food to eat all the time and that there were great places who helped people get the food they needed. As a class we discussed ways we could help the less fortunate and landed on the idea of collecting food for the Food Bank. Throughout the month families brought in food and we stored them in the classroom for the students to see. At the end of the month, the food was dropped off at the Edmonton Food Bank. The students, being of such a young age, gained valuable experience and learned about how they could help others out. Students were sad as they began to understand that not everyone had the food they needed each day. However, they were glad to see the basket of food growing as the days went by and more students brought in items. The Grade One students were glad they could help people in need.

A class made Valentine cards for the senior citizens at the Allen Gray Continuing Care Centre in Mill Woods. They had messages of friendship and love. This project was connected to our Random Acts of Kindness week and our 100th day of school. The students were very happy to share their art and their special messages with the



seniors. We had been learning all about "empathy" and what it must be like to be old.

Our Grade 3 classes learned about Global Citizenship this year. They organized and executed a Break a Rule Day for the whole school as well as a Principal for the Day Raffle. They were very excited to raise approximately \$1,400 for Ukraine relief. The Grade 3 students, and the school community, felt very proud to raise this money for Ukraine. The Grade 3 students learned about Ukraine and Global Citizenship this year during Social Studies, so they felt very connected to this fundraiser. Our school community acted like true global citizens participating in this fundraiser to help the people in Ukraine!

Staff and students collected food for the Corpus Christi Parish food bank during Holy Week. Students were able to assist community members who were in need of food for their families. Over eight Xerox paper boxes of food were collected! Students were proud to know that they were making a difference in the lives of community members and members of the Parish. Students were excited to watch the amount of food increase each day.

A class made small paper, Ukrainian prayer flags (one side was the flag and on the back was a special prayer or message of support, etc.). They also made toys (cars, spinners, stick puppets, etc.) in a building unit for science. The students then sold these items for \$1 each at our school over three days to raise money for the people of Ukraine. We raised over \$500 for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton and its Aid to Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton forwarded the funds through CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) for humanitarian relief. The students were very proud that they were supporting a charity to help others. We had been praying daily for the people of Ukraine and we had also been learning about what a charity was and how we could support people in need.

When we first decided to send cards to the seniors at Allen Gray Continuing Care Centre, we had brainstormed ideas first of what we could do for them. One of the ideas was to give them some flowers so when we were growing marigold flowers in our class for our science unit on plants and animals, the students decided to give some of their plants to their moms for Mother's Day and the rest, they wanted to give to the seniors. In the past, we have had a more direct connection to the Allen

Gray Centre by going there on a fieldtrip to sing or visit with the seniors. Because we were not able to go in person, we did the next best thing. The students saw pictures and a video about the Centre, and they felt like they were helping to make the lives of the residents a little better.

MONSIGNOR FEE OTTERSON

At the local level, students participated in a number of social justice projects. Students participated in the Terry Fox Run and raised funds for cancer research for the Terry Fox Foundation. They also brought in boxes of cereal to donate to another school that had a breakfast program. Donations were collected for the Canadian Legion Poppy Fund to support the Legion as part of our Remembrance Day celebration. Funds were raised for Catholic Social Services through a Break a Rule Day and other events around the school. Students also performed works of kindness and service for those in our community. Students had a sense of accomplishment in helping others in the Edmonton community.

On a national level, students collected funds to support the Grapesyard Community School in Kenya. They also collected funds to support relief efforts in Ukraine. Students planned events to raise funds to support our sponsor student at the Burundi English School. They took on leadership for the planning and running of these events. Students gained perspective and felt a sense of accomplishment in supporting the global community.

MONSIGNOR WILLIAM IRWIN

The Grade 4 students at our school organized the Terry Fox Run this year. To help bring awareness to the cause, the students researched and created presentations of their choosing to share with the school. They also advertised the run through posters and on morning announcements. This project helped deepen their understanding of the impact that cancer had on people, even children their own age. Their involvement, excitement and energy helped raise over \$1,800 for the Terry Fox Foundation. The students gained a deeper understanding of the impact



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one person had on Canadians. They learned what a hero looked like and how each one of them could make a difference in someone's life. They were able to see how cancer affected people and shared their own stories. Their compassion for others was evident throughout the project.

Students collected school supplies and money donations to send to the Burundi English School. The money collected was used to help pay for a shipping container. A member from the Tanbur African Aid Society came out and presented to 4 schools virtually. All the schools participated in the fundraising and graphing the items. We raised almost \$1,500 and 1,000s of different school supplies, such as pencils, glue, and erasers. Students were very excited and helped with counting and graphing items. They were looking forward to getting updates on how their donations made an impact on the students in Burundi. A teacher will be volunteering in Burundi at the school these supplies went to and will keep the school community connected through an on-line blog and hopefully video chat with the students as well.

For Monsignor William Irwin Day, we collected money to donate to Catholic Social Services to help with all the newcomers to Canada especially refugees. We raised \$622.25 to donate. The students collect money every year for Catholic Social Services as it was established by Monsignor William Irwin. We were proud to continue to support this organization in his name.

MOTHER MARGARET MARY

Our Climate Justice Group raised some funds to support houseless youth in Edmonton. The money went to purchase re-usable water bottles to help mitigate through heat waves in Edmonton. Students began the learning process for how the climate crisis impacts underrepresented communities. We would like to eventually get to the point where we could advocate with the City of Edmonton for water availability during heat waves and warming shelter availability during cold snaps. Climate justice was an issue that our adolescents were well aware of and were worried about.

Students collected food to distribute to local foodbanks and our school community through our MMM Food Fight. Students were competitive in nature and collected a large amount of food. They were able to see the vast amount of food they collected and the impact it would have on the community.

Students were provided the name, age, and a list of items that a student from St. Jerome School may want for Christmas so they could act as their elves. The students brought a wrapped item to school to be delivered to St. Jerome. Due to COVID, our students were unable to personally deliver the gifts. The students were able to see the impact of the gift through images sent from the St. Jerome staff.

For our Changemaker Day, Play it Forward activity, students brought a new or gently used piece of sporting or recreational equipment (basketball, soccer ball, skipping rope, etc.) to give to a student at St. Jerome School. Our students were transported to St. Jerome by bus to meet their students. Each student at St. Jerome from Kindergarten-Grade 6 received their own piece of equipment to take home and keep. Our goal was that the student from St. Jerome would also, one day, Play It Forward. The students enjoyed spending the recess time with the students at St. Jerome. They were able to see the impact of a small gesture and not take for granted the gifts they had. Many of the students that attended from our school were student athletes.

We filled and decorated 20 shoeboxes and filled them with items needed for everyday use for disadvantaged teens. Items included toothpaste, brushes, wipes, socks, etc. The students felt empowered and positive. Little messages of encouragement were also added to the shoeboxes. They felt like they had a voice.

As an introduction and discovery of our own community, 50 students were given the opportunity to discover a unique stretch of Edmonton's ravine and river valley trail system. The goal was to promote a pay it forward movement through which students were now challenged to share their experience with others. The trail system offered a unique escape from urban lifestyle. In learning to appreciate and value this terrain, students have been challenged to initiate changemaking in others. The value in all of this speaks to benefits in managing mental health, physical activity and an appreciation for community. General impact on students was surprise. Very few students were aware that their very own community offered



such a rich trail system. Their challenge now is to pay this favor forward by sharing it with others.

Students donated to the Edmonton Humane Society to interact with ducklings. Students investigated the impact of COVID on the Humane Society and how their animal surrenders had hit a high due to people returning to the workplace. Students gained insight as to how the lessening of the pandemic could still have negative consequences.

ONE WORLD . . . ONE CENTRE

The staff of One World . . . One Centre collected donations to support two of our newcomer families that were struggling during the Christmas season. The Intercultural staff provided the names of these families. The donations were used to purchase gift cards for Superstore and were delivered to the families on December 15th. Our hope was that these donations would allow the families to purchase food or clothing for their families.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

As the culminating activity, after a week of collecting Toonies for Terry, the entire school student body ran around the school ground in their respective grade cohorts. Students ran for a specific family member and/or friend and the school community raised \$475 in support of the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research. By participating in the run and specifically in the name of someone they knew (family or friend), students realized that cancer affects almost each and everyone of our families. By fundraising for the Terry Fox Foundation, they learned about an important Canadian and the impact one individual and their legacy could have on providing hope and financial support that positively affected millions for decades.

Leading up to our Thanksgiving celebration in October, students and staff collected food items to donate directly to St. Anthony Parish food bank. Six large boxes of non-perishable food items were displayed in the entrance to the school as they

were collected and before they were brought to the church. As a result, the items were a visible sign of the generosity of the students and proved to be a motivating symbol of all that the students were thankful for in their own homes. Students were proud of the food items that they brought, knowing that their contributions went directly to the local parish and would help those in need in the immediate community. It helped them realize that there were people in need in their own area of the city, not just in far off places.

Students and staff at our school donated enough food and monies to provide Christmas Hampers for seven school families in need over the holiday season. Donations were so abundant that the overflow provided for another four hampers that were brought to our local St. Anthony Parish. We are blessed at Mount Carmel to have such a generous school community. Students were very enthusiastic in contributing to the hampers. They recognized that not all families were as fortunate, particularly during the Christmas season. Our Grade 4-6 Leadership class took initiative to organize the donation process over the weeks leading up to their distribution, as well as the assembly of the hampers.

Students collected toys for Santa's Anonymous as part of our annual MTC Hockey Academy Classic hockey game held the final full day before Christmas holiday. As always, Hockey Academy families, as well as the general student body, brought boxes full of toys to donate to this worthwhile charity. Because the MTC Classic is an annual event, the hockey students, and families challenged each other to donate as much as they could to the charity of choice. This year toy donations continued to pour in as the students recognized the need for gifts to brighten the lives of children who had no toys at Christmas.

Staff collected over \$300 to donate to Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS). Our school has a longstanding relationship with YESS as this charity supports local youth who were homeless and in need in the communities around our school. Students were proud to hear that staff were also involved in charitable activities and that their contributions help youth much like themselves.



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OUR LADY OF PEACE

Our Lady of Peace participated in a wonderful fundraiser called Toonies for Turkeys. From Friday October 1st to October 7th, students were encouraged to bring in a \$2 donation. For every toonie a student donated, they were able to put their name on a turkey feather and have it added to our Thanksgiving Turkey display. The money raised from this fundraiser helped with the purchase of three grocery gift cards to help support some of the families at Our Lady of Peace School this Thanksgiving. The total amount of money raised was \$360. That meant three families received a \$120 grocery gift card for Thanksgiving. The students were so excited to help other families in our school and were so proud of the money raised.

Kindergarten Extensions students made 26 nightstand/window decorations for patients of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. They also collaborated in creating a large snowman mural for display in a common area of the Hospital. Exploring the play topic, *Myself and Others*, the students participated in learning how Christmas traditions and celebrations vary by country. One common theme emerging from the various traditions was helping those less fortunate. Students wondered, "Could we help make someone's Christmas brighter? But we don't have any money to buy toys!" After much discussion and debate, they agreed they could make decorations for sick people who were not able to be with their families on Christmas. The students learned that even though they were the youngest of our school community, they could make a difference and spread joy.

Our second annual Can Drive was held. Students were asked to bring in canned goods only. A competition was held between classes to see which class brought in the most cans per class. The Grade 6 leaders decorated boxes and divided up the cans into these boxes for the families at the school who needed some extra help over the season of Christmas and January. Food was either picked up or delivered by staff members who volunteered to drive them to homes in our school community. Students were proud to be supportive and sharing what they could afford with their peers. They recognized that equity was an important part of how we live. Students also recognized that not everyone was on an easy road and being able to help just a little bit made them proud.

Students and staff collected basic items to support the citizens of Ukraine. The donations were then delivered to the Polish Hall to be included on a humanitarian flight to Poland. From March 1st to March 11th, students and staff brought in items including blankets, sleeping bags, clothes for adults and children, hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrush, diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, masks; underwear for men, women, and children; and bandages. As a Catholic community, we tried to offer as much assistance as possible during these very difficult times. The impact on students was massive. Being able to see the donations pile grow each day inspired them to give more and made it real and tangible. It created a great platform to talk about war and the impact it had on the people who live there. Our students were so proud to have collected donations that would help those in need.

The Grade 2 class made many Lenten promises this year. For Almsgiving, we discussed the need to volunteer and donate to others. We spent the last 4 months crocheting a blanket that we were donating to someone in need. Each student learned how to do a double stitch and contributed to the blanket. This one blanket was made with lots of love and hard work from 18 Grade 2 students. By volunteering their time, the students learned a new, challenging skill and put in hard work to create something beautiful that would spread love and warmth to someone in need. The students were very proud of their hard work and were excited to brighten someone's day!



OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIES

The students in Grades 2A, 2/3C, and 3B created Christmas ornaments for a senior's condominium two blocks away from the school. Approximately 120 ornaments were created, packaged, and delivered. The students wanted to bring joy to people in the community who may have been feeling isolated or alone during the Christmas season which may have also been magnified due to COVID.



Students created Christmas cards for our soldiers. Each of the 20 students involved were given the opportunity to create a holiday message filled with cheer for the men and women serving our country. The students came to learn that many people were not able to be with their families during Christmas. We wanted these brave men and women to know they were in our thoughts. The students felt positive knowing that they had sent a message to a soldier that may not get to see their family over the holidays. They learned that there were many men and women who were protecting and serving our country and they wanted them to know we were thinking about them!

Handmade cards and art were made monthly by students and then delivered to a Touchmark Seniors Centre. Each month followed a theme. In January, they completed New Year cards offering 2022 blessings to the residents. Art was delivered alongside treats by the teacher. The students enjoyed discussing why it was important to think of others and took pride in creating a card and writing a message to make someone smile. They learned about caring for others, thinking of others, spreading joy and cheer, looking out for those who were in need, and much more.

All our Kindergarten classes collected markers, pens, highlighters, and pencils for recycling for Recycling the Write Stuff. We had special boxes and encouraged the whole school to participate. The boxes were then sent to Staples to be recycled! Students felt that they helped our earth by recycling their used markers into something new! They were excited to teach the school about their project and to find out what our markers would become.

Grade 1 classes made Easter Blessing cards for the lonely seniors at Glastonbury Village a local seniors home. They wrote uplifting messages and spread the joy of the Lenten season. They finished the cards with stickers and glitter, and the seniors home was very happy to receive them. They learned empathy, kindness, and about the word isolation. They were proud to help and felt very connected to the project sharing stories about their own grandparents.

Funds were raised for Ukraine by donating the proceeds from a pizza fundraiser to the Red Cross. Students were aware of the impact of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine by participating in a variety of school-wide activities such as a Ukrainian Liturgy, poster making, and placing blue and yellow ribbons on our school fence.

The Pizza fundraiser was an addition to reinforce how students could make an impact by donating.

Grade 4-6 students in the MAD Club (Make a Difference) chose social injustice (racism, equality, human rights, bullying) and created a poster to bring awareness to others about these social justice issues. Approximately 15 different posters were created. Students felt empowered to choose a social injustice of their choice. They put information regarding the social justice issue into an artistic form.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Terry Fox is a Canadian hero whose selfless run across Canada was an inspiration that must be shared. Our staff and students wanted to honour this Canadian hero by participating in the annual Terry Fox Run. The Grade 3 class designed and prepared a track in our school yard using pylons. Each class then choose a time to run and walk the route. Our school raised over \$400 for the Terry Fox Foundation! The students shared openly how Terry was an inspiration and model of perseverance during hardship.

Our families collected enough food donations to fill the back of the truck of the priest of St. John the Evangelist Parish! This collection was held during our Thanksgiving week and culminated with our Thanksgiving Mass. The food donations went to support the food bank at the Parish. The students were proud of their ability to supply food and hygiene products to those in need. They learned that even though they may not be able to eliminate a need, they could help to reduce it!

Grades 5 and 6 students made 30 cards and delivered them to Canadian Armed Forces veterans. These cards were created during Random Acts of Kindness Week to show appreciation for their service. The students were thoughtful and proud of their cards. They were happy to hear the thank you from the reception where they were dropped off.

Students in Grades 2, 3 and 6 made 60 cards with messages of care and love for the seniors in our nearby community at the Meadowlark Seniors Home. The cards were delivered along with a package of Sweet Tarts for every senior on Valentines Day to



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let them know that they were loved. The students were excited to know that the seniors would not be left out of Valentine's Day celebrations and messages of care.

Students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3 made 60 cards for health care workers at the Misericordia Hospital to show their appreciation for the service they provided to our community. Each of the students learned how healthcare workers kept our community safe, especially during the pandemic. The students were excited to use their felts, crayons, and pencil crayons to create beautiful artwork to go on the front of each card. Their messages of gratitude were simple and heartfelt.

The Grade 3 class created 30 cards with messages of care and love during Random Acts of Kindness Week to show their appreciation for the families within our neighbourhood. On February 17th, Random Acts of Kindness Day, the class went on a neighbourhood walk to deliver cards into the mailboxes of houses near the school. The students enjoyed making art and writing messages in the cards. The excitement was further heightened by the anticipation of being able to walk around the neighbourhood. On the walk, students were thrilled to be able to meet and say a hello with families who were at home at that time.

Student interest in breaking the rules sparked a Lenten Project, a Break the Rules Day, which helped raise money for humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Students donated \$1 per rule they wished to break selected from a teacher approved list. A total of \$412.05 was raised. The funds were donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) which provided humanitarian aid directly to Ukraine. The students had fun at the same time as developing a consciousness of the importance of rules to maintain peace.

The staff culled well-loved books from our collection and had a 2-day book sale. Students were able to buy a book for 25 cents or 5 books for a \$1. Over 1,000 books were purchased and found new homes. A total of \$249.20 was raised for the humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The funds were donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for CNEWA. The students were thrilled to be able to shop for themselves, their siblings and their families as they generously supported the book sale. Students were independently moved to add individual prayers (30) on our Prayers for Ukraine bulletin board as they reflected upon the needs of Ukraine.

SIR JOHN THOMPSON

In October our entire school took part in an afternoon remembering the contribution of Terry Fox to our country and the ongoing fight to support cancer research. Our Physical Education Leadership students promoted the event on our social media and created segments on our school morning broadcast. Our staff took the time to show a video and teach the students about Terry's legacy. The whole school participated in a walk around our school field and were challenged to donate a toonie for Terry. We raised nearly \$500 dollars for Canadian cancer research. This whole school event served to teach our students about the sacrifice and legacy of one man's fight against cancer and his cross country run to gain public awareness. Our students saw what one person could do and were challenged to find their cause and work for the betterment of all in their lives.

This year we continued our long-standing relationship with the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids Campaign. This year our fundraising efforts were conceived by our students with guidance from our teachers. Our Administrative Support contacted our business partners and parents in our local community to donate prizes for our school-wide raffle. In addition, our school community had taken on many fundraising efforts throughout the month of November that included the sale of a staff dog calendar, Intramural floor hockey and basketball tournament, and a Krispy Kreme donut sale. In our student led iLearn Thursday sessions, our students created fun activities for our community to participate in to raise money for this important cause. Our school also received many direct donations from our parent community and their businesses. In total, we raised \$6,029 to support this important cause. Our students were made aware in the beginning how the Foundation supported ECSD children and youth throughout the city. Being able to support other families in need was of particular importance to our students as they had been acutely aware of the difficulties facing many families in our city and in some cases added to the importance as they themselves knew someone who had been in direct benefit of the Foundation. The notion of giving of themselves without any thought of benefit for them was an important lifelong value that was instilled in our students.

Throughout the winter months our Physical Education students continued their community outreach program of shoveling the snow in our neighborhood. Our PE



classes dressed up at each snowfall and shovelled walks and driveways in our community. Our students and staff continued to be the direct recipients of gratitude of the many people who continued to work from home and were overjoyed to see students out shovelling their walks! This type of community connection and doing something for someone else without any benefit for yourself continued to be a true part of the philosophy of our community. Through this activity we continued to persevere in our faith to serve our neighbors. Through this project our students were able to directly connect with many of our neighbors and form a connection to the direct community. Our students and staff have become familiar with several of our elderly residents who truly were grateful to see our young people giving of themselves in direct service. Over time our students have become excited to work together and come to know the homeowners in our community.

This year in our Grade 7 Science EAP program, our students took on a project to help our students become aware of recycling materials that go beyond paper and plastic these included batteries, felt markers and pens. They organized specific well labelled receptacles in each classroom to collect these items to be properly recycled. The EAP students continued to promote the initiative throughout the school on posters and by creating public service announcements in our morning broadcasts. This project had a great impact as students thought about the specific of what type of recycling goes in its proper collection receptacle. The goal was to have all our students consider that recycling goes beyond simply throwing everything in a blue bag and items needed to be correctly sorted to ensure that the materials could either be recycled or disposed of properly. They saw a need for this early in the year as all sorts of material were being put into the recycling containers and responded by creating awareness and providing direction to teach our students and staff that responsible recycling needed to be improved here at our school. Our EAP students raised awareness in our school community of supporting proper recycling practices in our school and by extension in their own homes.

Grade 9 EAP students took on a project of collecting drink containers for deposit to raise money to build a community garden here at our school. The community garden served as a hands-on space where our students and people in our community could plant, tend to, and see plants grow in our environment. This directly tied into many aspects of our Grade 7-9 curriculum. In the community garden project, our Grade 9 EAP students learned about the amount of work it took

to envision a final project and how to gain approval for a project as well as how to utilize others in all the aspects to support the final goal. Their work was ongoing, and they became more determined than ever to see it through before the end of the school year.

