

Board of Trustees

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Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



Agenda Item: 10

Division News

This month, we had the pleasure of celebrating a variety of important occasions: Catholic Education Week, Administrative Professionals Day, Bus Driver Appreciation Day, National Speech Language Pathologist Month, Hats on for Mental Health, and the Month of Mary

Each year, our school division names teacher or administrator recipients for the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta's (CCSSA) Excellence in Catholic Education Award. Recipients are chosen based on their significant contributions to creating a culture of excellence for staff and students in the wonderful journey of Catholic education. Congratulations to Lynn Zakreski, a teacher with École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School.

We are thrilled to announce a new addition to our GSACRD team, Jaylee Cardinal, who will be serving as the Indigenous Liaison Worker. This position is funded through a grant from the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton's Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. Jaylee brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to her role, having recently completed her degree in Psychology from Concordia University and is an MCHS graduate.

As an Indigenous Liaison Worker, Jaylee will play a crucial role in promoting cultural understanding, supporting Indigenous students, and collaborating with staff and the community to create an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and empowered to succeed. Her commitment to cultural awareness and advocacy will undoubtedly enrich our school community and contribute to our ongoing efforts toward reconciliation and equity.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Jaylee Cardinal. We look forward to the positive impact she will make in the lives of our students and staff.

This morning, the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton welcomed students, parents, superintendents, and trustees from ten school divisions in and around the Edmonton area. Each student created a unique piece of art, and the results were stunning! Congratulations to the talented students from Bertha Kennedy Catholic School, École Notre Dame Elementary School, École Georges H. Primeau Middle School, Morinville Community High School, and J.J. Nearing Catholic Elementary School, who were honoured and blessed as part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton's art contest!



The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024, "Courage to Lead," calls us to embrace and uphold the values of our Catholic faith, even in the face of challenges. It serves as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to live out these values with bravery and conviction. Throughout the week, our entire school division celebrated with a variety of activities, bringing our community together in faith and fellowship.

School News

Seventeen-year-old Sofiya Chvojka has thrilling news to share! She will be graduating from high school next month from **Morinville Community High School** and is set to pursue her dreams at a prestigious university in the USA, supported by a substantial scholarship. Sofiya has been studying voice with singer Lilia Krieger since she was five years old, attributing her success to the excellent training she has received.

Recently, Sofiya won five awards at the Rotary Music Festival and has been recommended to compete at the Provincial Music Festival in Musical Theatre Ballad, Musical Theatre Uptempo, and Senior Classical Vocal categories. In a video, Sofiya shares her inspiring journey, including footage of her performance with The Melisizwe Brothers last June at the Winspear Centre.

Congratulations to Andrea Vanhoof, a dedicated teacher at **Bertha Kennedy Catholic School**, for receiving the prestigious National Educational Excellence Award from Dyslexia Canada! Andrea's innovative use of science to teach reading has made a tremendous impact on her students.

Congratulations to our student-athletes from the GSACRD Sports Academy who were selected in the WHL draft. We are incredibly proud of your achievements and wish you continued success on the ice!

- Ossie McIntyre - École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville (ESSMY)
- Luke Ruptash - École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School
- Jaxon Pisani - École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville (ESSMY)
- Nathan Castonguay - École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville (ESSMY)
- Colt Carter - Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Junior High School
- Kai Richards - Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Junior High School

Let's give a big round of applause to our talented **MCHS** students who showcased their exceptional skills and dedication at the Skills Alberta Provincial Competition, held at the Edmonton Expo Centre on Wednesday and Thursday!

Our students competed across various categories, including cabinetmaking, video production, job search, public speaking, and junior high culinary arts.

We are proud to announce that our students once again demonstrated their hard work and talent: Teodora Markovic claimed the gold medal in the Junior High Culinary category, and Dakota Himschoot secured the silver medal.

With this year's achievements, **MCHS's** medal tally now stands at an impressive 16 gold, 8 silver, and 9 bronze medals over 25 years of participation in this prestigious competition. Congratulations to all our competitors for their outstanding performances!

Huge congratulations to our **VJM Marauder Badminton** team for bringing home a wealth of medals tonight! They played their hearts out, and we are incredibly proud of them. A special shoutout to our dedicated coaches for their extra time and effort throughout the season—we truly appreciate you.

Congratulations to Julie Stefnér, a teacher with **Neil M. Ross**, who has been nominated as our school division's representative for the prestigious Edwin Parr Teacher Award this school year! The Edwin Parr Teacher Award is a distinguished recognition bestowed upon six exceptional first-year kindergarten to grade 12 teachers, as well as those who have previously served as Edwin Parr teachers within our school board.

As we continue to honour the month of May as the month of Mary, students with **Ecole Sacre Coeur** had the pleasure of joining the Holy Family Parish for their daily Mass. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Sylvain Casavant for his engaging homily, which beautifully tied into our school's name and focused on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The recent production of Les Misérables School Edition by **École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School** was nothing short of spectacular. Performed entirely by talented students, this adaptation of the renowned musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg left the audience in awe. The school's rendition of this modern classic, based on Victor Hugo's novel, showcased the exceptional vocal and acting abilities of the students, bringing to life the unforgettable score and heart-wrenching story with remarkable passion and precision. The dedication and hard work of the students truly shone through, making this performance of the world's longest-running musical a memorable and ground-breaking experience for the entire community.

Sports Academy News:

- Congratulations to academy athlete Sienna for winning the Alberta Challenge with Team

North Blue!

- Kudos to the Junior High Girls in the Soccer Program for becoming the Girls Champions at the Jasper Place Soccer Tournament last week!
- Honourable mention to the Junior High Boys in our Soccer Program – they played exceptionally well but unfortunately lost a heartbreaker in the semifinals. We are proud of your effort and dedication!

Consent and Action Items:

- Board Policy 8: Board Committees, Board Policy 19: Acknowledging Territories of Indigenous Communities Within Division Events, Board Policy 21: Staff Recruitment and Selection
- 2024-2025 Budget
- 2024-2027 Three-Year Education Assurance Plan
- Division Services Centre Parking Lot Expansion
- Furniture and Equipment - Division Services Centre
- Ward Structure Review
- Board Policy 8

Next Regular Board Meeting:

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place on June 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Division Services Centre, in St. Albert.