



WALKING TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

December 2018

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
(*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, JM Neale translator)

Advent is upon us as we begin the month of December, and it is a time filled with joy and promise. The activities in our schools mirror the sentiments of the Advent season as we excitedly prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Although our activities are vastly different today, this anticipation links us back to the Jewish people all those years ago. Our Messiah is soon to arrive, and it is a time of hope for the future!

Each fall, many of our schools and our staff participate in the ***We Care Challenge***. This outstanding endeavor raises significant funds for two Catholic organizations, the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation's Dreams for Kids campaign and Catholic Social Services' Sign of Hope campaign, that have tremendous impact on our ECSD community and beyond. Special thanks to our students, staff, and families for participating in this endeavor.

As I am writing this newsletter, we are preparing for the presentation of our [2018 Audited Financial Statements](#) and our [Three Year Strategic Education Plan 2018-2021 and Annual Education Results Report 2017-2018](#) at our November 27 Public Meeting of the Board. After that meeting, you can click on the links above or visit www.ecsd.net to view those reports.

Our All-City Choir is having their Christmas Concert on December 3 at 7:30 pm at McDougall United Church (10086 MacDonald Dr NW). The All-City Band's Christmas Concert is on December 12 at 7:00 pm at the Myer Horowitz Theatre (8900 114 St NW). Tickets are \$5 at the door, and these concerts will be amazing!

The District Satisfaction Survey will run from November 26 - December 7. Every household will receive one parent survey per child enrolled in an Edmonton Catholic School. Please respond to each survey separately from the point of view of each child's educational experience. You can either return your parent survey to your child's school or use the postage paid envelope and Canada Post. If you don't receive your survey, or if you would like more information about a question as it relates to your school, please phone the principal.

This year's Hour of Code event takes place from December 3-7. This is the fifth year that Edmonton Catholic Schools will be participating. Hour of Code is a global movement that is supported by Code.org with the purpose of reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries through a one-hour introduction to computer science and computer programming.

We live in a world surrounded by technology, and we know that whatever fields our students choose to explore as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. This is a great time to introduce our students to computer programming and for them to see how coding is part of the way the world works. Coding and Computer Science also help to enhance literacy and numeracy skills through computational thinking, collaboration, and problem solving. Our goal is to have 27,000 student and teacher coders participate!

As 2018 comes to a close, I wish you many opportunities to spend time with your family and friends reflecting on the many graces and great love that God has shared over this past year. In 2015 at the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis shared the following thoughts on the gift of Jesus to the Holy Family:

"And His Son, where did He send Him? To a palace? To a city, to start a business? He sent Him to a family! God came into the world in a family. And he was able to do this because this family was a family that had its heart open to love, that had the doors open to love." (09/27/15)

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent