St. Joseph High School Newsletter  
October 2018

Message from the Administration

It is with great anticipation that we embark on this new school year. September has been a month filled with activity including: Rookie Week activities in the courtyard, Saints Showcase (clubs for students to participate), Football, Cross Country Running and Volleyball teams are all now in session. New classes and new classroom support through our Guided Customized Learning Workshops are challenging and supporting students in new ways this year. Everyone on staff is looking forward to working with our students and the parent community to provide an excellent learning environment here at St. Joseph Catholic High School.

The Student Agenda is an excellent source of information for all things St. Joseph. Please ask to see your child’s Agenda on a regular basis. Your child’s Teacher Advisor (TA) is your first point of contact if you have any questions about classes, course changes, and/or policies. Our first Performance Interviews will take place the week of October 15-19. You can expect your child to bring home an 'interim report card' at that time. It will be used to help gauge how students are progressing in their studies. Students will be shown how to implement a Reverse Plan to ensure they stay on track and complete all course requirements at the end of the semester. Each week we have two Teacher Advisor/Advisee blocks to help our students plan and evaluate their performance as a student.

Please feel free to book an appointment with anyone on our administrative team should you wish to discuss issues of concern related to your child’s progress. We are always here to help in any way we can. For the most up-to-date school information, please check our school website at www.stjoseph.ecsd.net.

Please join us for our next Parent Council meeting on October 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom

Brad Koshka   Darrell Cleave   Nicole Duigou-Jones   Roslyn Marcelo
Principal   Assistant Principal   Assistant Principal   Assistant Principal
Grad Liturgy and Commencement
Thursday, May 16th at the Shaw Conference Centre, Hall D

Grad Banquet & Dance
Friday, May 17th at the Shaw Conference Centre, Hall D

Submission for Grad Committee Applications and Artwork for Grad 2019 Hoodies are due to Mrs. C. Fuerderer By October 1st.

Grad Photos
- November 26-30
- Service provided by Lifetouch Pictures
- Sitting Fee $25 payable directly to photographer the day of the sitting appointment
- Re-Takes will be scheduled for semester 2 TBA
- All appointments are booked via the website: http://lifetouch.ca/northernalberta

Grad Tickets
- Tickets will be sold April 15-May 2nd online
- Information to order tickets will be distributed to students in their invitation package by April 5th
- All school fees must be paid prior to Spring Break to buy tickets to the banquet

Your Grad Advisors Are:
Mrs. Duigou-Jones
Mrs. Marcelo
Mrs. C. Fuerderer
Mrs. Ferretti-MacKinnon
Mr. Potvin
Mrs. Dawson
Mrs. Bajac
Ms. Pilling

Grad Eligibility-GCL
GCL Students must have 80 Credits and the following courses on the Detailed Academic Report (DAR) by the end of Semester 1 of their graduating year, including:
- CALM 20
- Phys Ed 10
• 20 Level English
• 20 Level Social
• 20 Level Math
• 20 Level Science
• Religion 15,25,35 or World Religions 35 (2 out of 3 religion courses need to be completed by the end of Semester 1)
• 10 Credits in CTS, Fine Arts or Modern Language or Phys Ed 20 & 30
• Students must also have completed OR be enrolled in for Semester 2 the following to achieve the balance of 100 credits: 30 Level English, 30 Level Social, 35 Level Learning Strategies and be in good standing with all school fees paid in full.

Grad Eligibility - Dash 4

60 Credits by the end of Semester 1 of their graduating year including:
• CALM 20
• Phys Ed 10
• Religion 15,25,35
• 20 Level English
• 20 Level Social
• 20 Level Math
• 20 Level Science
• And 20 credits in Occupational Courses

Students must also have completed or enrolled in for semester 2 English 30-4, 30 level Occupational Course and be in good standing with all school fees paid in full.
September 27 – Orange Shirt Day – September 30 have been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children’s sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

September 28 – Full Day General Staff PD Day
October 3 – Thanksgiving Liturgy
October 1-5 – Read-In-Week
October 5 – Young Women’s Leadership Conference at St. Joseph – The Beauty of the Brains Pageant – Jean Forest Leadership Academy (St. Basil, St. Joseph)
October 8 – Thanksgiving Holiday
October 11 – Awards Night, 6:30 pm, Courtyard
October 12 – IB Registration Deadline

**Upcoming Events**

Friday November 9th Remembrance Day Ceremony

**New Class Times:**
- TA Time 8:45 – 8:55
- Block 1: 8:55 – 9:40
- Block 2: 9:40 – 10:20

Students leave Block 2 and Ceremony starts around (10:35-10:40)

Lunch: 11:42 – 12:24 there is no TA Time
- GCL/Floor Time: 12:24 – 1:06
- Block 3: 1:08 – 2:13
- Block 4: 2:15 – 3:20
- Check out: 3:20 – 3:22

**The only change is that there is no TA time and we have lunch instead.**
The lyrics of this beautiful song, which we often sing at church, offer us a lens to explore what it means to walk humbly with our God. If we act justly and love tenderly, then our life’s journey, with Him always at our side, becomes an act of praise. This is the heart of what happens when we walk together in God’s love.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is growing! As I write this newsletter, our enrolment is at 43,200 students, an increase from last year, with a final count being done on September 28. It is truly a cause for celebration that an ever-increasing number of families are entrusting us with the awesome and sacred responsibility of nurturing their children and helping them to grow to their fullest potential as members of the Body of Christ.

We were delighted by the announcement from Alberta Education that the scheduled modernization for our Ben Calf Robe K-9 School will now be a replacement school instead. Plans for this new facility will increase the capacity to 700 students and will include a cultural learning space.

Archbishop Smith and Bishop Motiuk joined us for a joyous celebration on September 19 for the site blessing and ceremonious ground breaking at our newest addition to ECSD, Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School in the Orchards. A beautiful, innovative learning space for that community will open in September of 2020.

We are very fortunate to have the leadership of two District Chaplains in our District. Father Julian Bilyj, who also serves as the pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish, has served our students and staff as a teacher and Chaplain since 2014. Father Glenn McDonald is a new addition to our team this year. Father Glenn is a priest of the Congregation of St. Basil. He was raised in Airdrie,
Alberta; trained as a mechanical engineer at the University of Alberta, and was ordained at St. Basil's Church, Toronto in 2008. For the past five years, he has been serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta. In addition to his work at ECSD, Father Glenn will be assisting at St. Alphonsus Church / St. Clare Church.

The Archdiocese has just appointed Father Andrew Leung, CSB as the Archbishop’s Delegate for Catholic Education. We look forward to him joining us to celebrate and form our faith!

Where is God in my Life? A Reflection

by Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

“Where is God in my life?”

This is a question I get asked a lot as a priest. Theology can point towards an answer, but only an experience from someone’s everyday life will satisfy as a response.

I am embarrassed to admit that even as a seminarian and later as a priest, I was having a lot of trouble seeing God in my own life. How could I then point out the presence of God in someone else’s life? Thankfully, God began to teach me how to recognize His presence in my own life, which enabled me to help other people see His presence in their lives, too. He used a special relationship to do this.

I am very fortunate to have my grandmother living in Edmonton. Her name is Lulu. And yes, she is as adorable as her name.

During the four years I spent studying at the University of Alberta, which was only a short bus ride away from my grandmother’s house, I rarely visited her. I was always too busy. I had every excuse not to go: I had homework to do; the bus would take too long; I had plans with my friends; I would go next week.

When I completed my degree and was departing from Edmonton, I had to say goodbye to my grandmother. Despite the fact that I had visited her only once a semester, she was very sad to
see me go. In that moment, my degree suddenly seemed empty. I could see how precious my grandmother’s presence was in my life. I had been so blind, but it was too late. It was time for me to leave the city.

Fortunately, I was given a second chance many years later, when my religious community appointed me to Edmonton. I resolved to visit my grandmother each Friday. And I did!

Our visits followed the same pattern. I would bring her flowers. She would make me a sandwich and a cup of tea. We would talk about her week, how the family was doing, and if she had heard from relatives in Saskatchewan. I would share about my work. After an hour, I would depart. Each visit was ordinary, but I always felt fulfilled when I left — like I had participated in something of great value.

In 1 John, we read, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” Over time, I realized that my weekly visits with my grandma were an experience of love. An experience of genuine love is an experience of God. I became aware that these visits were one of the ways that God was present and active in my life.

What are the situations in your life in which you experience sincere love? Who are the people in your life who love you the most, with self-sacrificial, giving love? It is in these situations, and interacting with these people, that God’s presence and action in your life becomes real.

Today, when a student asks me, “Where is God?” I respond with, “Let me give you an example from my own life. Her name is Lulu.”

“Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” - 1 John 4:8