

April

Grandin Gazette



Faith, Language and Culture in the  of the City

HOPE, RENEWAL AND PUDDLES

We welcome the joys of spring!

As we continue to journey through Lent, we wait with hopeful hearts for the coming of Easter. The warmer weather has lifted our hearts and put a spring in our step.

When students return on April 1st, we enter the last term of the school year. Although every term is important, these last few months are especially critical as children consolidate their learning. Our grade six students will be preparing for the Provincial Achievement tests. Your child's regular attendance is very important. Please ensure that they are here at school, ready to learn each day.

MAY THE MIRACLE OF EASTER FILL YOUR LIFE WITH
HOPE, PEACE, LOVE AND MERCY



Our Artist in Residence, Pat Milan, is very impressed by the creative ideas that Grandin students are bringing to our fence mural. Students have already begun painting the pathway, and each class has brainstormed ideas that represent their life journeys here at Grandin. Look inside for a sneak preview of some of the work to date.

Our Spring String Concert on April 24th will be held here at school. Our grade 4-5-6 students will be showing off their musical talents on the violin, cello, bass, viola, soprano and alto metalophones and melody chimes. This year our theme is *It's A Pirate's Life for Me*, featuring songs from pirate theme movies.

As always, families are most welcome to join us as we celebrate the Easter Season. We will come together as a community on Tuesday, April 23rd, right after the Easter long weekend, for mass at the Basilica.

Lorelei Hironaka
Principal

Mark Huculak
Assistant Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

First Day Back At School
Monday, April 1

Immunizations
For Those Contacted Only
Tuesday, April 2

ECSD Parent Engagement
St. Joseph High School 6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3

Hot Lunch - Subway
Friday, April 5

APEGA Science Olympics
Saturday, April 6

Canada Learning Code
Monday, April 8.

Day of Confessions
Thursday, April 11

Student Vote
Monday, April 15

School Council/Fundraising
Society Meetings 6 p.m.
Monday, April 15

Holy Thursday
Thursday, April 18

Good Friday – no classes
Friday, April 19

Easter Monday – no classes
Monday, April 22

Easter Celebration
Basilica 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, April 23

Spring String Concert
Wednesday, April 24

Hot Lunch – Panago
Friday, April 26

www.grandin.ecsd.net

2019-2020 REGISTRATIONS – ATTENDANCE ON SEPT. 30TH

Our registrations look strong for next year. If you have not already done so, please let us know if your child(ren) will be returning to Grandin this fall by responding to our Registration Survey. Our staffing decisions are made during the month of June, so we need an accurate count as soon as possible. Many thanks to the hundreds of families who have let us know that you will be returning for another great year at Grandin.

The link to the Registration Survey is:

<https://goo.gl/jPiMbS>

Parents are also reminded that students *MUST* be physically at school on Monday, September 30th, to be included in our official registration count. Grandin will not be able to register students on extended vacation even if registration forms/documents are on file. A child who has attended Grandin during the month of September and has an *excused absence* on September 30th may still be counted as registered, but the school must provide extra documentation to Alberta Education in these cases.



5-DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR NEXT YEAR

Morning kindergarten classes for next year will run five days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. Classes will run from 8:25 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Busing will be available on each day, including early noon hour service on Thursdays.



We will most likely have an afternoon French Immersion kindergarten class as well next year which will run four afternoons a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:07 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Children will be picked up on the noon mini-bus and take the regular yellow bus home with the rest of the grade 1-6 students.

Right now, it looks as if we will only have one morning Spanish kindergarten class. We would love to add an afternoon class as well, so Grandin families are encouraged to spread the good news about our school to their family, friends and neighbours.

Please join us at the next Parent Council meeting for updates about class configurations for next year.



Artist In Residence Project

Our students are getting their creative juices flowing as they work on creating the murals which will be hung on the new fence facing the tarmac. The children are so excited to leave this legacy at Grandin School. Painting is fun!



DÍA GRANDIN

Grandin students enjoyed many rich cultural activities on Día Grandin. Many thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers who helped make the day such a success. Our students made piñatas, enjoyed tasty Poutine and Tostadas and created beautiful bird pictures with seeds.

This year, children also attended many workshops on First Nations and Métis culture as part of our special day, including a drum/dance presentation by Adrian Lachance, and story-telling by ECSD Indigenous Learning Services staff Erin Reid, Amanda Lamothe and Rhonda Paul.

