

VANIER COMMUNITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Edson, AB
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February 2012 Newsletter



Message from Administration

During the month of February, we celebrate God's word through friendship, love and acts of kindness. From February 13th-19th, we will be joining schools, communities and agencies across the country in celebrating "Random Acts of Kindness Week".

St. Valentine will also be honored at Vanier on February 14th. Students are invited to wear red, pink and white on this day.

At Vanier, we raise our "kindness level" every day by reminding students, staff and our parent community that each of us has the power to make a difference in our school, community and world. Goodness emanates in every kind act. Through our faith, our motto "Caring and Sharing" and our mantra from Ghandi "Be the Change you want to see in the world", we can celebrate and acknowledge the wonderful things that happen at our school every day. Random Acts of Kindness Week will help us acknowledge kindness universally.

This month we pay tribute to our many volunteers. We would like to say "THANK YOU" for the wonderful contributions you make throughout the school year. We recognize this because you constantly show us Random Acts of Kindness every day in our school.

The power of a smile and kindness is undeniable. Research shows that being kind is linked to fulfillment of our spiritual, physical and mental being. Being kind to someone else is healing and rewarding for our hearts and souls.

With February leaving us, we should also take some time as Catholics to reflect on celebrations that are still ahead of us. World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on March 2nd. Shrove Tuesday is on February 21st. The Knights of Columbus will prepare and cook pancakes for our students. Our Parent Advisory Council will help distribute the pancakes and condiments to each class before lunch time. We invite all students to make a toonie donation on this special day to help kick off our Development and Peace campaign which will occur during Lent. Ash Wednesday on February 22nd reminds us that we are preparing for Easter by entering into the Lenten Season. This is a time for reflection and prayer as we wait to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

On February 20th, take the time to do something you enjoy with your family, as we celebrate Family Day. Call someone you love and tell them. Spend time with someone you may not usually connect with. Be kind and respectful of and to others. These simple things cost nothing, but are priceless.

Mrs. Elizabeth Churchill, Principal
Mrs. Dawn Melnyk, Assistant Principal

Accountability Pillars

Dear Vanier Parents of Grade 4 Students:

School authority representatives who were involved in the development of the Accountability Pillar surveys recommended that we provide the following information to each of you. This will help in your understanding of the process and encourage your participation.

Information for parents:

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2012, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this process, please give me a call at the school, 780-723-6612.

Mrs. Churchill, Principal

Support Staff Recognition Week February 20-24, 2012

Thank you to all support staff for your hard work and dedication with our teachers and students. Our schools are better places because of you! Your very important rolls and commitments help support our Division Goal...*that every student who enters our doors will graduate successfully from a faith-filled, safe and caring environment.* We look forward to another great year! May god bless you all.

School Theme ~ "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies"

Dismissal Times: Monday to Thursday @ 3:12 P.M. & Friday @ 2:10 P.M

REMINDER

Just a reminder that there will be **No School** for our students on **Thursday, February 9th and Friday, February 10th**, due to the Teachers Convention in Edmonton. Enjoy the time with your families😊

Share Lent

Share Lent 2012 is the annual campaign of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

Through our generous donations to Development and Peace this and every Lent, we can help build a world of justice and keep our earth –water, land and life – healthy.

For over 40 years, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has supported 15,200 local initiatives in fields such as agriculture, education, community action as well as the consolidation of peace and advocacy for human rights in 70 countries.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE projects come from the people of the developing countries. The projects are about improving their quality of life for life. In the Philippines, Cambodia and Lebanon, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has helped small-scale farmers get land so they can support their families.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is beginning a five year campaign to support small-scale farmers who help feed 70 percent of the world's population. They are working on ways to farm the feed communities while keeping the land healthy.

So please help us build a world of justice by donating to Development and Peace's Share Lent 2012.

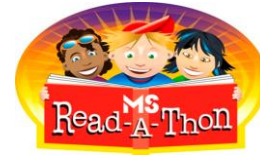


Share Lent Puzzle Fundraiser

Once again we will be building a puzzle during our Share Lent campaign. Each time a class raises \$15 for Share Lent they can add a piece to the puzzle. Please help by encouraging your child to make time sacrifices - skip a bag of chips or a pop - and donate the money to Share Lent. Thank you for your support of this most worthwhile cause!

Share Lent Solidarity Calendar

One calendar will be sent home with the youngest child in each family. It has information about Development and Peace projects, prayers and donation suggestions. We hope you find it helpful.