The Student Leadership Team completed a fundraising event to support the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton to support all the incoming refugees from the Ukraine. They raised over \$300 to support these new families to Edmonton. Our students were aware of the global situation in Europe and wanted to engage the school community in an effort to raise awareness and to provide funds for incoming refugee families. It was important for our students to put into action their desire to do a small part in assisting these displaced families. This situation was an ongoing discussion in our Social Studies classes.

We continued our annual support of the Edmonton Food Bank by collecting over 500 items for donation. This was an important part of teaching our students the value in helping those in need and doing their part in contributing to our community. Our Student Leadership Team created student awareness through our morning broadcast that highlighted the need to donate to the Edmonton Food Bank. Education was provided to our students as to the ongoing need as well as items that the Food Bank was in short supply of. The support for the Edmonton Food Bank is an ongoing social justice focus for our community. We were all aware of people in our own community that used this service to help them in their daily lives. This was a simple way for our students to contribute and raise awareness of the needs of our community. This initiative was an important part of our focus on social justice.

Sir John Thompson marked the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women by undertaking an awareness campaign at our school. The day started off with a school-wide presentation explaining the importance of the issue. We held ILearn sessions where students chose to participate in several different ILearn sessions running throughout the morning which allowed students to express their concerns and create awareness for this important issue. The sessions were Hand Art, a documentary on this issue, and creating awareness art. Students created many meaningful works of art and painted the red handprint symbol across their mouth to raise awareness for this movement. The impact on our students was significant as our front foyer was decorated in the



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works of art that our students created highlighting this national issue. Our students learned the importance of both creating awareness and learning about the extent of this issue from the school-wide presentation. Many of our students were not aware of the extent of the issue and were deeply saddened for the families of these women and girls.

SISTER ANNATA BROCKMAN

Students donated money to the Stollery Children's Hospital by purchasing Smile Cookies through Tim Hortons. They learned about a local charity, the Stollery Children's Hospital, and how every little bit helps.

Students and staff donated \$2,761.45 to the 2021 Terry Fox Run. Students learned the impact of cancer research and how funds raised for research were allocated.

As part of our Thanksgiving celebration, students, and staff at Sister Annata Brockman were asked to share a box of Mac and Cheese to be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Good Shepherd Parish for their Weekender Program. A pyramid was established in our front foyer with all the donated boxes. Students counted the boxes and a total of 1,682 were donated. A group of Grade 8 and 9 students helped pack the boxes into vehicles. Our school focused on Faith in Action. God calls each of us by name, to help and support those around us and to share our gifts and talents. Our theme book, "I am One," shared the message that each of us could do something small which makes a positive difference in the lives of others. Teachers shared activities with the image of a pebble, in which each student stated a way they could help others. The emphasis was on the ripple effects. The Mac and Cheese was an example of how everyone sharing a box could help support those who may not have enough food to eat. The visual effect of the boxes impressed upon the students the idea that each of us doing something small could make a difference in the lives of others.

For our Warm Hearts Warm Hands fundraiser, the Grade 8 Leadership Group organized a drive for materials to be placed in backpacks to support the homeless population in Edmonton. Over a two-week period, students actively engaged in sharing information over the morning broadcast. They looked at the impact of

poverty and helped design posters. They also gathered together to organize the drive, collect materials, and put together backpacks. This year they were able to fill 58 backpacks and numerous boxes of supplies to be placed in other backpacks and donated. Students developed awareness of the homeless population and factors that contributed to this as well as looking at how individuals could reach out and make a difference to support them. The students developed an appreciation and awareness of homelessness as well as factors that could contribute to homelessness.

Students and staff brought in items for Christmas hampers for families in our school community who were experiencing hardship and for St. Teresa of Calcutta School. In total, 6 full hampers were created for SAB families and 36 hampers along with extra boxes of food were delivered on December 15th to the St. Teresa of Calcutta School food bank. The Junior High Leadership Team played a central role in sharing information, gathering materials, and sorting hampers. Some students discovered that groceries were a significant cost to families. The students were happy to support this project, which was evident in their desire to make the food hampers festive by decorating the boxes and identifying the hamper boxes with name tags such as Peace 1, Peace 2, Joy 1, and Joy 2.

On February 17th, four Grade 2 classes celebrated the 100th day of school. In following with our focus on positive action this school year, the students were challenged to complete a social justice project. In these projects, we reflected on how our small actions could have ripple effects which helped others. The students decided to collect cans of soup for the less fortunate. Each student was encouraged to bring one can of soup, with the hope that we would collect 100 cans of soup. There were 77 children in our Grade 2 program. The students exceeded the goal and raised 267 cans of soup! The soup cans were used to complete many Math activities throughout the 100th Day, and after, the cans were donated to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's food bank at Good Shepherd Parish. The Grade 2 students connected numeracy activities with providing support to families through their soup donation. We were very pleased with their efforts and believed that they made a positive difference for others.

International Women's Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. On Tuesday March 8th, our students gathered to empower, raise awareness, and celebrate women's achievements. This year the



focus was on gender equality in education. Students viewed the documentary “He Named Me Malala,” to explore the issues girls face around the world when it comes to accessing education. They learned how their voice could be a powerful tool to raise awareness about issues they cared about, like gender equality. Since the theme was education, students also participated in a book swap during the event. Students brought in a book they enjoyed reading and swapped it for another book brought in by another student. The event took place after school at Sister Annata Brockman School led by one of the teachers. Students shared the impact of the activities on sticky notes. A few comments included, "school is important and changes lives of girls," "to normalize gender equality," "for myself and for my sister's future," "learn about the impact of misogyny," and "to spread the word and hope for change." The students studied the activist role of some key women and discussed the importance of their actions towards positive change, equity, and inclusivity.

ST. ALPHONSUS

Students made Christmas cards including Christmas messages for residents at St. Michael's Long Term Care Centre (150 cards), Extendicare Holyrood (74 cards), and Emmanuel Home (75 cards). Students made the cards to brighten spirits and give positive Christmas messages to residents at extended care centres. They experienced the act of giving and brightening the spirits of senior citizens who may be very lonely and isolated during the Christmas season.

ST. ANGELA

Staff and students participated in our annual Terry Fox Run. Posters were created, stories were shared, and we discussed the importance of donating Toonies for Terry to raise funds for cancer research. Students were inspired by the story of Terry Fox and many shared personal stories of cancer survivors in their own lives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ux00prNfmU>

In conjunction with our Thanksgiving celebration, staff and students collected food for the Edmonton Food Bank. Students took the opportunity to learn about homelessness and food insecurity in our local community and reflect and give thanks for the blessing in their own lives.

Our school staff and students collected items for the Mustard Seed through our Warm Hands, Warm Hearts fundraiser. We collected new and gently used items and each class was assigned a different item to collect such as Kindergarten - scarves; Grade 1 and Grade 1/2 - hats; Grade 2 and Grade 3 - mitts; Grade 4 - toothbrushes and toothpaste; Grade 5 - deodorant and soap; Grade 5/6 - sanitizing wipes; and Grade 6 - \$5 gift cards for McDonald's or Tim Horton's. Students discussed homelessness in our own community and the importance of being advocates for change. The act of collecting items symbolized our desire to create a more socially just society for all.

Edmonton Catholic Schools partnered with the Edmonton Police Service to deliver joyful Christmas messages to Edmonton seniors. Over 2,000 Christmas messages were designed by ECSD students, including 150 from St. Angela School, which were delivered by EPS just in time for the holidays. Students had the opportunity to reflect on people who may be alone at Christmastime. They talked about empathy and the importance of supporting people who were vulnerable or lonely in our local community. We especially focused on the importance of small actions that an individual could take to make a difference.

Our students took part in a Polar Express afternoon incorporating our monthly STEM assembly with social justice and a fun Christmas activity. They learned about steam engine trains and heard from a train engineer. Then students watched the Polar Express movie. Everyone was asked to donate at least a toonie in support of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dream Builders challenge for a bag of popcorn and a candy cane which were provided by our School Council for all students whether they donated or not. Classes took time to research the Foundation and gain an understanding of the good work that they do in support of ECSD families in need.

During Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) week, students in Grades 2 and 3 had a rainbow box collection. They collected loonies or toonies throughout the week to support the Our Lady of Grace program. In total, \$288.90 was collected and the students were very excited to support the program. The students learned about the



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Our Lady of Grace program and the need for items to support babies and young families. The students were very proud (being the younger students in the school) to visit each class during RAK week with the rainbow box. They were thrilled to be the ambassadors for this collection. As a school, students were excited to be involved and to show a random act of kindness.

Our Grade 5 class coordinated a school-wide collection of cereal boxes to support two ECSD schools who provided breakfast for their students. Our students learned about food insecurity and how that could impact a student's ability to focus and perform well in all aspects of daily life.

ST. ANNE

We did a Thanksgiving food drive for the Edmonton Food Bank in October. The Grade 4/5 class made posters to encourage students to bring food to school. Each class collected 1-2 large boxes of food and our Grade 4/5 class organized it for delivery. Our students were able to see the donations grow in their classrooms over the week as well as the whole collection together in the Grade 4/5 classroom and it gave them great pride. Many of our families access the food bank so it was wonderful to see that they felt empowered to be able to give a little bit back.

Christmas cards were made by the Grade 4/5 class and delivered by the teacher to the Capital Care Dickinsfield Continuing Care Facility. Approximately 40 cards were delivered. Students created various messages of hope and well wishes for the seniors. The students wanted to bring Christmas cheer to residents. They recognized that the residents were not able to visit with family and friends during COVID and wanted to bring them some happiness at Christmas.

During Random Acts of Kindness week in February, all classes wanted to share kindness with the seniors at Capital Care Dickinsfield Continuing Care Facility. They have an outdoor area and fence that lines our school property, so students tied ribbons on the fence. One day the students arranged to go into their outdoor area and put messages in the snow with spray paint and colored frozen cubes. Seniors were brought to the windows to see the display of kindness. The students were

excited to bring joy to the seniors during this week. Some students even got to see the seniors in the windows.

A Lenten project was implemented for our whole school, to collect funds for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine through the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. During Lent, teachers talked about the war in Ukraine, created prayers and artwork around the school that acknowledged their commitment to raise funds to help those suffering in Ukraine. For four Fridays during Lent, we did a GIVING FRIDAY where students could bring in money for Ukraine. Some students saved their allowance, others dug into their piggy banks. We raised \$566.20 for the people of Ukraine. Students were very responsive to the idea of helping people in Ukraine. They were hearing things on the news but not understanding what was happening. In a developmentally appropriate way, our teachers addressed their concerns and students wrote and recited prayers with reverence. There were many students that showed great pride in bringing in their coins or bills for the collection jar in the classroom.

ST. AUGUSTINE

Hampers were provided along with gifts for the children of eight of our in-need school families. Many students brought in items needed to build the hampers. It was a united effort from staff, students, and our School Council. Students also gathered the items and prepared the hampers for the families to pick-up. With work by staff and students in assembling these gift hampers, the families of our community helped one another.

Students, parents, and staff collected and donated 42 pairs of socks, 36 pairs of gloves or mitts, 44 hats and 9 scarves for the Mustard Seed. Students learned the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged in severe weather and the need for us to help. Our small school covered a Christmas tree with these items to show how giving at Christmas was so important and showed its big heart with this activity.

A bottle drive was held in December with a total of \$38.90 raised which was donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. Students were taught that some students who attend our schools were in need, and they were assisted



through funds from the Foundation. They were also taught that by giving to the Foundation we were helping others just like us and that every little bit, even empty bottles helped.

ST. BASIL

The school collected food and delivered it for Thanksgiving to the Edmonton Food Bank. The students were excited to bring food for others. They asked questions like “why do we do that?” There was lots of discussion on how we could help others.

Kindergarten students in our school created 24 beautifully decorated Christmas cards for neighbours in our community. Students selected wishes to paste into their cards and created a 3-D Christmas tree on the cover. During the last week before break, Kindergarten students bundled up and headed outside to spread Christmas cheer to neighbouring houses by leaving a card on the doorstep, singing Christmas carols, and wishing neighbours Merry Christmas. The students learned that there were many people in our surrounding area that were either unable to afford/supply Christmas decorations, and that many were also isolated from their families or friends. Learning so, students were very excited to take on this project to create Christmas cards and deliver them, while spreading Christmas cheer. Every child was so proud when selecting items to decorate their card. During discussion, many students disclosed their hopes that their card would become a decoration as well as warm someone's heart.

Our Grade 9 class created posters and collection boxes to advertise a school clothing drive for Ukraine. Students across all grades brought in gently used and even brand-new clothing which our Grade 9 students sorted and packaged up for drop off. We dropped off boxes of clothing as well as other necessary supplies such as diapers, medications, feminine products, etc. at the Polish Hall on Wednesday March 23rd, for the airplane destined for Poland for Ukrainian refugee camps there. The Grade 9 class was specifically impacted by this social justice initiative as they spent time sorting through a huge amount of clothes and supplies that were donated. A short video was taken at the Polish Hall the day of the drop off that showed the huge amount of supplies that had been donated to show our students. This video was also shared during our morning announcements. This issue was very

close to a lot of our student's hearts as Ukraine borders Poland, so seeing how our community came together to help our neighbours really helped to inspire our students to work together and demonstrate how many hands make light work.

The Grade 9 class took part in organizing a fundraiser for Ukraine at our school. They informed students on announcements that they would be collecting money from all classes during lunch hour for a span of two weeks. Their hard work to bring awareness of this fundraiser to our student population helped to raise over \$300 for the cause. The students felt extremely proud to be contributing to this particular cause as Poland, where a lot of our students come from, neighbors Ukraine. This helped to encourage students and view the ongoing war from a perspective that was very close to home. We were so excited to see enthusiasm from even the youngest of our students who maybe did not understand the situation fully, but enough to know that they were helping a very important cause and making a difference.

ST. BENEDICT

Our Terry Fox Run was held on Friday, September 24th. Throughout the day, during different times, students ran/walked the perimeter of our school and reflected on how Terry Fox impacted the lives of Canadians and the Canadian Cancer Society. Students collected just over \$275 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Through classroom learning activities and through the run/walk, children gained an understanding of the impact of what Terry Fox did for cancer research and the impact this research had on people. Videos of Terry Fox allowed the students to see Terry as a person who struggled with cancer and was still able to help others. He inspired our students to do the same.

A Grade 5 class made posters and announcements and encouraged everyone in the school to bring in a donation of new or gently used winter clothing items for the Hope Mission. The class chose the Hope Mission because the organization had experienced a fire that destroyed much of their inventory of these items. The students learned that it felt good to help others. They were overwhelmed by the amount of donations that came in. They learned about what charity means in



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Religion and decided to do a collection of items instead of having a gift exchange in the class.

The Grade 1 students' families were asked to send in several food items to donate to the Edmonton Food Bank with the hopes of collecting 100 items for the 100 Days of School project. They collected 225 items which the Edmonton Food bank was glad to receive. Through connections to numeracy, literacy, and religion outcomes, the Grade 1 students had a full day of learning. Videos on the Edmonton Food Bank helped students make a deeper understanding of how they could help serve others throughout the year.

Our school collected funds for Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,031.46. Donations were sent to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for its Aid to Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine with all proceeds going to regional organizations in Ukraine who supported all people in need including refugees fleeing their homes to other parts of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton forwarded funds through CNEWA Canada who collaborated closely with the local churches and Caritas Ukraine. They supplied aid by accessing and delivering food, shelter, medical supplies and provided spiritual and psychological support for those in need. The students were very happy to be helping people in need. They grew in gratitude for the things that we have here in Canada, and they demonstrated empathy and compassion when learning about the crisis and people in need. It was wonderful that one Grade 6 boy offered to go around everyday to collect the donations. He even made a specially decorated box to collect the funds in.

Students made over 500 ribbon pins in the colours of the Ukrainian Flag. These pins were then sold to anyone who donated any amount towards humanitarian relief in Ukraine. Students were surprised by how much they enjoyed making the ribbons. They were also excited to raise money to help others experiencing hard times.

Each Grade 5 student at our school wrote a letter of support and encouragement to a child (possibly a refugee) from Ukraine. They let the child recipient know that we were praying for them. These letters were sent to Ukraine as part of a larger collection project collected at the Polish Hall to be sent on a plane to Poland and then distributed throughout Ukraine. Students were happy to send a positive

message to another child who was having a tough time. They learned how to write a friendly letter, and how to be encouraging.

This year our school project was working with the Harbor 4 Life charity to help raise funds for an orphanage in Africa. A former Edmonton Catholic student dedicates his time for this charity and spoke to us about the need for support. Students learned about the charity, the needs of the community it serves, and how they could help that community. We created a collection bin within the school for used clothing and throughout the year families sent their goods to fill the bin. The H4L truck came 4 times this year to empty the bin that was overflowing. Staff, students, and parents all gained a better understanding of the H4L charity and how we could support others in need. Connections to our Social Studies and religious outcomes were made and how we were called by God to serve others through the gifts that we have.

One of our Grade 6 students wanted to support Ukraine and came up with a donation project for our school community. For 3 weeks he made announcements on our morning broadcast to highlight the need for support and went around to each classroom to collect monetary donations. He even made hand painted coasters as prizes for draws throughout the project. He made \$1,053 to donate to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for their city-wide donation project. This project helped students to connect to a global event to gain a better understanding of the suffering of the people of Ukraine. Through student research on the project, students gained an understanding of what the needs of these people were and how they could support them.

The Grade 4A class held a candy guess to raise funds for Ukraine. The funds went to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. We raised \$300 from the guesses our students made of the great big jar of 1,970 blue and yellow candies. The children were very engaged and excited about both the fun they had making the estimates, and the fact that the funds raised were going to help in Ukraine.



ST. BERNADETTE

Staff and students gathered socks to be delivered to the Bissell Center as part of the Sock it to YEG Campaign. Students learned about the plight of homeless individuals in Edmonton and the impact the cold weather had on their safety.

Grade 6 students identified the impact that heavy snow was having on our senior neighbours and decided to become their snow angels. The extreme cold and heavy snowfall made shovelling their walkways both difficult and dangerous. Students regularly went outside to shovel the snow and chip ice to ensure sidewalks were free of falling hazards. Students felt happy to help neighbours and were proud to know that they were ensuring safety in our neighbourhood.

A Grade 5 student initiated a Day of Hope for Ukraine following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. We collected donations of cash for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, and on the Day of Hope, our school community wore blue and yellow and walked around the community. The donations were just under \$1,000. Students felt happy to support those in need and learned about Ukraine in the process.

Each month this year, spearheaded by a different class, students created cards of kindness. These cards were then hand delivered to homes in our school neighbourhood. Cards were always positive in nature and often connected to an event in the liturgical calendar. The impact of these cards on our students and our neighbourhood were tremendous. Not only did we receive many phone calls, emails, handwritten notes and cards of thanks, the school also received deliveries of craft items to support the endeavour as well as treats from neighbours. Students were thrilled to know they had brought joy to people in our community. It reinforced the importance of communication and kindness in a community.

Students created cards of kindness. These were made in honour of St. Bernadette, Patron Saint of the ill and the poor. The cards all had the image of a rose, which was one of the symbols that St. Bernadette was known by. The flower represented the beauty of her character, and the thorns represented the hardship she endured during her life. The cards were given to Hope Mission for insertion into lunch bags that they distributed to people in need. Our students each made a card, for a total

of 150 cards. Students were better able to understand that they could participate in acts of kindness that would impact others.

The students donated loonies to sponsor our Principal in the Pedal for Peace Bikeathon. Students were happy to support the Sign of Hope and St. Francis Xavier High School through this event.

ST. BONAVENTURE

Annually, we collect a loonie from each student and do a school-wide walk around the field for the Terry Fox Foundation. Teachers spoke about Terry Fox's life and mission in the classroom as well. Since this was annual event, students were familiar with Terry's Dream and the impact that their actions had on others. This tradition normalized helping those with cancer.

Our office staff gathered non-perishable items from various agencies and put together food hampers a few times this year supporting our families in need. The first one was before Thanksgiving. Students often help sort items into boxes. If students were not helping, they could see the work that was being done in the hallway and they knew the good deed that was being worked on. Families in need were contacted and they arranged to come pick-up their box of food which gave them some financial relief for a short time and most importantly nutritious meals. The recipients of the food hampers felt that others cared enough to put together these hampers for them and their families. Ideally, they transitioned from recipients of food hampers to those who could donate to others in the future. The other students in the school learned that we were surrounded by those in need, and it was our call to help them. Those in need sat next to them in their classrooms. They were ordinary people who were in need and experiencing a tough time. It was up to us, their friends, to help them.

Our Grade 5 Leadership Club organized a few fun Christmas activities which raised money for the Christmas Bureau. The activities were all student driven. They came up with the ideas, organized the process, advertised, and did the work. They came up with amazing December activities which allowed others to have fun and raised



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money for a good cause at the same time. Some of the activities included candy grams and hot chocolate/cookie sales.

As we were counting down to Christmas vacation, we kept the needy in our thoughts and actions through a 12 Day Donation Countdown for the Mustard Seed. Beginning on December 1st, we gathered a different item each day to donate to the homeless served by the Mustard Seed. Examples of items included socks, mitts, and gloves. Each day we put out a reminder for a new item that students could bring and at the same time, we counted down to Christmas vacation. Students loved these tasks. We had boxes lined up at the front of the school next to our Christmas Food Hamper boxes. The visual was very impactful as students watched the boxes fill directly because of the generosity of others. The practice of donating to others was welcomed at our school, even though those who donated were sometimes the recipients. This created a very loving culture.

Throughout the month of December, each student received an Advent prayer rock. Each homeroom received the name of a group or person whom they could pray for and help. This activity showed that even small acts make a big difference. This was a valuable reminder for them to grow old with and do whatever they could to help others, even if you were not seen or acknowledged.

