



# Telling Our Story

April 2019

Greater St. Albert  
Catholic Schools



## District Religious Education Update

Greetings and Easter blessings from GSACRD!

Before this season that celebrates the victory and joy of the Resurrection, our schools were busy with Lenten preparations. The holy season of Lent offered students many opportunities to encounter God; praying the Stations of the Cross, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation (offered by our priests in 14 schools!), participating in service projects for the poor and needy and commemorating Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

We are so proud that our students have such opportunities to connect with the parishes, deepen their faith, and celebrate their Catholic identity.

God Bless,

-Colin Loiselle, Religious Education Consultant,  
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

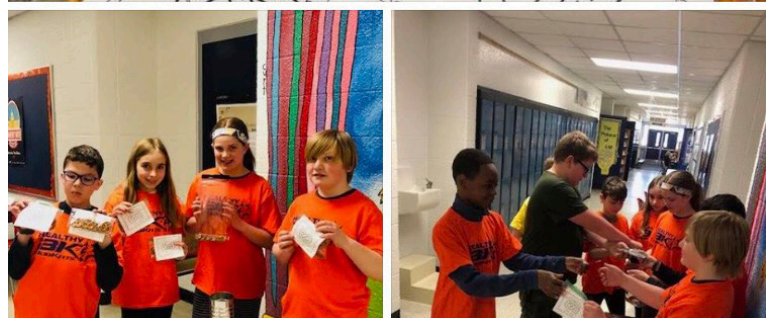
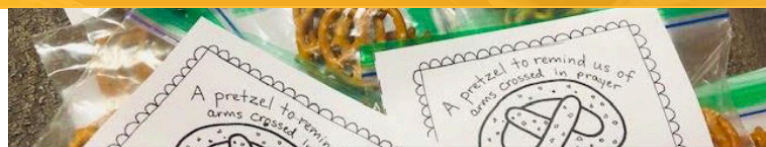
## Elementary School Updates

### Neil M Ross Collects Soles for Souls

NMR community is always looking for a way to be servants to others. We recently collected used footwear for a non-profit organization called "Soles for Souls". Since Soles 4 Souls began in 2006, it has distributed over 35 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries. EVERY SINGLE ONE of those pairs makes a difference in people's lives. Soles 4 Souls attempts to "Wear Out Poverty by providing short-term relief and long-term solu-



Neil M Ross students collected 708 pairs of shoes for Soles for Souls.



BK students sell prayer pretzels

tions". We are so grateful and proud to celebrate our contribution of 708 PAIRS to this worthwhile organization.

### Bertha Kennedy Prayer Pretzels

During Lent, students at Bertha Kennedy Catholic Elementary sold prayer pretzels to remind us to take time to pray. The pretzel is believed to have been invented by an Italian Monk, who lived in the 6th century. The legend is that the shape of the pretzel represents arms crossed in prayer and the three holes in the pretzel represent the Trinity.

### J. J. Nearing Faith Retreat

J. J. Nearing students and staff participated in an amazing Faith Retreat led by Jon Bauer. Throughout the day, they reflected on the theme of Stewardship and how to put it into action - giving time, talent, treasure and prayer for the good of others and all of God's creation.



\*Note: The header photo shows students at École Father Jan participating in a Passover Seder meal.

### FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US

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Phone: (780) 459-7711 | [www.gsacrd.ab.ca](http://www.gsacrd.ab.ca)

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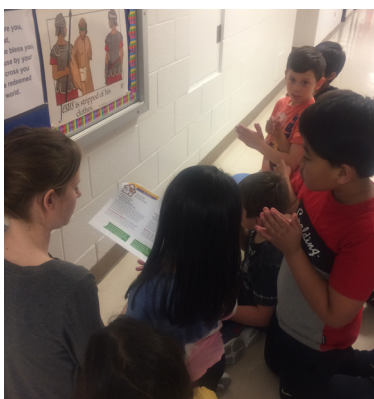


*Vital Grandin students assembled backpacks of blessings for St. Katherine Drexel Place*

### Vital Grandin

Our Adopted Ministry this year is St. Katharine Drexel Place - Catholic Social Services. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Sseguya from Catholic Social Services attend our Monday morning prayer assembly to accept our gifts from the community of Vital Grandin. Our school collected over 200 items for families in need, and we assembled more than 100 backpacks to donate. Our school also raised \$344.45 through theme days and donations and then took the time to shop for items that were in greater need. The Grades 4,5,6, Social Justice group went on a fun shopping spree with Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Zheng, and Mrs. Samson to Superstore for items that included slow cookers and blankets. Our Junior Social Justice group (Division 1, Grades 1 - 3) also featured in the presentation, created many colourful cards and posters to give as gifts for the families.

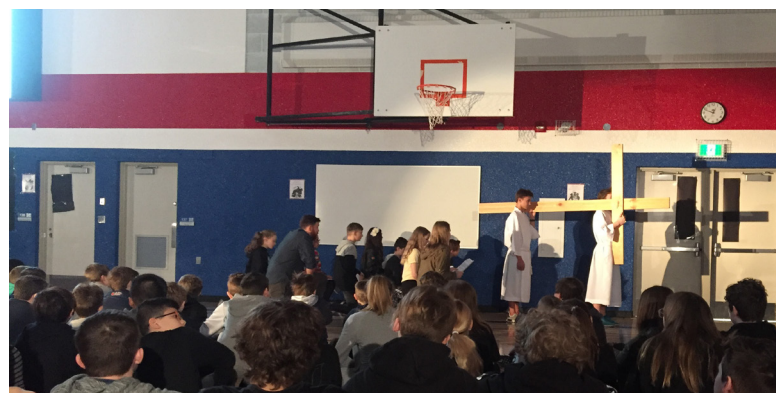
## Reconciliation & Stations of the Cross



*Students at Legal School, SAA and Vital Grandin participated in reconciliation and Stations of the Cross during Lent.*

## Junior/Senior High School Updates

### Vincent J. Maloney



Students and staff of Vincent J Maloney gathered together on Holy Thursday to pray the stations of the cross. A cross was carried through 14 stations that lined the perimeter of the gymnasium, while student leaders read reflections, which connected the Passion of Christ to the day to day experiences of teenagers. Thank you to Mr. Griffin, Mr. Kurschat and all who helped prepare, organize and present this powerful and moving faith experience.



### R.S. Fowler

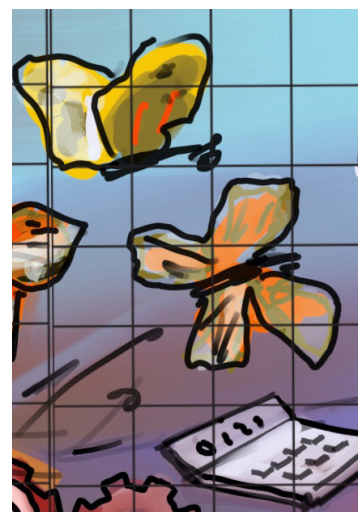
During Holy Week, students at R.S. Fowler Catholic Jr High reenacted their annual Way of the Cross before the whole student body at Holy Family Parish. Through prayer, song and reflections students experienced the passion and death of Jesus.

## Sister Alphonse Legacy Mural

Join Lewis Lavoie at a painting workshop to honour the legacy of Sister Alphonse, the first teacher in the district.

Through guided workshops, you will be given simple instructions on how to paint a small tile which will become part of a larger mural mosaic.

Community paint workshops will be held at Sister Alphonse Academy (1 Joyal Way) on **Wednesday, May 8** and **Thursday, May 9**. There are two painting sessions each night; 6:30 p.m and 8:00 p.m.



[Register at gsacrd.ab.ca](https://gsacrd.ab.ca)