

# Board of Trustees

Chair: Lydia Yeomans | Vice-Chair: René Tremblay

Trustees: Joe Becigneul | Cathy Proulx | Noreen Radford | Greg Schell | Serena Shaw

Greater St. Albert  
Catholic Schools



## Division News

### Faith Rally Retreat Inspires Grade 7 Students

What an incredible day at the Faith Rally Retreat! Our Grade 7 students came together for a deeply inspiring experience led by our dedicated chaplain, Doug Kramer, affectionately known as "The Doug." The retreat's theme, "Who You Are and Why God Made You," sparked meaningful discussions, reflection, and engaging activities that allowed students to explore their unique identities and God-given purpose.

A heartfelt thank you to Doug for guiding our students on this important journey. We are immensely proud of each student who participated, and we look forward to seeing how this experience will continue to shape their spiritual growth.

### Trustees Attend Unveiling of "Every Child Matters" Crosswalk

It was an honour for our trustees to attend the unveiling of the new "Every Child Matters" crosswalk in downtown St. Albert, dedicated to truth and reconciliation. This powerful symbol was created from a design selected among submissions by local Indigenous artists, capturing the spirit of healing and awareness.

The unveiling was attended by St. Albert leaders and residential school survivors, making the event a profound moment of reflection and respect for our shared history. Attendees enjoyed tea, Bannock, and soup while engaging in meaningful conversations about the road ahead in reconciliation. We are grateful to the City of St. Albert for its commitment to this important cause.

### Honouring National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Across Our Schools

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, all our schools came together to reflect on the importance of understanding and acknowledging Canada's history with Indigenous peoples. Students and staff participated in a variety of activities, from classroom discussions and storytelling to the wearing of orange to honour residential school survivors and those who never returned home.

Through these meaningful experiences, our schools reaffirmed their commitment to learning, healing, and working towards a brighter future grounded in truth, reconciliation, and mutual respect. We are proud of our school communities for taking part in this important day and fostering an environment of awareness and compassion.

### Congratulations to Dr. George Georgiou on 2024 Distinguished Academic Award

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools proudly congratulates Dr. George Georgiou on receiving the prestigious 2024 Distinguished Academic Award from the Confederation of Alberta Faculty



Associations. Dr. Georgiou's groundbreaking research in reading interventions has had a profound impact on literacy outcomes for students across Alberta.

We are especially grateful for our partnership with Dr. Georgiou, which has directly benefited our students and staff. His innovative approaches have strengthened our literacy program, fostering a lifelong love of reading in our schools. This recognition highlights the value of his work, and we are proud to continue learning from his expertise.

### **Celebrating Long Service Award Recipients with a Taylor Swift-Inspired Theme**

Earlier this month, we celebrated all of our Long Service Award recipients with a fun Taylor Swift "1989" theme, inspired by our longest-serving staff member, Françoise Gamache, who has dedicated an incredible 35 years to Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

Just as Taylor Swift's 1989 album symbolizes transformation, these years reflect the growth, perseverance, and lasting impact our staff have made on our community. A heartfelt thank you to all of our incredible staff at GSACRD for your unwavering hard work and dedication!

### **Celebrating World Teachers' Day Across Our Schools**

This month, we celebrated World Teachers' Day across all our schools and throughout the division, recognizing the incredible impact our educators have on the lives of students and their communities. Classrooms were filled with messages of appreciation, and staff gathered to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and passion that teachers bring every day.

From inspiring minds to fostering kindness and compassion, our teachers go above and beyond to make a difference. Thank you to every one of our teachers for shaping the future and for being the heart of our school communities!

### **Celebrating Read-In Week with Wonderful Guest Readers**

Read-In Week was a huge success, thanks to the amazing guest readers who visited our schools and shared their love of reading with students! From community leaders to local authors and school staff, our guests brought stories to life, inspiring curiosity and a passion for reading in our students.

We are so grateful to everyone who took the time to participate in this special week, helping to foster a love of books and storytelling. Thank you for making this week memorable for our students and encouraging them to become lifelong readers!

### **Thanksgiving Liturgies: A Time for Gratitude and Reflection**

Many of our schools gathered for beautiful Thanksgiving liturgies, coming together in prayer and reflection to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. These moments of faith remind us of the importance of gratitude, community, and the spirit of giving. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the clergy and parish leaders who led these special celebrations and for their ongoing spiritual

guidance in our school communities. Your presence enriches our faith journey and helps us grow in grace and gratitude

### **Celebrating Catholic Education Week Across Our Schools and Division**

This week, we proudly celebrated Catholic Education Week across all our schools and throughout the division! It was a special time for our students, staff, and families to come together and reflect on the incredible gift of Catholic education. Through prayer services, classroom activities, and community gatherings, we celebrated the unique role faith plays in our daily lives and learning.

We are grateful for the opportunity to nurture both academic excellence and spiritual growth in our students. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this week meaningful, as we continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and service to others!

### **School News**

#### **École Sacré Coeur Panthers Shine at Cross Country Districts**

Our Grade 4 Panthers gave it their all at the Cross-Country Districts, showing great perseverance and teamwork! We are proud to announce that ESC was well-represented, with several of our runners bringing home top 20 ribbons!