This year to spread Christmas cheer, the Grade 3 students created 47 Christmas cards. Cards were delivered to extended care facilities as well as in the neighbourhood during a community walk. Students sang Christmas songs during the delivery and shared a Merry Christmas, from a distance, with people in the community that came to see what had been left behind in their mailbox. In addition to doing all the work in creating and delivering the cards, the students had the opportunity to see the reaction of the recipients. Since this was not always the case, the impact of their actions was felt by each person. It was a lovely act of service that will remain in their hearts for years to come.

For Random Acts of Kindness Week, the Kindergarten C class explored what kindness meant and ways we could be kind to others. To do something random and kind, we decided to make cards for our neighbours and deliver them to their doors. The cards were addressed to "Neighbour" from "Kindergarten" and each student

selected a Valentine's message to write in their card and then they decorated them. The class delivered about 16 cards. It's not often that the Kinders see the impact of their actions on others. This project allowed them to be a part of the process from beginning to end. Feelings of pride and excitement were evident the entire time.

For their first project of the year, the students in our Mental Health Leadership group decided they wanted to brighten the day of the residents at the Beverly Seniors Home, and they did by organizing cards for them. The members of the group led our Grade 1A and 3A classes to make 50 cards in total for seniors who may normally receive handmade cards from students. The members of the Mental Health Leadership group felt like true leaders as they explained their project to the selected classes. They created an idea, planned, organized, and then gathered the finished product. This was a very empowering experience which made them want to do more.

To celebrate Earth Day, the Kindergarten C class went outside to pick-up trash around the schoolyard and park. They collected over 120 pieces of garbage and felt very proud!! The Kinders felt a great sense of pride knowing that they did something to help our earth. It showed that they did not have to go far to do acts of service that such acts could be done right in our school yard.

ST. BONIFACE

Donations were collected for our annual Terry Fox Run. A few families in our school community were dealing with cancer at the time, so there seemed to be a greater sense of buy in and understanding by students of the effect the disease had on people and families. Also, there seemed to be a greater understanding of Terry Fox and the ultimate sacrifice he made.

Our school gathered huge amounts of cereal for the St. Francis of Assisi Breakfast Program. Over 500 boxes from a student population of 170 was collected!! As a wrap-up activity, the cereal was placed throughout the school halls for a huge



domino activity. This was the first school-wide activity our school had participated in since the beginning of the pandemic. Students went into the hallways and stayed in their cohorts. It was an incredibly fun way to end the project and it built a lot of excitement! It was explained to the students that 30 minutes away was a school where students needed a breakfast and a lunch

program due to a lack of funds/food. This fact was quite an eye opener to the students and was part of the reason for the huge amount of cereal donated. Also, a local business donated 116 boxes which was absolutely amazing that someone from a community store could step-up like that. A video of the event can be viewed through the following link:

<https://twitter.com/StBonifaceECSD/status/1470758988329353221?s=20>

Although most of our community does not lack for money, we do have a varied population with some families that are in need. For that reason, we collected money and gift cards so that five of our families could have a better Christmas. We collected \$1,500 total for these families. It was interesting after doing a collection for another school for some of our students to realize that we had members of our own community that needed help at Christmas. This was very much a School Advisory Council/parent driven collection but there were students that came to an understanding about what this collection meant.

Our Grade 6 students went to the Mustard seed for both information and service. They learned about the Mustard Seed's function and then helped by making sandwiches for their clients. Many of our students were very sheltered in their understanding of poverty in Edmonton. This was a great experience not just for knowledge and understanding but adding in the service piece was a meaningful addition.

A parent on our SAC had family that was involved with the collection of women and children's clothing, toys, and medical supplies for women and children of Ukraine who were displaced to Poland. With a very quick turnaround, our school was able to collect an amazing amount of clothing, toys, and medical supplies for this cause.

Teachers used the opportunity to talk about the displaced families, and again it was very enlightening for our population who rarely encounter any strife yet alone something of this magnitude. With many Ukrainian families in our school, this was a collection that did strike a significant chord within our community.

Due to the increased number of dogs and cats returned to the Edmonton Humane Society that were COVID purchases, the Edmonton Humane Society was struggling with how to deal with the influx of animals. All St. Boniface students, 170 students Kindergarten-Grade 6, created toys for the animals housed there over a period of two weeks to make these animals stay more enjoyable and take some financial burden off the Society. The Humane Society came to our school and did a presentation on their history and what they were currently doing for animals in our city. Our students were very moved by the Humane Society presentation. Many had no idea how many animals were housed by the Society or how post-pandemic there were many more animals looking for adoption. The students were very excited to help the animals by making dog and cat toys that were actually used. Our older classes, Grade 5 and 6 primarily, were very curious as to why so many more animals were up for adoption. This led to some very good conversations about pets and what being a responsible pet owner looked like.

As part of our School's SAC fundraising for the Grade 6 Farewell Celebrations, the class decided to donate 15% of their profits from their Beef Jerky Sales to Ukrainian Relief. The fundraiser did extremely well, selling over \$5,000 of Jerky. From this amount, the school received \$1,275 and the Grade 6 class donated \$192 (15%) to Ukrainian relief. Our school had already done a donation drive for Ukraine, but the Grade 6 class wanted to do something more. In this instance, taking a portion of the money they made for their farewell and donating it to the relief effort was easily their number one choice. They realized that they were very privileged to have a farewell and were happy to help in a small way.

ST. BRENDAN

The Grade 1/2 combined class along with the Generation students, collaborated to create approximately 40 Christmas cards. On December 13th, the students bundled up and went into the St. Brendan community to hand deliver the cards into the mailbox of our school neighbours. The students were very creative and spent much



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time and effort creating their Christmas cards. Listening to Christmas music and using different decorations for their cards had them feeling excited. Students were also thrilled to drop off the cards to our neighbours. Students felt happy, excited, and had the Christmas spirit as they hand delivered their cards.

Two people in our Kindergarten room were diagnosed with cancer. The Kindergarten students had a presentation from the Stollery explaining what leukemia/seizures were and how we could support those who were diagnosed with these obstacles. The presentation had a few stories, pictures, puppets, and physical effects of cancer (hair loss and why), followed by questions/answers. The students made cards for the two individuals, and some bought presents. The parents were made aware of the two people in our Kindergarten community and as a result gift card/small tokens were also bought, collected, and presented to the two individuals who were affected to show our continued support and prayers. The students learned that when faced with these hurdles in life such as cancer we were not alone and that together we could support and help one another. As a result, the Kindergarten students gained compassion for each other, and appreciation for making each day their best day.

On three different Faith Fridays in the Fall of 2021, weeklong callouts were made to staff, students, and the parent community for food, winter clothes and new toys. A portion of these collected items were shared with our school community families facing very challenging financial times. The rest was given to our local Assumption/Resurrection Parishes and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which they work with in support of the poor in our communities. In each case, we asked parents to include students in buying or collecting. During announcements, we kept emphasizing the need to help those less fortunate in our communities with food, clothes, and new toys. Students proudly brought items to the office knowing that their donation helped.

The Grade 1/2 combined class learned about how God wanted us to help people. As a Lent social justice project, the students organized a collection drive for the Bissell Centre, an organization that helps low-income families. Students created posters, labelled boxes, delivered boxes to homerooms, promoted the drive on morning announcements and through the school newsletter. They collected the items, organized the donations, counted the donations, and helped to load them into a vehicle. Many items were collected such as clothing, toques, mitts, boots, coats,

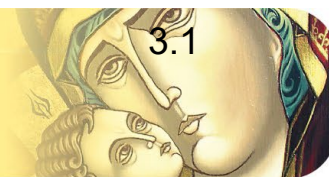
toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, deodorants, shampoo, toilet paper, conditioner, diapers, wipes, and other miscellaneous items. The students reflected on their experience with comments such as, "My favourite thing was sorting the items," "I love how much toothbrushes we got," "I love how we worked together," "I like how we have so much stuff," "I liked how everyone helped homeless people," "I was glad we got a lot of toothbrushes and toothpaste," "I like how we sorted all the materials," "I was surprised we had a lot of toothpaste and toothbrushes," and "I felt good when I put the boxes in the car."

ST. CATHERINE

The entire Kindergarten-Grade 9 student population participated in a week-long experience where facts were shared about Terry Fox, his journey, and his amazing work. Our week culminated with a Terry Fox Run and a reveal of how much money we collected for the Terry Fox Foundation which was \$582. Our students felt a great sense of pride when they collected money for the Foundation that they grew to know so much about.

Since COVID restrictions eased, we began our monthly, school-wide hot dog lunches to compliment our school theme days. In our January and February hot dog lunches, we took the profits that were made, and we raised \$167.65 to go towards Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids. The Foundation was very supportive of our school and our students, and we were making it a priority to give back to the Foundation that gave so much to so many. Our students had a great sense of pride with the opportunity to give back to Dreams for Kids.

Our Junior High Agriculture CTF Class grew and sold tomato plants to our school community. The \$95 that was raised was donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids Fund. Our students have had many opportunities available to them because of the support from Dreams for Kids. To be able to give back gave them great satisfaction in knowing that they were not only returning the generosity of the gift that they were given but they were also helping to provide support to other Dreams for Kids recipients.



ST. CECILIA

SoleHope is an organization that uses recycled denim to make and supply shoes for children in Uganda to walk safely to school. They also provide medical treatment and education for the prevention of jigger infestation on bare feet. Closed-toed shoes help prevent jigger infestation for people that wear them. They protect feet in harsh conditions and were a source of pride for people that owned them. SoleHope employs about 25 full-time Ugandan men and women to handcraft their shoes! They are currently making about 11,000 pairs of shoes per year. The shoes are handcrafted in Uganda, but they start their journey here! This was a year-long social justice project which included students collecting the denim, purchasing shoe patterns from SoleHope, cutting out the uppers for the shoes out of the recycled denim, and then sending these to Uganda where the local community assembled the uppers to soles. Students fundraised to purchase the supplies to produce the shoes. They raised \$1,000 through a Purdy's chocolate fundraiser which was used to purchase the template kit for the shoes. Once the kits were received, students produced the templates for the shoes. Students learned about the issue of jigger infestation in Uganda and how their actions led to direct service at a global level. Students felt excited and empowered that they provided a direct service on a global level. They learned about the quality of life in Uganda and how they were part of improving life, through creating work and better living conditions through their efforts.

Through various fundraisers, our students were able to raise \$1,500 for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. The Foundation supports our community through the Conquer Hunger Grant as well as the Emily Rowan Fund. We provided a nutritious breakfast snack for all students every day. The Emily Rowan Fund supported our music program to purchase instruments through the generous donation. St. Cecilia is the patron Saint of Music. Music once again fills our hallways. We were so fortunate to offer this experience to our students. An education in music changes the way students think and connect to material. It was truly a positive and powerful program.

Our Student Leadership Team organized two fundraisers for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dream Builders Challenge. The first fundraiser was a Halloween Raffle, and the second was a Principal for a Day raffle. The total raised for both

fundraisers was \$625. Students' efforts for this fundraising were recognized, the information was shared with our SAC, and posted bi-weekly in our newsletter. Collections were the starting place for Social Justice and made students aware of the constant need for acts of charity to ease suffering in our world. Visual reminders and goal-oriented collection also promoted teambuilding among student cohorts.

Students donated money to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation to select two special interest FLEX sessions at the end of Semester 1. They also donated money to the Foundation to send Iced-Tea Grams on Valentines Day. Students were aware that they were performing acts of charity to ease suffering in our world. They were taking the first steps to becoming active in social justice.

Approximately 18 Braided Journeys students at our school conducted a student-led initiative to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, culminating on May 5th, Red Dress Day, where the entire school recognized the National Day for Action and Awareness for MMIWG. These students spent numerous hours making posters, watching and sharing videos, researching information to share on PowerPoint presentations and school handouts. Students also held a photo shoot and created a large art installation to draw the whole school's attention to this issue. Our students also collaborated with Braided Journeys O'Leary, which created a great opportunity for older students to connect with and mentor younger students. Students shared information about MMIWG over morning announcements, as well as a school-wide presentation for their peers during a Religion block on May 4th. Students also reached out to the community, receiving support from Edmonton's Red Ribbon Skirt Project so that students who had been affected by this issue would have cultural regalia to wear to commemorate the Day. While our initiative was ongoing, students shared that this helped them to feel less voiceless in their school. Indigenous students at our school often felt ashamed of who they were due to racism and systemic inequality and felt as if no one understood their lived experiences or their identity. This campaign gave students a front-and-centre opportunity to speak directly to the school community about what was important to them. It also gave them the chance to embrace their identity by having regalia and cultural items to wear to school and wearing them together in solidarity. Students reported that it meant a great deal to them to be able to practice and learn about their culture. Students who had lost a mother or sister to violence shared that this initiative was sacred and important to them, to



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honour their loved ones and to be supported in their grief and healing by the Braided Journeys community. It was hoped that this project would help move students from a place of feeling silenced, vulnerable, and victimized, to seeing that they were powerful, that their voices mattered, and that they could be part of a societal shift.

ST. CHARLES

Grade 1 students initiated a school-wide social justice project during the Advent season. The school community generously donated gently used or new winter hats, scarves and mitts for adults or children for the Scared Heart Parish of the First Peoples. Grade 1 students learned that Advent was a time to think about the goodness of Jesus, how to live like Him and how actions could show goodness to others. The Grade 1 students also learned about rights and responsibilities as part of the Social Studies curriculum and how to shine their light like Jesus by helping others in our community. A right was what a person needed to live comfortably, happily, and safely. We showed kindness, like Jesus, by helping people in our Edmonton community. We helped with their right to have warm clothing and be safe in cold weather. Students helped bring Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to others and shined their light like Jesus.

ST. CLEMENT

Students at St. Clement kept Terry Fox's spirit alive by partaking in the annual Terry Fox Run, which took place on Thursday, September 16th. Through our efforts of raising consciousness about cancer and collecting a toonie for cancer research, we continued to hope to make Terry Fox's dream of cancer being beaten a reality! The Terry Fox Run was very impactful for both our PYP and MYP students. Teachers engaged students in pre-activities prior to the day of the run. Students were shown a video about Terry and were involved in research. This further enhanced and supported their understanding of Terry's vision. The preamble of activities led to a successful run/walk. The students had name tags on for who they were running/walking for and engaged in conversations with one another. It was

impactful for students to see how many people were affected by this disease. Toonie donations were given in support of continued research in the fight against cancer. Students raised approximately \$500 and helped make this day a highly successful and heartfelt event.

During Read in Week, October 4-8th, we challenged our PYP and MYP students to participate in the Read and Feed Initiative. Each student was asked to bring in one non-perishable food bank item during Read in Week. We decided to build a Tower of Gratitude in our IB Learning Commons made from non-perishable food items. We created a beautiful visual for all students to see. At the end of the week, all the food was collected and delivered to the Edmonton Food Bank for families in need. This was a great opportunity for our students to be involved in an act of service within our school community. Students created awareness of this initiative daily by providing information during morning announcements. Students spoke of the importance of nutrition and being able to feed those in need. Classes challenged each other in an uplifting manner. Particularly, our Grade 4 students who brought in the most food items. They truly inspired the rest of the school to step up and rise to the challenge. The students were filled with joy knowing they were making a difference for families in the Edmonton Community as they saw the Tower of Gratitude grow exponentially. Our school-wide social justice initiative, Read and Feed, was an overwhelmingly successful. The outpouring of support that came from the students in our school community was heartwarming. We exceeded our initial goal as students brought in well over 550 food items. With gratitude, the Principal extended a heartfelt thank you to the students of St. Clement for supporting this important project in feeding the families of the greater Edmonton community.

Our MYP students attended and participated in a field trip to St. Joachim Cemetery on November 5th for a No Stone Left Alone Remembrance Ceremony. The No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation is dedicated to honouring and remembering Canada's veterans. Students lead and participated in the Remembrance Ceremony by placing poppies on the headstones of fallen soldiers. Students read personalized prayers and poems in both English and French. The MYP band students proudly performed during the ceremony. This was one of the most authentic, memorable, and impactful events that our students experienced. This unique ceremony provided students with an understanding and appreciation of those who serve and of the sacrifice of Canada's fallen. The students were reverent the entire morning. During the ceremony, students communicated their appreciation and



understanding of the importance of those who serve by sending 50 thoughtful postcards thanking and honoring our Canadian military heroes who continued to work internationally to create a more peaceful world. Students gained a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made for the gift of freedom while developing international mindedness.

To meet the needs of families in our community and in Edmonton, we initiated a Christmas Winter Project to collect for children in many areas of the city who did not come to school with mittens, scarves, and toques. Families were encouraged to help others by having their child bring in one of the items suggested to hang on the Christmas tree in the IB Learning Commons and support children during the winter season. Students supported this initiative by hanging toques, mittens and scarves that were donated. Given the cold winter temperatures, students were very compassionate and concerned for those that did not have proper winter gear. Through this initiative we were able to support students in our own school community and the greater Edmonton community.

Grade 6 students started the New Year by making bookmarks designed to bring a smile to the face of a reader. They then went through the bins, in our classroom library to locate gently used books that were of particular interest to them. These books, along with the bookmarks, and messages of hope, were donated to both the Grey Nuns and Royal Alexandra Hospitals. Two different students in the class had parents who worked at these AHS facilities and engaged the help of their parents to get the boxes of books, called Kindness Kits, donated to the appropriate departments. Students were excited to do a service action for the benefit of other young people. They learned about empathy, charity, sharing, and cooperation giving the gift of their time with no expectation of a return to them. They connected with COVID isolation and mental health impacts since hospital visitors were not allowed. They wanted to offer a comfort to another young person.

Our Service as Action project provided students with an inclusive mindset to collaborate with the real world in becoming global citizens. For the month of February, students engaged in the Kindness Express, an inquiry project that looked at the following question: "How do the services of diverse organizations positively impact students, families, and communities?" Through learner agency and research, students chose an organization and designed cards of gratitude to acknowledge and celebrate people who serve. Students in Grades 1-9 completed this initiative and a

total of 330 personalized cards were created for different organizations throughout the City of Edmonton. The students in our school reached out to others in the community to thank them for their kindness, dedication, and service to others. Students journeyed throughout the city with hearts of love to places including Edmonton Food Bank, Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton Police Service, and the Edmonton Humane Society to name a few. This project and initiative left a lasting impression on both our MYP/PYP students in that comments were made stating how true service requires time and dedication. Another student stated, "service takes courage and risks." As students researched different organizations, they recognized there were numerous types of services people provided. There were many people that go above and beyond the call of duty, especially people who served voluntarily on a global level. It was an eye opener in that students recognized that service comes from the heart. Caring and working together were important when serving. The true charger spirit was alive as the students enjoyed their time designing and creating kindness cards to bring smiles to many people throughout the city who brought joy to the greater Edmonton community. Our students recognized that through learner agency, they had a voice and that they could make a difference in the world and in the lives of people in our city. These beautiful moments of love that were shared showed us all that we truly were leaders of hope and mercy. These real-life Random Acts of Kindness had our students overflowing with joy, love, and a lived faith experience.

During the liturgical season of Lent, staff and students had the opportunity to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross set up throughout school hallways. We focused on Global Contexts and themes of Catholic Social Teaching. At Station X, Jesus is Stripped of His Garments, we were answering God's call to action in Solidarity for the Life and Dignity of Human Persons. To follow this call to action, we embraced donations of new and gently used items for Ukrainian refugee families such as clothing, toys, books, colouring books/crayons, diapers, personal hygiene products, and non-perishable food items. Students were actively engaged in taking ownership by preparing boxes using the colours of the Ukrainian flag, setting them out at various Stations of the Cross and monitoring our progress. They also wrote notes of hope, compassion, encouragement, and prayer to be attached to the donated items. Our students felt very empowered knowing that the items that were donated supported Ukrainian Refugees. Love thy neighbour was a phrase that was at the core of our project. The students and entire school community came together, in solidarity, to make a difference in hopes of positively impacting the



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lives of Ukrainian refugees. The students were grateful and felt very blessed for what they had. Their passion and commitment for the common good of all was the driving force of being internationally minded. The students learned that by taking action and responsibility for the well being of each person, we were respecting the inherent dignity of human life. Many students expressed feelings of sadness and worry but also hope. Due to social media, the war in Ukraine was a current event so the donation of objects provided an opportunity for students to discuss their questions and concerns, and to experience empathy. During conversation we also connected with ELL students whose parents and/or themselves came to Canada as refugees.

St. Theresa Parish Family of Schools are each responsible to collect food bank donations for one month each school year. Traditionally, St. Clement has been assigned to the month of April. Each morning, on announcements, students were encouraged to donate a non-perishable food item as part of Lenten almsgiving. Collected food items were labelled with messages of hope, encouragement, and prayer for the recipients. This year we collected approximately 200 food items. Food bank collections always provide students with opportunities to explore IB learner skills of being principled, caring, and open-minded about the needs of others. It provided and created a context for students to be self-reflective about concepts such as needs vs. wants, gratitude vs. attitude, making sacrifices and making choices out of respect for others.

For the transdisciplinary theme of the PYP Grade 5 IB Exhibition, students chose Sharing the Planet. Students made an inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution. Each exhibition group chose a global goal that they were most passionate about, and then were grouped with other students who chose similar goals. As a group, they created their own central idea and lines of inquiry, to ensure they would inquire directly into the global goal they chose. The global goal chosen was Gender Equality. Students chose this global goal because they wanted more equality towards women and girls. The meaning of gender equality is all genders being treated equally/fairly. Upon exploring this goal, they learned that men were thought of to be more superior to women because in the traditional gender stereotypes men supposedly were logical and independent, but women were not good at making supported businesses in the economy. For our

action, we made pins and sold them for a price of 25 cents! We made pins to fundraise for our main action idea. Our main action idea was period package pop-ups! We believed that girls should have free access to period supplies, so funds raised from pin sales went to buy products that were put in the girl's washrooms for free! Upon researching the global goal of gender equality, students learned that there were many challenges that women faced. Women were particularly affected by climate change impacts in certain parts of the world, and they had less access to education, land, money and so much more. Women were also affected by cultural, legal, political, and financial biases. Students learned that we should recognize the important role that women played in our life, so we should support equal access for women, and make gender friendly laws. Inequality also affected how people saw others, as passing judgment was something people often do nowadays. Students developed a skill for research, self-management and communication.

