

School Council Newsletter

November
2020

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Halloween and we wish you all the best for this second quarter. Our Trustee, Terry Harris, joined us at our recent meeting on Nov 4. Here are some highlights from that meeting for your information.

ECSD Update. The Board continues to lobby the provincial government for adequate additional funding and resources to support all facets of student learning that have been impacted by the pandemic, including enhancements for online learning programs. \$15.6 million received in Federal Government funding will be used to partially offset a variety of COVID-related costs. Expenses are over \$20M and ECSD will use its reserves to cover the full cost. ECSD is also connecting with all metro boards to coordinate communications with the Minister of Education and join forces.

Hamper Program. Families that received a Thanksgiving Hamper were very appreciative and we would like to thank Kathryn Lennon and Geraldine Simpson for delivering the hampers and thank the Holy Cross community for their support of this program. It is because of the generosity at Holy Cross that we are able to continue with this program at our school. Thank you!

If you are someone or know someone in need of assistance from our Hamper Program, please contact holycrosshampers@gmail.com. Only the organizer has access to this email and all information is kept strictly confidential. Our next Hamper is planned for December.

The **Christian Care Centre** also provides free meals and has a clothes' closet and food shelves for those in need. They are located at 10137-150 St. The Christian Care Centre serves homeless, under privileged, and lonely people in West Edmonton and is staffed by volunteers. See their Facebook [page](#) for more information or call 780-484-5847.

Low-cost food boxes and meal kits for local families are also available from www.food4good.ca from **Jasper Place Wellness Centre** which also provides various other social services. Check out their website <https://jpwcc.ca/>. Orders can be placed online, by phone (780-906-4971), or in person (15308 Stony Plain Road) Monday & Wednesday 9-11am. The goal of Food4Good is to increase access to good food for those living with low-income or experiencing other barriers. Food-box options change monthly.

Christmas Greenery Sale. It is that time of year again for our Annual Christmas Greenery Sale Fundraiser. Please help us raise money for Holy Cross School Council initiatives. Order online at www.holycross.growingsmilefundraising.com. Payment can be made by credit card or email transfer. Deadline to order is Nov 20 and arrangements will be available for pick-up Dec 11. If you have any questions, please email holycross.schoolcouncil@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

Advent Joy Bags. Advent Joy Bags will be distributed virtually this year. An introductory email will be sent home mid-November with details regarding supplies needed for activities, such as the Jesse Tree which will help families trace the genealogy of Jesus' family tree. Virtual Advent Joy Bags will be sent out every Friday for the 4 weeks of Advent starting on November 29th. Keep an eye out for attachments in your email.

School Pictures. It is time to renew our photographer contract and we would like to know if you were happy with ICON's services or if we should look into hiring another company. Please take a quick survey using this [link](#). Thank you.

If you have any ideas for new events, suggestions for speakers, questions, or a topic you want to know more about let us know at holycross.schoolcouncil@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

Nov 8 – Catholic Education Sunday

Nov 28 – Holodomor Memorial Day

Nov 29 – First Sunday of Advent

Dec 3 – Virtual Celebration of Learning

Dec 18 – Early dismissal

School Closures

Nov 11 – Remembrance Day

Dec 21-Jan 1 Christmas Break

Meetings are always open to all those involved in the school community, including parents, guardians, and staff. We encourage you to join us whenever you can. Our next meeting is Dec 2 at 7pm on Teams.

Liaison Corner

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Photo Directory concludes this weekend. If your family wants to be in the directory but has had no time to get a picture taken, you can send a digital picture. Cost \$15 to be in the directory. Contact St John's 780-452-3988.

First Eucharist and Reconciliation. If your child is enrolled then please respond to the Flocknote (<https://stjecc.flocknote.com>) message to choose the date of your first meeting. Cost \$40 for materials.

Confirmation. Dates need to be chosen if your child is enrolled. Cost \$50 for materials. [Call 780-452-3988](tel:780-452-3988) to register your child.

See recent [Bulletin](#) from St. John's or contact dawnmegic@gmail.com for more information.

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

Thank you to all that filled out the surveys for the ASCA Task Force. Upcoming events:

Fri Nov 6: **Psychological First Aid for a Pandemic** 4PM
<https://crcpd.ab.ca/program/6023>

Fri, Sat & Sun Nov 6, 7 & 8: **School Food Matters Symposium**
<https://nrlc.net/program/6033>

Parent Support Series #8: **Using Schedules to Support Children with Diverse Needs**
<https://www.erc.ca/programs/details.php?id=8779>

Check out ASCA's webpage <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/> for more resources.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF)

Do you know any parents who've withdrawn their child/children from French immersion? CPF is conducting a study and would like to hear from you. For more information on the study please click [HERE](#). To participate please click [HERE](#).

National CPF Virtual Conference & AGM. Access Recorded Sessions for FREE! Available online until January 31, 2021. To view the recorded sessions, register for using coupon code "BRANCHSPONSOR". [REGISTER HERE](#).

Membership. CPF wants to ensure that, despite the impacts of COVID-19, all parents can access resources and youth opportunities for learning and using French as a Second Language. With this in mind, current members will have their CPF membership extended without charge for a one-year period based on their expiry date automatically and new CPF memberships will be free for the one-year period based on the application date for membership. [CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER](#).

A Call for Bilingual Tutors. CPF AB is looking for volunteer tutors who can commit to 1-3 hours per week of online bilingual tutoring for the winter semester. The program offers children 1-hour a week, one-on-one time with volunteer tutors for French language homework support, reading, or French speaking practice! Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age with a strong knowledge and love of FRENCH. No specific background or previous experience required. [CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#).

Catholic Education Sunday Resources

Archbishop Smith's [video](#) message.

[Newsletter](#) with more information from GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education)

[Prayer intentions for Catholic education](#) on the Archdiocese website

The Novena for Catholic Education began on Oct. 29. The text can be found [here](#).

[Letter](#) from Alberta and NWT bishops.

Virtual Celebration of Learning

Don't forget to book a time online at www.schoolinterviews.ca and your child's teacher will send you a link to a Teams meeting. The booking calendar will be available beginning on **Nov 27th at 4pm**. Enter code: **cattm**

Positions Available on Council

Fundraising Coordinator. Attends meetings regularly and is responsible for planning and executing 2-3 fundraisers a year. This includes promoting fundraisers, collecting orders, and coordinating volunteers for delivery, depending on the fundraiser.

APPLE Schools' Liaison. Plans and executes 2-3 family activity nights (soccer night, floor hockey, zumba) and keeps up to date on the APPLE Schools' website and guidelines to serve as a resource/contact for parents regarding the APPLE Schools Program.

If you are interested, please email holycross.schoolcouncil@gmail.com.



RAISE SOME DOUGH

Reminder that when you shop at COBS Crestwood and mention that you are helping "Raise dough for Holy Cross", 5% of your purchase will be donated back to the Parents' Society. All monies raised will be used to support School Council events and initiatives.

COBS CRESTWOOD

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