A huge congratulations to all the students who participated, and a special shout-out and thank you to Mme. Moellenbeck for her incredible dedication in organizing and coaching our runners this year. Your hard work and support truly made a difference!

#### **Bertha Kennedy Catholic School Grateful for “Good Buy to Hunger” Campaign Support**

A heartfelt thank you to North Central Co-op for including Bertha Kennedy Catholic School in the "Good Buy to Hunger" campaign! Your generous contribution means the world to us, helping us fight hunger together. With your support, we are making a positive impact and bringing hope to those in need. Let's continue this important work and strengthen our community!

#### **École Notre Dame Celebrates Bible Presentation Ceremony for Grade 4 Students**

École Notre Dame recently celebrated a special milestone with our Grade 4 students as they received their very own Bibles during a heartfelt presentation ceremony. This tradition allows students to deepen their faith and continue their spiritual journey as they grow within our Catholic community.

Other schools across our division also held similar ceremonies for their Grade 4 students, marking this important step in their faith development. We are proud of all our students and grateful for the opportunity to guide them in their faith and learning.

### **SACHS Senior Volleyball Teams Soar with Olympian Lucas Van Berkel**

A huge thank you to Lucas Van Berkel, two-time Team Canada Olympian, for spending a practice with our senior volleyball teams at SACHS! His expert guidance on blocking and attacking provided our athletes with exactly what they needed to take their game to the next level.

With Lucas' tips and support, the Skyhawks are flying high as they head into the last half of the regular season, more prepared and energized than ever. We're excited to see our teams continue to grow and compete with confidence!

### **VJM Senior Volleyball Teams Strike Gold at Westlock RSF Invitational**

We are incredibly proud of both VJM Senior Volleyball teams for bringing home gold at the Westlock RSF Invitational Tournament this weekend! This victory reflects the dedication and hard work of our athletes, coaches, and supporters.

A special shoutout to coaches Mrs. French and Mr. Era for their time, effort, and commitment, as well as to the parents and families who cheered them on. Most importantly, congratulations to our amazing Marauder athletes for their outstanding performance and teamwork!

### **Creative Writing Comes to Life in Mr. Runco's Class at Legal School**

Mr. Runco's language arts lesson was a hit! Using captivating images to inspire creativity, the Grade 5/6 students dove right into developing rich imagery in their writing. The engaging activity sparked their imaginations as they added vivid details to their stories, enhancing their writing skills and creativity.

It's wonderful to see our students embracing new ways to learn and grow as writers. Great job to Mr. Runco and the Grade 5/6 class for such an exciting and imaginative lesson!

### **Richard S. Fowler Religion 8 Class Practices Gratitude**

Our Religion 8 students at Richard S. Fowler have been reflecting on the importance of gratitude by writing heartfelt "thank you" letters to the merciful people in their lives. This meaningful exercise helped them recognize and express appreciation for the many blessings they experience.

We are so grateful for our students and the positive energy they bring to our community. A special shoutout to all our Falcons for their kindness and thoughtfulness. There truly is so much to be grateful for!

### **Grade 6 Students from Neil M. Ross Enjoy a Day of Adventure at Camp Yowochas**

Our Grade 6 students had an unforgettable day at Camp Yowochas! Blessed with beautiful sunshine, the day was packed with adventure, outdoor activities, and lots of fun. It was an incredible opportunity for our students to bond, explore, and enjoy the great outdoors.

A big thank you to our dedicated Grade 6 team for organizing such a fantastic experience. It was a day our students will remember for a long time!

### **ESSMY Leopards Cheer on the Edmonton Oilers for Home Opener**

Our ESSMY Leopards were full of energy and excitement as they cheered on the Edmonton Oilers for the season Home Opener! Decked out in their blue and orange Oiler gear, students showed their team spirit and even earned points for their house teams in the process. It was a fun-filled day of school pride and hockey fandom, and with such great energy, we're sure it's going to be an amazing season for the Oilers and our Leopards alike!

### **St. Gabriel Education Centre Staff Faith Retreat**

St. Gabriel Education Centre staff enjoyed a meaningful faith retreat today, starting with a beautiful service at Sacred Heart Church. The day continued with an enriching experience led by @talkingrocktours and @keithdiakiw, who generously shared his knowledge and Métis heritage with us. It was a wonderful opportunity for reflection, learning, and deepening our understanding of faith and culture. We are grateful for the experience and the time spent together as a community.

### **Neil M. Ross Thanksgiving Food Drive a Success**

A huge THANK YOU to our amazing Neil M. Ross families! We are thrilled to share that we raised an incredible 962 pounds of food during our Thanksgiving Food Drive. All donations have been generously given to the St. Albert Food Bank, helping to support those in need in our community. We are so proud of our school community for coming together to make a real difference this Thanksgiving. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated!

### **Consent and Action Items:**

- Board Policy Review of Policy 2: Role of the Board, Policy 3: Role of the Trustee
- 2024-2025 School Council Liaison Appointments

**Report from the Superintendent:**

- 2024-2025 Enrolment Report
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Report

**Next Regular Board Meeting:** The next Regular Board Meeting will take place on November 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Division Services Centre, in St. Albert.