ST. DOMINIC

Students created and distributed compliments cards to the whole school. Students were asked to write cards for others when they saw something positive they wanted to acknowledge. Cards were put up outside of all the classrooms. This was ongoing. The impact on students was positive behaviour, positive self awareness, mental health focus and the promotion of kind acts.

The students of Grade 6A were able to send out compliments made by any student or teacher in the school to their friends and family in the school as a reminder of kindness even when we were in our cohorts unable to bond physically. The students collected money for a donation to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation so students could send candy canes at the same time to someone else in St. Dominic. The students were in complete charge of this project with only teacher suggestions. The impact on students was how amazing they were able to bond working together to collect, organize, and distribute joy and smiles around the school. They felt very accomplished with all their ideas, how successful they were with the collections, and being able to exhibit leadership and responsibility. With everything going on in the world, they were just happy to put a smile on someone else's face. Prior to Remembrance Day, Grade 5 students at our school were involved with the Postcards for Peace Program which provided an opportunity for the students to

send postcards to express messages of thanks to those who served Canada in times of war, military conflict, and peace or still-serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. The students reflected on the role of Canadian military personnel and their sacrifices made to protect Canada. In total, 24 postcards were sent. The students were extremely grateful for their service and hoped their postcards would brighten a soldier's day.

Grade 1 students made and delivered 26 Christmas cards and candy to students at St. Catherine School, a less fortunate school in our Division. Students learned to put themselves in other students' positions and gain empathy for those less fortunate than themselves.

Our school collected and delivered warm winter clothing to spread the warmth to St. Francis of Assisi School. Students learned to put themselves in other students' positions and gain empathy for those less fortunate than themselves.



A class made 40 Christmas cards for the residents of the Revera McConachie Retirement Home. In this activity, students built hand strength, coordination, and dexterity skills. Also, they learned to take ownership of their craft and spread the spirit of Christmas through their kind words and actions.

In December, the Grade 5B students wrote 50 positive letters and notes and made 50 Christmas cards for the residents of St. Michael's Long Term Care Facility. Students felt connected with our local Catholic senior's residence. Many students shared stories of elderly neighbors or family members.

A Grade 5B class participated in a writing contest in Language Arts that was offered by Habitat for Humanity. The Meaning of Home Writing Contest invited Grades 4, 5 and 6 students from across Canada to submit a written poem or essay explaining what home meant to them for a chance to direct a grant to a local Habitat for Humanity build of their choice. The contest was established to help raise funds and

awareness for Habitat for Humanity in Canada, and to engage and educate the next generation in Habitat's mission to help families access affordable homeownership. A \$10 donation was made with each entry submitted. In total, the 5B class raised \$210 through the contest. The students reflected on the project and expressed the importance of having basic needs met such as housing, food, clean drinking water, clothing, and warmth to name a few. The students also expressed what home meant to them, comfort, safety, family, shelter, and so on.

The students created 26 Christmas Ornament Wishes for the senior residents at Covenant Health Youville Home. We added these to 26 handmade gnomes to add cheer and brighten up the residents' rooms. Often these residents do not have family that visit them, so the students wanted to bring joy to the residents during the Christmas season. The students felt very proud of their achievements knowing that they brought joy to someone else during what could be a very lonely season for some people. The students planned out thoughtful Christmas wishes and utilized their best efforts to create ornaments that were esthetically pleasing and cheerful. They learned that small actions could make a BIG impact.



Our Kindergarten students learned about making positive changes in the world and what better way than to start in our own school. Our Kindergarten students wanted to celebrate and recognize the amazing and hard work that teachers do year-round. Students planned and created personalized cards for our teachers. Our students delivered the cards throughout the year (Kindness Week, Happy Spring, Happy Summer). The students spent a significant amount of time engaging in creating cards/crafts for our school staff. During these hands-on-activities students talked about respect, feelings, and any questions they had. Students were very excited about making the cards. They wanted to draw happy pictures that would make people smile. The highlight of the cards was getting to hand them out.

The Edmonton Food Bank collects and donates food, free of charge, to people in need in our community while seeking solutions to the causes of hunger. Our Kindergarten students learned that we all have a role to play in getting food to



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those in need. Sharing information and raising awareness about hunger was a great place to start. The students collected cereal boxes for the entire month of May. We collected 98 boxes of cereal. Some of the comments from them regarding how they felt about doing this collection included, "We felt good because we gave people food to eat.", "We should have given them milk too.", "It was fun to do the domino box video with all the boxes.", and "Sad that people don't have food." When asked what they had learned the commented things like, "We learned that it feels good to be nice.", "When you don't have food you feel sick.", "When people don't have food they get hungry.", "When you don't have food you can't grow.", and "It's nice to help people."

ST. EDMUND

St. Edmund IB World School students raised awareness about our Canadian Hero Terry Fox, who exemplified the IB Learner Profiles of Caring, and Courage (Risk-taking) and was also a great example of how to live as disciples of Jesus. Our Grade 2 classes, lead the school in collecting donations for the Terry Fox Foundation by raising awareness on announcements and organizing a Terry Fox Walk/Run for our school community. Students were impacted by understanding the importance of the life of Terry Fox and his legacy. He exemplified aspects of what it meant to be an IB student and how we could spread Good News. Students learned about courage and how one decision or small act could have a huge impact on the local and global community. Terry Fox taught us the importance of hope.

During the week for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, we sold raffle tickets to students and staff to win a signed Ethan Bear hockey jersey. We raised awareness about Ethan Bear and his advocacy for Indigenous communities while raising money for Catholic Social Services programs that serve marginalized or impoverished individuals. Students learned about Ethan Bear and were able to make connections to the strength and perseverance he, and Indigenous communities have demonstrated when overcoming barriers and trauma. Students were able to learn, connect and identify with an Indigenous athlete and the barriers that he had to overcome. Students learned about resilience, hard work, and bravery. Students also learned about Catholic Social Services and the services they

provided and how they supported members of our community. Students and staff reflected on these services.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for \$.25 for two Halloween themed baskets. The funds were raised to support Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope Campaign and the many programs and supports they offered. We raised over \$500 to support those in need. Students were excited to have the opportunity to not only win a possible prize, but to donate to Catholic Social Services in supporting those in need. One student said, "I bought so many tickets because it all goes to charity!" He was very proud of the contribution he made to Catholic Social Services. This raffle gave us an opportunity to discuss how people may struggle and how Catholic Social Services and other organizations could assist in meeting our community members needs. Students learned about charitable and volunteer organizations as well as organizations that assist in supporting and servicing our at-risk and vulnerable brothers and sisters.



A used clothing and toy drive was organized by students for families of St. Edmund to bring used clothing and toys that were no longer needed. These items were then donated to a local organization to help with the global Goal of poverty. Students were excited to respond to a need in our community based on their research and analysis. They advertised the need for items and organized the items collected. They were grateful they could help contribute to the growing local issue of poverty in our city.

The E.D.I.A.R (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism) Student Leadership at St. Edmund was created to help establish a supportive and welcoming school environment in which students of all backgrounds could work together. Our mission is to Come as you are so that Together We Soar, and we also sought to nurture a personal relationship with Jesus in everyone every day. Our EDIAR Student Leadership partnered with Catholic Social Services in collaborating with their staff members to make a difference in our school and in the community. For the month



of October, our EDIAR Student Leadership sold Skittles to represent that we are all welcome and belong in the eyes of Jesus and to also raise funds for Social Justice through Catholic Social Services. Our students made a positive impact by raising awareness and a sense of belonging for ALL students through the lens of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Ant-Racism. We were so proud of our students!

During the month of February, the Kindergarten students created a special project we called The Kindness Project. We inquired into what it meant to be kind and what a random act of kindness was. Then, we brainstormed how we could show kindness to others. We decided we wanted to complete acts of kindness throughout our school and community. We began by holding a candy sale to raise money for our project. It was a great success and we raised over \$900! We used the money for three big projects as follows: one for our students, one for our staff, and one for the community! We voted to create backpacks for members of the community who were homeless. We called them Bags of Hope and we donated them to Hope Mission. We purchased new books and/or board games for our Elementary classes and then we were kindness ninjas secretly delivering them to classes! Lastly, we surprised our staff members with cards, donuts, and drinks. They loved these treats! The Kindergarten students, as well as other students, learned that they were never too young to learn about social justice and how they could make a positive impact on the life/well-being of others. Even small acts of love make a big difference in living out our call to spread the Good News. The students loved completing this project and learned so much from being kind to others!

Students had the opportunity to buy chips and pop/juice for a special movie day. All the proceeds raised went to supporting the crisis in Ukraine. The collection was donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. During announcements, students were informed of the crisis in Ukraine and the impact it had on not only citizens of the Ukraine, but all global citizens. As IB students, we had many class discussions on how we could take action, and this was one way we could support all those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

A food donation event at our school was organized by students to help with the global goal on world hunger. They delivered the items collected to the Bissell Center with their families. These particular students were excited to be able to organize this and were very impressed with the items they collected. They were very happy they could help contribute to the growing local issue of hunger in our city.

Students researched and presented to our school's community the need to take action with the global goal for clean water and sanitization. They educated students on how to conserve the natural resource of water. Guests, during the evening of our IB Exhibition, donated that evening and donations were sent to the Red Cross. Students felt empowered and proud of their attempt to support this global goal locally. They enjoyed educating other students, staff and community members as to how everyone needs to reduce the amount of water they use in order to decrease global demand.

Funds were raised for the Jump Start Program. Students researched and presented to our school's community the need to take action when it came to gender inequality in sports. Students felt that women were unfairly represented in sports. They researched sport statistics and women sports representation in the media. The students felt empowered and proud of being able to bring this inequality to light by educating the school community.

One of our Soccer Academy instructors was diagnosed with a liver disease and needed a liver replacement. He was awaiting a donor and his health was declining. He has been such a positive role model and made such a difference in the lives of many of our St. Edmund students and families. As part of a Passion Project school initiative, students sold candy and chocolate bars to raise funds to support his family during this difficult time. Students and staff also participated in a fun run organized by members of the soccer community. Students were very moved and wanted to support in any way they could. They came up with ideas on how they could raise funds, organized, and volunteered to sort out candy for the Elementary classes and sold candy at lunch recess. Some current and alumni students came out to the walk/run fundraiser hosted by the Sherwood Park Soccer District. Students felt empowered to make a difference.

ST. ELIZABETH

The Grade 3/4 class made cards for seniors in the area. They each prepared a Christmas card to be delivered right before Christmas. There were 24 cards prepared. The students enjoyed making the cards and were excited to share some Christmas spirit with those who may not get many Christmas cards.



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Our staff choose names to buy a Christmas gift for but instead of buying them a gift, they thought of a toy that that person would like or would have liked as a child. The toys were then donated to Santa's Anonymous. It was fun to try to match a toy with the person chosen. It was also rewarding to know that these gifts were going to children who needed them!

ST. ELIZABETH SETON

In October, the school collected items for Catholic Family Services, the Edmonton Food Bank, and the St. John Bosco St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank for our Scare Away Hunger food collection theme. A list of needed items was compiled after confirming with the St. Vincent de Paul Society what should be collected. Once the list was finalized, certain items were assigned to each homeroom in the school. As an incentive, the winning homeroom for the best decorated area for collection and number of items collected received a pizza party. Posters were put up around the school and announcements were made encouraging students to bring in what they were able. On the final day of collection, judges went to each homeroom. The next day, our Principal made announcements to congratulate the school on what was collected and announced the winning classrooms! Talking to students, they felt awesome being able to help those who were less fortunate. Many realized that not everyone had enough to eat and being able to help those less fortunate, made them realize that they were lucky to have what they have.



For the first three weeks of Lent, we collected items that were in need for Ukraine. Announcements were made on our daily news program and teachers posted the information on their Google Classrooms. Our Makerspace room filled up very quickly with the requested items. We were able to donate two car loads of boxes to the Polish Center who then sent these items to Ukraine to help those in need. The students and their families knew this project would help those who were in dire need and so many stepped up to the plate to assist. Students felt sad that so many had to deal with this war and knew their donations would help to boost the spirits of those displaced.

Students in Grades 5-9 involved in Newspaper Club, created a school newspaper, advertised, and then sold the product. With money raised, they chose a project to help someone in our community. They ended up choosing a student who was going through a transplant and chemotherapy due to aplastic anemia. The students budgeted with the profits and created a Good Vibes basket for this student, including a blanket for chemo treatments, favorite snacks, a jar full of messages and good vibes to read on hard days, a personalized water bottle and a gift card to Booster Juice. The students were in tears when they were shown the picture of the student receiving this gift. The news also picked up the story and interviewed students, which brought a great sense of pride and further reflection. Projects like this really help the students grow their empathy, understanding, care, and thoughtfulness.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

On August 29th, our Grade 6 students held a Lemonade Stand to raise money for the Stollery Children's Hospital. Our goal was \$300 and we raised \$290. We were proud of ourselves! Students learned the value in helping others by giving a few hours of their time. They also learned how to talk to the public to inform them about their cause.

Our school raised money to continue Terry Fox's mission in raising funds for cancer research. Students learned a part of Terry's story each day on the morning broadcast. They coloured and designed shoes that included inspirational quotes from Terry and hung them around the school to bring awareness to the cause.

On September 17th, our school ran/walked 2 kilometers in our community wearing red and white to remember Terry and to bring awareness to others to donate money. Each class raised money and participated in a Toonie for Terry Fox to continue Terry's legacy. From this school-wide project, staff and students were reminded of what an amazing role model Terry Fox truly was. Students came to see how he was a hero for many people and how he still impacts the world today! Terry ran a total of 5,373 kilometers and seemed to do the impossible. From learning about his Marathon of Hope, we saw that anything was possible if you believed in yourself. We also learned about the importance of giving back to the community and taking time out of our lives to help others. We could make a difference in the world if we tried, and Terry showed us how we too could do amazing things to help others in need.



Our Family School Liaison worker put out a call for our staff to fill our pantry for families for when emergencies arose. We always support our students in anyway we can. Staff brought food in for the food drive. The school and students took pictures with the food and sent thank you cards to the people or businesses that provided food. The food delivered went directly to the families and students that needed it from our school.

On our St. Francis of Assisi Day, October 4th, we decided to follow in our namesake's love for the animals, nature and the environment. Each child was given the opportunity to donate money to the SPCA and in return received a barbequed hot dog as part of their lunch. The students and staff raised \$605 towards caring for the pets at the Edmonton Humane Society. Students and staff also created a bulletin board with pictures of their own pets to show the connection to loving animals, just as St. Francis of Assisi did. Many students did not understand who St. Francis of Assisi was or what he was known for. Now they completely understand our school's namesake.

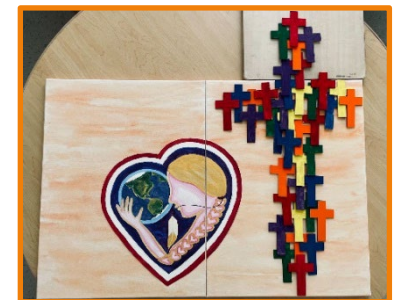


A project took place with The Humans Experience in Edmonton. After looking at various images of marginalized individuals and discussing how these images made students feel, Grade 1 students pondered what they saw and what they could do to show kindness and spread Jesus' love. It was decided that the Grade 1 students would create cards. As the Christmas Bureau used our school gym to pack their hampers and the fact that many of our families received these hampers, it was decided to add a card into the hamper boxes. The students felt great empathy towards the individuals in the photos. They felt sadness and understood that even though they were young they could always be kind, say hello, smile and show empathy to those that were struggling.



Each class designed and wrote messages to be delivered to mailboxes in our school community. Every class was assigned a street to ensure that we reached as many people as we possibly could. In total, 265 messages were delivered. The students did not realize the impact of what they had done until a neighbor brought cookies for the Grade 6 class and all students were shown the comments on social media expressing gratitude. The students all realized what a little gesture could do to make people smile.

For our school-wide Lenten project, each grade was assigned one of the 7 Sacred Teachings. Each class was required to create a canvas using their Sacred Teaching as their main focus. The students then inquired as to how they could take their Sacred Teaching and become Servant Leaders in our school and community through the 40 days of Lent and beyond. Kindergarten students focused on their teaching by treading softly on Mother Earth by being kind, sincere, and truthful. Respecting Mother Earth by taking care, keeping clean and nourishing. Students fulfilled this Sacred Teaching by taking care of our school yard, picking up garbage at least once a week from April to June weather permitting. They watered the plants in the school weekly. They wanted to





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show how much we loved and respected our Earth Mother. Knowing we were children of God we wanted to take care of our Earth home by keeping Mother Earth clean and looking beautiful, so that all people within our community could enjoy the beauty of our school community. Students saw the work they did after yard clean-up. They respected Mother Earth by nurturing (watering plants) and keeping clean (picking up garbage). They also knew that the Earth was our home, and we should take care of our Earth home. It was our role and responsibility to take care of our Earth. Grade 1 students were assigned the Wolf of the 7 Sacred Teachings. They created cards to deliver to classes around the school. The goal was to practice humility as outlined by the Wolf. Students created 1 card/week for 1 class at a time and recognized the role each class played in making our school special. Students recognized qualities in other groups of students that made them unique and special. It allowed for students to practice humility and many of them expressed the enjoyment they felt through complimenting someone else.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Students went to a collective farm in St. Albert and tilled food that had been grown last summer. Of the food collected, 90% went directly to the Edmonton Food Bank to help those in need. This farm was created in part with one of our teachers and has grown immensely over the last few years. Students also participated in planting the crops last Spring. Students really enjoyed this because not only did they see the fruits of their labour, but they saw immediate food relief. Students learned how much food was required for others in need and how much work goes into growing it.

Prior to Thanksgiving, students collected food for our local church, Annunciation Parish. We gathered over 400 pounds and also many non-perishable items for their church care baskets. This was showcased at our Thanksgiving celebration. It was really awesome to see the food we had gathered at our celebration and to bring it directly to the church afterwards. Students enjoyed displaying the food and creating different baskets that would be handed out.

Monetary donations were collected for the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Thanksgiving. Raising funds helped students to understand that they could support

organizations with what resources they had been blessed with. They appreciated that they were part of a community that cared and supported one another.

Warm clothing was gathered by the students for the Hope Mission as their warehouse had burned down. We also gathered blankets. If students brought in clothing or supplies, they got a free pass to a football game to support our team. Students gained awareness on a local issue and supported a worthy organization. They learned about the importance of caring for those in our community and in poverty.

Students went on Zoom with a senior centre with Catholic Social Services and sang and performed for the seniors living there. Students created and performed their pieces with rehearsals and practice. They loved getting to showcase their talents. It was wonderful for students to do something for the elderly in our community to ensure that they felt cared for and not forgotten. Students practiced in their spare time and worked together with the spiritual care team to bring some fun to those seniors. Students talked about it for weeks!

Students participated and donated to the Movember Campaign. We had different activities throughout the month to encourage donations. Male staff grew moustaches, albeit under their masks, and we took photos. Students had fun in the activities and gained awareness of a worthwhile campaign for men's mental health.

Monetary donations were collected for the Veterans Society of Canada during Remembrance Day.

In Advent, students and staff went and donated at Canadian Blood Services. We had over 100 donations from our school that week to support the need for blood. Students really enjoyed going and seeing how Canadian Blood Services worked. For many, this was their first donation, and it started a lifelong service of donating blood.

Students and staff participated in a Teacher vs. Student hockey game at Bill Hunter Arena. As part of our Battle at the Bill, we raised \$6,357.90 for the Matt Cook Foundation and a Toy Drive was held for the Karsten Huth Foundation. One large Salvation Army toy bin was filled with toys for children at Christmas. Students attended the game and cheered on the teams. This was a recurring event at our



school and something that the academics get very involved in. It was wonderful to have the school together at the game and participate in the event.

Braided Journeys students in Grades 10-12 wrote letters back and forth with students at Our Lady of Peace School in Grades 3-6 over a period of 3 months. Students practiced writing, literacy, mentorship, and understanding of responsibility through this project. This helped students to recognize the importance of community and being a mentor to younger people. It also created a sense of belonging and responsibility to ensure each letter was responded to in a timely manner and with care.

One of our students collected bags of warm clothing for the homeless including winter gear. She did all the self promoting and posters, collected the items, and sorted them. Then they were dropped off to Bear Clan Patrol which was a local group who checked on the homeless in the evenings and nights in Edmonton. She felt very empowered because as an individual who did most of it, she realized the impact she could have on a community and many people as just one person.

A group of students went to the Food Bank and served for an afternoon sorting food and building boxes for people in need. These students spent the afternoon learning about the Food Bank and where the items went as well as directly filling needs. The students loved it! They were so happy and excited to be there. They were amazed that such a simple act to them could have such an impact on others. They commented that, "it was so easy!" but they got to gather food together for families for example and collect fun snacks for kids. It was also a group of Braided Journeys and non-Indigenous students who worked together and developed community as a group.

During Random Acts of Kindness week, students and parents wrote kindness notes to staff and delivered them around. Students used their ability for acts of service to make their community better.

