



WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

February 2019

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see the love of God for you and me. We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen. Go make a difference in the world.

~Go Make a Difference, Steve Angrisano~

Our Catholic faith is not a destination, it is a lifelong journey. Like anything that grows and transforms, faith needs nurturing all the time. February brings two very significant faith formation events to Edmonton Catholic Schools.

On February 4, all of our grade 8 students will attend Father Michael Mireau Youth Faith Day. This amazing experience will see them learning from Steve Angrisano and celebrating a Eucharistic Mass together. It is inspiring to see so many young people gather to grow together in Jesus!

Our entire staff will gather together on February 5 as Steve offers his thoughts on our theme for this year, Walking Together in God's Love. We, too, will celebrate the Eucharist as a community of Christ.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success. The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning. Alberta Education has selected parents to complete surveys based on the size of each school. If you have received a survey for your child, it is extremely important that you let your voice be heard and take a few moments to fill out the survey, because you represent a larger group of parents. If you do not know the answer to a question on the survey, please phone your school principal. They will be more than happy to provide you with the information that you need to form an opinion on the question. The survey closes on February 22.

Our Board of Trustees engages in a comprehensive annual review of each of our schools. This review considers enrolment, utilization rates, neighborhood demographics, operating costs, 5-year deferred maintenance costs, and the facility condition index. As a result of this review, the Board of Trustees has initiated a series of public consultations to look at future plans for the communities of St. Gabriel, St. Jerome, St. Nicholas, and St. Margaret Schools. Information about consultations can be found on each of those school's websites.

Pope Francis shared a tweet on January 4 that captures the essence of the message that both our staff and our students will listen to attentively in the upcoming faith formation events:

Jesus is the gift of God for us. If we welcome Him, we too can be a gift of God to others.

Yours in faith,

Joan Carr
Superintendent