

WE ARE CALLED...

TO BE LEADERS OF HOPE AND MERCY

March 2017

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ~John 3:16~

The Gospel of John is deeply rooted in love—the love of our God and His Son for us, our love for God and his Son, and our call to love each other. This particular verse of the Bible is one which you will often see posted simply as a scriptural reference, John 3:16, on signs at public events, sporting events, and at roadsides as an example. It is a message that Christians love to share, and even non-Christians recognize the symbolism. This passage is also a perfect one for us to reflect upon as we enter this Lenten season. This is the time when we realize that God’s love, manifest in the gift of his Son Jesus, leads to eternal life. These words are the ever-present message that whispers to us from the cross.

The Archdiocese of Edmonton is once again celebrating a Day of Confessions. The day will be held throughout the Archdiocese on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Visit their website to find times in your parish.

<http://www.caedm.ca/PastoralParishServices/DivineWorship/DayofConfessions-Hours>

The Spring brings many opportunities for our students to showcase their learning in the fine arts. This month, students from across the city will share their talents in many ways. *Spring Into Art*, a student art exhibition, runs from March 6-19 at the U of A Enterprise Square building. *Band Share Day* is on March 7 at the Winspear, and *Heart of Glee* is on March 16 at 7pm at the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Our Council of Elders is hosting a Pipe Ceremony to welcome and honor the Spring season at St. Francis of Assisi School on March 23 at 10 am. Visit the [Council of Elders](#) section on our website to learn more about their role in sharing knowledge with our staff and students and fostering relationships between our District and the Aboriginal community.

This year, we have an increased focus on building a positive mathematical culture and creating environments of numeracy within classrooms and across the school. Whether it be a continued focus on deepening basic math skills or making authentic connections between daily learning in math and the broader world around us, our students are moving forward in their journey towards in-depth mathematical literacy. At the elementary level, a guided math structure enhances the learning of all students through targeted instruction by the teacher; over 100 teachers have attended workshops in this area this year. Our secondary students are deepening their mathematical skills through an intentional focus on problem solving, critical thinking and assessment. Students are experiencing success through engagement in rich mathematical tasks such as problems of the week, an example of which can be found at this link <http://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/resources/potw.php>, as well as many local, national and international math contests. Numeracy week happens March 13th-17th; we are looking forward to hearing exciting stories about mathematical learning!

As you prepare for your Lenten journey, I would like to share some words from Pope Francis. He reminds us that serving others can be as basic as acknowledging their sacred human dignity “Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love.” (*Message of the Holy Father Pope Francis for Lent 2017*, 07/02/17)

Have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,

Joan Carr
Superintendent