Students collected clothes for FX Closet, which was a thrift type store we ran in the school. This was to raise awareness during Earth Week about recycling our goods. All money raised went back into the Enviro Club program. Any leftover clothing went to Ukrainian Catholic churches who were requesting clothes for incoming Ukrainian refugees. Students had a great time cleaning, organizing, and sorting the

clothes. They did a fantastic job showing off the clothes and running the store. Then the final donation of the extra clothes to the churches made them happy that they helped Ukrainian refugees coming to our city. They wanted to continue this next year.

Braided Journey students cut out Red Dresses to put around the school for the REDress Campaign for MMIWG and included information and statistics regarding missing, murdered Indigenous women and girls. Posters explained the REDress project and the national awareness day on May 5th. Students were impacted by this as it had impacted so many members of the Indigenous community in Canada. They wanted to bring awareness to this day and show their support for Indigenous communities who suffered as a result of the loss of their members.

Students donated money to guess candy in a jar or receive a ribbon to fundraise for Ukraine. Information was shared about what was happening in Ukraine and awareness was brought to each classroom. Students continued to wear the ribbons in solidarity. They learned about the importance of caring for those in our international community and the many families in need.

A change drive was undertaken to raise funds for Ukraine relief initiatives. Raising funds helped students to understand that they could support organizations with what resources they had been blessed with. They appreciated that they were part of a community that cared and supported one another.

Students in Religion classes and the Enviro Club used supplies from Capital City Clean-Up to help clean-up our school yard. We also went into the parking lots nearby and cleaned up garbage. They also picked up garbage in the church parking lot. One class collected 15 bags right after all the snow melted! This clean-up was ongoing weekly with our Religion classes. Students often complained about having to go outside but always enjoyed it in the end. Many were unaware just how much garbage was left in the school parking lots with 1,200 students going in and out.

A virtual campaign was held for Environmental Week. Students picked up garbage, measured their carbon footprint, planted seeds, and implemented better recycling within the school building. A battery drive was held to increase environmental awareness and aid in minimizing batteries reaching landfills. Students understood that they could take action to be able to make systemic change.



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Students biked for 24 hours to raise money and awareness for refugees fleeing to Canada and for students in our own school. Funds raised went to Catholic Social Services Immigration and Refugees, and the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. This was a yearly event and was part of a long-standing tradition at our school. This year's theme was Pedal for Peace with a focus on peace in our world with the many wars going on. The goal was \$100,000 and at time of writing we are over 50% of the way there. Students loved this event! It was one of our biggest events with 420 students participating and 4 staff teams. It took over our gym for 24 hours. Students used their ability for acts of service to make their community better. They understood that they had a responsibility to be able to help others who may not be able.

ST. GABRIEL CENTRE FOR DIVERSE LEARNING

Students learned about residential schools and the treaty system. The students developed their own treaties between themselves and the classroom to understand the importance of treaties and keeping the agreement. Students read the book "You Hold Me Up," identified how we held each other up and created a bulletin board to show the ways we do so. The students identified with the students at the residential schools and how it was important to hold each other up. They gained an understanding of what treaties were on a personal level. This gave them a better understanding of what treaties were and how important it was that they be honoured.

Three classrooms collected food donations from the students to put in a food hamper for Thanksgiving. Students were also able to donate reward points towards food for the hamper. The students thought about how some people did not have as much as others and needed a little help. The donation of reward points for donatable food items let the students choose to be charitable and gave them autonomy over their charitable action.

Students collected bottles to raise money for charity. Monthly collections were totaled to donate to the charity of choice. Students were aware of the environmental issues of litter, recycling, and pollution. They were investigating fund

raising and making a connection between recycling and helping others as well as acts of charity.

Students made 160 Christmas cards, 50 drawings, and ornaments for the residents of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. The students were enthusiastic to send some Christmas cheer to the approximately 200 patients at the Hospital. They were concerned with the number of patients who would not be seeing any family or receiving any cards during the Christmas season. They learned that they could personally make a difference to someone. The students did not know people were living in hospitals long term and came to understand that their small gestures could make a big difference. A long-term commitment was made to the Hospital to continue the cards and decorations throughout the year.



Students created and delivered more than 200 Valentine's Day cards, drawings, and art projects to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital for the patients living in the facility. The students were able to reflect on what it meant to them to receive kind words from others and how they felt when they were given the chance to spread the love. The students developed Valentine sayings and appropriate notes to be written on the Valentines. We discussed what it meant to other people to receive these and used this as a starter to lead into Random Acts of Kindness Week and Pink Shirt Day.

The High School students designed pageant buttons to be worn to promote awareness of the atrocities being committed in Ukraine. They were made by the students with images of Ukraine on them to show support for the country. Money was raised from these buttons for humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Students created nearly 200 Easter cards for the patients at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. This was part of a continuing long-term connection with the patients of St. Joseph's. The students developed a feeling of connection to the patients at the Hospital. They were asking about the people there, querying as to how they got there, how long they would be there, and how they were feeling. This helped to develop a sense of empathy and community and giving/service to others.

ST. GERARD

The students collected more money this year than has ever been raised for the Terry Fox Run/Walk at St. Gerard. We postponed the run due to wind and rain, but the students said that Terry Fox ran through all kinds of weather, so they would too so many of our classes completed the run despite the weather. They were so proud of the money they raised!!!!

Students created 100 Christmas cards for several organizations which the Edmonton Police Service delivered. Students learned about others in need and how to spread joy with action.

Students made 100 Christmas cards and delivered them to neighbors around St. Gerard School. Students realized how they could make an impact in their community.

Grade 3 students designed and created beautiful cards that were painted with watercolours, hand drawn snowflakes, salt was used for a unique and dreamy effect. The cards were delivered into peoples' mailboxes in and around the school neighborhood in Delton. The goal was to spread joy and kindness to others in the community. We would like this to be an annual event. Students spent several days working on this project. Students and staff were proud of their results and very excited to share their gifts with strangers. This was a positive way to highlight our school.

The Grade 3 students created beautiful cards to thank the Junior High students at St. John XXIII School for the Christmas shoe box gifts each child in our school received. Our Kindergarten-Grade 6 students were very pleased with their Christmas surprises and wanted to show gratitude for their gifts.

ST. HILDA

Our school set a goal to match Terry Fox's vision of a dollar per Canadian for donation to the Terry Fox Foundation. Students exceeded our expectations and donated 3.46 times the student population. We were still blown away at our



students' generosity! St. Hilda students also participated in a 2 km Terry Fox Run, and other fun activities during our Mental Health afternoon. Students felt empowered by learning more about cancer, cancer research, and its impact on everyone cancer touched. Through conversations, we could help support those fighting cancer, and raise awareness towards early diagnosis.

Hot Chocolate for Hope was a student lead (teacher monitored) campaign that had students from across the school set up, run, and sell hot chocolate over three weeks during lunch time. All proceeds were donated to Hope Mission. Student volunteers from our Foods classes also came up with new ideas and recipes (candy cane hot chocolate, caramel hot chocolate, etc.) to keep the beverages exciting for students. Hope Mission was recovering from a tragic fire. Through volunteering, students were paying it forward to try and help Hope Mission, and its goals to continue forward. Students learned how to interact with others, work as a team, the principles of volunteering time, and the joy of helping others.

ST. JEROME

We collected Toonies for Terry during our annual Terry Fox Run. Our students discussed the impact that Terry Fox had and the reason for taking part in the Terry Fox Run each year.

Through a toy raffle, donations were collected for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. The school community was notified of our desire to support the Foundation, specifically the support of child mental health and financial hardship. The toy raffle was advertised at a School Council meeting, on daily announcements, and through email indicating where the donations would be going. The success of the toy raffle was beyond what we imagined, and we were able to make a sizeable donation to the Foundation. Our students were excited about the toy raffle. Although many were excited about the prospect of winning a prize, there were



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several students who commented that they were happy to donate to help people in need and indicated that they did not need to win a prize.

ST. JOHN BOSCO

Our Grade 6 students organized a social justice project in support of our healthcare workers at the University of Alberta Hospital to collect coffee gift cards and letters. They went on broadcast to talk about this project, made signs and encouraged the whole school to get involved. The project ran from October 20th-November 5th. We ended up raising a total of \$1,660 in gift cards!! Healthcare heroes sent their appreciation in pictures and hung up all of the beautiful letters on the wall in the ICU hallway at the University of Alberta Hospital. We are extremely proud of our grade 6 students!! Students were extremely happy to be a part of this project and knew they contributed in a meaningful way to our healthcare heroes. Hearing the warm message below from the U of A made students feel like they had made a difference in the lives of our healthcare workers. A message follows from one of the nurses at the University Hospital Intensive Care: "Everyone was just thrilled!!! We put the letters in a binder with plastic sleeves so everyone could read them, the brightly decorated cards were placed at our main entrance and the gift cards will be allocated by management. The cards and letters were so touching. We just loved them all!!! Our staff at the University Hospital Intensive Care send our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the students and staff at SJB. Thank you so much for the kindness and support."

Students made approximately 72 Christmas cards for seniors living in the Aspen House Assisted Living Home for Seniors. After a class discussion, the students understood the importance of reaching out and connecting with seniors who were often lonely during the holidays and often spending Christmas alone without their families. The students created and designed a symbol(s) to decorate the front of their cards that represented love, acceptance, belonging and friendship, such as hearts, crosses, praying hands, people holding hands in a circle, etc. Then, the students wrote messages inside the cards to a senior that reflected that sentiment as seniors were often alone and forgotten about at Christmastime. The students understood that their cards brought reassurance and joy to the seniors and showed them that people cared about them, were thinking of them, and were reaching out

to them during the Christmas season. The students also reflected on how they were sharing Christ's message of love and peace and how they were following in Jesus' footsteps through their actions.

The students in Kindergarten created their own Christmas cards to raise funds for the Stollery Children's Hospital. With the support of Printing Services, we were able to make available the created cards to our families and school community for purchase. The proceeds from the cards went to support the children of the Stollery Children's Hospital. The students were able to see that they could create a change while using their talents and creativity. The families were able to see their children as artists. We were able to donate over \$500 to the Stollery. The Stollery as a donor was a personal one as one of our students had been a patient there and the hospital was able to provide excellent care and support to the student's family.

Our school community has participated in a Shoe Box drive for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child for the past 5 years. Families supported other families of their own age in developing countries by providing items of need and fun items to bring joy. Due to COVID, our families created these gifts at home and delivered them to the local depots to send away. Many students asked for extra boxes this year. Many came to school to go on announcements to show and share how important it was to them to be involved.

Staff, students, and their families made a visible presence and support for our city's homeless, who need our good works, at the We Care Market Place. Praying for them was just not enough when we could really do something tangible for them. Each grade level collected items such as mitts, lip chap, socks, and toothpaste from January 9th-Feb 19th. On Sunday February 26th, we joined the people at Clansman Park and prayed together before we distributed our collected items. It was a fulfilling and rewarding experience for our students, parents, and staff. One of our students who participated and did a slide presentation for our announcements was quoted as saying, "We Care Marketplace is an amazing place because everyone who doesn't have money or food and nothing to keep them warm and their teeth are dirty. We at SJB help them and we bring stuff over (like toothbrush, toothpaste, hats, gloves, granola bars, lip chap, socks, etc.). We Care Marketplace is happening every Sunday you can go and check it out and see how many people come to get stuff. It's so sad to see how many people need these items. There were at least 50



people there and they were just so happy when they got food, toothbrush, toothpaste, hats, gloves, granola bars, lip chap, and socks."

The students in Grade 5 organized a cereal/cereal bar only food bank donation at our school. The students collected over 500 items to donate to St. Francis of Assisi School. The students were eager to get this project off the ground. They made posters, presentations to classrooms, and went on the announcements to spread the word. We collected and delivered decorated boxes for each classroom to put their donations in. On the last day, students helped count and move the boxes to be delivered. The students learned that eating a healthy meal before and during school hours helped students learn and be successful. It helped them realize that not all families had the resources to provide a healthy meal for their family and that it takes the community to help each other.

Students in Grade 3 had been focusing on the virtue of love and kindness! During Random Acts of Kindness Week, each Grade 3 homeroom created both a written and art piece showing what love meant to them. The students worked collaboratively and diligently to ensure that they would have an impact on the people receiving the beautiful pieces. Way to go Grade 3! Grade 3A and 3C gave their creative and thoughtful pieces to Capital Care Dickinsfield. Grade 3B and 3D gave their reflective projects to Strathcona Capital Care. All students took the time to include descriptive and uplifting messages within their written pieces. This project gave students a sense of fulfillment and allowed them to bring joy to those who may be lonely. Through acts of kindness, students were able to better understand and reflect upon how one kind gesture could make a lasting impact in one's life. Students created meaningful art pieces and written poems that reflected each individual's perception of what love was.

Grade 2 students learned about the Ukrainian culture in Social Studies. As they heard about the events in Ukraine, they were saddened, and they learned about the power of prayer for themselves and others. This was practiced daily. The students put their positive thoughts and voices into action. They created a Prayer Chain for Ukraine. There was power in unity. There was power in prayer. This extended to a community effort as our school collected items to be sent to Ukraine. The students felt empowered to know that they were able to contribute to a cause that was near and dear to their hearts. Knowing that something as simple as daily

prayers and collecting items to donate for others, made them feel as though they were following in Jesus' footsteps.

The Grade 1 students organized and lead a school-wide school yard clean-up. Students counted and distributed bags and gloves to each homeroom. Homerooms were assigned specific areas for clean-up. Grade 1 students presented the importance of environmental stewardship on a school-wide broadcast. Students were then encouraged to go home and pick up litter in their communities and neighbourhoods with their families. The students were empowered to continue to care for creation and make a personal difference in our world.

ÉCOLE ST. JOHN XXIII

The school participated in the Terry Fox Run. Students were asked to think of all the people who have or have had cancer. They were then asked to commit to running for a particular person who had cancer, and many were encouraged to raise money by running. The student population was able to raise \$3,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation and all students ran an appropriate distance for their age group. This was done within the neighbourhood, so that people could see their efforts. Students were able to become more aware of the impact of cancer and the personal affects on their families and lives. They gained knowledge about cancer research and did an in-depth look at how each person could affect the world.

Students were asked to bring in dry goods for St. Teresa of Calcutta School to help with their lunch program and food bank. Students were asked to think about the things they were grateful for and to consider helping others who did not have enough to eat for Thanksgiving. They were given information on how food banks work, gratefulness and giving.

The entire school learned about inner city living and some of the statistics on homeless populations and the number of families that used the food bank. All 1,000 students participated, and we exceeded our usual 3 trucks full of food, so we needed to have the Division IMC truck transport the food to St. Teresa of Calcutta School. Our school received a letter of thanks, as well, a story was relayed to our community about how a family had their house burn down but because of recently



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delivered food the school was able to help the family get back on its own feet. When our students found out how their contributions helped this one family, there was a recognisable sense of pride seen in their faces.

On March 18th, our school held a special prayer service for Ukraine. Three services were held by the Division at the school presided by one of the Division Chaplains and Eparchial Clergy of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. Our Ward Trustee also participated in the prayers. Prayers and hymns were sung in both English and Ukrainian by staff and students. We raised \$2,345 in cash and estimated that the same amount was raised on-line making the approximate total of all donations \$5,000. It was a very moving and an impactful service. The students were very attentive to the message and an overwhelming sense of sincerity was felt by everyone in attendance.

ST. JOSEPH

This year all students who participated in the Company of Saints fundraiser for Clean Water on Reserves production took part in a blanket exercise ran by our Truth and Reconciliation Specialists. After this exercise we discussed what we could do together to help make a difference and some of our students were currently living on reserves that had no access to clean water. We decided to make this our fundraiser focus for the year and we decided that half of our ticket sales would go towards the Dreamcatcher Foundation (<https://www.dcfund.ca/site/funding-water>). In the end, we donated a total of \$2,000 towards this great cause. Our students were extremely impacted by the blanket exercise, and we all learned a lot from listening to the stories that were shared with us. Through this process we had some mixed emotions and hurt feelings because not everyone in the room understood the full impact of what was happening, nor did they truly understand how their actions and behaviors impacted those around them. We had to have a sharing circle the next day so that students could share their feelings and really learn to listen to one another. After this moment, we moved forward knowing that we as a collective would make it our mission to sell as many tickets as possible so we could help make a difference. We all knew that we could not just stand around any longer and let other people do the work. We decided we needed to step up as well. Our students learned to be kinder, more understanding and ultimately learned

the importance of actively listening to one another. The kids were so proud of themselves for being able to donate \$2,000 towards a great cause, and they knew this was just the beginning. They found other ways to tell others what they could do to help and how we could all move towards Truth and Reconciliation together.

Students suggested a Ronald McDonald House Toy Drive and since our students volunteered for RMH prior to COVID, we saw the importance of being able to provide toys for children's milestones. The closer we got to Christmas, the more students reflected on others, and they asked the teachers if they could initiate a Toy Drive out of consideration for young children who needed a brighter Christmas.

Student's Union members sold buttons with fun anti-bullying sayings and images for Pink Shirt Day in an Anti-bullying campaign. Money collected was donated to the Edmonton Humane Society. Students were informed about the origin of Pink Shirt Day which allowed them to be aware of the issues faced by bullied students and created an openness to stand up against bullying.

We held a number of fundraising activities to raise funds for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton to assist with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Students collected \$197.05 by the combined sale of pin buttons in the colors of the Ukrainian flag with the message "We Stand for Ukraine," raffle tickets to guess the number of chocolates in a jar, and cash donations. These activities outlined that a small effort, such as the purchase of a \$2 button, could have a huge impact when the efforts were multiplied by the involvement of a collective. There was no donation too small or insignificant. It all made a difference. Students wore their buttons proudly feeling that they contributed in their own small way towards a cause that resonated with many. As well, students and staff at St. Joseph's donated money throughout the Lenten season. Also, the culinary students made a Ukrainian themed lunch and all money received for lunch service that day was collected and donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton. The total was \$750. Students heard about the tragic events unfolding in the Ukraine in their classes, as well as through media and social media. The fundraising activities presented an opportunity for students to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine, while simultaneously making a positive impact to help by donating funds that could be used to assist with the relief efforts for the humanitarian crisis.



The Braided Journey students volunteered at the Edmonton Food Bank. They received on-site training and orientation before entering the warehouse. Once in the warehouse the students began sorting donations and working on the hamper line building hampers. The students felt it was a fun way to give back to the community. They learned it was a great way to develop new skills and build on existing experience and knowledge.

ST. JUSTIN

As part of our Thanksgiving celebration and need to help our community as a school, we collected food items for the Edmonton Food Bank. Students felt empowered to help other families in need. It was also important to understand that we at times receive help from others and in turn it was important for those of us who have received help to offer it to others.

All students in Kindergarten learned about food waste and how it was important to not waste food. We needed to find ways to use up food items so they did not get thrown in the garbage. As a class, Kindergarten students measured, poured, and stirred all ingredients to make banana bread for the entire St. Justin community as part of our Conquer Hunger grant daily snack program. They used old bananas from our snack program that were no longer viable. Students then delivered the baked goods to each class to teach the rest of our community about the importance of not wasting food. Our students learned the value of receiving food items each day. They learned that even when a food item might not look good anymore, there were often different ways that they could use those items in cooking or baking. Our students were proud to be able to feed our whole school community using their little hands.

ST. KATERI

Students raised Toonies for Terry the week leading up to our school-wide Terry Fox Run. We educated our students through videos and activities all about the Terry Fox Foundation and what it did for our communities. As a school community we raised

\$593.95. Students were excited to learn more about who Terry Fox was and how his legacy supported children that were suffering from cancer just like he did. Students created posters to put up around the school to help others become excited about what we were going to do for our community.

This year at St. Kateri we did a school-wide collection for the Edmonton Food Bank. The reminders about the collection began a week before on morning announcements. This gave the classes an opportunity to discuss the food collection and the reasons behind it prior to the collection date. The collected food was displayed around our school Christmas tree at our entrance. The classes began discussion about the food collection prior to the collection dates. This gave the students a chance to reflect about the activity before participating in it. Students in my class were impacted when they found out that students' families in our school and other schools in our area use the food bank.

Our students made about 200 cards and artworks for the seniors of Laurel Heights Retirement Residence. This project was done twice, one during Valentines Day and the second batch was Birthday cards/gifts this June. This was our students' way of spreading joy to our community. Students were happy when they received a voicemail from a senior resident, who was grateful for the card that he received. We also received pictures of seniors smiling while reading the cards. The students learned that they could help by doing a simple act of making cards and writing sincere messages for other people.

St. Kateri participated in Jump Rope for Heart this year. We started off with having a kick-off assembly to explain to students that Jump Rope for Heart was a way for us to not only get active, learn/practice skipping, and keep our hearts healthy, but to also raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We set a school goal of raising \$1,500 and spent two weeks learning how to jump rope during our gym blocks. We did a phenomenal job and ended up raising \$3,272 to donate to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and we had so much fun getting to learn how to skip and keep our hearts healthy! The students enjoyed it so much that many of them brought skipping ropes outside during recess and were asking to do it often. They learned a new skill and thoroughly enjoyed it. They also learned more about how to keep our hearts healthy, how to recognize the signs of a stroke, and what the Heart and Stroke Foundation was and what they do. Students felt so great raising more than our goal to donate and were proud to have done so!



God Calls Us EACH BY NAME

In March, there was an invitation to write a personal letter of encouragement and support for Ukrainian children. A Grade 1 class made 20 cards and included small gifts to put in bags for the children of Ukraine. This made the students feel happy and sad. This project made them hopeful, that in their small way they could make other kids feel happy.

