

Board of Trustees

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Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



Agenda Item: 10

Division News

Schools across the division have been working hard to save Doug through the Grinch Needs Love Advent fundraiser. The Grinch has kidnapped The Doug, to stop him from sharing the joy of Christmas and the story of God's love for us. The Grinch needs our love! If we raise enough money we can help the Grinch's heart to grow, so he'll return The Doug. All funds raised in support of the rebuilding of St. Jean Baptiste Parish Church, which was tragically burned in 2021.

Students from many of our schools collected items for the **St. Albert Kinettes Hamper program**. Thank you to all of our students and families for supporting the Kinettes Christmas toy and food drive.

Many of our schools hosted wonderful **Christmas concerts** during the holiday season. Over the past few years, families and children have missed being able to gather together and celebrate the Christmas season the in-person showcase of musical talent in our school communities brought that JOY back into our lives! Thanks to all of our staff and students for their hard work and dedication in making the concert successful and so much fun for everyone.

School News

The drama club at **Morinville Community High School** performed its opening night of Legally Blonde to a packed audience at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. This year's production, with a cast of 28, drew a standing ovation and accolades from the original Paulette with Broadway's Legally Blonde production. Congratulations to all!

Students from **Ecole Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville** packed more than 1600 Christmas bags for inmates with the Edmonton Remand Centre. The Christmas bags were decorated by students across the division. ESSMY students also raised over \$750 for St. Jean Baptiste Parish through "The Grinch Needs Love" Campaign. A big thank you to all of our ESSMY families for their generosity.

Students from **J.J. Nearing** celebrated "The Light Before Christmas". Students were thrilled to perform in front of two packed houses at St. Albert Parish. Special thanks to Madame Poshtar, Ms. Llanes, and Mrs. Chyzowski for their guidance and expertise in creating a night to celebrate. Thank you to the families who joined us last night. We really enjoyed celebrating together. Congratulations to all on a job well done! Thank you for the overwhelming generosity shared





with us during our St. Albert Parish Food Bank Drive! Special thanks to these honorable and service driven Grade 9 boys from **Sister Alphonse Academy** who volunteered to count, pack and stuff Trustee Shaw's vehicle for delivery! Saints in the making, striving to live like Jesus each and every day!

Students from **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy** celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Terrio and Father Trini. It was a blessing to watch students affirm their baptism. "Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" Acts 8:17

Kindergarten students with **Ecole Marie Poburan** participated in the Stollery Christmas Tree Project with Kindergarten teacher, Simone Chalifoux, bringing the entire Kinder family community together. Each year after the Kindergarten Christmas concert, students and their families decorate trees for children in the Stollery.

Bertha Kennedy Catholic School hosted a "priority seating/parking" raffle for their Christmas Concert and raised over \$700 for Ste. Jean Baptiste Parish. The parents who won enjoyed reserved parking, front row seating on leather couches, and snacks during the Christmas Concert. On top of that, the staff at BK paid \$20 to wear jeans throughout the month of December and they raised \$300 for the same cause - totalling \$1000 from BK!

A big congratulations to Mr. Bontus and Mr. Johnson from **Ecole Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School** as they were named Metro Coach of the year for Volleyball and Football! Way to go!

Grade 9 students from **Richard S. Fowler** school partnered with their neighbour, Pizza Garage, to raise money for a service project. Earlier in December they presented a cheque with the owner of Pizza Garage for \$433 to the St. Albert Food Bank. Faith in action!

Kindergarten students from **Ecole Notre Dame** spent a day visiting and singing with the seniors from Aspen House! Everyone was filled with joy and there were plenty of smiling faces!! Thank you Morinville Sobeys for donating the cookies for decorating!!

At the beginning of Advent, KDM Helping Hands brought some Christmas cheer to **Holy Family Catholic School**. After joining in the morning prayer, Helping Hands staff gave each student a cookie tin containing treats, toys, Christmas ornaments and more. There were smiles everywhere! On December 16th, HFCS held an in-person Christmas concert for the first time since 2019. The concert was called "How To Be Merry" and the script was written by the grade 5 & 6 drama students (with a little help from Mrs. Frew). The concert's message was based on the division faith theme – "Arise: Go with God". Mary, when called, arose and went with great haste. Through music and drama, students showed the audience how Mary was brave, loving and obedient. The final message was "to be merry this Christmas....be like Mary"!

On December 19th and 20th, **SACHS** students volunteered at **Albert Lacombe** school assisting K-6 students in completing a special handmade Christmas gift for their families. Each student is making a snow globe candy dish to take home and give to their parents/guardians. A total of 10 SACHS students came to donate their time and bless us with their gifts of service.

On Friday, December 23rd **Sister Alphonse Academy** and **Albert Lacombe** schools hosted a Christmas lunch. The schools hope that this will be a new annual tradition. All students will gather together to break bread and enjoy a turkey dinner with all the fixings. This event is free for all students. We will be gathering in our large gym to pray and eat a Christmas meal together, promoting a sense of community amongst all students in our school and encouraging acts of kindness, acts of service, and belonging amongst all.

CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

The following Action items were approved:

- 13.1. Capital Plan Engagement Considerations & Recommendations
- 13.2. New Programming

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No items

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, January 30th, 2023 at 3:00 pm.