The theme for Edmonton Catholic Schools this year is: “We are called… to be leaders of hope and mercy”

Indeed, we are a community of hope and mercy. MWI students exemplify kindness, compassion, and demonstrate their caring and leadership through acts of service.

Pope Francis writes…

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

Welcome back to a new year at École Monsignor William Irwin Catholic School. We hope that you have all had a restful summer and that your children are just as ready and eager to get back to learning as our staff! This is an exciting time of new beginnings at our site as we have had some changes since last year.

We are so happy to welcome back our Kindergarten classes who were at Archbishop Joseph MacNeil K-9 School (AJM) last year. We look forward to having more learning spaces available to students now that our school population is lower, as some of our families have moved to St. John XXIII. Our staff members are really excited about exploring MWI's new flex (flexible) spaces, a "makerspace" area (more on this in an article in this newsletter), the music room reclaimed for the strings program, and a new music space for primary music, in which your children will have easy access to xylophones, risers for singing, and much more!

Our staff members have spent time in recent weeks preparing for the new school year and are excited to continue the work with literacy we started last year. This year we are truly excited to better understand and explore the 8 competencies that will underpin six core subjects in the forthcoming development of Alberta's revised programs of study. More on this at "Meet the Staff" on September 22. Staff will also work intensely this year through professional development on more deeply understanding ways to teach and learn mathematics. Look for parent evenings in the next months to assist us in achieving greater mathematical depth in parent and student learning!

We are excited to meet our new students: not only those entering Kindergarten, but also the Grade 1 students who were at AJM last year. We welcome all families who are new to the school in other grades as well. Kindergarten students have a staggered entry Tuesday and Wednesday of next week - and there is no school on Thursdays for Kindergarten throughout the year. Friday, September 9 is their first full half day.

We look forward to celebrating the new school year with many of our MWI families at our opening celebration on Thursday, September 22 at St. Thomas More Church! Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Looking forward to a great year,

The Admin Team

Mme Christine Kennerd
Mrs. Pat Opyr
Mme Monique Gibeau

MWI Admin Team!
Administration

Mme Christine Kennerd – Principal
Mrs. Pat Opér – Assistant Principal
Dr. Monique Gibeau – Assistant Principal

Teaching Staff

Music: Elementary – Mme Andrea Gaboury
Music: Primary – Mrs. Alicia Shalapay
French Learning Coach – Mme Kimberly Nisbet
English Learning Coach/ELL Coordinator – Mrs. Elana Bryks
Tech Mentor – Mrs. Cara Ostopowich/Mrs. Lindsay D’Agostini
Kinder A/C – Ms. Tonya Byrne
Kinder B/D – Mme Lisa MacPherson
1A – Mr. Andrew Wiens
1B – Mlle Stéphanie Meloche
1C – Mrs. Michelle Bezubiak
1D – Mlle Dorothy Smith
1E – Mrs. Erin Keizer
2A – Mrs. Susan Williams
2B – Mme Julie Chiasson
2C – Ms. Kyla Prystupa
2D – Mme Marie Claude Laplante
2E – Ms. Gillian Sonneveld
3A – Ms. Celia Nguyen
3B – Mme Kimberly Nisbet/Mme Lynn Tremblay
3C – Ms. Jessica Szorenyi
3D – Mme Jennifer Roche
3E – Ms. Kim Talbot
4A – Mrs. Mary MacLeod
4/5B – Mme Michelle Brassard
4C – Mr. Jared Theriault
4D – Mr. Daniel Sabourin
5A – Mr. Robert Harris
4/5B/Chaplain – Mme Michelle Brassard
5C – Ms. Erin Deans
5D – Mme Daphney Lockhead
6A – Mr. Michael Leskow
6B – Mme Carol Dyck
6C – Mrs. Sarah Ostlund

Support Staff

Administrative Assistant – Mrs. Beth Cooper
Office Clerk – Mrs. Erika Rothwell
Office Clerk – Mrs. Jaime te Veide
Media Resources – Mrs. Oksana Ostashevska
Media Resources – Mme Natalia Shouster

Educational Assistants

Mr. Mohammad Abrishamian
Mrs. Anita Brown
Mme Maria Exposito
Mrs. Trudi Foisy
Mrs. Lisa Molo
Mme Chantal Painchaud
Mrs. Paula Payne
Mme Natalia Shouster

