

Board of Trustees

Chair: Noreen Radford | Vice-Chair: René Tremblay

Trustees: Joe Becigneul | Joan Crockett | Cathy Proulx | Greg Schell | Serena Shaw



Regular Board Meeting Summary

Monday, September 27, 2021

Division Services Centre

GOOD NEWS

Division News

The 2020 Edwin Parr Teacher award nominee from our division, Justine Kuntscher, was featured in an article in the St. Albert Gazette on Wednesday, September 14th. The award recognizes the top six new teachers in any year; each district puts forward one teacher. Justine is a first-year Grade 4 teacher at **Bertha Kennedy Catholic Community School**, who uses games and magic tricks to engage students in their lessons.

Staff from the **District Office Services Centre** delivered wellness kits to all Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. The wellness kits include various items for the teachers and staff as an initiative to boost wellness.

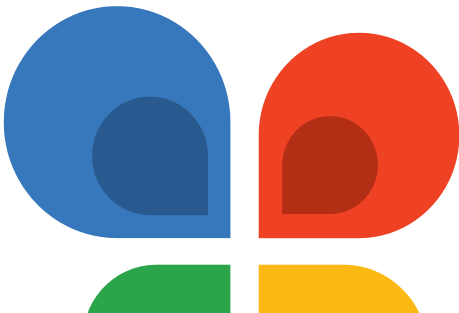
A new podcast, titled "Living Well at Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools" was launched in mid-September with the second episode going live at the end of the month. In the first episode, Christina MacKinnon (Director of Innovation and Wellness) and Joseph Dumont (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Service) discuss the importance of creating a culture of wellness within our school division.

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th), our division schools and offices will be closed as we recognize the trauma of the legacy of residential schools in Canada. Many of our schools will be providing education and programming for students in honour of this day.

School News

Students at **Sister Alphonse Academy** participated in the Earth Rangers program on September 15th. The virtual program is dedicated to educating children and their families about biodiversity, inspiring them to adopt sustainable behaviours, and empowering them to become directly involved in protecting animals and their habitats.

Ecole Father Jan has a new school-wide House Program set up, where House colours were chosen based on the Medicine Wheel and Symbols related to Gospels. Throughout the year, students will have an opportunity to take a closer look into the meaning behind each of the Houses. Students from grades 1-6 added their hand prints to the mural in their House colours.



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The St. Gabriel Education Centre hosted their annual Terry Fox BBQ, Walk and Roll event with staff, students, parents, and support animals. A few special guests also joined in on the activities, including Father Ignacy from St. Albert parish. In addition to the event, staff and students were excited to use a new classroom space this year, where they plan to also host their own diploma celebrations at year end.

On September 24th, Stacey Palidwar from **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy** will be recognized as the September Teacher of the Month at the St. Albert Rotary meeting. Congratulations! We are blessed to have outstanding leadership.

The legacy art project for **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy** was installed on September 17th by local artist Lewis Lavoie. The unveiling will likely take place in the spring, with plans underway for an in-person event involving the students and community. The mural depicts the story of St. Kateri, her spirituality and connection to the Catholic church.

In early September, Maureen Offenberger, teacher at **J.J. Nearing Catholic School** was honoured as the 2021 Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope award recipient. Among the many highlights shared Maureen was recognized for "her dedication to ensuring each and every child reaches their God given potential. She never gives up on kids, believes all kids can learn and they flourish in her care.

CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

The following Action items were approved:

- Renaming of Vital Grandin Catholic School to Holy Family Catholic School
- Board Policy Review: Policy 2: Role of the Board
- Policy 3: Role of the Trustee
- Policy 12: Role and Competencies of the Superintendent
- Senior administration tasked to draft a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health regarding division concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The following update(s) and/or report(s) were provided as information:

- Return to School Plan

NEXT BOARD MEETING

After the Board of Trustees election (October 18), the Board will hold its Organizational Meeting on **Monday, October 25th at 7:00 pm.**