Students were also thrilled to see Leo Gonzalez back at Grandin, leading us in some cool Salsa dancing. Of course, traditional French Canadian "Tire" was also enjoyed by all – a long-standing Grandin tradition.

Pink T-Shirt Day made this year's Día Grandin extra special. Children focused on ways to show kindness toward others as they went about the different stations. They also read books and watched videos about how we can spread kindness throughout our school everyday.



BOOK FAIR

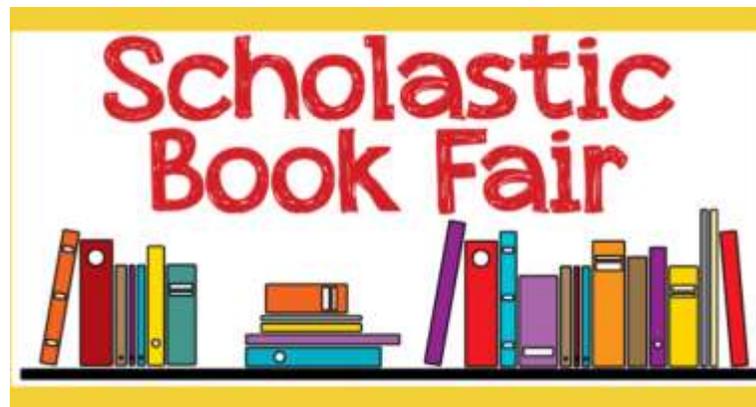
Our second book fair of the year was once again a great success, thanks to the hard work of Amanda Proctor and her team of volunteers. Grandin students were able to purchase books at great prices, and the school will receive over \$3200 in free books and credit for future purchases. Jen Mills from Barefoot Books added her beautiful collection to our book fair again this year. Many thanks to the following people who gave of their time to ensure we have great, new literacy resources at Grandin:

Johanna Villatoro
Desiree Thomas
Luke Oswald

Katherine Charr
Amber Wilkinson
Andrea Boehm
Susan Urra
Amanda Proctor - Organizer

Cristina Hipkiss
Marby Matheson
Lorraine Cameron
Emmanuel Claydon

Norman Yee
Christie Oswald
Todd Salapa



RECESS IN THE PLAYGROUND FOR GRADES 4-6

STUDENT LEADERSHIP MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to a well-presented proposal by two grade four students, the upper elementary students will be enjoying time in the playground during Thursday morning recess starting after spring break. Grade 1-3 students will be invited to play either in the West Field, or the South Field while their older school mates enjoy time on the equipment.

We are also looking into purchasing equipment to make recess time more engaging for students in the south field.



DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Grandin's annual Day of Reconciliation will be held on Thursday, April 11th. This is a tradition here at Grandin and an important aspect of our Catholic faith community.

Father Robert Lee and other priests from the Archdiocese will be at school to offer this sacrament to students. Children will have four choices:

- a) receive Reconciliation (if they have already completed the sacrament of First Reconciliation)
- b) have a conversation with a priest
- c) simply receive a blessing from a priest
- d) opt out completely

Grandin asks parents to discuss these options with their children, and communicate your family's decision by responding to our survey at:

<https://goo.gl/FWXJf4>



EASTER CELEBRATION

Parents are invited to join us at St. Joseph's Basilica on Tuesday, April 23rd as we begin the Easter season. Mass will start at 9:30 a.m. Students will be walking to the Basilica, so please ensure that your child is dressed properly for the weather.

Gratitude Corner

Many thanks to Amanda Proctor who took on the task of organizing our school book fairs. The hard work that Amanda and our parent volunteers put in provides thousands of dollars that enhance our literacy and numeracy programs here at Grandin.

We are blessed.



HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

So Many Things to Count!



Benefits

When children first begin to count, they learn important mathematical ideas:

- One-to-one correspondence (one number for one object)
- Stable order (we count 1, 2, 3, 4, ... not 1, 2, 7, 5, ...)
- Cardinality (the last number counted tells how many)

Tip!

When children are learning to count, they like to touch, point to and move objects as they say the number aloud – so encourage them to!

- Have your child count toys, kitchen utensils, items of clothing as they come out of the dryer, collections (such as stickers, buttons or rocks) and any other items your child shows interest in counting.
- Mix it up! Have your child count a set of objects but start at different places in the set (for example, start counting in the middle of the set rather than at the beginning). This helps to develop the idea that the counting of objects can begin with any object in a set and the total will still be the same.
- Sing counting songs and use counting in meaningful ways in games, such as Hide-and-Seek. Counting games, rhymes and songs exist in every culture. Some counting songs and rhymes help children to count forward and backward as well.
- Have your child skip count (counting by twos, fives or tens) to count larger groups of items quickly. Use such objects as blocks, pasta pieces, toothpicks or buttons.

