

Telling Our Story

February 2019

Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



District Religious Education Update

In this edition of Telling Our Story, we share how many of our schools focused their efforts and prayers on service between the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Lent.

This year's district faith theme teaches us that being a "good and faithful steward" means putting God's gifts to use. **We are stewards of one another, of our environment, and of our faith!**

In early February, grade 8 students from our 3 communities participated in the **Father Michael "Catfish" Mireau** faith day hosted by Edmonton Catholic Schools. About 4000 students from schools within the Archdiocese of Edmonton gathered to hear speaker/musician Steve Angrisano and concluded the day with Eucharistic Celebration.

Also in February, we were blessed to officially mark the building of our new **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy** (Morinville) with a Sod Turning Ceremony. Bishop Paul Terrio from the Diocese of St. Paul led the students, staff and dignitaries in a short liturgy and blessing of the land. We were also honoured to host Elder Edna Arcand from Alexander First Nation, and Gary Gagnon (Indigenous Education with Edmonton Catholic Schools) to bless the land and pray with us in celebration of the new school, named after the first Indigenous saint from Canada/US.

God Bless,

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



Trustee Tremblay presents Elder Edna Arcand with a gift at the sod turning for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy on February 19, 2019.



The choir from Ecole Notre Dame performed a beautiful song at the sod turning ceremony for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy.

Sod Turning for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy

Greater St. Albert Catholic School officials, Alberta Education Minister David Eggen, Morinville Mayor Barry Turner, project partners, and community members officially broke ground on the construction of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy in Morinville on February 19, 2019.

The school is set to open in September 2020, and will continue the strong legacy of faith based education in the community while honoring its' namesake St. Kateri, the first Native American to be canonized in the Church.

"During her short but profound life, St. Kateri was an exemplary model and witness to our Catholic faith," commented Board Chair, Joe Becigneul.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy will address current and future growth at the elementary level. The District completed consultation on attendance areas and programming last year. The school will provide education for pre-kindergarten to grade five children. In response to community interest, the school will offer English programming that includes dynamic options, a Sports Academy and a strong academic focus.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US

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Junior/Senior High School Updates

St. Gabriel's High School

Led by Religion teacher, Arlene Wagner, counselor, Tracy Delhez and high school chaplain Doug Kramer, students from St. Gabe's "Pathways" group meet once per week to explore what faith looks like when it is put into action. In January, students volunteered to help with clean up efforts that concluded the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign.



R.S. Fowler students at their 1/2 day faith retreat in January

R.S. Fowler Junior High School

All students at RSF participated in half-day faith retreats that were organized and led by teacher and school chaplain Brent Kieser. With the overall theme of stewardship, Gr. 9's addressed "Who is God?" exploring the Trinity, Gr. 8's focused on empathy, and being stewards of one another and Gr. 7's focused on stewardship of personal gifts/strengths. Through songs, games, puzzles, videos, scripture reflections and prayers students were drawn into an opportunity to grow in their understanding of their own faith.

Elementary School Updates

Neil M Ross - Our Neil M Ross school family have been developing our stewardship skills throughout the winter months. Our kindness club has made "Welcome to Canada" teddies for Edmonton's youngest newcomers who visit Immigration and Settlement Services through Catholic Social Services. Division 1 learners in our Eagle options classes made cozy scarves for those in need during this cold snap of weather. Lastly, our "Wynn Against Hunger" food drive has been successful and we are glad to have been blessed to be able to support our local food bank once again!

Vital Grandin - At Vital Grandin we chose to adopt St. Katharine Drexel Place, a ministry of Catholic Social Services, that serves women and families who need support. Earlier in the year, our school was gifted a huge number of backpacks from Costco. We decided to pay it forward and collected items for the families in need at St. Katharine Drexel Place. We were also very thankful for Fr. Jozef from Holy Family Parish for coming to visit our classrooms in January.



Students from Legal School participate in a faith retreat

Legal School - Legal School's students have been enjoying our "Praise and Worship" sessions, as well as "Contemplative/Meditative" prayer times during lunch recess in our new chapel. As well, our Junior High students helped to lead a faith retreat for our elementary students in January. The theme was stewardship and activities invited students to recognize, be thankful for, and utilize their God given talents and gifts.

École Father Jan - Students and staff of École Father Jan organized a used book drive in coordination with Development and Peace. Used books, texts and resources written in French were collected and donated to Development and Peace, to be shared with communities in Africa.

École Marie Poburan - The Faith on Fire Option group took on a fundraising project during the month of January called Operation Delicious! With the help of the Cake Boss Option Class, students baked and sold cookies and cupcakes every Thursday. The proceeds of the sales are being donated to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation. The students donated almost \$900 to a brand new NNICU (Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit) that is being built at Sturgeon Hospital.



In January, Notre Dame students participated in a children's Sunday mass at SJP presided by Bishop Paul Terrio

École Notre Dame - Advent found us fundraising and collecting gifts for children and families in our community in support of the Knights of Columbus Christmas Hamper campaign. In December, our choir sang at the Inter-denominational Community Christmas celebration at St. Jean Baptiste Parish. We are now preparing for the Lenten Season, and planning our school-wide Ash Wednesday liturgy.