Students in Grade 4 were tremendously concerned about the impact of the war in Ukraine. They studied Ukraine last year in Grade 3 and had started to learn about the extensive Ukrainian population in Alberta this year in Grade 4. They wanted to do something that mattered, so when students were asked to write letters to accompany local donations for a flight to help Ukraine, we knew this was our opportunity to do something important! The 28 students in a classroom spent three days diligently creating friendly letters that would spread messages of hope. They introduced themselves, shared information about what going to school in Alberta was like, told a joke or two to lift spirits, shared positive affirmations and created artwork to show their support. One student used Google translate to share his message of hope in Ukrainian. These letters were hand delivered to the drop off point for local donations and was assured that they would be on the plane to Ukraine. This project impacted students in a variety of ways. First, it was tied directly to outcomes in Language Arts and Social Studies. It also provided opportunities for students to learn to think critically about what was presented in the media. Many students had questions about some of what they had read or heard about the attack on Ukraine, and we were able to discuss as a class how living in different parts of the world was not necessarily the same as living here in Canada. Students were very engaged in this process and worked diligently to complete their best work. It was clear that this initiative was important to them.

The St. Kateri Mental Health Student Leadership Team assisted with a fundraiser and collected supplies for dogs and cats for a local animal rescue, Greater Edmonton Animal Rescue Society (GEARS). First, we shared out the Rescue's pizza fundraiser to our families to assist them with raising more funds to support the animals in their care. Next, the Leadership Team created a letter, videos, and posters to notify students and families to collect much needed supplies, such as food, kennels, toys, treats, collars, leashes, and donated them to GEARS. We donated two kennels and a full bin of different supplies. Students learned more about how a non-profit organization worked, and how they depended on donations and volunteers to help them. Students felt good about helping and learned a little more about how animal rescues worked as well and how many animals they had in

their care. They were proud to help them, and all the furry friends entrusted to the rescues and fosters care.

ST. LEO

For the month of October, St. Leo supported a food drive for families in need in our community. Each class was given the identical list of items and each student was asked to bring that item. Once all the items were collected, the boxes of donations were brought into the Zen Den and evened out as many students brought more than one item. The school then identified six families within our school family who needed support. After Faith Development Day, the staff paired up and the food hampers were delivered to the families that afternoon. Many of our families were considered the working poor and each month they struggled with basic needs for their children. The names of the families were kept anonymous but the students that received the boxes stated that their family was so happy to receive them. The students also explained to their families that the food came from classmates and staff. Using Mark 12:41-44, the Widow's Offering, the students came to an understanding that regardless of one's situation, one always has something to give, it did not have to be a physical item such as food, it could be an ear to listen or a hug to comfort because at the end of the day, "we are all just walking each other home. (Ram Das)"

Our school community came together to create and distribute Thanksgiving food hampers to families in need within our community. With student and family support, the collection boxes were overflowing with donations. The students in Grade 5 were excited to decorate their class box and were amazed at the amount of donations brought in. Staff delivered hampers to eight families. The students enjoyed being able to help families of other students who go to our school.

The students created artwork to Deck the Halls and spread joy to the residents at the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre. There were over 175 pieces of art delivered. The Edmonton General was extremely excited to hang up the student work and expressed their many thanks. The students learned that simple acts of kindness and giving to others was an important part of our Catholic Faith. The

students in Grade 5 were ecstatic to create art for the residents and made extra art pieces to make other people happy as well.

Staff at St. Leo decided to forego a staff stocking exchange and instead use the money they would have spent to decorate a Christmas tree with items for the students. Items ranged from toothbrushes to mitts to colouring books and more. The tree stood in the main foyer and students could not wait to shop the tree. Whatever small thing we could do to make our kids feel seen and heard, we did. The students were excited to get new toiletries as much as they were for a new colouring book. In our community, many of our students did not have new anything so a new toothbrush was a huge thing. We hoped that this showed our students that they were seen, heard, that they knew they mattered and that they were loved. They were Jesus in disguise.

The students created over 160 Valentine's cards and 50 Valentine's decorations to help the residents at the Edmonton Aboriginal Senior Center celebrate and enjoy a themed Valentine's Day. We were informed about the trauma and mental health issues many of the residents faced and hoped to bring some joy in their lives, especially during this unprecedented time. The staff at the Center reported to us that, "Our members that attended loved the cards, many said that was their favorite part of the whole day!" The St. Leo students felt proud that they were able to make the members at the Center feel loved and honored. They learned that they could make a difference in someone's life, even through small gestures, such as making a simple Valentine card. When they heard that the residents loved the cards and said, "it was their favorite part of the whole day," the St. Leo students lit up with big smiles on their faces and realized the impact they had on others.



During Holy Week, the students learned about the Last Supper. They reflected upon the message that Jesus was teaching us, as He graciously washed His disciples' feet (John 13:3-9). Our Lord calls us to serve one another, especially during the Easter season. Students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 created Spring cards filled with pictures and messages of joy and happiness! They served others by creating a total of 140

cards for both children and staff at the Stollery Children's Hospital to spread Spring smiles. Their cards were given to children ages 0-17 who were currently receiving care at the Stollery. Students in Grades 4-6 designed unique cards showing their appreciation and gratitude for our healthcare superheroes, who worked tirelessly through the past few years of the pandemic. Through this social justice project, the students were filled with joy themselves. They had an abundance of happiness in their hearts, as they recognized that serving others was the greatest gift of all.



ST. LUCY

Our Grade 6 Leadership Team organized a "Break the Rules Day" to collect donations for the Dream Builders Challenge in support of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. Each teacher came up with a list of rules for their students to break and set a price for each rule. A total of \$1,309.80 in donations was collected. Students were made aware of what the Dream Builders Challenge was and where the donations went. They were compassionate towards the cause and were glad that their donations were going towards providing aid to students and families in our schools. Students understood that many of our families struggled, especially during the pandemic, and needed our support.

St. Lucy collected dry goods for Thanksgiving. We gave half of our collection to Our Lady of the Prairies School and the other half was kept at our school for our Christmas hampers for our school families. In December, we launched Reindeer Families. We identified nine families in need. On December 9th, our staff gathered items from the dry bins for each Reindeer Family. We were also able to include \$100 gift certificates for Walmart or Sobeys as provided by St. Charles Church and our Parent Council. Seven hampers were picked up and two were delivered by our Assistant Principal. Families were overjoyed with the 3 blue Ikea bags of food and the gift card. No one in the school knew who the Reindeer Families were because alias names were used.



God Calls Us EACH BY NAME

Grade 4 students wanted to do something to help those in need. They decided to collect bottles and the money raised went to the Bissell Centre. In total, \$200 was raised. We were able to feed 64 people in need with this money. Students were very happy to be able to help provide food for those in need. By hearing that their money could feed 64 people, it helped put into perspective exactly how many people they were able to help!

A total of 45 Christmas cards for the residents of the Venta Care Centre were made by Grade 4 students. Students were excited to make the cards for these residents as many understood that simple acts of kindness brought joy and happiness to many who were lonely and who did not have family during the Christmas season.

A Grade 3 teacher donated \$50 on behalf of her students to adopt an animal from the Edmonton Zoo as their Christmas present. The idea was to support a local business, the Edmonton Zoo, as well as show care for God's creation as the money donated was used to care for the animals. Students chose the animal, a red panda, together as a class which not only supported positive discussions of varying opinions and collaboration between students but built classroom community. When presented with the gift of the red panda, the students were extremely excited and cheered loudly. They were also very grateful that they not only received a class pet but that the money that would have been spent on them individually on a Christmas present, was going to be used to help God's creation (feeding and caring for the animal). Parents were also thrilled with this idea as it was giving the students an opportunity to show that Christmas was not always about presents but doing something good for others, in this case, an animal and local business. Students asked if the red panda could be their mascot for the Animal Lifecycles unit in science and were eager to learn all about the new addition to their classroom community.

For our Lenten Project, the entire school donated funds to support the people in Ukraine. The students felt a sense of pride as they brought in their donations. The older classes had a better understanding of what the funds were being used for and how the funds would assist others.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Lucy families, the Grade 2A and 2B students raised \$830 in chips and Bear Paws sales for items for veterans at the Kipnes Centre. When the Kipnes Centre was contacted, the most requested items for the veterans were

Kleenex, lip balm, hand lotion and small combs. All of the money raised was used to purchase these items. The Grade 2 students and teachers looked forward to delivering them with the beautiful cards students created for the residents. They were very excited to see the items purchased with the money raised and were shocked by the success of the snack sale at our school.

ST. MARIA GORETTI

In conjunction with our Thanksgiving celebration, we collected food items from our students and families. These were then brought to our school's parish, St. John Bosco, for distribution to parishioners in need. Students had very positive feelings about being able to help people in need.

Our Grade 6 students created 50 hand drawn Christmas cards that included thoughtful, and caring messages. These were distributed to Seniors Centres on behalf of the students. The students wanted to reach out to seniors to let them know that they were cared about and appreciated.

The school collected \$2 from each student for our Christmas pancake lunch. The funds were donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Conquer Hunger Fund. Students felt empowered in the belief that they could help people in need.

Our students created 150 Valentine's paper hearts with inspirational messages such as "God is Love" and "I can show love by being a believer and forgiving others." These hearts were then decorated and sent to St. John Bosco Parish to be displayed in the church. This project gave students the opportunity to share their understanding of the teachings of our faith and to provide joy and inspiration to the parishioners of the parish.

Our school participated in the Jump Rope for Heart event for the Heart and Stroke Foundation which was a family-friendly way to get kids active, practice healthy habits, and teach the importance of giving back. Our students learned of the importance of heart health through daily broadcast messages as well as the importance of giving back to the community. This fundraiser culminated in a 30-minute school-wide jump rope event.



ST. MARK

St. Mark students encouraged family and friends to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation in September of 2021. Our small community school has a long-lasting tradition of raising awareness for cancer research every year amongst our students and staff. Everyone gets involved and it was a great way to start our year. The fundraising was to sponsor our students for running their race on September 23rd in their PE classes. All in all, it was a very successful run and fundraiser for our family of St. Mark Lions. Students felt empowered to make a small change and contribute to the ongoing battle against this awful disease. They learned that many of their peers had been affected by someone in their lives having cancer. It changed their outlook and perspective by reflecting on how cancer was all around us, and eventually everyone would be touched by this deadly and sad disease.

In October, our students were encouraged to bring in food for our in-house food bank and for a start on our Christmas hampers prior to participating in our traditional Halloween haunted house. We wanted to add another dimension to this special day and have them think of others before themselves. A lot of food was brought in, it was a great start to re-stock our in-house food bank for those in need, and an excellent start to our annual food drive. Students were able to see the need out there for those who were less fortunate than them. Such a simple necessity in life was often not available to them due to special circumstances in their lives. It was a great reminder for when we needed to continue to collect food for our Christmas hampers in December. Students felt proud that they could get the ball rolling for students in need for our in-house food bank and for our future hampers.

Students and staff collected food for Christmas hampers for the many families in our school who were in need. This was a 4 week-long process. As a school, we filled 14 hampers and collected extra food for our in-house food bank for needy families throughout the year. Another 4 hampers were filled by the Christmas Bureau. Staff delivered the hampers the week prior to Christmas holidays. Students created handcrafted cards to include with these hampers. Students felt empowered. They realized that there were many students within our own school community who needed assistance. This also impacted them as it showed them how fortunate they were to have what they had. They learned that it was vital to assist others as they continued their life journey.

Team Leadership students created many handcrafted candy grams/Christmas cards for all students to purchase and give to their friends and teachers. Beautiful messages of hope, love and inspiration were put on the cards for our students. Money raised was donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids Fund for those in need. The Leadership students delivered the candy grams and cards the day we left for Christmas holidays. Students felt empowered that they could spread joy to their peers and the recipient students enjoyed receiving messages of positivity from their friends. With the pandemic, it was nice for the kids to have extra joy spread prior to the holidays. They realized how important it was to spread joy in the lives of others especially during this time.

ST. MARTHA

Students contributed a Toonie for Terry in support of the Terry Fox Foundation and participated in a school-based Terry Fox Run. The students rallied for the event by making posters and sharing facts about Terry on the morning announcements leading up to the event. A total of over \$200 was raised in support of cancer research. Students realized the obstacles and challenges in Terry's quest to fight cancer. The concepts of resilience and determination continued to echo in our hallways as students often connected to Terry beyond the annual event. Students co-created Christmas hampers with the staff and parent council by providing food and monetary donations for families in need. As a collective, we organized and delivered 12 hampers throughout the community. Many of our families experienced food security issues; however, our families always contributed by providing what they could to share joy during the Christmas season. Our students took pride in bringing in donations and contributions from their own piggy banks. Our students understood that poverty and hunger threatened a person's life and dignity.

Our school community created beautiful Christmas cards with positive and uplifting messages for local seniors. During COVID many seniors felt disconnected and isolated from their family and friends. Students realized how COVID impacted everyone, as they could relate to the feelings precipitated by COVID. In addition, many of our students were unable to reach out to their own grandparents at this time. Engaging in this activity reminded students of their own connections to their



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families. Students learned the importance of spreading the light, kindness, and joy to local seniors in the area.

It starts with one! This year we supported the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dream Builders challenge. In January, St. Martha hosted a bottle drive whereby families donated their refundable bottles and cans to support the foundation. A big shout to our families for raising over \$150. Students learned the power of student efficacy and how one contribution supports the greater whole.

God calls us each by name to walk with him in love. He's called us as stewards of creation, whereby we care for ourselves, each other, and the environment. At St. Martha, we responded collectively to local, provincial, national, and international calls to action through our on-going journey of faith, connection, and justice. We intentionally explored how our Catholic faith connects with the Indigenous communities and how we become advocates of change through our Catholic social teachings. The symbol of the tipi helped guide us in the exploration of our human connectedness to the creator. Each pole of the tipi represents essential teachings of the Indigenous culture which link to Catholic scripture and social teachings: life and dignity of the human person, preferential option for the vulnerable, rights and responsibility, the dignity of work and rights of workers, solidarity, care for God's creation, and call to family, community, and participation. Students began to see the connection between Indigenous culture, scripture and Catholic social teachings. This understanding enabled them to be advocates for others in support of social change.

Students 'stood up and showed up' for the 40-day Lent challenge. Each day of Lent, students challenged themselves to reflect on how their actions and words brought them closer to God. Simple acts of complimenting others, praying throughout the day, reaching out to grandparents, and helping without being asked at school and at home, showed the 3 pillars of Lent in action. Our Grade 5 class created 23 cards and treat bags for various seniors in the Stettler area to celebrate Easter. Students deepened their connection with God and understood that their Lenten journey extends throughout the year through their words and actions.

ST. MARTIN

St. Martin's Fall Retreat included a food drive for the Our Lady of Grace Food and Formula Drive Program with ECSD. Students collected food items and baby formula which was then donated to the program. Parents and students learned about the program and how we as a community could help. Our students learned about how important it was to give thanks and to share in our bounty with those in need. They learned that even within our own schools there were children in need of our support.

ST. MARY

Students collected money for the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research as part of the Terry Fox Run event at our school. Over \$1,200 was raised. Students were proud to run like Terry and donate money to the cause he began with his run across Canada.

After watching a video about the impact the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul had on families in need, students brought in food bank items to donate to the Society. Students developed an awareness of people in Edmonton that may be in crisis. They were inspired to bring the love of Christ and to serve the poor. Students developed an understanding of treating those in need with dignity.

Students collected snack items for the snack program at St. Bernadette School. They showed their appreciation for what they were given in life and saw the need to share with the less fortunate within our community of faithful in our Division. Students showed thanks and appreciation at Thanksgiving time.

Students brought \$1 to post a Spiritual Wish on bulletin boards around the school. The money raised was donated to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dream Builders Fund. Students reflected on what other children their age may need at Christmastime if they had no money. They created a wish for others and donated funds to support other students in ECSD. This helped students to focus on caring for others.

Generous food donations were received from our school community for an Edmonton Catholic School in need, as well as for families in need in our own school community. Students developed an understanding that some people struggled to meet their basic needs and that as a community we could work together to care for each other.

Each class was assigned one food item to donate to the Edmonton Food Bank, i.e., Grade 5 canned veggies, etc. The Food Bank came to the school to collect the donations. They were very thankful for the donations that were made by our school community at Christmastime. Collecting food donations allowed us to speak about how our gestures could help improve someone else's life.

The staff at St. Mary wanted to make a difference in a child's life! Each staff member was given the name of another staff member. Our task was to buy a gift for the assigned staff member. The gift was to be a toy that said staff member would have enjoyed as a child. These gifts were distributed at the Christmas staff social. The joy each staff member got as they received a toy that was chosen for them brought many laughs and fun for all. The Christmas tree in the foyer had signs on it, "STAFF CHRISTMAS BUREAU TOY COLLECTION," this was where the staff placed their toy donations. The students were excited to see the staff collecting toys for the less fortunate.

The students were asked by the Division to create Christmas cards for seniors in local senior homes. This was in conjunction with the Edmonton Police Service as well. Our school made approximately 200 greeting cards as well as 25 small craft gifts. The students were very aware of the elderly in our community. We discussed all that they had done for our community and how we must show them respect and thanks. Christmas could be a lonely time of year for the elderly in care homes particularly this year with COVID keeping seniors isolated from family.

The Grade 5 class collected cans of soup to donate to the Marian Centre. This collection of comfort food for the homeless was inspired by a novel study that we completed. "Mr. Stink" is a great novel about a person living on the street. This inspired us to collect soup cans for the less fortunate of Edmonton. Students were very eager to donate to the Marian Centre homeless shelter, knowing that this soup would provide comfort to the people who spent most of their time outside.

The Grade 2 students made Valentine cards and went on a community walk to Lifestyle Options Riverbend to deliver them and wave through the window to the seniors. Apparently, some of the seniors cried and were still talking about it at dinner time. The students were very proud to know that the seniors were so moved by the cards that they had made. This was a random act of kindness activity.



Throughout the Lenten season, several ECSD schools within our area banded together to collect school supplies for the English School in Burundi. Our Division has several teachers that have visited/worked at this school through the years. Those who have worked there spoke of the need for good school supplies. The students of St. Mary donated several large boxes of beautiful school supplies to help fill a sea-can headed to Burundi. The students had a virtual visit in March from a teacher who had worked at the Burundi English School, she spoke highly of the program and the need for high quality school supplies. The students asked questions and learned firsthand what the program in Burundi required and how their gift of supplies would be used at the school. The students were excited to lend a hand to their brothers and sisters in Africa.

Throughout the month of March, our school participated in collecting cash donations for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton fundraiser for Ukraine. Along with the cash donations the students also wrote prayers for the people of the Ukraine. These heartfelt prayers were posted prominently in the school along with a Ukrainian flag and a traditional Ukrainian costume. The students eagerly brought cash donations to the school. The money raised through this effort was \$2,045.30. Many more donations were made directly to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton website. The prayers for the Ukrainian people were posted, and the display grew daily. Many students stopped to read the prayers posted and some prayers were read on announcements for morning prayer. The sheer volume and colourful yellow and blue prayer cards drew many children in to stop and read a





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prayer. It was a constant daily reminder of the power of prayer. God listens to the prayers of children.

The Grade 2 classes made Easter cards for the seniors at Lifestyles Options-Riverbend whom they had visited in the past. They were only able to drop the cards off they did not go in this time. The seniors enjoyed the warm wishes and handmade cards from the students at our school. The students knew that some of these seniors were lonely therefore they made extra bright and happy cards to bring joy to their lives.



The students and staff of St. Mary set a goal as to how many laps of our school field we could walk, run, or pedal, for our Feet for Peace (Pied Pour Paix) event. We then headed outside for 30 minutes to begin our journey. A gorgeous morning in May, a time to breathe in the fresh air and thank God for his many graces. Many of the students reached their goal and went beyond it. The

students brought in money to donate for all people in need as well as the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. The students enjoyed the goal setting as they figured out how many laps they could complete in 30 minutes. We spoke of how blessed we were to be able to go outside in our beautiful and peaceful City of Edmonton knowing sadly, that this was not how it was around the world for all children their age.

ST. MATTHEW

Students were challenged to see which class could bring in the most food for the Edmonton Food Bank. The students collected over 490 kilograms. The students could not believe how much food they collected and for some they realized how they could help other people by bringing a single item. The students were asking when they could do this again as well as thinking of other ways they could help others.

The Kindergarten-Grade 6 students in our English program painted rocks for the garden at the St. Michael's Nursing Home. This helped to beautify the indoor garden for the residents. In addition to the rocks, each student created a Christmas card to be distributed to the residents and to spread Christmas cheer especially for people who did not have family. The students felt that they were helping others in the community. Many of them wanted to do more projects to help people in their community. The students hoped that they brightened the day of the seniors.



In November, the Ukrainian Bilingual students collected 120 backpacks full of toys, jackets, books, and school supplies for an orphanage in Ukraine. The students felt proud that they were able to give students presents who did not get any at Christmas. They learned that Christmas was more than getting something it was helping people.

The Leadership Team created a Candy Grams for the Stollery Children's Hospital fundraiser. They created posters, promoted it on Broadcast, sold the candy grams and packed the candy bags for Valentine's Day. This replaced the traditional giving of Valentine's cards. The proceeds were given to the Stollery Children's Hospital. The students raised \$707. The students were proud of their idea, efforts, and the result. The Leadership Team felt that they helped other children who were sick.

Our Leadership Team asked all students to Break a Rule on May 25th. The rules that the students could break were chew gum and eat candy in class, wear a hat, wear pyjamas, and bring a stuffy. For each rule that was broken a student paid \$1. The money collected was given to the Kids Cancer Society. This project was fun for the students at the same time they were helping others. Students talked about the impact of their actions, and how even a loonie could help someone else.

