

Message from the Principal

In January's newsletter I began a conversation with the community regarding the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. This month, as we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 11th, we are called to live even more intensely to both celebrate and experience God's mercy. On Tuesday Feb 10th, your child will be bringing home with them a Lenten activity calendar to place on your fridge or dining room table to help you and your family to participate in acts of prayer and mercy during the Lenten season. I sincerely hope that this becomes a favorite family mealtime activity for you and your children.

During Lent, our school children and the community will have the opportunity to learn about and participate in [Eucharistic Adoration](#). What is Adoration? In a few words it's an encounter with the Lord, as Christ makes his presence known to us all in a special way.

Please join us in the school for **mass with Fr. Jack on Thursday Feb 18th, beginning at 9:15 am in the MPR**. Following mass, Fr. Jack will place the blessed host into the monstrance where it will be brought down to the school chapel. At this time, students will participate in 15 minute sessions of song, prayer, the word and adoration. We welcome you to join us for this wonderful opportunity.



Dates You Need to Know

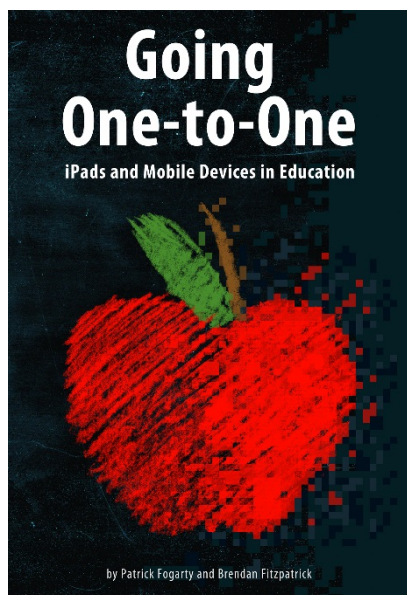
Feb 1 st	Hot Lunch Block 2 Order Deadline (printed order and payment must be at school)
Feb 2 nd	Grade 4S Bennett Centre all day field trip
Feb 3 rd	Early Dismissal 2:13 Kindergarten In-House Dinosaurs Program
Feb 4 & 5 th	Teachers Convention – NO SCHOOL
Feb 9 th	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Lunch for all students and staff
Feb 10 th	Ash Weds: Mass for the students at OLPH parish beginning at 1245pm Pizza Hut order forms and payment due (or order & pay online – see newsletter item) Grade 1 to 4 OLPH for 12:45 Ash Wednesday Mass celebration with HR/OLPH/EPK Grade 4LH to Strathcona Care Centre in the am
Feb 12 th	PD Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Feb 15 th	Family Day – NO SCHOOL
Feb 17 th	Popcorn Fundraiser for Angelman's Syndrome Awareness (see info in newsletter)
Feb 18 th	Mass and Adoration in the school – mass begins at 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration continues until 315pm
Feb. 22 nd	Soap Stone Carving-3L & 3N/P
Feb 24 th	1M only Black & White Night 6:30 to 8:00 pm

HOT LUNCH MENU - February

February 19th Nitza's Pizza

February 26th Booster Juice

(Sorry, there are no extra meals available for purchase the day of Hot Lunch)



Elk Island Catholic Schools move to One-to-One technology, beginning September 2016.

During the past year, an EICS division technology committee has been meeting to create a framework that supports Inspiring Education with Alberta Education.

As a result of these talks and meetings, beginning in September 2016, *the Division will require students in grades 4-12 to bring their own technology device to school each day for learning.* Students in K-3 will have access to classroom technologies, and will be assessed a technology fee to ensure that these students also have access and that teachers are embedding technology into their classroom curriculum.

No doubt, you have many questions, as do I! Information on cost, fee waivers, minimum tech requirements etc. will be forth coming. When available, I will send all documents home with your children as well as by email. There is a lot of information to process, so I encourage you to attend the **Weds March 9th Parent Meeting** so that we can move this initiative smoothly into the school.

*"...students in these [one to one] programs had become more **self-directed learners** and were **more engaged and motivated** while teachers were shifting to more student centred practices. (Stavert 2013, "BYOD in Schools Literature Review")*

Student PD Day Collections forwarded to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre totalled \$92.05. Wow!!



Compassionate care of injured, orphaned, and contaminated wildlife



Madonna Student Faith and Wellness Day – What a success!



Thank you to all the volunteers and to the Parent Council and the [REAL](#) foundation for their financial support of our 2016 faith and wellness day. Students, staff and the presenters really enjoyed their day, and we couldn't have done it without you.



TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Phone: [780-449-6480](tel:780-449-6480)

Fax: [780-449-6481](tel:780-449-6481)

Notes for riding and alternate bus

If you require your child to ride a different bus to or from school, you must send a note to the school one day prior to the day your child needs to ride a different bus. The school staff will sign the note which will then be given to the driver by your child. If a student does not have a note from their parent or guardian which has been signed by the school office, we cannot allow them to ride a different bus. If this is a long-term arrangement, you must contact the Transportation Department to make arrangements. **Note** – Several routes do not have capacity for extra riders. Students taking an alternate bus will be refused with a note signed by the school office.

Bus delays/cancellations

The Transportation Department communicates bus delays and cancellations on the EICS website and via the SynreVoice call out and email system. Please ensure your phone numbers and emails are correct at the school.

Kindergarten Registration is now open. Students must be 5 years old before
March 1st, 2012 to be eligible to register for the 2016/2017 school year.

Kindergarten Open House is Wednesday March 16th 6:30 to 7:30

Fairy Gardens



The many students who meet together every Wednesday, would like to thank the Parent Council for their support which allowed them to experience gardening in the middle of winter. With special guest, Mrs. Buchner's help, the students created fairy gardens, using miniature plants from Salisbury Greenhouse. Salisbury also supports our Garden Club through their donation of seeds and other materials for our outdoor garden space. Come and see our gardens in the library! Shhhh! Don't scare the fairies who have come and set up residence!



Sydney Grd 4



Reese Grd 4

Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser is back!!



Back by popular demand are the Little Caesar Pizza Kits!! The Madonna Catholic School Education Society is offering this wonderful fundraiser again. Keep your freezer stocked with a few frozen pizzas for those extra busy nights when you need something quick. Students brought home the order forms January 27th and the sale ends February 10th. You can also order online at www.pizzakit.ca. Click on products and then shop – the fundraiser ID# is 309952 and you can pay with credit card. All orders will be delivered to the school for pickup by you on February 23rd from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

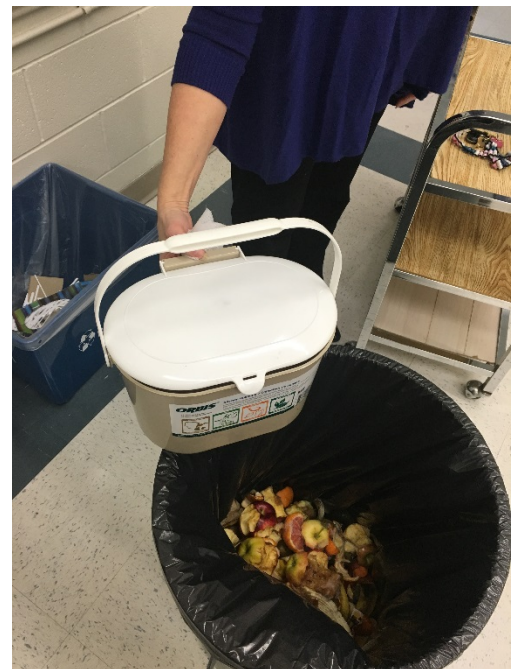
*Thank you for your support
Madonna Catholic Education Society*

February is Syndrome Awareness month and on February 17th Madonna Catholic will bring awareness to Angelman's Syndrome. Angelman syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by severe intellectual and developmental disability, sleep disturbance, seizures, jerky movements, frequent laughter or smiling, and usually a happy demeanor. We will be having a Popcorn Fundraiser to buy a new sled/wagon to help a student in Grade One with Angelman's Syndrome so he can participate in all outdoor school activities and fieldtrips in his sled/wagon. Popcorn bags will be sold for \$2.00 each and we are aiming to raise \$300.00 towards the estimated cost of \$2,000.00. If you would like to make a private/business contribution to this fundraiser please email Ms. Kuchmak at cherylk@eics.ab.ca

Composting Comes to School

It looks like the Garden Club here at Madonna is ahead of the game when it comes to composting. We are excited to announce that Elk Island Catholic Schools, in partnership with Strathcona County, is bringing a large green organics bin here in the spring! Earlier this fall, Garden Club applied to the Emerald Foundation, and won a grant that allowed the club to purchase a composting bin for outside of the school, along with a small organics pail for each classroom. The students put orange peels, banana peels, and apple cores, along with other vegetable or fruits scraps into the pails each week. Our composting bin has been full since December, so we welcome the opportunity to have the organics picked up, rather than being transported home (in Mrs. Matheson's car)! The Garden Club is looking forward to augmenting the rich compost into the soil to help Madonna's garden grow!

What's in your compost 😊?





More beautiful
Fairy Gardens by
the Garden Club!



