Message from our Holy Cross Administration

Happy New Year! Welcome back!

We hope that our students and their families had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to a new year filled with exciting and engaging learning opportunities. The Grades 5 and 9 students will begin working on their IB projects this month. The school will kick-off these projects with presentations from a selection of guest speakers who value community service and serve others in the community. We hope to inspire all our students to action with these presentations, and to help them understand the importance of sharing your gifts with others.

The staff of Holy Cross Académie Internationale wishes all our families a wonderful 2017 filled with health and happiness.

God Bless,

Lorraine Press Principal
Lynnette Anderson Assistant Principal
Donna Rankin-Anderson Assistant Principal

Hours
Kindergarten AM: 8:20am-11:20am
Kindergarten PM: 12:00pm-3:00pm
100 Voices: 12:00pm-3:00pm
Grades 1 to 9: 8:20am-3:00pm

THURSDAY
Kindergarten & 100 Voices- no classes on Thursdays
Grades 1 to 9: 8:20am-12:00pm
Information Evening for New Registrations

Holy Cross Académie Internationale will be holding an Information Evening for our Early Learning and Junior High Programs for the 2017-2018 school year on February 9th, 2017. Encourage your friends and neighbours to come out and learn more about our programs—you are our best advocates.

Coffee, Tea and IB!

Grade 5 parents and guardians are invited to an Exhibition information session to learn about the culminating Grade 5 project. This project encourages collaborative inquiry through an authentic action-oriented process. The information session for Grade 5 parents will be held in the réseau on January 18th at 6:30PM.

Grade 9 parents and guardians are invited to an information session to learn about the Community Project that their children will be completing this year. This project encourages students to work collaboratively and to experience service learning. It is student-centered and allows students to explore practical interests through the IB action cycle. The information session for Grade 9 parents will be held in the réseau on January 19th at 6:30PM.
Gala D’Art Oratoire

Each year, the Canadian Parents for French, Edmonton Catholic Schools’ Chapter, sponsors the Gala D’art Oratoire. This event is not a competition, but a showcase and a celebration of student achievement in French public speaking. It will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Please note that this is a change of date. The venue is still to be announced.**

Holy Cross has been invited to submit 2 presentations from our Grades 4-6 students and 2 presentations from our Grades 7-9 students. Teachers will be working to prepare students for this event and will determine a selection process for participants.

In order to participate, the school must provide **1 parent volunteer** to assist with the planning of the Gala. This involves about 5 - 7 hours of work and 1 meeting in February, 2017. The parent volunteer must have regular email access as most of the planning is done via email.

Please contact the school at 8203web@ecsd.net if you are able to assist in this.

MYP Parent Information Session

**Digital Citizenship Parent Information Session**
**February 23 at 6:30PM**

Social Media has turned our world upside down. No longer do we just rely on home computers to access what the World Wide Web has to offer. Cell phones, PDAs, and the like, make it possible to access the Internet from almost anywhere. Our youth have figured out how to navigate the Internet and social media with precision. As parents, it is almost impossible to keep track of what our kids are doing online. As School Team Advisors for Youth, we have made it a priority to teach our students proper ‘Digital Citizenship’ and educate them about their ‘Digital Footprint’ – in essence - their life captured online.

We will be providing a parent information session, and will discuss current trends in Social Media and some of the difficulties our youth are having with it. This adults-only session will be about one hour long.

**Remember** - It is our role as parents to ensure our children are safe online. The more you know, the easier it will be to deal with the pace of Social Media.

Holy Cross School Council Meeting Reminder

The Holy Cross School Council (SC) will hold their next meeting on February 2nd at 7:00PM in the réseau. All parents are invited to attend.
CTF courses in MYP

This year in Foods, students are learning practical kitchen skills through culinary challenges. After being introduced to kitchen safety, sanitation and proper techniques, students get hands-on experience with chopped style kitchen challenges. The class is given mandatory ingredients with which they must use to create yummy dishes. Students are able to use background knowledge and learn from other students. Creativity, collaboration, task delegation and effective communication are at play. Following their creation, students write their recipes using French culinary vocabulary. Our cooks become better learners by developing a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes that reflects the Alberta Education competencies and the IB learner profiles.
Hour of Code

During the week of December 5-9, students celebrated the Hour of Code. Hour of Code is a global phenomenon that is run in conjunction with Code.org with the purpose of reaching tens of millions of students in over 180 countries. This event helps introduce computer science and computer programming.

