



WE ARE CALLED...

**TO BE LEADERS OF HOPE AND MERCY**

October 2016

***O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.*** ~ Psalm 107:1 ~

This hope-filled psalm, which is known as that of *Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles*, reads like a love story. It speaks of the many, many occasions and circumstances where God has shown his people that all things are possible through his enduring love. It is an excellent example of hope and mercy, which are the pillars of our theme for this year. Knowing that our God loves us so deeply is truly cause for giving thanks!

September was a month of newness and growth for Edmonton Catholic Schools. We now have over 41,200 students who have joined our Catholic educational community, and we opened two beautiful new schools to help make room for those students. You can learn more about our new schools, as well as upcoming new school and modernization projects, by visiting our website at <https://www.ecsd.net/parentsstudents/parentresources/growing-and-improving/pages/default.aspx>. The canonization of Mother Teresa on September 4<sup>th</sup> also brought some newness to our community. In honor of this amazing Catholic role model and leader, her namesake school will now be called St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School.

One World . . . One Centre, where students and families newly arrived in Canada are welcomed by Edmonton Catholic Schools, has been extremely busy these past weeks. The centre, which was open all summer to assist families, started seeing students and families for intake and assessment on August 9. In the three weeks before school started, 395 students, newly arrived in Canada, were registered and welcomed to our district at One World . . . One Centre. These families, and others, have been invited back to the first New Canadians Parent Information Session on October 18, where information about our District and schooling in Alberta is translated to other languages so that newcomer parents can gain this valuable information. This session begins at 7 p.m. at the centre – 12050 95A Street, NW.

October brings many exciting events to our communities. As an example, our annual participation in Read-In Week occurs from October 3-7. This is an excellent opportunity for us to put the fundamental skills of Literacy in prominent focus for our students and community. We are very pleased to be holding a series of Parent Information Sessions throughout the year on various aspects of the Inclusive Education model which we use to meet our diverse students learning needs. The first session is being held on October 19. You can learn more about these sessions at <https://www.ecsd.net/news/pages/supporting-our-diverse-learners---parent-evening-series.aspx>. Please join us!

We also have several opportunities to celebrate and grow in faith. Our schools will all take time to reflect on the goodness of God through the celebration of Thanksgiving. The afternoon of October 20 will see all of our teachers focusing on one of our 5 Marks of Catholic School Identity- Animated by a Faith Infused Curriculum, as they participate in our annual Permeation Afternoon.

Competencies are an interwoven set of attitudes, skills and knowledge that are developed over time and that support successful learning, working and living. Alberta Education has refined the language of the original competencies of the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning* (#001/2013) into a streamlined expression of eight competencies: **critical thinking, problem solving, managing information, creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, cultural and global citizenship and personal growth and well-being**. Learn more about competency descriptors, indicators and examples which assist educators and parents in identifying aspects of a competency that are evident within learning outcomes, learning activities or assessments by visiting our website.

<https://www.ecsd.net/ParentsStudents/ParentResources/ProfessionalLearning/PublishingImages/Pages/Alberta-Education/competency-descriptions-indicators-and-examples-approved.pdf> .

October 16 is the feast day of Our Lady of Schools. Many of our communities will celebrate this special feast of Mary. Our grade 5 students will receive a special bookmark with a prayer to Our Lady of Schools, Mother of Knowledge, a practice which we began a few years ago. I would like to share that prayer with all of you.

Have a wonderful October!

*Mother of God,  
Our Lady of Schools,  
Teach us how to walk in the footsteps of Jesus,  
Your Son and our brother,  
So that He may always be the Light of our minds  
And the Love of our hearts.  
Amen  
Our Lady of Schools, Mother of Knowledge and Love, pray for us.*

Sincerely,

Joan Carr  
Superintendent