

St. Gerard School Newsletter

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MAY 2023



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Virtues of the Month: Compassion

**Show consideration for
others and concern for
the suffering.**

Month of Mary

During May we honor Mary the mother of God as well as all mothers. Mary was a life giving caregiver for our Savior, and she remains so for us today. We honor Mary as our mother and an example for us to say yes to God's Spirit of goodness. We also honor all of our mothers this month at Mother's Day. Thank you to all the mom's out there!!!

This month we also acknowledge Catholic Education. Catholic schools play an important part in nurturing the call to holiness for our children and youth in partnership with their families and parish communities. Through religious education and prayer, Catholic Education provides students with the formation to know, love, and serve Christ.

Please keep sick students at home

We are experiencing another round of illnesses on the upswing in some classes. We are finding that students are coming to school ill and passing the illness to others in the class. This has hit a few classes and has resulted in many students and staff becoming sick. We are pleading and asking that you please keep your child at home if he/she is sick. We will be calling home to have ill students picked up, but would be appreciative if you kept them home when they are sick. We appreciate your cooperation.

Spring Concert

This month we will be preparing for our St. Gerard's Spring Concert. The concert will be on May 24 at 6:00pm. The students have been working so hard preparing for this event! Thank you Ms Jeske for all your work with the spring concert. All students are expected to participate and attend.

School Council

We are on the search for new school council members. Next year there will only be 5 meetings throughout the year and they will be short meetings, so not a lot of time commitment is needed. School council funds field trips, in school events and pays for technology in the school. Without a school council we would not have these perks to offer. Please consider joining the school council for next year.

We are in need of members to have a school council at St. Gerard.

As we are preparing for the 2023-2024 school year, please inform our office (Mrs. DeRose at 780 474-5208) if you are planning on moving

Cinco de Mayo Beach Day and Hat's on for Mental Health

On May 3rd we will be wearing hats for mental wellness awareness. Students are encouraged to wear a hat to support mental wellness. On May 5th we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Students are encouraged to wear beach clothing or do their hair in a wacky way if you don't have beach clothes! It will be a Cinco de Mayo beach day!!



39th Annual BEN CALF ROBE TRADITIONAL POW WOW



**Saturday,
May 13, 2023
1:00 – 10:00 PM**

Clarke Stadium
(Commonwealth Community
Recreation Centre)
11000 Stadium Road, Edmonton, AB
780-471-2360

*Honouring Our Sacred Gifts
- Our Children*

Hats on for Mental Health

May 1– 5 is Mental wellness week. We will share information with our students about the Kids Help Phone and who they can reach out to if they need to talk to someone. At school we have a Mental Health Nurse– Homa; A family school Liaison worker– Nicole Owusu, a Emotional Behavioral Specialist– Kate Dane; and of course our St. Gerard staff.

On May 3rd we will have our Hat's on for Mental Health day, whereby students can wear hats to school to promote this day and mental health awareness.

Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage Month. A month for all Canadians to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian descent who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the amazing country we share today.

May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

2

3

*Wear a
hat for
mental well-
ness*

4

5

*Beach
Day*

*Grade 1
fieldtrip*

6

7

8

*Grade 4 field
trip*

9

*School
council
at 6:30*

10

11

12

*Grade 5
fieldtrip*

13

*Ben Calf Pow
Wow*

14

*Catholic Edu-
cation Week
Happy Moth-
er's Day!!*

15

16

17

*Gr 6 PAT/
Write On*

18

*Wear blue for
Catholic Edu-
cation*

19

*Living Rosary
celebration at
10:30 in school
gym*

20

21

22

*No
School*

23

24

*Spring
Concert
6:00 pm*

25

26

*Field Trip
Grades 3,4,6*

27

28

29

*Election
Day*

Field trip K,1

30

31



Daycares in our area that transport to St. Gerard. As well as Sunflower Daycare which is located in St. Gerard School

Maria Montessori Stepping Stones
Child Development Centre

**Register now
& get 1 Month Free**

**Registrations
Now Open**

Our Attractions

- Large Spacious Rooms
- Interest Based Activities
- Fenced Outdoor Playground
- Indoor Physical Literacy Room
- Hot Lunch Included
- Transportation to Various Schools



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sunflowerosc@live.ca



Congratulations to Selena on receiving the Student Faith Leadership award.



Kids Convention







The chicks are hatching!! Easter Blessings.





Happy Admin assistant day Mrs. DeRose. Thank you to the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation!!



