

March 2022

Dear parents,

Welcome to March! We have had a wonderful February filled with activities that have kept our school community uplifted and joyful!

The month of February revolves around the theme of Kindness, this year our students were asked to decorate their classroom door and portray how they are kind to one another. The doors came to life with magnificent ideas and kind thoughts and gestures were the lead of our daily announcements and our day-to-day interactions. As we culminated this month, we had every classroom share the idea behind their door décor and students voted for the door that best represented our Kindness theme. We were extremely proud of all of the kindness doors and the thought that was represented by each door!

As part of our kindness theme, kindergarten took the lead to organize a food bank donation drive. Our students were asked to donate a variety of items for the food bank and each item donated awarded them a certain number of tickets to win a Giant stuffed panda bear. We were hoping to fill 2 large food bank boxes but were amazed how our school community came together in support of the food bank and filled over 9 boxes of donations that equalled approximately \$5000!! As such, more prizes were also donated for the raffle and in the end, we were able to raffle 11 prizes for our students. The students were extremely excited and so was the food bank as they received plenty of non-perishable food items as well as many boxes of diapers! Thank you so much St. Teresa!!

We would like to thank our grade 2 students for leading us in prayer, announcements, and Black History month activities in the mornings!

Well done!

We had a Virtual Open House at the start of February and are currently accepting registrations for the 2022/2023 school year, please visit our website to view our Virtual Open House or to Register!

Señora Zelada
Principal/Directora

Ms. Coloumbe
Assistant Principal



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We come to
grow each day

En donde crecemos
cada día



DON'T FORGET....

Please check your parent PowerSchool account to keep up to date with your child's fees. If you have not done so yet please pay your school fees as soon as possible. Also, keep up to date with what is happening at Escuela St. Teresa School by checking out our website or Instagram [st_teresa_school_ecsd](#).

ABSENCES AND VACATIONS

For your child's safety, we ask that you please contact our school office by phone at 780-437-6022 every time your child will be absent from school. It is vital that we know that your child is safe during school hours. This includes absences for appointments, vacations, and illness. During the hours that the school is closed, you may always leave a message on the school's voicemail system.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If your child will be **five years old by December 31st,2022** then they are eligible to attend kindergarten in the 2022-23 school year. Edmonton Catholic Schools Division (ECSD) only offers online registration.

Go to the online form, create an account, and then fill out all the necessary info. Kindergarten registration began online on **January 10th,2022**. We will continue to accept school registrations for kindergarten after this date and throughout the rest of the school year, but you may be waitlisted.

To register your child for kindergarten you must have:

- A completed Registration Form (online)
- A copy of your child's Birth Certificate (uploaded online)
- A copy of the child's/parent's Baptismal Certificate (uploaded online)
- Proof of Residency (Proof that you live in our catchment area)

Confirmation of Registration will NOT occur until we have ALL the required documents.

ASH WEDNESDAY CELEBRATION

On **Tuesday, March 2nd** we will be having our Ash Wednesday Celebration. The Grades 1s will be leading the online celebration, during which each teacher will be placing a cross of ashes on the forehead of each student. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent.

LENT

Lent is the six-week 40 day(not including Sundays) celebration that helps believers prepare for Easter through penance and fasting. The Lenten season this year takes place from **Wednesday, March 2, to Thursday, April 14, 2022**. Lent is a time of reflection marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The past few years have provided us with significant opportunities to interpret Jesus' difficult journey in the desert and to the cross through the lens of current world crises. As we prepare for Lent this year, our Holy Father has appealed to us to begin our Lenten season through prayer and fasting.

TEACHERS CONVENTION

Thursday, March 3rd and Friday, March 4th are Teachers Convention Days. There will be no school these days. Teachers Conventions give teachers an opportunity to reflect on and learn about new and innovative pedagogical practices and theories. Conventions are a core component of teacher professionalism, which in turn enhances student learning.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MONDAY, MARCH 8th

The theme this year for International Women's Day is #BreakTheBias. Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all **#BreakTheBias**. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can break the bias in our communities. We can break the bias in our workplaces. We can break the bias in our schools, colleges, and universities. Together, we can all **break the bias** - on International Women's Day (IWD) and beyond.

AHS DENTAL HEALTH TEAM-MARCH 11th, 14th & 15th

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 will receive a visual dental screening and two fluoride varnish applications approximately three months apart. (Requires parental consent)

NUMERACY WEEK AND PI DAY

Numeracy, like literacy, is considered an essential skill. When we use the term *numeracy*, we are referring to the ability to understand and use numbers, operations, measurement, geometry and probability, not only for academic achievement, but for life itself. Just consider for a moment when and how you have used numeracy over the course of this past day. Finding a page in a book, using spatial awareness to park your car, playing a musical instrument, deciding if you can afford a purchase, calculating if you have time to run an errand before your meeting all require numeracy. Every day we make calculations and estimations, read measurements, use data and work with shapes. Numeracy is so embedded into our lives that we scarcely recognize the complex web of interrelated numerical skills required to navigate everyday life.



LAST DAY TO REGISTOR FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

Pre-enrolment for students already attending an ECSD school began on **Monday, February 28**. You will be able to log onto the PowerSchool parent portal and select your preferred school for the 2022-2023 school year using the "Intentions for Next Year" icon. All students currently in school will need to declare their intentions regardless if they are staying with their current school or transitioning into kindergarten, or another school. This pre-enrolment process for returning students will close on **Thursday, March 17** to allow our schools time to plan for staffing, class sizes, and programming for the new school year. If your plans change after March 17, you can always contact the school to change your school selection. The pre-enrolment process for returning students is key in helping us understand how many students to expect at our school for September 2022.



We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day on **Thursday, March 17th**.

Remember to wear **green**!

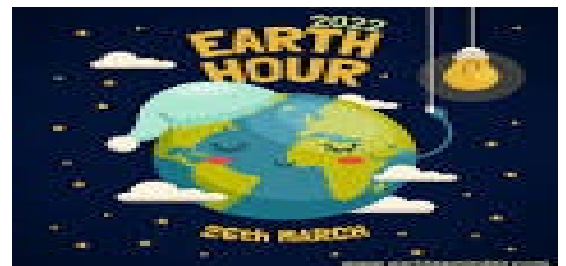
St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans, but Patrick had turned to God. Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family. A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision. The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftain of one of the druid tribes, who tried to hurt him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people, and he began building churches across the country. He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity. He died at Saul on March 17th, where he had built the first Irish church.

VIRTUAL DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

Parents and students are invited to our Virtual Demonstration of Learning that will be held on the week of **March 21st-March 25th**. Each teacher will let parents know when their child's class will be having their demonstration.

EARTH HOUR-SATURDAY, MARCH 26th

Every year, at 8:30 pm on the last Saturday of March, millions of people across the world show their support for our planet, raising awareness of nature loss and climate change - the two biggest threats



facing our one home. But Earth Hour is more than just an Hour for the planet - it's a movement for *our future*. And it's more than just a symbol of support - it's a catalyst for urgent change amidst one of our most crucial years yet. Today, Earth Hour aims to increase awareness and spark global conversations on protecting nature not only to combat the climate crisis, but to ensure our own health, happiness, prosperity and even survival.

SPRING BREAK

Thursday, February 24th will be a full day switch Thursday and **Friday, March 25th** will be a half day switch Friday leading up to Spring Break. We are off school from March 28th-April 1st. We are back to school on **Monday, April 4th**.

KINDERGARTEN FOOD BANK DRAW

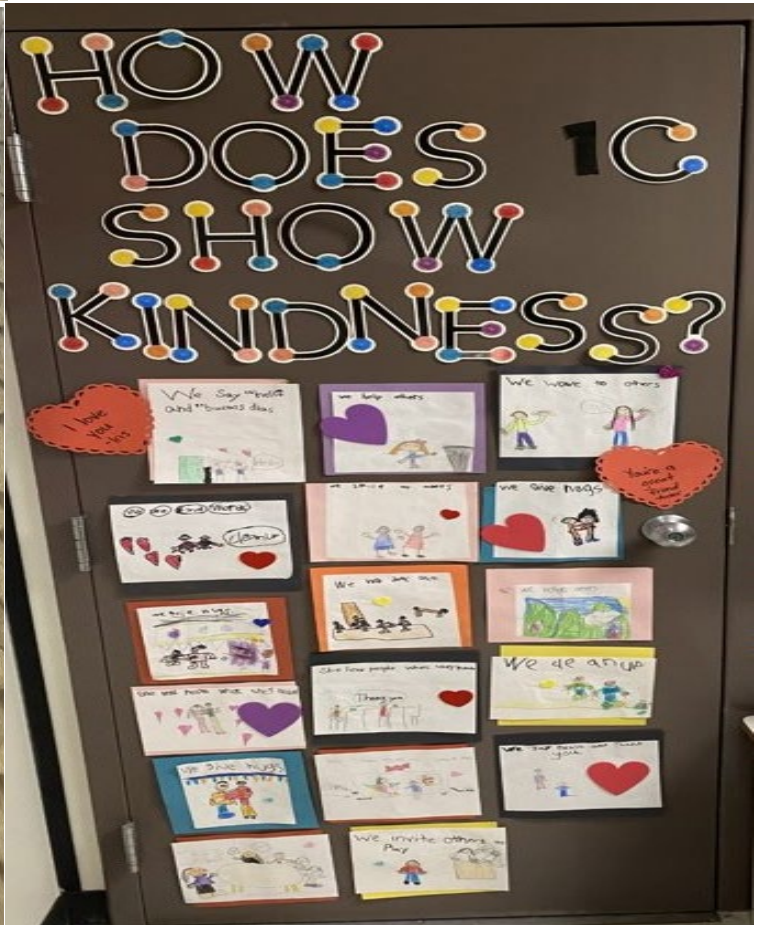
Thank you to everyone that made this Social Justice Project an amazing success. We have been overwhelmed with St. Teresa Families generosity! Everyone, the students, the staff, and the Food Bank all benefitted from this program.

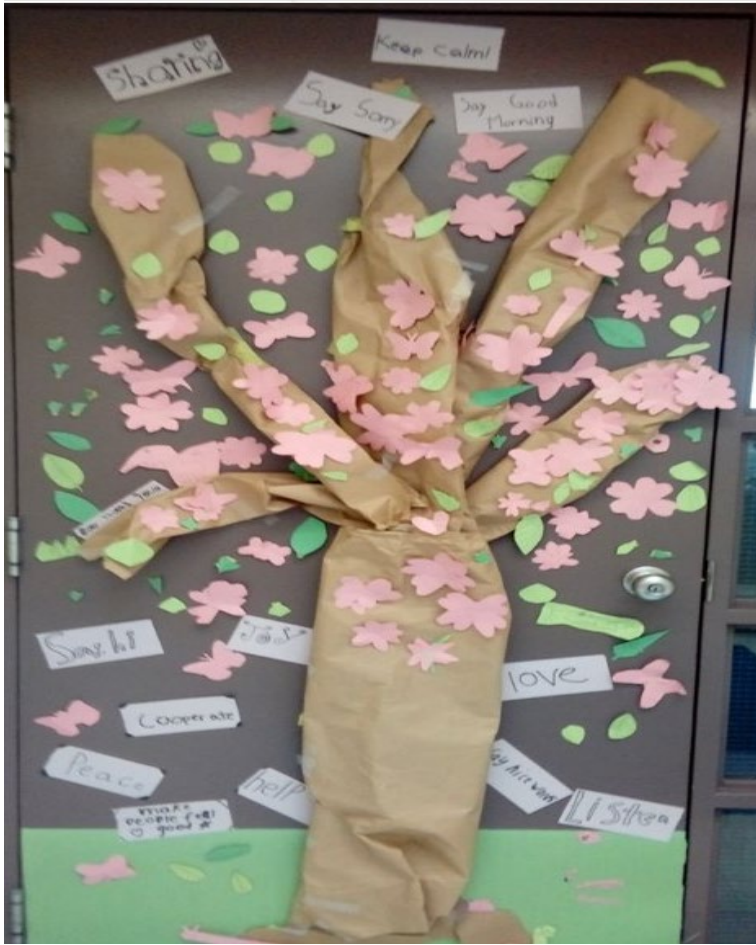


KINDNESS DOORS

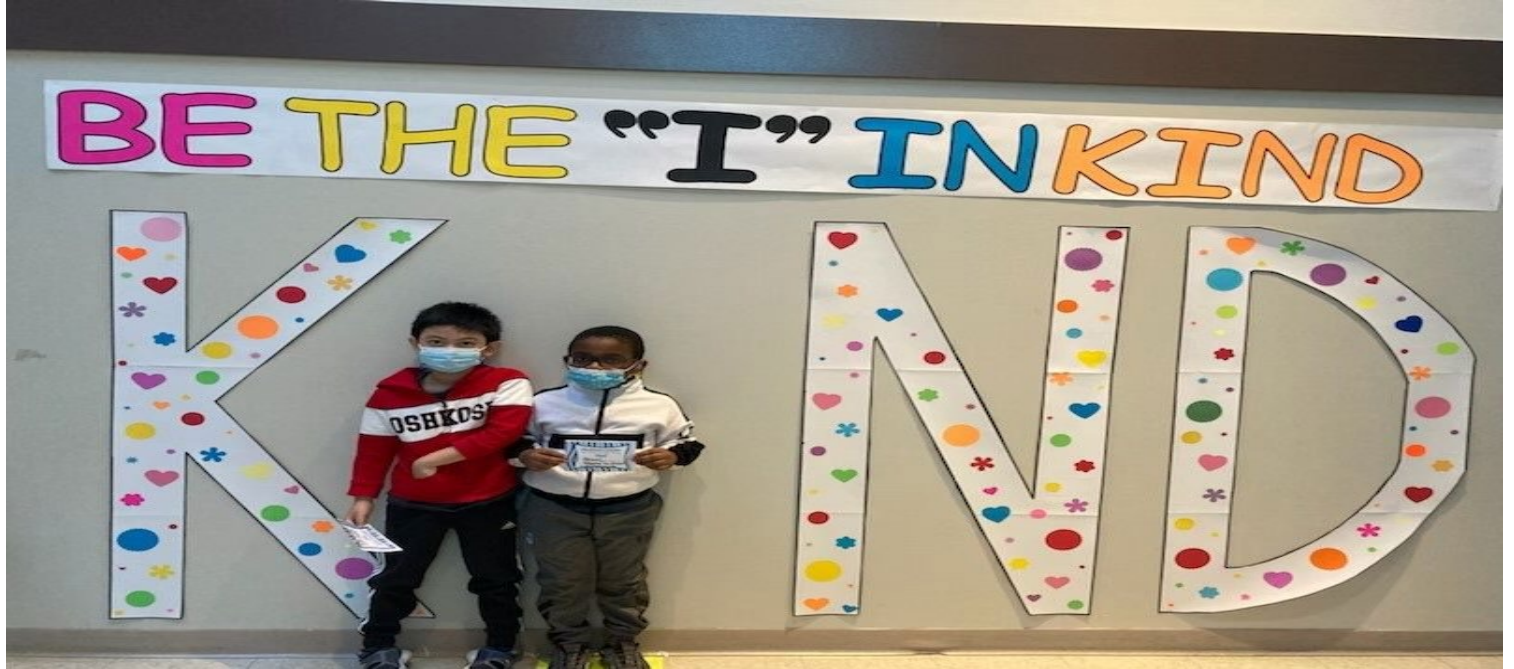
We had a friendly competition among classrooms where they discussed, "What does kindness looks like?" and then they decorated their door with ideas that they came up with. At the end of the month, every classroom shared their door and shared what the meaning is of their decorations. Each classroom had 1 vote, and the winning classrooms would receive a classroom pizza party. Congratulations to 1Ds We Moustache You To Be Kind Door and 4As Throw Kindness Around Like Confetti Door for their winning doors!







BE THE "I" IN KIND



God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

March 2022

'Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (kairós), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).'

(Pope Francis, [Message for Lent 2022](#))

Lent is the 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2 this year) and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. Edmonton Catholic Schools is pleased to invite our families to take a virtual Lenten journey, [40 Steps with Jesus](#). Over the 40 days of Lent, this site will provide your families with opportunities to participate in prayer, little-liturgies, and reflections on weekly Scripture passages, as well as activities that will highlight the lives of saints and our call to fast and to give alms. You can access this family resource by clicking on the link above or by visiting the News section on www.ecsd.net. Join us this Lenten season as we follow the 40 steps with Jesus.

You might have noticed that we have conducted many surveys this year to gauge how we are doing in many different areas. Alberta Education is currently running their Assurance Survey across the province to get feedback on how schools and jurisdictions are performing in specific areas. If you are the parent or guardian of a student who is in grade 4-12, you may have received a survey package in the mail with a letter, instructions, and the Random-Access Code (RAC) used to access the online survey. Parents or guardians who have been selected by Alberta Education to complete the survey who are wishing to complete a paper survey (hard copy) or a translated survey (in the additional languages available) can request one through their Principal or the System Assurance Branch via email at EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-643-9193. The survey is open until March 25.

At their February 23 Public Meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to close St. Basil Catholic K-9 School and to move the junior high program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic K-9 School to St. Brendan Catholic K-9 School and Louis St. Laurent Catholic 7-12 School. The process for a school closure is rigorous and designed to consider multiple perspectives and hear diverse voices. The Division will now work with those communities to create the conditions for a positive transition for all students and families impacted.

The Government of Alberta tabled Budget 2022 on February 24. At first glance, the budget offers dollars to support curriculum implementation and a 1% increase in base funding and operations and maintenance funding, and a 4.6% increase in transportation funding. Education funding is quite complex; we will receive actual numbers from the Government in the upcoming weeks and then can begin to unpack the nuances of any implications for our Division. We will table our Budget 2022-2023 at the May 25 Public Meeting of the Board.

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LUMEN CHRISTI Catholic Education Centre

9807-106 Street NW | Edmonton AB T5K 1C2 | T: 780 441-6000 | www.ecsd.net

For the past several years, ECSD has hosted the Father Michael “Catfish” Mireau Youth Faith Day for grade 8 students. One of the things that we have learned as we have moved to virtual events is that we can have a farther reach when we don’t need to worry about venue size. We’re taking a different approach this year by involving all junior high students. We are excited to have internationally acclaimed presenters Jesse Manibusan and Steve Angrisano join us for our virtual Youth Faith Day on Thursday, March 17.

I will leave you with a further thought from Pope Francis’ Lenten message: *“In this season of conversion, sustained by God’s grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity.”*

Have an uplifting Lenten journey!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent



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Pope Francis Wants to Hear from You

By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

A Synodal Church is a new concept that Pope Francis is introducing, to help us to discern where the Holy Spirit wants the Church to go. Pope Francis is a firm believer that we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit more clearly when we encounter and listen to one another — those inside the Church and out. In other words, Pope Francis wants to hear about your experience of the Church through the Synod process.

The Synod seeks to answer two main questions:

- 1) A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.”
How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church?**
- 2) What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our
“journeying together”?**

Your experience will play an important role in answering these two questions. I invite you to take some time to pray and ponder about what your answers might be. However, before you come to a firm conclusion, I encourage you to create a space for the Holy Spirit to speak to you through others.

The Archdiocese of Edmonton is hosting a series of Listening Sessions, in which you can share about your experience of the Church and hear from others. The purpose of the Listening Sessions is not to debate or dialogue, but to listen to others and share from your heart in the context of prayer.

Afterwards, you will be invited to submit your thoughts on the Synod questions through an online platform. Your answers will be compiled and summarized in a report that will be sent to the next stage of the Synod process. For more information, go to www.caedm.ca/synod.

I am personally very grateful for the Synod, because it is creating the opportunity for us to draw closer to and empathize with one another. The past several months have revealed that our society needs help to heal wounds and relationships that have been harmed by the stress of the pandemic.

I look forward to hearing about your experience and what the Holy Spirit wishes to tell us about our journey together.



March 2022

Women's History Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Shrove Tuesday	2 Ash Wednesday Celebration	3 Teachers Convention NO SCHOOL	4 Teachers Convention NO SCHOOL	5
6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10	11 Dental Program for Kinders to Grade 2 visit	12
13 Daylight Savings Begins- Clocks Forward	14 *Pi 3.14 Day * Dental Program for Kinders to Grade 2 visit	15 Dental Program for Kinders to Grade 2 visit	16	17 St. Patrick's Day *St. Patrick's Day  *Father Mike Youth Faith Day *Last Day to set Intentions for next year	18	19
Numeracy Week						
20 First Day of Spring	21 *World Poetry Day *Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22	23	24 *Switch Day Friday-regular full day of school *Demonstration of Learning 5pm-8pm	25 Switch Day Thursday- finish at 11:30am	26 Earth Hour
27	28	29	30	31		
SPRING BREAK						



COMING UP IN APRIL

April 4th - Back to School after Spring Break

April 7th - Green Shirt Day

April 10th - Palm Sunday

April 14th - Holy Thursday

April 15th - Good Friday-NO SCHOOL

April 17th - Easter

April 18th - Easter Monday-NO SCHOOL

April 19th - Easter Celebration

April 19th-22-Canada Book Week

April 20th - Last Day to apply for new bussing for September

April 22nd - Earth Day

April 23rd - Canada Book Day

April 27th - Administrative Assistant Day

April 30th - Arbour Day