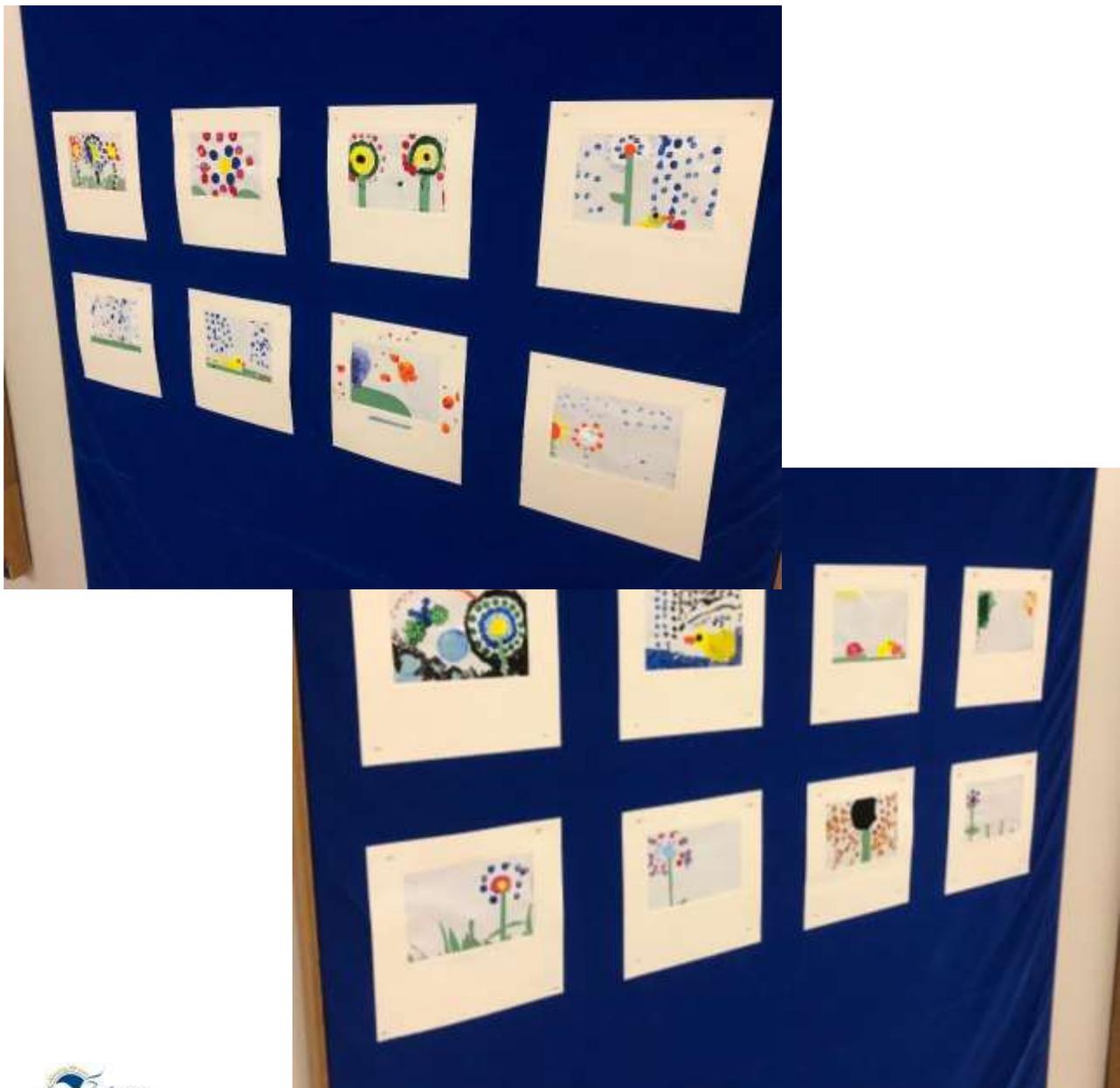
**From *Doing Mathematics with your Child, A Parent Guide*
Ontario Ministry of Education**

Social Justice Update

LET US LOVE, NOT WITH WORDS BUT WITH DEEDS – POPE FRANCIS

GRANDIN ART SHOWCASED AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Grandin students visited patients at the General Hospital around the Christmas season. The General Hospital staff were so impressed by our students, that they asked them to continue this partnership into the new year. Our talented young artists from grade two have created works that will brighten up the halls of the hospital this spring.



Preparing for the Future!

Opportunities for Grandin Students to Get Ready for the World of Work

STUDENT VOTE

Grandin School is participating in STUDENT VOTE on April 15th, the day before the provincial election. This is a great simulation that teaches children about the democratic process in Canada.

Student Vote is a parallel election for students under the voting age, coinciding with official elections. Schools register to participate for free. Then, print and online resources are provided to teachers. Activities help students engage with the campaign and are encouraged to research issues, parties and candidates, and to foster conversation among themselves and their families. Students take on the roles of election officers and coordinate a vote in their school. This year, we have enough ballots for all Grandin students to participate. Students cast ballots for the candidates running in Grandin's electoral division. The results are shared publicly after the close of the general election polls.

Many thanks to Señorita Pinto for taking the lead on this excellent learning experience for our students.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Democracy is fragile and cannot be taken for granted.

A healthy and robust democracy demands an informed and committed citizenry that understands the value of our political system, and how to act within it.

The best way to guarantee an engaged citizenry is to foster the habits of active and informed citizenship at an early age.

WHO IS BEHIND THE PROGRAM?

Student Vote is the flagship program of CIVIX, Canada's leading civic education organization.

The Student Vote project for the Alberta provincial election is financially supported by Alberta Education, Elections Alberta, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Calgary Foundation, the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Government of Canada.



APEGA SCIENCE OLYMPICS

Two grade three teams will be competing in the APEGA Science Olympics on April 6th. The students have already worked very hard preparing their projects.

Many thanks to Patricia Toniotti for coaching the 3B class and working with Señora Obén to provide this fantastic learning opportunity for students. Señora Aitana and Madame Hironaka will be joining Señora Toniotti at the University Pavillion, cheering on our Grandin scientists!



Grandin Clubs and Teams

THIS YEAR WE WILL AGAIN BE OFFERING MANY LUNCH HOUR (AND A FEW AFTER SCHOOL) CLUBS FOR THE CHILDREN. KEEP WATCHING THIS PAGE FOR UPDATES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS CLUB

Grandin students are known for their kindness. So, why not make every week Random Acts of Kindness Week? At least, that's what some of our students thought! Thanks to Mlle Natalie for spearheading this great new club! Be sure to "pay kindness forward" if you are one of the lucky targets of this club!

NUMERO CLUB

Our Numero Club is practicing for the district Numero Challenge that will be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at St. Francis of Assisi School**. All Numero club members are eligible to attend. Please watch for the fieldtrip form!

MINECRAFT CLUB

Grandin grade 2-3 students have started Minecraft Club. Many thanks to Mlle Natalie for heading up this exciting coding/building club. Thanks for our parents, we had the technology we needed to set this club up quickly.

ROBOTICS CLUB GRADE 1

Many thanks to Danny Rodriguez who stepped up to lead our Grade 1 Robotics Club on Mondays at noon. Now everyone at Grandin will have a chance to code, program and have fun learning!

ROBOTICS CLUB GRADES 2-6

Grandin students have started Robotics Club! Due to the popularity, students are scheduled in for blocks from January to Spring Break. Many thanks to Mlle Karam for heading up this very popular club.

CHESS CLUB

Term 2 of Chess Club will run again on Tuesday noon and Thursday after school. Many thanks to Richard Pua who provides this great opportunity for our students.

ZUMBA

Zumba Club is a great way to keep warm and get some exercise as the weather turns cold. Thanks so much to our parent volunteer, Janet Vancaesele, for her enthusiasm and great moves!



DANCE CLUB

Students are also enjoying Señora Astora's dance on Thursdays after school. What a wonderful opportunity for some great dance instruction!

KIN BALL

Students will enjoy a few more intramural games before they head outside to enjoy the beautiful spring weather!

PERCUSSION CLUB

Madame Athena is just wrapping up the percussion club in early April. Great fun was had by all.

Have fun! Join a Club!



Grandin School Parent Council

Grandin School Fundraising Society

The **next meeting** of both our parent organizations will be held on **Monday, April 15th**. Come and join us as we begin to plan for the upcoming school year.

School Council Executive:

Co-chairs: Christie Oswald and Kristin Zelyck

Vice-chair: Sarah Bisbee

Secretary: Tina Uribe

Fundraising Society Executive:

Chair: Andrea Boehm

Vice-Chair: Kristen Zelyck

Treasurer: Desiree Thomas

Secretary: Tina Uribe

MEETING DATES

6:00 PM START

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

MONDAY, APRIL 15

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Next Meeting

Monday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us if you can!



Hot Lunch

Healthy Hunger Fridays

Each month there will be one or more Hot Lunches available to be ordered online. These lunches are delivered to the school and the children get to enjoy a nice hot meal. Lunch are ordered online.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO OUR HOT LUNCH DATE IN MARCH

To sign up and order, go to:

www.healthyhunger.ca

or call 1-800-818-6260 or 780 800-5588.

We are listed under "E" for Ecole/Escuela Grandin.

1. Register Student
2. Login and add your children to the account
3. View all upcoming lunch dates
4. Place order and make payment online



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to deliver hot lunch each month. If you are able to volunteer on the day of hot lunch between 12:05 p.m. and 12:45 p.m., please click the "I can volunteer" checkbox when ordering your child's hot lunch. Or, send an email to grandinhotlunch@yahoo.ca.

Many thanks to **Sonja Martens** for organizing these special lunches—and giving parents a well-deserved break every few weeks!



DATES

Edo of Japan

Friday, February 8

Lunch Lady

Friday, March 15

Subway

Friday, April 5

Panago

Friday, April 26

Jugo Juice

Friday, May 24

Opa

Friday, June 14

FundScrip

An easy way to support your school

Fundscrip is an easy way to have money donated towards the school simply by buying everyday items. See below for details.

**Do you ever buy Gas, Groceries, or Gift Cards?
Now Grandin can receive a percentage back
when you do!**

With over 230 Retailers, it's easy to help out!

E-gift cards are emailed to you upon receipt of payment. You can sit down at Boston Pizza, order a gift card, and pay with it at the end of your meal!

If you sign up for Electronic Fund Transfer, payments are instant and you'll save us the 2% credit card fee!

Buy your groceries at Safeway, Superstore, or Sobeys? Buy a gift card first, and Grandin will receive a percentage of your purchase back at no extra cost to you!

Traditional gift cards can be mailed right to your house for just the cost of a postage stamp

FündScrip



FundScrip Quick Start Guide

1

How to Sign Up

1. Go to www.fundscrip.com and click on **Support Your Group**



2. Complete the information in the **Support Your Group** section and be sure to enter our group's **Invitation Code**. The code for our group is shown in the grey box below.



3. Raising funds for an individual? Identify them by entering their name in the Last Name field after your name, separated by a hyphen.



4. Click the link in the confirmation email you will receive to complete your registration, then login and place orders to support our group!

Invitation Code for our Group

TBCBKC

Click here to **Support Your Group**. Watch your Inbox for the confirmation email from FundScrip.

2

How to Place an Order

1. Go to www.fundscrip.com and click **Login** (top right)



2. **Login** by providing your email address and password
3. Click on the green **Buy Cards** button to begin adding gift cards to your cart



When you have finished adding gift cards to your cart, you need to finalize your order.

1. Choose our group as well as the *campaign* you want to support
2. Choose a payment method:
 - **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** > *Direct debit from your account. The best and easiest way to pay. No fees. Requires application and void cheque.*
 - **Online Bill Payment Service** > *No fee, but funds must be received by FundScrip prior to processing. Please allow 3 business days.*
 - **Credit Card** > *Earnings reduced by 1.99%.*

3. Choose a distribution method:

Grandin is participating in direct shipping. Up to 4 gift cards valued at \$500 or less can be sent to any Canadian address through lettermail for a low cost of \$0.85(plus tax).

Better yet, consider taking advantage of e-gift cards, which are emailed for free and can be accessed as soon as your payment is processed (EFT is designed to be immediate).

4. Check out and you're done!

We will send out semi-annual updates as to the success of our fundraising efforts, so you can keep an eye on how much you've helped!

Using Fundscrip for your weekly gas and grocery purchases can earn \$600 or more each year to support our children!

Remember: You can ask Friends and Family to support our group too!

Set it and Forget it!



Set up a **Recurring Order** and never worry about forgetting to place your order again!

Your Feedback is Appreciated



Win Lunch With the Principal

If you read this newsletter, print, sign and return this form to your child's teacher. Your child will be entered to win a lunch with the principal, Mme Hironaka.

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent Signature: _____

We welcome your feedback. Please write us and share what you like, what you would like to see in the future, what you hope for our school!