



Telling Our Story

December 2018

Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



District Religious Education Update

In this beautiful season of Advent we wait for the coming of our Lord and we celebrate how our students and staff have made Christ present. Living Like Jesus, We Are Stewards.

God Bless,

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

Junior/Senior High School Updates

Morinville Community High & St. Albert Catholic High Schools

Approximately 30 students from SACHS and MCHS went on retreat in November, in preparation for their April 2019 mission trip to New Orleans where they will serve the poor and needy. The theme for the retreat was Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust and Serve."

St. Albert Catholic High School

Advent is upon us at SACHS. As we gather in our classrooms every morning and pray with our students this advent we are reminded of the great gift that is given to us. God has appeared! The staff and students have been able to participate in many activities that reflect this great truth. In November we celebrated St. Albert the Great's feast day with a prayer service in our chapel. We currently have students fundraising and preparing themselves for a mission trip to New Orleans this spring. Students welcomed the Faith and Light group to watch a movie together in our learning commons and all of our classes have



MCHS and SACHS students participate in a mission retreat day together.



RS Fowler staff volunteer with the Kinette Club of St. Albert

been busy bringing in items to make backpacks that will be distributed this Christmas to the homeless in Edmonton through the Bag of Hope campaign. As we spend these holy days of Advent together in our school community we pray that this time will lead us closer to Christ our Savior.

MCHS

MCHS students decorated paper bags that are filled with goodies and delivered to the Edmonton Remand Centre.



Vincent J Maloney

VJM is blessed to be nearing the end of our 18 month modernization and doubly blessed that we now have a Chapel in our School. Thank you so much to Father Ignacy for donating the altar and ambo. We look forward to class masses and Eucharistic adoration in our dedicated space. The staff and students have put our charity efforts towards supporting the Catholic Social Services ministries McDaniel Youth and the Gianna Centre. VJM students and staff are also helping those in need in our school community by donating gift cards for Christmas hampers, bringing in food for the Kinette's food drive and creating a toilet-tree to provide basic necessities for people in our community.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US

6 St. Vital Ave, St. Albert, AB T8N 1K2

Phone: (780) 459-7711 | www.gsacrd.ab.ca

ESSMY

Grade 10 Religion students from ESSMY visited Gianna Centre, a Catholic Social Services Mission where mothers in need can come to pick up everything from clothes to formula. Our students worked to organize donations that are made to the centre and are collecting more donations at the school.

Several of our ESSMY students volunteered with Catholic Social Services Refugees and Immigration in helping to host their annual Christmas bowling party. As a part of their service, students served Christmas dinner and then assisted the younger children in learning how to bowl. Fun was had by all!

Elementary School Updates

Sister Alphonse Academy

Students at Sr. Alphonse Academy prepare for the coming of Christ by taking turns bringing home an Advent kit (contains a wreath, readings and cookies) to share with their families. As well, students are "Living like Jesus" by collecting items and making scarves/hats for their Caring Crates. The items will be used to make WELCOME BASKETS for new immigrant families and donated to Catholic Social Services.



Students from Sister Alphonse Academy prepare Caring Crates

Albert Lacombe

Albert Lacombe has been celebrating kindness during the month of November. Our WE Day students have been acknowledging students for being good friends, just as Jesus would want us to be. We have been preparing for our Christmas Concert, T'was the Night Before Christmas, where the students will be caroling throughout the school for our families to hear. We have also been getting ready for our Advent Mass in December by coming together as a school for hymn-sings. Come, Lord Jesus! We are ready!

Vital Grandin

Answering the call to live like Jesus, Vital Grandin Catholic School is supporting St. Katharine Drexel Place this year through Catholic Social Services. Our Student Social Justice Team is raising Dollars for Drexel to purchase items for our Backpacks of Blessings. Each class is challenged to "fill their backpack" with color as donations come in. Each class lit the first candle on their Advent wreath as we celebrated the start of the Advent season with Mr. Loiselle.



Father Ignacy celebrates with students from VJM

Bertha Kennedy

Students at Bertha Kennedy prepared for the coming of Christ at Christmas by welcoming Christ in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Each class learned about Adoration, spending time praying through word, song and silence in the presence of Our Lord.

Picture on front.

J.J. Nearing

Gr. 1-6 students had the opportunity to participate in a Living Rosary, led by Mr. Colin Loiselle. Our grade 3 team planned and led a beautiful Advent Celebration, reminding us how to prepare our hearts for Christmas. As an Advent Stewardship Project, JJN students supported Youth Empowerment and Support Services by collecting toiletries, hats, mittens and socks. Finally, the JJN Senior Choir travelled to Foyer Lacombe and sang Christmas carols to the residents. We are so proud of the way our students continually demonstrate stewardship and look for ways to care for all of God's creation.



Opening of the Legal School Chapel

Legal School

In December, Bishop Paul Terrio of the Diocese of St. Paul visited Legal School to bless and officially open our new school chapel. Members of the St. Paul Diocese Catholic Women's League were joined by GSACRD trustees, senior administration and Legal School staff and students for a beautiful liturgy to open the chapel. The prayer space is the fruit of many hands and much support from the Catholic Women's League, St. Emile Parish, Father Anselmo and students Alyssa Rivard & Kaiya Zadunayski. It features art pieces created by staff member, Mary Moylan.