The students and their families donated clothes, medical supplies, diapers, and household items for families in Ukraine in our Fill a Classroom for Ukraine social

justice project. The students organized and packed the items that were being shipped to Ukraine on a plane. The second part of the project was that the students and staff took the remainder of items and created a store for families who had come to Canada to select clothes, shoes, bedding, towels, toys etc. This project gave our students and families hope as they were making sense of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Students felt that they were contributing and in some small way helping the Ukrainian people.



ST. MONICA

The staff and students of 100 Voices at St. Monica and the Zoo collected snack items to support the snack program at Ben Calf Robe School. Snacks were an important part of the 100 Voices Program. We explained to our 100 Voices students that some children did not have access to snacks. The children realized that this meant that they would be hungry. This made the students feel sad but then they were happy when they understood they could bring snacks in to share with the children at the other school.

One of our families who was not able to access support from the Christmas Bureau this year. We wanted to make their Christmas a little brighter by supporting them. Once we reached out to the family and asked how we could help, the staff at our school collected food items and gifts. The family was touched by the kindness and love they felt from the school.

The students in our morning 100 Voices class at the Valley Zoo became aware of the situation in the Ukraine when a student wore his traditional Ukrainian shirt to school. We spoke about his shirt, and the children shared what they knew about the war. We spoke about the Ukrainian people being scared and sad, and they wanted to think of something they could do to help. One idea was to send them money. We thought about what we could do to make money and thought that we could make something to sell. After thinking through many ideas, we settled on

making clay hearts. The children painted the hearts yellow and blue, and each heart had a word written on the back. The words were love, hope, kindness, and peace. We told our families and the zoo community that the hearts would be available for the cost of a donation. We collected a total of \$732.00! The students felt proud that they were able to do something that would help the Ukraine. It is never too early to teach children compassion and that they can make a difference in our world.

ST. NICHOLAS

Our WIN Junior students and staff held a Christmas Craft Sale with all profits going towards the Hope Mission/Tegler Youth Centre. The students and staff chose this particular organization because they supported our school over the past few years with a bagged lunch program and provided after school programming for youth in our community. Students were responsible for building the crafts, budgeting expenses, and running the craft sale. The students had an immense feeling of satisfaction knowing they were supporting an organization that for several years now had supported our St. Nicholas School community. They were not only proud of the amount raised but more so how meaningful and helpful their contribution was to Hope Mission.

Our Student Leadership Team organized two mini fundraisers, Candy Grams at Christmas, and Candy Grams on Valentines. All proceeds were donated to the Hope Mission/Tegler Youth Centre. The students chose this organization because of the support they have shown us over the years. In addition to these activities enhancing overall school morale, the fact that funds were donated to a good cause made the events that much more meaningful. It also gave the students the feeling of giving back, especially to those who already do so much for our school community.

In collaboration with our Family School Liaison Worker, we generated a list of families within our school community who needed support with food over the holiday season. A list of 32 families was generated. Starting in mid-November through to mid-December, staff and students collected canned goods, non-perishable food items and monetary donations for Christmas food hampers. Students, under staff supervision, sorted, packaged, and sealed 32 fully stocked food hampers. All food hampers were delivered directly to all 32 homes on the



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Friday prior to the Christmas Break. The students felt a great deal of pride and ownership with this project. Yes, they were doing a good deed but more importantly a good deed that helped people within their own school community, students, and their families. Students were also proud of what could be accomplished when we all worked together as a school community.

ST. OSCAR ROMERO

Every Child Matters resource information and important facts were posted on our bulletin board display for Orange Shirt Day. Students then dipped their hands in paint and acknowledged their participation by adding their own handprint onto the board. A residential school survivor spoke to the students about her experiences in residential school and the lasting effects. The students felt empowered which then increased their self-efficacy, thus building their leadership and communication skills as well as their confidence. The non-Indigenous school community learned more about the issues facing Indigenous people of today which helped facilitate reconciliation.

Students participated in Fortress of Bounty supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food drive. They collected food items to fill the shelves of the Society as they created hampers for the needy. COVID hit them hard as more people than ever used their services. Students also made daily announcements regarding food security in our school and in Edmonton. The advocacy piece was particularly enlightening. Our school collected 2,442 items which included soups, pasta, sauces, noodles, baby food, etc. The students were very proud of their efforts and perhaps, learned more about how a basic need was a challenge for many.

Over the course of 2 weeks, we ran a campaign called the Nine Days of Giving Hope to collect needed items for the downtown Hope Mission after a fire at their warehouse destroyed their inventory. We collected 6 large garbage bags of clothing, a box of footwear, 23 pieces of infant clothing, 3+ cases of Pampers, 19 shaving kits (razors/cream), 40 assorted toys, 55 pairs of socks, 18 pairs of mittens, 14 toques, 22 scarves, 5 blankets, 50+ soap/shampoo, and 40+ toothbrushes/toothpaste. Also collected was \$462.75 in cash for direct donation. Students were unaware of the plight of both the homeless in Edmonton as well as

the fire that destroyed the inventory of the Hope Mission and were very moved to help in any way they could. The delivery of goods was a true eye-opener!

The social justice team made 130 buttons displaying support for peace in Ukraine. Buttons were sold during the lunch break for any donation amount. The Ukrainian national flag alongside the Canadian flag were displayed in our central meeting area as we felt it was important to show solidarity especially to our student body. Total funds raised was \$505. Because we have students with direct family ties to Ukraine, this was very impactful for the whole school. The buttons were very popular and were displayed until April.

On May 11th, students cleaned up the surrounding fields as an Earth Day project which was previously scheduled but snowed out. A small group of students made a big impact. The 25 students collected 9 large trash bags of refuse. The students were very proud of their efforts and realized that an individual can, in fact, make a difference.

The social justice team advertised for the student body to wear any type of hat for Hats on for Mental Health on May 4th, to create awareness around Mental Health on the National Day of Awareness. The information was also included during morning announcements to draw attention to this much neglected issue and to try and draw awareness. A large percentage of students joined in the one-day activity. Many seemed to be talking about the issue both in and out of class.

Teachers were given a package on the Moose Hide Project with a PowerPoint, pins and pledge forms. Teachers then presented the PowerPoint during block one to students. Each student who took the time to write a pledge received a moose hide pin. Over 700 pins were ordered. Students also participated in the recognition of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Students led and organized an awareness campaign during Indigenous Studies. Students made on-line awareness posters and a rolling board with informational facts about MMIWG. Beaded MMIWG Dress pins were also created by the students for all staff and Indigenous students. The non-Indigenous school community became more aware of the issues facing Indigenous people.

Our school had a Multicultural Festival celebrating the incredible cultural diversity for our school. Each day the Lord's Prayer was read in 2 languages, other than English, leading up to our festival on April 22nd. Students prepped food and displays



for weeks in advance and the school was treated to a Heritage Days like festival. A showcase of cultural talent topped off the lunch hour with singing/dancing from around the world breaking into an all-out dance party of such joy that had been needed after these long 2 years. Tickets were sold for food purchased. In total, \$2,200 was raised for our two foster children and for humanitarian relief in Ukraine. Our special guest said that on this day "all nations and races gathered under heaven" ...not bad! Joy, pride, community summed up this event!

ST. PAUL

In the Fall of 2021, we had a desire to work with an organization directly supporting families within our community. In our search, we came across the Jasper Place Family Resource Centre. For the last 50 years, they have been a Registered Not-for-Profit organization that promotes young children's healthy growth and development and work to enhance family wellness. They offer comprehensive children's programs and a wide range of parent related services. Their goal was to create healthier families and communities. We felt that their vision aligned with ours and we were excited that their work directly impacted families right where we live. For Thanksgiving, we organized a food item drive and were able to donate food that was then distributed immediately to families in need. We met the program director and were very moved by the work that they were doing and how grateful they were for our support.

For the Advent season, we organized a Giving Tree initiative. We placed several trees in our school foyer and assigned each homeroom a tree and a theme such as baby items, toys, book, toiletries, etc. Over Advent, students brought items in associated with their tree. Prior to Christmas, we packaged up all the items, along with Christmas cards for families and presented these items to the Jasper Place Family Resource Centre. Following Christmas, the Program Director wrote to us that the Resource Centre was able to build care packages with food, toiletries, and gifts for about 40 families before Christmas and that they were able to continue to support the communities with infant supplies, food, and winter accessories. Students were so excited to participate in direct action with the community. In speaking with the student body about social justice and what they were interested in doing, helping people within the community was very important to them. Having

the Giving Trees set up, students were able to see the donations and were involved in the delivery of the items to the Centre. Our goal as a staff was to be transparent with the process and we provided regular updates via the weekly Principal Memo, morning announcements, and SAC meetings. While the last two years have been challenging, being able to help others, even in a small way, made students feel more connected to each other and to their community. It was also a good reminder that we serve God through serving one another and that we all have something to give, even if it is just a message of hope.

ST. PHILIP

For our Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive, all classes collected dry and canned food items for the food bank as well as community families in need. Students were able to see the power of bringing together a collective effort to make a big impact on others. The collections were shared with several families in our community as well as with the Food Bank. Our school community was proud to see everyone pitch in to make a difference in the lives of others.

Italian Cultural Program teachers planned a day of fun with Carnevale to kick off Lent. As part of the festivities, students were able to purchase keychains and bracelets of the Italian Culture Program with proceeds being shared with Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids. An approximate total of \$240 was collected for this. Students were very excited to be able to celebrate Carnevale and have fun in COVID times. They were eager and generous in purchasing the keyrings/bracelets to support this cause. The students engaged in games and festivities and were proud to be able to contribute to this Social Justice Initiative.

Students/staff and parents of our school were very generous in their acts of charity and giving to Ukrainian Relief efforts. A cookie fundraiser was set up by our SAC. Proceeds from this activity were graciously re-directed to support the Ukrainian relief aid through the Division. Students and families once again shared their generosity and willingness to support a community cause. Many of our families went above and beyond with orders raising over \$4,000 dollars worth of product which translated to approximately \$1,500 to be donated to the Ukrainian relief cause. The students really spoke to the cause and many of our families gave extra



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money without expectation of products in return. St. Philip School was blessed to have such a generous and supportive community who were always willing to help. Our students shared the message with families, and it was evident in the support we received.

The Student Leadership Team (SPARK) prepared and planned activities and projects to engage the entire school body to partake in supporting and standing in solidarity with Ukraine. Projects included art pieces for peace, posters to display at the front of the school and on fences, chain of hope with hopeful messages shared on each link, prayer box and display at front of school to encourage students to write prayers for the people of Ukraine. On March 18th, on the day of prayer for the people of Ukraine, all classes went outside to tie blue and yellow ribbons on the fence and display the posters they created. We all prayed together as a school community for peace. Our SPARK students were very passionate about leading these events. They created sample projects that were displayed around the school and spoke to classes about what the plan was. They even created a slideshow with instructions and examples for teachers to use in their classes. The student body and teachers were very engaged in creating and contributing to the message of peace, prayer, and solidarity. There were very unique art projects shared and everyone took part. Our prayer box was overflowing and students from Kindergarten-Grade 6 continually contributed to sharing their prayers over morning announcements. The parent community commented on how touched they were at seeing the displays and hearing about their children speak about this. Once more, the compassion and empathy felt by our students was very evident in the projects they created, and more importantly in the way they expressed their understanding and feelings about war in Ukraine and their hopes for peace for all.

A group of our Grade 5 students self initiated a sale of bracelets they made as well as fun stationary items they donated. The proceeds of this little sale raised \$200! All students were excited to support this cause. The students and families were very supportive and demonstrated solidarity and support for those in Ukraine impacted by the war.

ST. PIUS X

During the month of November students collected canned goods and cereal boxes for the Edmonton Food Bank that helped with our own school snack program at times. They learned to pay it forward as they often received from the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation and our CSW would go to the Food Bank to receive donations to subsidize our snack programs and help support our newcomer families.

Students made 50 cards with Christmas greetings and cheer for the surrounding houses of the Sherbrooke Community, our school community. Students felt good about doing something to spread some cheer through the deep disconnection of the COVID pandemic with our surrounding school community.

Students wrote 60 cards for staff at the Royal Alexandra, Stollery Children's and Misericordia Hospitals. They wrote them from the perspective of a frontline learner recognizing the sacrifice and hard work of front-line workers in the health care field. Many of our students have relatives or friends or direct family members that were and continue to be on the front lines of the pandemic. This allowed students to make a direct personal connection with front line workers by showing their appreciation of what they had been doing during the COVID pandemic.

Students made 60 cards for Valentine's Day and Random Acts of Kindness Week to distribute to seniors at St. Andrew's Centre to help spread joy. The impact on students was support for those in need, relation and connection to older generations that had also been impacted by the pandemic and seeing the correlation between generations.

Students pledged to have their classroom learning teams participate in a lip sync battle where all pledges went towards the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation. They raised \$385.75. Teachers competed in a joyful event that helped increase school spirit. The Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation was close to our school community as we have had many of our student's families and staff that have received support through this Foundation. It was a chance to give back by also spreading much needed joy to our school community and bring back some normalcy to school events such as these.



A Pay for Privilege Event was held to offset the cost of a school musical being put on by our school community that was written by one of our Grade 4 teachers. The event allowed students to realize the impact, expense, and effort it took to put on a performance of this magnitude as a school community.

Students participated in a 50's theme day around Happy Days where they purchased Root Beer floats for \$2 and all proceeds went to the Ukraine-Canada Foundation. They also participated in a Soc Hop for fun. These events allowed us to bring joy in times of strife and to support nations going through turmoil.

ST. RICHARD

We formed a partnership with the Sakaw Seniors Center across the street from our school. At the start of the year, we had a welcome parade. The seniors made signs and waved from their side of the street and our students paraded and waved to them from our side of the street. Also, for Read in Week, we had some of our grandfriends record themselves reading stories and we sent some videos of children reading over to them. This helped students make connections with our elders and be of service to others. Many students did not think much beyond themselves and their immediate families. This allowed them to be of service and create intergenerational connections.

For Halloween, the Grade 1, 2, 2/3 and 3's walked over to Sakaw Terrace to parade in their costumes and sing some songs. The seniors joined in some of the songs and were truly delighted. It was a fun experience for all. There were moments of genuine connection with our elders as they sang together. The students felt very proud of themselves, and it made them very happy to share.

Students in Grade 4 showed an interest in helping the efforts to clean our oceans. During STEM time, students designed, built, and promoted products that could clean our oceans using recycled materials. They made commercials to raise awareness of this issue. These commercials were used to start a school-wide fundraising campaign for Team Seas. Students learned about other young people blazing the trail in ocean clean-up efforts. They felt empowered to find creative

solutions to difficult problems. They became conscious of their plastic use, as well as finding alternatives to using plastic products.

The whole school created 180 kindness cards with messages of love for our grandfriends at Sakaw Terrace. Having connection to our elders, gave the students a perspective of respect for our ancestors and the opportunity to create connection. The elders enjoyed the interaction so much that it gave the students a sense of value and purpose.

Our students collected items for St. Theresa Parish and their food drive. The students gained an understanding of helping those in need. We had a number of families that were recipients of this program, so they gained an understanding of how the greater school community cared for them. The students developed a sense of empathy for those less fortunate. They also developed a sense of gratitude for what they had as well.

A perogy hot lunch was arranged to raise funds for Ukrainian refugees. We also held a very special living rosary service to pray for the victims of war in Ukraine. The students gained understanding and developed empathy for those that lived in war torn areas.

On April 26th, we had a clothing drive and collected gently used clothing for the Diabetes Canada organization. Students gained an understanding for and built empathy for those less fortunate as well as an understanding that we had the ability to give to others. We hoped that the students were involved in the selection of what was donated so that they could feel the personal impact of how they were helping.

Our school raised awareness for Ukrainian refugees that came to Canada. They collected brand new toys for young boys and girls that left home with nothing. This hopefully provided a little bit of normalcy for them as they had fled their country to ours. The students were challenged to show empathy for kids leaving Ukraine because of the war. They had to visualize leaving with nothing except a shoe box. They were challenged to come up with items that had both sentimental and practical uses that they could carry with them. The students learned about what was really important and how everything could change in a moment. It was impactful for our students.



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ST. ROSE

Over \$500 was raised for the Terry Fox Run. During the day the students learned about Terry Fox and what he had done. The students wore running banners which stated who they were running for.

Students made sandwiches for the those in need and placed notes of encouragement on each one. The sandwiches were delivered to Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. A person outside the church doors said, "tell your students thank you. I love the note." The students learned about the Church of the First Peoples.

Cereal was collected for four of our Division Elementary schools and their breakfast programs. The students learned that students around them do go hungry and that they were helping their own.

Classes competed to collect new winter wear for six of our Division Elementary schools. The students did this every year because they understood that there were schools in our area where students did not have as much as they did. Students understood how fortunate they were and brought in clothes for the collection. This social justice project brought awareness that they were fortunate and had an obligation to help those who were not as fortunate.

Students created Valentine cards for senior citizens in our area at Canterbury and another home as well as custodial workers at the Misericordia Hospital. Our students learned that senior citizens needed to feel loved during this time so our students carefully created cards for them and wrote messages to them so they would not feel lonely. For the custodial workers, our students created thank you Valentine cards for their work during COVID.

To support our Ukrainian refugees, St. Rose collected over \$900. We supported our own families at St. Rose as some of our families had refugees living with them as well as those at St. Martin and St. Matthew Schools. With each gift card that we passed out, we gave a welcome to Canada card from the students of St. Rose. Our students felt like they were supporting people they knew, and people close to them. They learned that they could affect those who were in need.

Our students had a break a rule day to support the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. We raised over \$2,200. Our students understood that they were supporting the Foundation to help Edmonton Catholic Schools. They learned about the Foundation and how it supported our schools.

ÉCOLE ST. STANISLAUS

Our Grade 5 students had decided that they would try something new with regards to collections. For Halloween they decided to donate and collect costumes for disadvantaged students. They made announcements, organized, and collected the costumes from all grades. They received over one hundred costumes and were able to donate them to various locations throughout the city which included the Terra Centre and Kids Cottage. This was a meaningful collection. We had many students wanting to participate in the Halloween costume project. They were very excited to be able to start giving other students or children something to be excited about. They wanted to spark joy for Halloween for children that were not as privileged as themselves. They were completely dedicated to ensuring every child could have a costume or play costumes in their homes. The students felt like they already had so much and were able to share what they had. The students wanted to put a smile on another child's face to enjoy the excitement of playing dress-up with their friends. With the pandemic, many children may not have had moments where they were happy, and this might have brightened their day.

Students in Grade 5 led a project for our school community to collect books for Kids Kottage. They modelled it with the school community by reading to their peers and students in younger grades. They then chose the agency that they wanted and decided on Kids Kottage. They also chose the length of time to complete the book drive, creating announcements, posters, packing the books, and loading them. Our students were passionate about reading and wanted youth their age to have the same opportunities as they had. The students raised awareness within our school community on the importance of reading and how this could transform one's day. Students within the school were so surprised about how important reading was and how getting an education was so important. Grade 5 students shared how reading was a necessary life skill and would take their own time to read to our primary grades during lunch hour to model reading. They then began a book drive for one



week to see how many students would donate books. It was awesome to see the books flow into our school. This drive was so impactful. Since Kids Kottage supports youth, they were very excited to receive over 300 books as there was a need for them. The passion and love for reading was real and the students had a strong impact on our school community with teaching the importance of reading and paying forward with this gift with books for youth at Kids Kottage. The students felt like they had made a difference because they shared how awesome reading could be. The Grade 5 students felt fulfillment as they were leaders in action and were responsible for every aspect for this project.

An eager group of Grade 6 students wanted to highlight the impact of struggling youth in our community, so they collected toiletries for YESS. They completed presentations to the school discussing how there were disadvantaged youth in the greater community who did not have basic needs like deodorant, etc. They organized announcements, collection bins, posters and canvassed as advocates for youth. They were able to raise awareness and over 500 products were donated to the school for the YESS program. The Program Lead from YESS came to the school to meet with the students and pick-up the materials. She made a presentation and was able to make it realistic for our students. They felt as though they made a difference and supported the greater community. They became strong advocates for youth and will be strong leaders as they now know how to impose a positive change which required hard work and many hours of dedication.

Our Grade 6 class and school staff became Christmas Elves as they sponsored a Grade 1 class and their teacher at St. Gerard School by providing a Christmas gift for each student. Each Elf was given the name of a student to purchase a gift such as colouring books, crayons, toys, mittens or socks and they created a card to go with the gift. They learned about the child they provided Christmas cheer for and learned how to put a smile on this child's face. The gifts were delivered and there was a virtual meeting where both classes watched via Teams. Each child was called up to receive the gift and say thank you to the Grade 6 student that had purchased the gift for them. This was an opportunity for direct impact and to see the smiles when the children received the gifts. The purpose in doing this act was to provide our Grade 6 students the opportunity to adopt a class and share via gifts, reading books, and feeling a connection to someone outside of their school. Our parents were very supportive of this initiative as it allowed everyone to see the blessings that we have in our school and share this with another community. Students felt

that they were able to make a connection as they learned about another school and their community. This showed them they needed to be grateful and more thankful for what they had. They recognized the importance of working together, and that giving was so much more rewarding than receiving. Students felt the connection and they were in charge of purchasing the gift for the student assigned to them. This was an opportunity for everyone in the class to shine. The parents also needed to be on board with this and talk about the wonderful things that they were doing and the impact that they could have on one child at a time.

The Grade 6 students wanted to make a difference by providing winter clothes to Hope Mission. One student indicated that they wanted to support Hope Mission as their warehouse had burnt down, meaning that many individuals that did not have winter clothes would suffer. The students shared the importance of donating winter items with the school through presentations, announcements, and postings on social media. Many donations were received, and a truck was filled with winter clothes. As youth, it is often difficult to do more than just collect, however, these students canvassed and wanted to highlight why it was important to donate. This was a social justice project that supported our greater community at large, and our students had a strong voice to make a difference in the lives of so many. Although they did not know who they were serving, they knew they were helping someone in the community, and they learned the importance of caring for one another. "Treat others as you want to be treated," was a phrase they often used. They wanted to redefine what social justice truly meant which was not just donation but making a difference through teaching and learning. Our students learned that not everyone chose to not have things, sometimes it was situational, and that this happens. The students explained how a fire would have a huge impact on the greater community and that they needed to be the change in the change in how we view people that were less fortunate than us. We needed to give without knowing who we were helping.

At St. Stanislaus, we believe in having a school of leaders and empowering our students to teach, learn and grow. Our Grade 6 students that loved art asked to have an Art club whereby the students created the activity and taught the activities during recess. The students joined on a voluntary basis. There was an explosion of interest with students wanting to either do art club on the designated days or read during the lunch hour to the younger grades. It was about having students lead with passion rather than having teachers lead. Students advocated and learned how to



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work with other children, it helped develop the leadership, collaboration and positive school community that was embraced in everyone. As role models, our students learned the lesson of working together to take their ideas and make them come to life. This was so empowering, and it developed a culture of change and enthusiastic students that wanted to share their passion. The students became empowered, took ownership and were leaders within the school. They also understood that it was important to be involved to see the project move forward. They also learned that even when working with friends it did not always mean that they had to have the same vision and that they needed to find individuals that would work towards the same common goal. It built different relationships and collaboration skills that they did not know they needed prior to this.

Students were asked to collect boxes of healthy cereals to be donated to St. Leo School for our Cereal Smackdown! Our school was successful in collecting 435 boxes of cereal and delivering them to St. Leo School. There was a significant sense of pride and accomplishment, and the students were very excited about being able to give back to the greater Edmonton Catholic Schools community. Understanding that their circumstances differ from other students their age was very impactful and allowed them to explore the greater societal context.

In Grade 3 Social Studies, students learned about the world by studying Peru, Tunisia, India, and Ukraine. They discussed how quality of life could vary between nations. In addition to learning about these countries, students explored the concept of global citizenship and how individuals contributed to humanity's development. With that new knowledge, we were also able to discuss the effects of the present war, especially the impact upon the lives of Ukrainian families. Through this process, students also became acutely aware of their classmates with close ties to Ukraine. Thus, students were moved to initiate a fundraiser to support those impacted by the war. Students decided to host a craft sale with the goal of raising \$1,000 to support those impacted by the conflict. They decided on which crafts to create and spent an afternoon building items to sell. Students made class presentations, morning announcements, and posters to promote their event. Students staffed the sale, provided a donation can, and supported younger students to navigate buying items. Finally, students happily sold items at the St. Stan's Folk Fest. Students more than achieved their goal, raising \$1,012.20. Funds were donated to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton who were in close contact with families new to our city. Congratulations to our Grade 3 students who used

their knowledge, skills, and compassion to make a significant difference in others' lives. Students were very engaged and excited to participate throughout the duration of the project. Students were able to contribute according to their strengths, some did class presentations while others focused on producing detailed crafts. Students were incredibly proud to have met their goal and learned that if they all contributed in a small way, they could accomplish great things.

The students of St. Stanislaus engaged in a Bouge-o-thon to raise money to directly support two families within our school community. The Bouge-o-thon consisted of students raising funds and participating in an afternoon of Zumba. The benefits of the project were an additional opportunity to promote physical activity in addition to caring for members of our school community by raising funds to help them through difficult circumstances. The students were excited to participate in the activity as it was a fun way to be active and support our community. We had worked hard this year to instill a sense of responsibility towards all members of our community and to encourage students to take the opportunity to help those in need wherever they could. This project allowed students to see that even within our small community there were families in need of compassion and assistance.

Students in our school were passionate about the environment. We had a nature group that took care of the front flower beds and all the front area in our school. This year we had grandparents and parents that were willing to work with the students to make this area look amazing. Building a strong community where every member belonged was critical. Our students worked together creating announcements, raising awareness, and doing all the work in revitalizing our front entrance. They worked in small groups and had schedules to complete the task. They also had a watering schedule for the summer so that all the hard work would be taken care of. It was remarkable to see that the care for creation had become a passion for them involving not just students in the school, but parents, grandparents and our very own Trustee who provided a donation to support the students. Our students had been planning this for a few months and they were so happy they were leaders in the school. We created a school whereby every individual was encouraged to realize their own potential and work towards making a difference. Students felt empowered as they planned the process and put this into action. They were excited to plan organize and give back to the school community working with parents, grandparents and staff. The importance of care for creation had more meaning and impact as they understood the value of recycling which they



took care of, and by sharing why it was important to take care of the Earth. They also felt fulfilled as contributing members taking pride in their school and being able to work with various grades to make this a visual reality.

ST. TERESA

Students wrote 350 wonderful messages of encouragement and support of our front-line workers. We sent them to the University and the Grey Nuns Hospitals. Excellent conversations were had in the classrooms about supporting one another and being socially conscientious. Raising awareness of the needs of others helped demonstrate the school expectations of unity.

Families donated mittens, hats, and scarves for the Bissell Centre. Students felt that they were able to aid people in their city that needed to stay warm.

Grade 4 students wrote Christmas cards for the psychiatric patients at Alberta Hospital Edmonton (AHE) that spent the holidays in that hospital. Students were made aware of various needs in various domains.

Every class collected non-perishable items to include in Christmas hampers for 13 of our school families. This helped students become aware of the needs in our own school community.

Our Kindergarten was inspired to help others during the month of February as an extension of Kindness Week. The Kindergarten teachers and students organized a raffle to bring in donations for the Edmonton Food Bank. The students remembered collecting food at Christmas for our community hampers and could relate to helping families by bringing in food. Students at our school were encouraged to bring in food bank donations. Each donation brought in received different amounts of raffle tickets based on the cost of the item they brought in (i.e., a can of soup 1 ticket, a jar of peanut butter 5 tickets, etc.). The raffle prize started off as one large panda bear stuffed animal. The Kindergarten students went around the school each morning, knocking on classroom doors, introducing themselves and asking for the class food bank checklists. When the checklists came back to the Kindergarten classrooms, the students helped count out raffle tickets to give out to the students

who brought in donations. It was a very successful project. We collected over 7 large food bank boxes of donations, as well as many cases of diapers. Because of the overwhelming amount of support, we were also able to attain more than just the one panda bear as a prize. We ended up with 11 stuffed animal prizes that were donated. The real winner was the Edmonton Food Bank. This was a great project for our school community. The Kindergarten students could relate to the idea of families not having enough food because of our earlier Christmas hamper project. The students practiced their social skills going door to door to ask for the donation lists. They also practiced their numeracy skills in counting the tickets. A team of brothers in our school were also inspired to go out into their community to gather food bank donations from friends and family. They brought in multiple bins of donations! They were very eager to help. Conversations were had with students about why we were donating food and supplies to the Food Bank, and students became more aware of their ability to help others by donating items.

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

On September 20th, students and staff at St. Teresa of Calcutta participated in the Terry Fox Run to raise both awareness of cancer and raise funds for cancer research. In the weeks leading up to the run, teachers and students explored the life, legacy, and character of the Canadian Hero. Within each classroom, students also had the opportunity to reflect on and share their personal experiences and stories about a disease that had touched many of their loved ones. Students named the individual person that they ran for. Some students ran for Terry Fox while others ran for a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, an aunt, an uncle, or a friend. Over \$400 was donated by students and their families. This project inspired students to learn about how Terry's actions demonstrated his character. Specifically, students appreciated the resiliency and determination that Terry Fox modeled, despite having gone through the hardship of cancer and the loss of his leg. He chose to run a marathon across Canada on one leg. Students were able to reflect on how Terry Fox used his situation to help others. Students also recognized that they could help the fight against cancer by honouring Terry's Legacy and raising money for research.

During the week of October 18th-22nd, Secret Path Week, students learned the story of Chanie Wenjack that was brought to us by the Downie Wenjack Fund. During this



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time, students took what they learned during the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and took a closer look at the grim Canadian history of residential schools. This included learning about the many forms of abuse that Chanie Wenjack and the many other students not only witnessed, but experienced, and how that affected and continues to affect Indigenous people today. From here, all students reflected on Chanie Wenjack's story by writing Wishes for Wenjack and also participated in a school-wide Walk for Wenjack. The Wishes for Wenjack included students writing what they hoped for Wenjack and those who had similar stories to him. The Walk for Wenjack concluded our Secret Path Week, where students walked down into the river valley and paused along the river to smudge and pray for Chanie Wenjack and the many students who suffered and continue to suffer. Students learned about the history of residential schools and their effect on Indigenous people in our community still to this day. Students also learned about reconciliation and how it was their responsibility as well as everyone else in our country to apologize and create change for the better. The change of perspective students gained was not only an overall understanding of Canada's past, but also seeing how privileged they were in having a safe and loving school to attend as well as the ability to go home at the end of each school day.



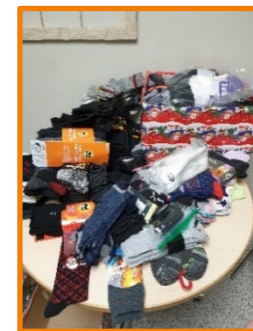
As part of our preparation for Remembrance Day, Grade 4 students at our school were invited to participate in Postcards for Veterans and write messages of thanks and a prayer to local veterans at Capital Care Kipnes Centre for Veterans. In total, 70 postcards were delivered to veterans at the Centre. Students felt proud of our veterans and their service to our country so we could have our freedom. They

learned the selflessness of the soldiers who served our country. Students learned the hardships families left behind faced without their loved ones. Students know the importance of recognizing veterans every year and taking time to pause and remember the sacrifices made so we could have freedom today. This project was part of a bigger theme in learning about Remembrance Day. Some of our students were refugees coming from war-torn countries and this was an opportunity to share and process their experiences. We discussed how war was sometimes necessary when injustice was happening to people. We also discussed how courageous it was for soldiers to fight.

For a 3rd year in a row, students in Grades 2 and 2/3 wrote postcards to veterans of the Royal Canadian Legion, Norwood Branch. Students took part in a Remembrance Day presentation. They thought about what they might write to a Veteran. Students shared their thoughts and feelings about war, the impacts their families have had, and spoke of the wars that present in their home countries. They learned how lucky we are in Canada ... the land of the Free!

Students in Grades 1/2, 2, 2/3 and 4 created 95 Christmas cards for seniors in our community. Our community police officer came and read a story to our classes. He then took the cards the students had made and delivered them to seniors in our community. Students enjoyed creating the cards for seniors. They recognized that some seniors did not receive Christmas cards and their cards would be very much appreciated. They were thankful they had the opportunity to bring joy to others.

Staff and students at St. Teresa of Calcutta collected new adult socks for the George Spady Society. These donated socks were given to those who were in need. Together we collected 217 new pairs of socks. Students were happy that the socks were donated to those in need, especially since these socks served those within our local community! The total number of socks collected was shared with students and staff over morning broadcast and a huge Thank You was expressed!



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

St. Thomas Aquinas School participated in the 2021 Terry Fox School Run. This run was significant in that it not only raised funds for the Terry Fox Foundation, but it also created awareness of the passion Terry Fox exuded regarding perseverance and dedication. Our students not only participated in a COVID appropriate run around the school property, but they also participated in moments of discussion and reflection regarding the heritage this Foundation had established over the past 40 years. As a school community, a grand total of \$1,451.25 was raised to support the continued heritage of the Terry Fox Foundation. As this was a continual project, that continued each year, the students began to develop a deep connection and



understanding to not only Terry Fox but the importance of socially supporting a project. During our initial staff professional development meetings of the 2021-2022 school year, we focused our social justice towards the snack and lunch program at St. Bernadette Elementary School. John 6:35 indicates, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." Through this reading, we understood as a staff community that we must always show preference for those in need, in particular children. As a staff community we raised \$405.75. This project was impactful as it created awareness of the snack/lunch project at St. Bernadette school and was an excellent first focused initiative for our staff community.

As a staff, we decided to raise money to purchase gift cards for our families in need at Christmastime. We raised \$770, from which we were able to purchase an array of gift cards for our families, to not only purchase food for the Christmas season, but also toys and essentials for their children. This made a positive impact on our families, during what could potentially have been a very difficult time for a family. As we selected the families in most need, this of course had a direct impact on the students in our school and their lives outside of school.

The Grade 4 classes took the initiative to create a social justice activity Privilege Day that focused their efforts towards the Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope Campaign. For each privilege the students wanted to take part in during a specific day (wear a hat, bring a special stuffed animal in, etc.), they had to donate a toonie for this privilege. The four classes together raised a total of \$396.05! The teachers of each of these classes created a focused reflection on the work Catholic Social Services provided to the greater Edmonton community, and the significance of supporting these programs. Students were encouraged to raise funds through doing extra work at home in order to participate in this Privilege Day, as a way to fully reflect the effort that was required to raise funds.

On March 2nd, our school community participated in a social justice initiative that not only created awareness of the crisis that was taking place in Ukraine, but also collected funds to support the families of Ukraine. We shared stories and reflections through our morning broadcast, we dressed as a school community in blue and yellow, the national colours of Ukraine. We also raised \$1,388. This was the first time we gathered together as a school in the large gym to not only show our support for the people of Ukraine but to also share our collective prayer

through Ash Wednesday. The impact was significant, as our collective prayers and our collective colours united us, working together for a significant cause. In leading up to this social justice initiative, we had also prayed the rosary together as an entire school community and spent time in focused prayer.

ST. THOMAS MORE

Smile Cookies were sold by students to raise money for the Stollery. It encouraged students to think about those who were sick and in need of programs.

Students created 120 Thank You cards for staff at the Misericordia Hospital as a way of supporting them during a time when members of the community were sometimes actively participating in activities that attacked health care workers. Students felt proud to be able to encourage and support members of our greater community.

Thanksgiving cards were created for patients at the Misericordia Hospital by students. In total, 30 cards were created. Students were glad to be able to cheer up and encourage patients that were in the hospital.

To donate to the Sign of Hope fundraiser, students sold ice cream and lollipops. Students enjoyed helping the community and they got a treat for their efforts.

A student created a video for other students to raise awareness about bullying and to encourage victims to seek help through the Clinical Social Worker or Kids Help Line if they were in mental health distress. This student cared about this issue deeply and wanted to see people get help.

Students were invited to write on the Random Acts of Kindness board about kind things that others had done for them. The board allowed students to see the different ways kindness could have an impact on their lives and the lives of others.

Students were invited to wear a pink shirt to support a bully free environment at the school for Pink Shirt Day. Students were able to see that there were others in the building who cared about having a safe environment at the school.



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Students found videos for our school broadcast that showed the reasons for Black History Month. The videos were broadcast to the school and allowed students to see how Black people have made an impact in the world and needed our support.

Students made packets of jellybeans to sale on Jelly Bean Day. Proceeds were given to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for fundraising for Ukraine. Students participated in an activity which allowed them to reach out and help the people of the Ukraine.

Students sold doughnuts and lollipops to raise money for the people of Ukraine. The funds were forwarded to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton for disbursement. This act allowed students to feel like they were helping people in Ukraine.

Students created red dresses out of paper to put up around the school to remember May 5th, the Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls and Women. Students had the opportunity to deepen in their awareness of the plight of Indigenous women in this country, and to make others more aware as well.

ST. TIMOTHY

Students participated in a communications and engagement initiative by making and decorating Christmas cards during the holiday season to bring cheer to senior citizens in our school community. Our Kindergarten, Grade 3, 4, and 6 classes participated. We created 75 handmade Christmas cards. Students felt that they were able to spread Christmas cheer to seniors in our community. They realized that some seniors may not have had family and may not receive Christmas cards. They were happy to be able to make someone's Christmas brighter.

The students and staff at our school collected items and money to create Christmas hampers for families in need in our own community. We collected enough items to make and distribute 7 Christmas hampers for our families in need as well as add \$45 gift cards to each hamper with the money that was collected. Students understood the importance of giving back to those in need.

Students and staff participated in our annual Break a Rule Day and Popcorn and PJ afternoon. Students were encouraged to donate to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation on both days. We collected a total of \$897.80 for the Foundation. Students and staff learned about the Foundation and how it helped ECSD schools and students.

The Grade 5 students became Snow Angels and shoveled snow from driveways and sidewalks of families living in our area. They performed this act of service two times in the month of February. Students each wrote several letters explaining their act of service and left these in the mailboxes of families. Students felt a sense of pride and accomplishment in helping families in our area. They heard direct feedback from several families as they were working which helped build a connection with our community for the kind acts they were completing.

Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraiser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation that helps to save lives. The Foundation's focus is on heart and brain health and has different components to it which includes fundraising and promoting healthy lifestyles. The money raised goes towards research that prevents heart failure and stroke, supporting survivors and their families, and bringing awareness/teaching people of all ages. Throughout the fundraiser, students learn about life-long healthy habits, as well as the FAST signs of a stroke. Students practiced their skipping and learned new skipping techniques/tricks throughout the weeks of fundraising, allowing them to practice healthy habits at home and school. At the end of the fundraiser, students came together for a Jump Rope for Heart Event, which was an afternoon of heart pumping activities to celebrate achieving their fundraising goal. Students were able to use the information from this fundraiser and use it immediately in their every day lives. They learned the importance of heart and brain health, and ways they could continue to lead a life-long healthy life by doing EASY healthy habits (i.e., eat fruits and vegetables, active every day, screen time less than 2 hours a day, yes to water). Lots of students were interested in learning the FAST signs of a stroke, and how students who participated in this fundraiser years previously, actually used those signs to save family members lives. Students were excited to spend an afternoon, united as a school, being active and celebrating a good cause. Students were able to see that having something as simple as a skipping rope, could help keep your heart healthy!



ST. VINCENT

Students collected sponsorship for their Terry Fox Run commitment to run for 25 minutes around our school yard. We raised \$430 total for the Terry Fox Foundation. Students were proud to contribute to cancer research funding. Many identified to the Terry Fox initiative through family that had battled cancer, as well as a prominent staff member that recently overcame cancer.

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, our school collected food bank donations. Seven boxes of food were delivered to the Edmonton Food Bank in early October. Students were proud to contribute and recognized their individual efforts to provide nourishment for Edmontonians with low food security.

A long-standing tradition at our school was a parent-run initiative to provide Christmas hampers to families in need. This year, approximately \$3,500 dollars was raised in our community. All monies were used to assemble Christmas hampers for self-identified families in need within our school community. Money was used to provide necessities such as food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and gifts for children. Students felt empowered to contribute to their own community. Even if in some cases it was a small financial donation by a student by bringing in some of their quarters or loonies, they saw that their contribution as an individual would accumulate to a large collection as a whole school.

The Grade 6 students of St. Vincent created 26 pieces of art that were then auctioned off to raise monies for the humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine. The art auction raised approximately \$1,600 which was added to the Division contributions to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton fundraising efforts. Through this project students realized that, though they were far away and had no direct impact on the invasion of Ukraine, they were still able to take action that would both raise awareness and provide financial support to people in need.

ST. VLADIMIR

In October, two of our 100 Voices classes participated in Socktober and collected 71 pairs of socks that were donated to the Bissell Centre. In December, the same two classes collected mittens for Christmas, donating 70 pairs between them to the Bissell Center. The 100 Voices students aged 3 and 4 decorated tags for the socks and mittens. Mittens and socks were counted as they were brought into school so the students could begin to understand how many hands and feet, they were helping to keep warm. The students were excited about their 1st Social Justice Project. As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Teaching children at a very young age about social justice and including diversity and inclusion within our everyday discussions is the beginning of making change.

Our Grade 4-6 Leadership Team sold Candy Cane Grams to the school and school community to raise monies for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. Each Candy Cane Gram sold had a personal positive message on it. The students raised \$450 dollars and the goal for 2022 is to beat this amount. We shared with the Leadership Team what the Foundation was, what they did and how they helped in the community. The web page was shared with the students so they were able to start understanding the many ways the Foundation supported our families and staff. The Leadership Team helped unpack the candy canes, organize the tags, write positive messages, sell the candy canes, help the younger students with their purchases, and deliver the candy canes at the end of the week. They also took the lead to ensure that ALL students in the school would receive a candy cane so that no one was left out.

Our Administration team was new to St. Vladimir School in September 2021, and we quickly realized how many of our students came to school hungry and without snacks/lunches. For our Faith Day in October, all staff were asked to bring in a snack donation for our Snacks for Success Program. We did this a few times this school year and we applied for a Grant to help feed our students next year. We knew that students could not learn without their basic needs being met. With the addition of the 100 Voices Hub in September 2021, our numbers increased to 346. Many of our students came to school hungry. After we started our Snacks for Success Program, our Leadership Team created a video/commercial about the importance of healthy



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snacks to learn and we had an overwhelming amount of food donated from the Raiders Hockey Club in St. Albert. Each class had a basket of food that was available to students throughout the school day.

The Leadership Team initiated a social justice project for Africa. A school was being built in Africa lead by a father of one of our families, so this initiative was very close to our students. The Student Leadership Team came up with a bottle drive idea, Bottles for Books and any bottle collection that was brought into the school, the family could fill up a bag of books to take home. The books were books that were no longer used in classrooms. To increase their donations to The African Center, the Leadership Team initiated an art/craft sale during our family BBQ. They sold handmade bookmarks, art, bracelets, and other crafty items created by students in our school. The Leadership Team was very proud of this social justice initiative! They came up with all the ideas on their own and approached the Leadership Staff Team. They learned that some of their classmates were from countries that did not have the same privileges that we did in Canada in regards to education, mental health supports and health care. The Leadership Team will end the school year with a presentation to the entire school on this amazing social justice project!



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