This year Holy Cross rocked our first Hour of Code! Students from all classes were knee-deep in inputs and outputs, helping each other find their way through different puzzles to solutions. Our PYP students worked their way through block-based and text-based tutorials, while our MYP students worked with Arduino boards and text-based coding. We were even lucky enough to have the EmTech gurus Trisha Roffey and John Korassa join us!

Be sure to check out the Code.org website; the activities are available every day – not just for Hour of Code.
Parent Information Session

Anxiety is one of the most common mental health complaints in children and teens today. This session will distinguish between normal anxiety and anxiety that is no longer helpful or productive. It will help caregivers to identify signs that a child or adolescent is experiencing problems with anxiety. Caregivers will gain step by step strategies to assist their child/teen to manage their anxiety and improve their mental health. Resources for parents will be provided, as well as tools designed to reduce anxiety.

Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety
(Presented by Alberta Health Services)
DATE: Thursday, January 26, 2017
TIME: 6:00-7:30pm
LOCATION: Holy Cross Académie Internationale
15120 – 104 Ave, Edmonton, AB
Notes: This session is for adults only.

Parent Information Session

You are Invited to Edmonton Catholic Schools’ Parent Engagement Evening on Curriculum Re-Design

The Edmonton Catholic Schools’ Board of Trustees invites all parents to attend a parent evening on January 26 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Archbishop MacDonald High School (14219-109 Ave.) to discuss Alberta Education’s Curriculum Redesign Initiative. Join the conversation and hear from Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Ellen Hambrook about the intent and nature of the changes envisioned for the Alberta Program of Studies. Receive an update on the progress to date and Superintendent Joan Carr will inform everyone on how the Edmonton Catholic District is involved in the change process.

Father Michael Mireau Youth Faith Day

On February 6th, all Grade 8 students from ECSD will join invited Grade 8 students from our sister boards within the Archdiocese of Edmonton for a day of inspiration, enlightenment, and entertainment. The day will be facilitated by Jesse Manibussan and Carla Cuglietta, internationally renowned Catholic speakers. Archbishop Smith will be celebrating Eucharist with the students.
Volleyball at Holy Cross

Congratulations to the boys and girls on the volleyball teams who had a fantastic season of fun and growth. Special thanks to all the parents who were able to come out and support the athletes during the highly competitive games and also Mme. Scarlett who helped with coaching the senior boys team. The girls completed their season on a high note in the semifinals with a loss to the 2016 championship team Joseph Moreau, while the boys were able to bring back a gold medal for Holy Cross along with the championship trophy! Mme Belzile, M. Nadeau and M. Eng are excited to be working with many returning, promising athletes in the upcoming 2017 season.

Go Crusaders!
Early Learning Christmas Concert
The 100 Voices and kindergarten students held their Christmas concert Family Night on December 22nd. The evening began with the 100 Voices singing Jingle, Jingle Little Bell and We Wish You A Merry Christmas. The kindergarten students sang Petit Papa Noël, Douce nuit and played bells to Vive le vent. The evening continued with students and families sharing snacks, participating in a cup stacking activity and completing a Christmas tree craft. A big thank you to our teachers Mme Cloran and Ms. Fuller, to our music teacher Mlle Tremblay for helping to organize the evening, as well as to Mme Favreau for helping us set up.

Grades 1 to 6 Christmas Concert
Holy Cross elementary classes held their annual Christmas concerts on Dec. 14th and 15th, 2016 at the school’s gymnasium. With students from Grades 1 to 6 performing, family and friends were treated to the production of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, a story by Dr. Seuss. The Grinch, performed by Taylor Young, in an attempt to help restore her Christmas spirit, was shown that Christmas doesn’t come from a store, maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more. A huge thank you to the following students for their time and dedication in acting, design, lighting and sound; Taylor Young, Linnae Spillios-Hunter, Tyler Barton, Georgia Francis, Gina Cyr, Julia Han, Sabrina Kasimova, Ava Markovich, Michelle Greig, Natalia Reyes, Halle Almquist, Grace Almquist, Jamie Spurrell, Jessie Spurrell, Jayden Standing, Lola Manning, Daniella Elyas, Nigel Langford, Abby Young, Jake O’Brien and students from the Shrek the Musical Stage Production Team.
HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGNS

Grade 8 students were encouraged to come up with a Christmas Kindness Challenge as part of a religion assignment. Both grade 8 classes decided to combine their efforts and organize a 3-day bake sale to fundraise for a charity that needs extra help during the holidays. Students discussed a number of different charities and organizations and finally chose an organization they had learned about this October through a Language Acquisition project presentation from Gabrielle Wafer called Adopt-A-Teen.

