

School Council Newsletter

February
2021

Even during these times, February is always jam-packed with Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, and Teacher's Convention. We hope you enjoy it all and stay warm. See below for news and updates from our recent meeting.

Open House. Our Open House was a live virtual event this year. Families thinking of coming to Holy Cross for kindergarten and Grade 7 attended to learn more about our school and our programs. If you are interested, check out the videos on the Holy Cross website at this link: <https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1412771380356710402>. Registration for next year will also be online. Please visit the [ECSD website](#) to register.

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday. We will miss being in the kitchens this year preparing pancake breakfast for the school for Shrove Tuesday, but we hope you are able to enjoy some pancakes with your families at home, either for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. See below for my family's favorite recipe for delicious, fluffy pancakes. Father Dean will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with classes virtually on the 17th and teachers will distribute ashes, which will be sprinkled on the crown of the head instead of smeared on the forehead this year. Father Dean also asks us to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, as well as each Friday during Lent (Feb 17-Apr 3), if possible.

Favorite Pancakes

(Better Homes and Gardens, New Cook Book – Souvenir Edition, Meredith Press 1965)

1 ¼ cups sifted all-purpose flour

3 teaspoons baking powder

1 tablespoon salt

1 beaten egg

1 cup milk

2 tablespoons salad oil or melted shortening or bacon fat

Sift together flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt. Combine egg, milk, and salad oil; add dry ingredients, stirring just till flour is moistened. (Batter will be lumpy.) Bake on hot griddle. Makes about 12 dollar-size or eight 4-inch pancakes.

Lent & Easter (virtual) Joy Bags. After feasting on Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday), we are encouraged to give alms, pray, and fast during Lent. Our Catholic Education Liaison, Dawn Megic, is actively planning and collecting materials to put together a virtual Lent & Easter Joy Bag full of activities for you and your family to enjoy. Look for these in your email. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dawn at dawnmegic@gmail.com.

School Council Meetings. Meetings are every first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Meetings are currently being held virtually. Meetings are always open to all those involved in the school community, including parents, guardians, and staff. We encourage you to come out whenever you can. If you are interested in joining us, please email holycross.schoolcouncil@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

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



Important Dates

February is Black History Month

Feb 11 – Fr. Michael Mireau Day

Feb 15 – National Flag and Family Day

Feb 16 – Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday)

Feb 17– Ash Wednesday (start of Lent and Random Acts of Kindness Week)

Feb 24 – Pink Shirt Day

Mar 3 – Council Meeting

School Closures

Feb 15 – Family Day

Feb 24 – No school gr 7-9

Feb 25 & 26 – Teacher's Convention

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Archbishop Smith celebrates Mass at the Basilica at 10:30 am every Sunday. You can participate in the Basilica livestreamed liturgies or watch later at any time. You do not need an account to access the [Masses](#). These Masses are also at 10:30 am Sunday on Telus Optik TV Channel 876.

Sacramental Preparation is well underway! A mass was said for all the children in Sacramental preparation this past Sunday January 31st at 1:30pm. Father Dean asked each student to rise and answer the question "Will you do your best to prepare for your sacrament?" Then parents were asked if we were ready to help our child with such preparations. Then the family of St. John the Evangelist was asked to pray at home for the children who are preparing for receiving the sacrament of either First Reconciliation or Confirmation.

See link for this week's [Bulletin](#).

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

ASCA partnered with the University of Alberta on a research project entitled "**It Takes a Virus: What Can Be Learned About Parent-Teacher Relations from Pandemic Realities?**" Click [HERE](#) to see the report.

ASCA Donations. ASCA received an unexpected \$500,000 reduction in grant funding and needs \$300,000 by June 15 to sustain operations through to the start of the 2021 school year. ASCA has partnered with the ATB Cares program - where every dollar goes directly to the Association to help cover costs to fulfill commitments and budget obligations, and donations can be matched with an additional 15% from ATB. ASCA is a registered charity (#125812651 RR 0001). Click [HERE](#) to make donations.

Click [HERE](#) for some great K-12 Education and Covid-19 resources.

Perspectives on K-12 Education for Reconciliation. Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Online. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF)

Membership is still FREE. 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 for anyone who signs up before March 31, 2021. Click [HERE](#) to become a member.

Do you know any parents who've withdrawn their children from French immersion? CPF and the University of Alberta Campus Saint-Jean are conducting a study entitled "Exploring attrition rates and parents' perceptions of French Immersion programs in Alberta: What the numbers tell us and what drives parental decision-making about enrollment and withdrawal?". To learn more about the study and complete a questionnaire, please click [HERE](#).

Reminder for those in Need

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.

If you live in the area, you can also pick-up a Food Bank hamper from St John the Evangelist Catholic Church (9830 148 Street). Visit the Food Bank www.edmontonsfoodbank.com to register and request that they deliver to St John's. Hampers will be available for pick-up Wednesday afternoons between 1-3pm. There are also a few emergency hampers available if you show up on a Wednesday but have not registered yet.

Christian Care Centre provides free meals and has a clothes' closet and food shelves for those in need. They are located at 10137-150 Street. CCC 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://jpwc.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.



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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