

WE ARE CALLED...

TO BE LEADERS OF HOPE AND MERCY

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