Custodial Staff

Head Custodian – TBA
Senior Custodian – Mr. Stepan Turishyn
Senior Custodian – Mr. Imran Sheikh

Imagine a world... where each word, each thought, each turn of a page in a book is the beginning of a bigger idea.
Classes begin on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 8:45 AM. Early dismissal is every Thursday at 12:10 PM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:40 a.m.</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Morning Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40 – 10:55 a.m.</td>
<td>A.M. Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10 – 12:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (outdoors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:25 – 12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (indoor – eating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Afternoon Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05 – 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>P.M. Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Early Dismissal on Thursdays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

École Monsignor William Irwin School office hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily during school operational days. Please feel free to leave a message on our school answering machine after hours for any lates or absences.

For those who have applied for bussing, the new routes are posted on our website.

Kindergarten starts with staggered entry on Tuesday, September 6 and Wednesday, September 7.

Regular classes begin on Friday, September 9, 2016 at 8:39 AM. or 12:20 PM. There are no kindergarten classes on Thursdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:39 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.</td>
<td>Kindergarten AM Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:20 p.m. – 3:19 p.m.</td>
<td>Kindergarten PM Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT SCHOOL FEES THIS YEAR

This year, Edmonton Catholic Schools has removed general school fee as part of a pilot project.

All students are required to purchase a $10 agenda book which will be given to them at the beginning of the school year. Parents may pay for this online or send in a cheque or cash to the office by September 16th. Please be sure to indicate the student’s name.

Fieldtrips will be paid for individually this year. Parents will have the option of paying for these online or sending in cash or cheque to the teacher with the permission form. A child will not be allowed to go on a fieldtrip unless there is a signed permission form handed in prior to the date of the fieldtrip.

KARATE FOR OUR STUDENTS SEPTEMBER 8

Monsignor William Irwin School Karate Club

Join the Karate Club on Thursdays! For more information and/or registration for September 2016, call or email Sensei André Beauregard at 780-440-4774 or at sensei.andre@shaw.ca!

Classes start on Thursday, September 8, 2016 and run from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

RUNNING CLUB SEPTEMBER 2

You know that expression, “hit the road running?” Well, in our case, it’s really true! Registration for the Golden Wolves Running Club will be on Friday, September 2 for students in Grades 3 to 6. Listen to announcements at school for where you sign up. There are a possible 3 running events in the fall. But the FIRST one is on Monday, September 19!!

Training for the first run will be outside at lunch time Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Running shoes are essential!
**ANNUAL CROSS COUNTRY RUN SEPTEMBER 19**

Parents! Join us at the ECSD Annual Elementary Cross Country Run on Monday, September 19, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. The venue has changed. The run will take place at LAURIER PARK. Parents of children running will be responsible for picking them up at that park after the run.

**MWI SCHOOL CHOIR SEPTEMBER 7 SIGN UP**

Do you like to sing? Do you want the chance to perform at school and community events (e.g. Oil Kings’ games – SING FOR SANTA DECEMBER 10, school concerts – SING FOR SPRING CONCERT MARCH 11, seniors’ homes, etc.)?

If so, come join the MWI School Choir! MWI School Choir will be rehearsing on Mondays and Wednesdays during lunch recess in the music room, Room 151.

Parents, if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Prystupa via email kyla.prystupa@ecsd.net.

Student sign up is on Wednesday, September 7 at lunch in the music room. Rehearsals start September 12!

Last year’s choir!
SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 22

As a new school year begins, we will be celebrating our school opening with a liturgical celebration on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

We invite you to come and celebrate with us as we thank the Lord for a wonderful beginning to our school year. Let us begin the year together focused on faith and learning. We look forward to seeing you there! KINDER STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND – there are no kindergarten classes on Thursdays but please come!

MEET THE TEACHER SEPTEMBER 22

École Monsignor William Irwin School will be hosting their annual “Meet the Teacher” night on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., parents/guardians will gather in the gym for a brief welcome by Principal Mme Christine Kennerd and to meet the staff. Following this, they will have TWO opportunities to meet their child’s teacher/s and participate in a 30 minute presentation. These presentations will outline the learning plan for the class.

Presentations by teachers in classrooms are at 7:00 p.m. and then again at 7:30 pm. This is an adult evening as teachers present the program and their classroom information. Please arrange for childcare for your children!

TERRY FOX RUN

MWI’s annual Terry Fox Run is happening on Thursday, September 29 in the morning. Students will be fundraising for this most worthy cause by asking parents and members of the community to sponsor them.

Let’s support the Terry Fox Foundation once again!
STAFF PD DAY SEPTEMBER 30

Teachers will enjoy a day of professional development on Friday, September 30. There are no classes for students that day. Enjoy your long weekend!

PD DAY

FIRST SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 3

The first School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting is **Monday, October 3, 2016**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the school staff room.

All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great way to find out what’s happening at school and to have a part in the SAC’s decisions.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photos – Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Smart Photography will be taking our students’ school photographs this year on Wednesday, October 12.

All classes will have their pictures taken as well.

Be sure that your child is ready to smile for this special picture that will go into our school yearbook. Thank you to Smart Photography for their support and creative picture-taking opportunities.
ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH NEWS

Home – School – Parish

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SACRAMENT NEWS

Following is a link to the St. Thomas More Parish website with Parish news and the weekly Parish bulletin: stmparish.com

1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion are offered to children in Grade 2. What an exciting year for these children to celebrate **TWO** sacraments. See the green sacrament brochure in our school office or at the church for the details.

Regular Weekend Mass Times at St. Thomas More:

- Saturday 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.

Kids for Jesus Program (Ages 4 – 9)

Parents! Are you looking for a program that teaches your child the tools they need to practice virtues and their faith each day? Then sign them up for STM’s Kids for Jesus (K4J) Virtue Program, ages 4 to Grade 2 or the Captains K4J Leadership Program for Grade 3 and 4 beginning in October. If you would like to know more, call Monica at the office, or check out our website at www.stmparish.com.

Drop in Registrations at the church are Sat. Sept. 10 (10 am to 12:00 pm), Sun. Sept 11 (9:30 am – 1:30 pm) and Wed. Sept 21 (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm).
Cost is $50 for the year.

Challenge Girls & Conquest Boys Youth Clubs (ages 10-16)

Children between the ages of 10 to 16 who are looking for a Youth Group that can help foster leadership abilities, encourage spiritual growth, have fun and form friendships, can join STM’s Boys Conquest and Girls Challenge Clubs! They meet twice a month beginning in October. Anyone wanting to know more, call Jonathan at the office or check out the website at www.stmparish.com. Or visit the Conquest Club at www.STMCONQUEST.com.

Drop in Registrations at the church are Sat. Sept. 10 (10 am to 12:30 pm), Wed. Sept 14 (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm) and Wed. Sept 21 (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm).
Cost is $100 for the year.
CLASSROOM COMPOSITION

Our classrooms have been organized into specific groupings to accommodate a wide range of learners. The best possible learning environment is one where we have mixed abilities, gender balance, distribution of behavioral needs and support systems in place.

Friendships are an important part of each child’s life. Children do make new friends easily and have the opportunity to develop their social and emotional skills as new relationships develop.

Teachers are sensitive to these needs and spend valuable time in September working within their classroom to foster a learning community that includes all children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and support during the opening days of school. We have your child’s best interests at heart!

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED EACH MONTH

Monsignor’s Messenger, our school’s monthly newsletter, is published electronically and posted at the beginning of each month on our school website. The newsletter link will also be part of Mme Christine’s regular communication with parents. Make sure that email addresses are up-to-date!

In Monsignor’s Messenger, we will share all the news and activities that are happening at the school and we also provide a list of events to check on upcoming school activities. Our school website is:

www.monsignorwilliamirwin.ecsd.net

MAKERSPACE

What is a “makerspace?” It’s a large room (the former library) in the school that has been converted into a space in which students (and their teachers) tinker, create, explore, problem solve, and discover in a constructivist approach to education. Makerspace areas are an offshoot of world-wide STEM initiatives – this is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Our students will be learning to use a variety of interactive tools to construct their knowledge! Stay tuned for more interesting info on this initiative!
TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS ON YELLOW BUS

Bus routes and passes are available at the office. We will be accepting payment with your school fees during the month of September.

If you have questions about bus passes, please contact the office!