Perpetual Help Parish News

Feb 9th – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30 pm in the parish hall. Cost \$5.00/Adult, \$2/Age 5 to 12, Under 4 free, Family \$15.00. Tickets available at the door.

Feb 21st – Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Come On out and enjoy a delicious breakfast after the 8:30 am or 10:30 am Masses.




**First Reconciliation
and
First Communion
2015/2016**



The Parent meeting for
First Reconciliation and
First Communion 2015/2016 will be held
on September 30, 2015.

If you have any questions please contact
Monna at the
Parish Office
780-467-5470

If your child has already prepared for
First Communion please call the Parish
Office to schedule a date for First
Communion-
780-467-5470



BAPTISMS

If for any reason your school aged child is not yet baptized and you would like to look into baptism for your child please do not hesitate to contact the church at 780-467-5470 or pastoralcare@olph.ca We would be most happy to help.



145 ways to show kids you care:

Everyone in a community can make a difference in the lives of children and youth.

Notice them.
Smile a lot.
Acknowledge them.
Seek them out.
Remember their birthday.
Ask them about themselves
Look in their eyes when you talk to them.
Listen to them.
Play with them.
Read aloud together.
Giggle together.
Be nice.
Say yes a lot.
Tell them their feelings are okay.
Set boundaries that keep them safe.
Be honest.
Be yourself.
Listen to their stories.
Hug them.
Forget your worries sometimes and concentrate only on them.
Notice when they're acting differently.
Present options when they seek your counsel.
Play outside together.
Surprise them.
Stay with them when they're afraid.
Suggest better behaviors when they act out.
Feed them when they're hungry.
Delight in their discoveries.
Share their excitement.
Send them a letter, email, postcard.
Follow them when they lead.
Call them to say hello.
Hide surprises for them to find.
Give them space when they need it.
Contribute to their collections.
Discuss their dreams and nightmares.
Laugh at their jokes.
Be relaxed.
Kneel, squat, or sit so you're at their eye level.
Answer their questions.
Tell them how terrific they are.
Create a tradition with them and keep it.
Learn what they have to teach.
Use your ears more than your mouth.



Make yourself available.
Show up at their concerts, games, and events.
Find a common interest.
Hold hands during a walk.
Apologize when you've done something wrong.
Listen to their favorite music with them.
Keep the promises you make.
Wave and smile when you part.
Display their artwork in your home.
Thank them.
Point out what you like about them.
Clip magazine pictures or articles that interest them.
Give them lots of compliments.
Catch them doing something right.
Encourage win-win solutions.
Give them your undivided attention.
Ask for their opinion.
Have fun together.
Be curious with them.
Tell them how much you like being with them.
Let them solve most of their own problems.
Meet their friends.
Let them tell you how they feel.
Help them become an expert at something.
Be excited when you see them.
Tell them about yourself.
Let them act their age.
Praise more; criticize less.
Be consistent.
Admit when you make a mistake.
Enjoy your time together.
Give them a special nickname.
Marvel at what they can do.
Tell them how proud you are of them.
Pamper them.
Unwind together.
Be happy.
Ask them to help you.
Support them.
Applaud their successes.
Deal with problems and conflicts while they're still small.
Tell them stories in which they are the hero.
Believe in them.
Nurture them with good food.
Be flexible.
Delight in their uniqueness.
Let them make mistakes.
Notice when they grow.
Wave and honk when you drive by them.
Give them immediate feedback.
Include them in

conversations. Respect them.
Join in their adventures.
Visit their schools.
Help them learn something new.
Be understanding when they have a difficult day.
Give them good choices.
Respect the choices they make.
Be silly together.
Hang out together.
Make time.
Inspire their creativity.
Accept them as they are.
Become their advocate.
Appreciate their personality.
Talk openly with them.
Tolerate their interruptions.
Trust them.
Share a secret.
Write a chalk message on their sidewalk.
Create a safe, open environment.
Be available.
Cheer their accomplishments.
Encourage them to help others.
Tackle new tasks together.
Believe what they say.
Help them take a stand and stand with them.
Daydream with them.
Do what they like to do.
Make decisions together.
Magnify their magnificence.
Build something together.
Encourage them to think big.
Celebrate their firsts and lasts, such as the first day of school.
Go places together.
Welcome their suggestions.
Record a phone message for them.
Help them learn from mistakes.
Be sincere.
Introduce them to people of excellence.
Tell them what you expect of them.
Introduce them to new experiences.
Share a meal together.
Talk directly together.
Be spontaneous.
Expect their best; don't expect perfection.
Empower them to help and be themselves.
Love them, no matter what.
<http://www.search-institute.org/archives/150.htm>

Madonna Catholic: A Healthy School for Healthy Kids!

John Harmata: Health Facilitator