The grade 8 students would like to thank the students and staff of Holy Cross for supporting their bake sale and helping them raise an outstanding $600.00 in three days. Thanks to everybody who was involved, 12 teenagers in Edmonton will have a brighter Christmas.

The MYP Leadership Team also spearheaded a collection for the Mustard Seed. The Mustard Seed is a not for profit organization that helps those people across Alberta who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. Their vision is of meeting basic needs, growing hope, sustainable life changes and integration into the broader community.

During the Advent season, the Holy Cross community supplied many people with the basic items required to survive the winter. Thank you to all members of our school community for your generosity and to the MYP Leadership Team for their initiative.
Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

-Martin Luther

Where we are at in MUSIC at Holy Cross this month

Happy New Year! I would like to take a moment to thank each and everyone of you for your support of music in our schools. I know for a fact that students appreciate having the time every week to come visit the music room where they get to sing, dance and experience music in a fun, free and inclusive way. I hope that students feel success in music and that they may learn appreciation of the art so that they may one day dance with beat at their wedding or sing lullabies to their children and pass on to them the wonderful gift of music.

Our Glee Club is proud to present:

SHREK THE MUSICAL JR.

Performances:
- March 22nd @ 7:00pm
- March 23rd @ 7:00pm

Tickets are 10$ each

For more information contact julia.tremblay@eccd.net
TRANSPORTATION ISSUES?
Please call our offices
7:15 AM – 5:00 PM
780 441 6078

Family Math Games Night!

PYP FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO A FAMILY MATH GAMES NIGHT ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AT 18:30 IN THE GYM.

LEARN MATH GAMES USING CARDS AND DICE TO REINFORCE COUNTING, BASIC FACTS, PLACE VALUE, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Canadian Parents for French
Edmonton Catholic Schools Chapter

ATTENTION:
Introductory French language classes
Are available pending Adequate Registration

Classes will begin Monday, January 30, 2017
Between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
for a total of 8 weeks

We need at least 8 to register & pay (maximum 12)
by January 20th, 2017 to run a class.

Cost is $95 for CPF members
& $125 for non-members
(no refunds after January 23rd, 2017 if the class has enough registrants to start)

Classes to be held at JH Picard (7055 - 99 Street) &
Bishop Savaryn (16215-109 Street) Parking available

Registration Form

Please return all registration forms with payment to your school office ASAP for interschool mail, but no later than January 20, 2017
addressed to CPF ECSC (Jeff Sermet) c/o St. Stanislaus School Secretary

Name: ___________________ phone: _______ e-mail: ________________

Address: ____________________________ CPF member as of: ______

School where you child(ren) attend(s): ____________________ in grade(s) ______

(Cheques payable to CPF – Edmonton Catholic Schools Chapter)
If there are not enough to fill the classes we will notify you by e-mail (so please clearly write email address) and refund registration fees.
If questions please contact Jeff Sermet at jrsertem@bryanco.com or 780.265.4093
How to Survive the Holidays With Kids

While the holidays are a festive time of year, they're also a time of great stress for parents.

Following are tips on How to Survive the Holidays With Kids.

1) **Set the Stage** -- You're the role model and your behaviour is what your children will model, so lead by example. If they see you stressed out, they'll feed on that and the tension in the house will explode. If the kids see that you're calm, cool, controlled and reasonably stress-free, their attitude and actions will follow.

2) **Manage Expectations** -- The expectations of a full bounty of gifts is one of the most stressful parts of the season, particularly for parents who are on a tight budget. Let the kids know that they will indeed receive gifts, but within reason. This includes the gifts that they will be receiving from **Santa Claus**. Let them know a) that you love them and b) the true spirit of Christmas is about family, love and kindness -- all of which don't have a dollar value.

3) **Get Help** -- Cooking, cleaning and shopping on top of your regular parenting and household duties is too much for anyone to bear. You're only one person and can only do so much, so be realistic and give yourself a break. Get help wherever possible. Now's the time to take up friends and family on their offers of support.

4) **Have a Game Plan** -- Every parent knows that a bored child is a whiny child. For this reason alone, it's especially important to have a plan of action where your kids are involved this holiday season. Have activities for your kids planned in advance in order to keep them busy. These can include playdates with other kids, movie and game nights with the family, and day trips within your city.

5) **Relax the Rules** -- Sure, bedtime is usually 8 p.m. for your little ones but they want to stay up late to watch **one last Christmas movie**. The little ones are having a good time and so are you, so relax and let them stay up late this one time. The world will keep turning and your stress level will be considerably reduced. It's OK to ignore the regular schedule of everyday life during this time of the year. When the season passes, you can get the kids back to their regular routines.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR

**School Team Advisors for Youth (STAY)**

Junior high schools in the Edmonton Catholic School District each have ‘School Team Advisors for Youth’ (STAY) which are comprised of retired Police Officers.

**The STAY role involves:**

- Educating, mentoring, and empowering students.
- Educating and mentoring parents on the realities their children face each day by raising parent awareness on these issues.
- Educating and mentoring staff on the realities that students face each day. Working in partnership with the administration of the school to develop action plans for safety and health of all students.

Stay Advisors in our junior high schools make a difference in the lives of our youth by encouraging them to “STAY” in school. The STAY teams work hard to ensure our youth succeed in life.
Amoris Laetitia - Chapter Four: “Love In Marriage”  
By Father Julian Bilyj

The fourth chapter reflects on love in marriage, illuminated by St. Paul's Hymn to Love: “Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Its opening section is a richly poetic exegesis of the Pauline text, linking brief passages which describe human love in undeniably concrete terms. A quality of psychological insight marks this poetic exegesis, seeking to enter into the emotional world of the spouses and including the erotic dimension of their love. Pope Francis on growing in conjugal love states,

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\text{This is the love between husband and wife, a love sanctified, enriched and illuminated by the grace of the sacrament of marriage. It is an ‘affective union’, spiritual and sacrificial, which combines the warmth of friendship and erotic passion, and endures long after emotions and passion subside (AL, 120).}
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This valuable, genuine reflection on Christian married life is unprecedented in previous papal documents.

Pope Francis refuses to judge the day-to-day experience of married love against ideal standards,

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\text{We should not however confuse different levels: there is no need to lay upon two limited persons the tremendous burden of having to reproduce perfectly the union existing between Christ and his Church, for marriage as a sign entails ‘a dynamic process…, one which advances gradually with the progressive integration of the gifts of God’ (122).}
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On the other hand, Pope Francis holds that conjugal love by its very nature defines the partners in a richly encompassing and lasting union. The Holy Father stresses,

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\text{… after the love that unites us to God, conjugal love is the ‘greatest form of friendship’. It is a union possessing all the traits of a good friendship: concern for the good of the other, reciprocity, intimacy, warmth, stability and the resemblance born of a shared life. … Lovers do not see their relationship as merely temporary. Those who marry do not expect their excitement to fade. Those who witness the celebration of a loving union, however fragile, trust that it will pass the test of time. Children not only want their parents to love one another, but also to be faithful and remain together. These and similar signs show that it is in the very nature of conjugal love to be definitive} \] (123).
\]

He adds a reflection on the need for a “transformation of love” because, “Longer life spans now mean that close and exclusive relationships must last for four, five or even six decades; consequently, the initial decision has to be frequently renewed” (163). As people age, the loving attraction does not diminish but changes as sexual desire can be transformed over time into the desire for togetherness and mutuality, “There is no guarantee that we will feel the same way all through life. Yet if a couple can come up with a shared and lasting life project, they can love one another and live as one until death do them part, enjoying an enriching intimacy” (163).

Finally, there is an earthy realism to his reflection,

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\text{The ideal of marriage cannot be seen purely as generous donation and self-sacrifice, where each spouse renounces all personal needs and seeks only the other’s good without concern for personal satisfaction. We need to remember that authentic love also needs to be able to receive the other, to accept one’s own vulnerability and needs, and to welcome with sincere and joyful gratitude the physical expressions of love found in a caress, an embrace, a kiss and sexual union (157).}
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Time is too precious a gift, too scarce a commodity to be squandered. If we waste it, we lose more opportunities than we know. Each moment is an opportunity for prayer, for kindness, for self-control, for personal growth. “Make the best possible use of your time,” says St. Paul (Colossians 4:5).