The bus routes for Ecole Monsignor William Irwin School are linked on our website. Look for bus routes:


STUDENT SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY

Parking/Buses/Drop off and Pickup

Parents who drive their children to school should either drop them off in the VALET area that is on the street before the school on Taylor Green or park safely where it is permissible. This allows for a better flow of traffic and overall more safety for students. Please also consider parking a half-block away at the Terwillegar Community Church and walking to the school.

After school, the valet area can be used for parking. As well, during this first week, it will take more time to get all students on the right buses but we anticipate a faster exit over the next few weeks.

Visitor and parent parking is **not** available in our school lots so we would appreciate your cooperation in parking on the street. This year, we have **SIX** school buses entering and exiting our parking area.

Please be patient with each other when you drop off the kids. Student safety is our prime concern.
HOMEWORK HABITS START NOW

It is very important that students establish good homework habits from the beginning of the school year.

Parents are encouraged to be an excellent source of support and encouragement for their children in developing these skills.

Please check your child’s agenda book nightly to review homework assignments and for important notes home.

Most importantly, provide opportunities for your child to read and/or be read to on a daily basis.

THINGS THAT ARE NICE TO KNOW!

Student Agenda and School Conduct Policy
MWI’s student handbook is in your child’s agenda, which they receive on their first day of school. The information in the agenda will help you and your child understand many of the school’s procedures and policies. Please read and sign the School Conduct Policy.

The School Website
Every week, the school’s website is updated to keep you informed about events in the school and other things that are nice to know. There is a link on this site to the school’s calendar, to all field trip forms, and to links to bus routes and resources, among other things.

Student Safety
Safety of students and staff has always been a top priority for our school community. All outside doors are locked during the day. Students enter their designated doors which are opened by their teachers. If you visit us during school hours, please use the front doors and sign in at the office. Student entrances are opened at 8:40 a.m. to allow for student arrivals. If students arrive late, which is any time after morning announcements, they will need to report to the office and use the front doors.

At recesses, staff will open the doors for students to enter and will scan all areas to ensure all students are inside. Parents/guardians picking up their children after school are asked to please meet their children outside at the designated exits after school or at a pre-arranged meeting place.
Lunch at School
Students in Grades 1 to 6 typically bring lunch to school. All children eat lunch in classrooms. Eating lunch at school is a privilege and a convenience for our families. Students in Grade 6 monitor in classrooms.

Children will play outdoors from 12:10—12:25 p.m. followed by lunch from 12:25—12:45 p.m. A reverse lunch hour is part of our school day. Please consider providing a significant snack for morning and afternoon recesses!

Attendance and Early Departures
If your child will be absent or late for school, please contact the office at 780 430-1121 before 8:15 a.m. or feel free to call anytime and leave a message on our answering machine. It is very important that we keep accurate records for your child. We encourage all parents to review regularly with their children the importance of punctuality. This skill will serve our students well as they grow and develop. If you will be picking up your child from school prior to regular dismissal time, please come to the office and sign him/her out. This is to ensure the safety and security of all our students.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Thursday, Sept 1 | First day of school 8:45 a.m.  
                    Early dismissal 12:10 p.m.                                      |
| Friday, Sept 2   | Registration for Running Club                                                |
| Wednesday, Sept 7 | Running Club starts at noon  
                            Registration for MWI Choir                                        |
| Thursday, Sept 8  | Early dismissal 12:10 p.m.  
                            Karate starts                                                        |
| Friday, Sept 9    | Kindergarten begins for all kinder students                                 |
| Thursday, Sept 22 | School Opening Celebration St. Thomas More Church  
                            Early dismissal 12:10 p.m.  
                            Yes, karate!  
                            Meet the Teacher Night 6:30 p.m.                                   |
| Thursday, Sept 29 | Terry Fox Run (check the online calendar for a time)  
                            Early dismissal 12:10 p.m.  
                            Yes, karate!                                                        |
| Friday, Sept 30   | PD Day – No school for students                                              |
| Monday, Oct 3 – Friday, Oct 7 | READ IN Week! Stay tuned!                                                   |
| Monday, Oct 3     | SAC Meeting 6:30 p.m.                                                        |
| Thursday, Oct 6   | Thanksgiving Celebration (times TBA)  
                            Yes, karate!  
                            Early dismissal 12:10 p.m.                                          |
| Wednesday, Oct 12 | Student Picture Day                                                          |