

School Council Newsletter

December
2020

We would like to thank everyone who ordered poinsettias and winter greenery through our recent fundraiser. We appreciate your support. We are also well underway with our Advent Joy Bags and Christmas Hamper Program. See below for additional updates and details.

Christmas Greenery Pick-up. Poinsettias and Winter Greenery will be available for pick-up Dec 11. All orders are to be picked-up at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church (9830 148 Street) during specified times. If you ordered, you will receive additional details by email. If you have any questions, please email Kristine at kris-mn1@shaw.ca. Thank you for your support.

Hamper Program. We are currently collecting for our Christmas Hamper initiative. We hope to provide food and gifts to 7-10 families at Holy Cross and are asking for your help. During this time, we will not be accepting physical items such as gifts or food. Instead we are asking for monetary and/or gift card donations. Any amount is appreciated, and gift cards can be from any location (grocery store, toy store, bookstore, department store, etc.). For cash donations, please send an e-transfer to klennon73@yahoo.ca. For gift cards, please send to school in an envelope for your child to deliver to their teacher. Deadline for donations is **December 11**. If you have any questions, please email holycrosshampers@gmail.com. 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 the end of December.

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.

Advent Joy Bags. Advent Joy Bags with activities for you and your family to enjoy are being distributed virtually this year. Virtual Advent Joy Bags will be sent out every Friday for the 4 weeks of Advent. Keep an eye out for attachments in your email. Our Catholic Education Liaison also suggests you check out www.RealLifeCatholic.com/JOY. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn at dawnmegic@gmail.com.

Our Condolences. We send out our sincere condolences to Mme. Weis' family and those of our families who used to go to OLOP and knew Mme. Weis. OLOP School Council will be organizing an afterschool walk in the spring in memory of Mme. Weis and Holy Cross students and staff will be invited to take part if they so choose. Further details will follow closer to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Geraldine at ggsimpson@telus.net.

Celebration of Learning. Because of the current situation and half of our staff working online, this year we provided gift cards to Skip-the Dishes to staff at home and individually packed dinners from A Capella Catering for those physically at school for them to enjoy for their dinner break during Celebration of Learning. Thank you Holy Cross staff! You and the work you do are greatly appreciated!

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

Dec 3 – Virtual Celebration of Learning

Dec 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

Dec 18 – Early dismissal

Dec 20 – Last Sunday of Advent

School Closures

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 Feb 3 at 7pm on Teams. Look for the email to register and get the link.

We wish you a very merry Christmas!

Liaison Corner

St. John the Evangelist Parish

The church office will be closed Dec 7-11 and there will **not** be any morning **masses** that week. Regular weekday masses are Tuesdays through Fridays at 8:30 am. Please register by calling [780-452-3988](tel:780-452-3988). The deadline to register for weekend masses is Wednesday. All Christmas masses must also be registered for. Schedules for Christmas masses will be sent out to the schools after parishioners are given notice.

Did you know St John's is on **Candy Cane Lane**? Candy Cane Lane is open Dec 11- Jan 1 from 6 to 10 pm. Only vehicle access will be permitted this year. No pedestrians.

Sacramental Preparation programs begin this week and sessions are full. Parents can now register their child for 2021-2022. Call [780-452-3988](tel:780-452-3988) for more information.

For additional information, see this week's [Bulletin](#).

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

Sadly, ASCA has been defunded by 75% mid-school year, see the following for full details: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/board-of-directors/announcement-asca-funding-update>.

ASCA promotes and supports strong school communities with effective school councils as a means to facilitate collaborations among education partners, including parents, to enhance student learning. ASCA advances the parent perspective on education issues to government, education partner organizations and others. For more about ASCA's role in Alberta Education, visit <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/about2>.

Resolutions for advocacy were voted on in October. For a full list of all resolutions passed, please visit <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/156366>.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF)

Online French Tutoring. Additional programs coming January. The program offers children (aged 6-14) 1 session a week, 45 minutes in length, one-on-one with screened volunteer tutors from across Canada consisting of many university students and teachers. Must be a CPF member and membership is now free (see below). To receive further information, please click [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 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

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.

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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