If time is charged with opportunity and not simply a succession of empty moments, it is shameful to waste it and sinful to kill it. The Holy Scriptures place the accent upon time as a God-given opportunity for us to use, to repent, to turn to Jesus, to love God and neighbor, to grow more and more unto his likeness.

How we spend time is far more important than how we spend money. Money mistakes can be corrected, but when time is gone, it is gone forever.

When Charles M. Schwab was a president of Bethlehem Steel he said to Ivy Lee, a management consultant: “Show me a way to get more things done. If it works, I will pay anything within reason.”

Lee handed Schwab a piece of paper. “Write down the things you have to do tomorrow,” he said. Schwab did it. “Now number these items in the order of their real importance,” Lee said. Schwab complied. “The first thing tomorrow morning,” Lee added, “start working on number one and stay with it until it is completed. Next take number two and don’t go any further until it is completed. Then proceed to number three and so on. If you can’t complete anything on schedule, don’t agonize. You will have taken care of the most important things before being distracted by less important items.

“The secret is to do this daily,” continued Lee. “Evaluate the relative importance of things you have to get done…establish priorities…record your plan action…and stick to it. Do this every working day.” In a few weeks Charles Schwab sent Ivy Lee a check for $25,000. Schwab said that this lesson was the most profitable one he had learned in his business career.

What a difference it would make in our lives as disciples of Jesus if we established daily such a priority of things to be done in the order of their real importance based on the prayer: “Lord, what are the things you really want me to do today for You, for my family, for others, for myself?”

It is this kind of priority system that Jesus urges us to establish for the New Year. It’s a little story but it packs a big meaning that should make for a Happy New Year.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

Happy New Year!
Fr. Julian Bilyj
District Chaplain


Charles M. Schwab (February 18, 1862 – September 18, 1939) was an American steel entrepreneur. Under his leadership, Bethlehem Steel became the second largest steel maker in the United States, and one of the most important heavy manufacturers in the world.
January 2017

“May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” ~Psalm 20:4~

This beautiful blessing comes from the Psalm Prayer for Victory. In this scripture, the people are praying for the success of their king as he ventures forth into conflict. As a people, they proclaim that “our pride is in the name of the Lord our God ~(Psalm 20:7). Implicit in this prayer is that trust in God makes you stronger, especially in your times of need. As we begin this New Year, let us also venture proudly forward trusting that God is with us!

January brings a shift of focus for students and families; as we turn over the calendar page, we begin to look to the future. It is time to start planning for transitions. Whether you have a young child who is ready to enter the educational system or you are looking to move to junior or senior high school, our website has a wealth of information to assist in your planning. Visit www.ecsd.net and explore the “locate your school” section to find your school, to learn more about the programs we offer (Guide to Schools) or to find open house information. We are so excited to be opening 5 new schools in September 2017! Click on the New Schools banner on our website to learn more about them.

For our graduating High School students who may now be exploring the world of post-secondary education, we have compiled a Scholarships, Bursaries, and Awards resource for you. It is found in the Parents and Students section of our website.

Another support that we offer for our students who will be writing diploma exams in January is Diploma Exam Prep Sessions. Click on the Diploma Prep banner on our website to see the schedule and find a site close to you.

Our Hour of Code week was a great success! We had 20,239 students, 751 teachers, and over 86 school sites from 100 Voices to Grade 12 and beyond participating in the largest educational event in the world. The Hour of Code is a starting point in the engaging journey of computer science and programming literacy for students.

There is still time to register for our next session in the Supporting our Diverse Learners Parent Evening Series. The session on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. will provide information and strategies to support learners from a parental perspective on topics such as Autism, speech and language, assistive technology, and mental health. You can access the information by clicking on that section of the banner on www.ecsd.net.
Several times over the course of this school year, our Board of Trustees is holding special one hour long public meetings to highlight various aspects of our educational programming. Edmonton Catholic Schools is doing significant work around promoting good mental health, and this was the focus of the November 29 Educational Board Meeting. Visit the Promoting Mental Health section of our website to learn more.

Continuous Improvement is always a focus for us at both the District and the school level. Our District Plan for Continuous Growth 2016-2019 highlights our areas of focus and how we plan to address them. Each of our schools also creates a School Plan for Continuous Growth. It is posted on your school’s website.

January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Pope Francis shared the following thought on Twitter in October: “Christian unity is a priority, because we realize that much more unites us than separates us.”

I wish you all a wonderful New Year filled with great promise and success!

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent
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