MS Read-A-Thon

Thank you to everyone who helped raise money and awareness for Multiple Sclerosis during the MS Read-A-Thon (January 9th to January 27th). We have now reached the end of the reading period. We need you to please return to your sponsors and collect the money for the minutes that you read. Don't forget to thank them for helping you raise money for the MS Society of Canada! Once all of your money is collected, put it inside the MS Read-A-Thon envelope, seal it and hand it in to your teacher. All envelopes must be returned by *Friday, February 3rd*. Thank you so much, especially to the Vanier Parents for supporting your child's participation in the MS Read-A-Thon. Keep Reading!!



Kindergarten Registration

If you are interested in registering your child in Kindergarten for the 2012/2013 school year, **now is the time!!!** We will hold our annual Kindergarten Registration Night on **Wednesday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.**

Thank You for Supporting ANSO Gift Cards

Thank you Vanier School for your generous support of the ANSO Christmas Card Program. **A special thank you to Mrs. Haland's Grade Four Class for raising \$144.00 for this worthy cause.** Your kindness is helping families and individuals in Ethiopia. You have helped Edson to provide \$2373.00 of animal stocking, medical kits, business loans, and education opportunities. 100% of your donations will be received by those in need and will make a world of difference to them.

ANSO cards will continue to be available throughout the year for those who would like to give them as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, or other occasions. ANSO is grateful for the support of individuals from our community, and from caring groups like Mrs. Haland's class, who believe we can make a difference one small act at a time.

Thank you,
Dianne Pede

Mission Statement ~ Learning Together in Our Catholic Community

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

This is a reminder that parent volunteers must sign in at the office and wear a lanyard identifying them as such. Parent volunteers please find child care for your younger children when volunteering in classes or during hot lunch duties. Due to our new Occupational Health and Safety Standards, Health Standards and advice from our Divisional insurance agent we will be consistent in this message. This will allow you a worry-free safe and caring experience within the school. If you have any questions or concerns with this, please refer to the office.

Cold Weather

Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. Although it may warm up later in the day, the mornings can be cold. Even if your child is being driven to school, they should still be wearing mittens, toques, warm jackets, ski pants and the proper footwear. It is important to note that the first bell does not ring for the children to enter the school until 8:20 am.

News from the P.A.C.

Time is flying, just 5 months left in the school year. We would like to remind everyone that the Parent Advisory Council meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the school library. However, February's meeting will be held on Monday, February 13th at 7:00. Please keep in mind that all P.A.C. information and meeting minutes are posted on our Parent Advisory Council board located by the office door.

We would like to thank HUSKY ENERGY for their substantial contribution of \$5000.00 for our Early Literacy Program. The donation purchased the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention and Assessment Systems. This program is designed for children who find reading and writing difficult. We are extremely grateful to Husky Energy for providing the funding we needed to purchase these materials. The company's contribution will have a significant impact on our students for years to come.

Allergy: Nut Alert



In our school we have a few children with a severe allergy to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods with your child to school that are free of peanuts or nut products. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding regarding this matter.

Thank you to CNRL DEEP BASIN for the generous monetary donation to cover the cost of our upcoming Grade 3 Dairy Queen Order and Bake Sale. The students, Staff, and Parent Advisory Council truly appreciate your generosity.

Winter Walk Day

Please join us on Wednesday, February 9th as we take a walk in our winter wonderland. The whole school will be walking in the afternoon @ 2:30 pm. You can also participate by walking to school, to work, or to a friend's house. You can walk with your dog or your family and friends.

Lunch with the Principal winners for February are Riley Ahlefeldt in 2D and Bradi Bailer in 6M. Congratulations!



Lost and Found

Please take a moment to check the Lost and Found Box for lost articles. Please remember that it is important that you label all of your children's belongings as this makes it much easier to return and retrieve lost items.

SHROVE TUESDAY



Like Easter, the date of Shrove Tuesday changes yearly. It may fall anywhere between February 2 and March 8. **This year Shrove Tuesday is February 21ST.** The name originated with the Roman Church. Because it was the last chance to feast before Easter, early Christians enjoyed great feasts and used up all the butter, eggs and milk they would not be able to use during Lent. Pancakes were often served and this tradition is still carried on by many people today.

The Knights of Columbus will be cooking pancakes for our students again this year. We are asking that each student bring a Toonie to kick off our Share Lent project.