May 1st -May 12th, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1- Mexican Beef With Rice & Vegetables Tortilla Chips	2- Chicken Sandwich With Lettuce On Whole Wheat Bread Cheese Slices Crackers	3- Pancakes With Sryup Turkey Sausage Fruit	4- Early Dismissal	5- Tuna Bunwich Fresh Vegetables Cookie
8- Pasta with Rose Sauce With Chicken Fresh Fruit	9- Ham & Cheese Sandwich On Whole Wheat Bread Fresh Vegetables Cookie	10- Fish Stick Potato Patty Fresh Fruit	11- Early Dismissal	12- Meatlover's Pizza Subs Caesar Salad
*Please Note that menus are subject to change.				



Let Your Light Shine Forth

May 2023

As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

~Micah 4:5~

This scripture provides the setting for the celebration of Catholic Education Week in Alberta, which takes place from May 15 – 19 this year. In their letter to mark this occasion, The Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories offer their appreciation to everyone who is involved in the great endeavour of Catholic education and invite all to walk together with them to promote and strengthen the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in our province. May 18 is World Catholic Education Day, and we invite students, families, and staff to wear blue in support of Catholic education. Watch our website and social media throughout the week to learn how #ECSDfaithinspires!

Our Division is so incredibly excited to be hosting our annual Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow in person once again for the first time since 2019! The event, held in partnership with the City of Edmonton, will be held at Clarke Stadium/Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre. It will be an amazing day filled with a joyful celebration of Indigenous culture. The Powwow will feature a variety of dancers, drummers, and craft and food vendors. Grand Entries will be held at 1 pm and 6 pm. Everyone is welcome; bring a friend! Visit the News section of [ecsd.net](https://www.ecsd.net) to learn more.

Edmonton Catholic School of Alternative Education offers a wide range of 10, 20, and 30 level classroom-based, self-paced, and online high school courses, as well as [Millwrights Apprenticeship Course](#) during the month of July. Our programs give students the opportunity to repeat a course or to get a jump start in their academics. Summer School runs from July 4-24. Registration is now open. To find out more, visit <https://www.ecsd.net/summer-school>.

Of course, May, a month which we commit to Our Holy Mother, Mary, is also the month that sees us honouring the many people who fill the role of mother in our lives. I would like to share an excerpt of a blessing with you, written by Irish poet and philosopher John O'Donohue for his own mother as I wish you a Happy Mother's Day!

*On the day when the weight deadens on your shoulders and you stumble,
may the clay dance to balance you.
May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you,
an invisible cloak to mind your life.*

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
— (Matthew 5:16)

Harry Potter and Mary, the Mother of God

May is the month of Mother's Day.

May is also the month of Mary, when we traditionally turn to the Mother of God with added devotion asking her to pray for us in a special way to her son, Jesus. For who can deny the pleas of a mother?

Which brings us to Harry Potter....

Ok, I admit it. I've read all the Harry Potter books and have seen all the movies. [And I'm quite excited about the new Harry Potter tv series (ok, still in production but coming out in a year or two!)]. I wanted to know what our young people are reading and Harry Potter's hot! And you know what? I'm not only enjoying the read but have found many Christian parallels.

Take *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, for example.

The evil Lord Voldemort has killed Harry's parents and tried to kill Harry too, but was unsuccessful, leaving only the telltale scar of a lightning bolt on the young boy's forehead. By the end of the book, when Harry defeats Voldemort for the first time, he inquires of Dumbledore, Headmaster at Hogwart's School of Wizardry, "Well ... Voldemort said that he only killed my mother because she tried to stop him killing me. But why would he want to kill me in the first place?"

Dumbledore replies, "Alas, the first thing you ask me, I cannot tell you. Not today. Not now. You will know, one day When you are older...."

"But why couldn't Quirrell touch me?," asks Harry.

"Your mother died to save you. If there is one thing Voldemort cannot understand, it is love. He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's love for you leaves its own mark. Not a scar, no visible sign ... to have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever. It is in your very skin. Quirrell, full of hatred, greed and ambition, sharing his soul with Voldemort, could not touch you for this reason. It was agony to touch a person marked by something so good."

Friends, we all have been marked by the powerful love of a mother. Mary. Jesus' mother. The mother of God. Her love for us knows no limits, and she constantly intercedes on our behalf before her son, Jesus.

During this month of May, let us ask Mary to pray to Jesus in a special way for our students, parents, teachers, staff and volunteers that they may be marked and protected with the power of love, the love of God.

Most holy Lady, Mother of God, light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my comfort and my joy, intercede with Jesus for the salvation of our souls. And may God bless all our earthly mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who cared for us and loved us when we were young.

Bishop David Motiuk

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton