



## OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

### GRADE 4S SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM – A VISIT TO TOUCHMARK

Our Social Justice Program in grade four is off to a great start! On Tuesday, September 22, 2009 the grade four classes walked to Touchmark at Wedgewood to participate in the CNIB walk/run fundraiser. The students had an opportunity to share time with a senior friend and share stories. One student commented, “They’re a really friendly group but some of them are shy too!” Touchmark treated all the grade four Good Shepherd students and staff to a tasty lunch of barbecue, salad, and cake. We look forward to joining our senior friends for some spooktacular Halloween fun!

**Superintendent:**  
Mrs. Joan Carr

**Trustee Ward 1:**  
Mrs. Debbie Engel

**Principal:** Mrs. Lucille  
Charrois

**Assistant Principals:**  
Mrs. Lorelei Gibeau  
Mr. Rene Mercier

#### *Characters of Catholic Education:*

- † Community
- † Hospitality
- † Justice
- † Tradition
- † Sacramentality
- † Humanness
- † Rationality
- † Spirituality



## Administrators' Message

As we move into the month of October, we are reminded of the many riches in our lives for which we are thankful. The gifts of our children, the friendships we enjoy, the quality of life we experience, are only a few of the many blessings we encounter on a daily basis. During our Thanksgiving Celebration on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., we take the time to reflect upon and show appreciation for the goodness in our lives.

We are very grateful to have enjoyed such a positive start to our school year. With a healthy enrolment of 440 students, an outstanding staff and incredibly supportive parents, we can't help but have a successful year!

It is without a doubt that we have had a busy school start! In the four weeks that we have been back at school, we have had our Meet the Teacher Night, school opening celebration, installation of 9 Smart Boards, fire drills, many hand washing demonstrations, GSTV news broadcasts, our cross country race at Hawrelak Park and the Terry Fox Run!

The month of October will also be a busy month, with many exciting learning experiences for our children. Read-In Week, individual and class pictures, special art lessons with consultant Carole Brosseau, Grade 1 printing series with Alberta Health Services, Thanksgiving Celebration, hot lunch, and of course Halloween activities to finish off the month! Don't forget to check the monthly calendar so as not to miss anything!

Last but not least, thank you to all parents who attended our Meet the Teacher – Program Night. Your positive feedback is very encouraging and your presence at this important evening indicates your great interest and support in the education of your children. We remain committed to our students by continuing to provide quality programs which are focused on improving the academic achievement of each child.

As we bring our administrators' message to a close, we are reminded of the words of a beautiful song....  
"This is the day the Lord has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Mr. Rene Mercier  
Mrs. Lorelei Gibeau  
Mrs. Lucille Charrois



## SCHOOL FEES 2009/10

### GRADES 1-6:

*Learning Resources Fee-* \$ 55.00

#### *General School Fees-*

Copy Costs \$15.00  
LA Fee \$10.00  
(includes Personal Agenda)

Library Fee \$ 5.00  
Computer Fee \$ 5.00  
Art Fee \$ 5.00

\$40.00

#### *School Council-*

#### *Learning Enhancement Fee*

LEF (Fieldtrips) \$ 35.00

**TOTAL Grades. 1-6 \$130.00**

### KINDERGARTEN:

*Kindergarten Resource Fee* \$150.00

#### *School Council –*

#### *Learning Enhancement Fee*

LEF (Fieldtrips) \$ 20.00

**TOTAL Kindergarten \$170.00**

Invoices and receipts for payment of school fees will be sent home in the students' agendas.

## MORNING SUPERVISION

Staff members provide outdoor supervision before school starting at 8:32 a.m. We thank you for not leaving your child unattended before this time.

## ABSENCES/LATES

If your child will be absent (appointments, special occasions or holidays) or late for school we ask that you please call our school office at 780-444-4299 or feel free to call and leave a message on our answering machine.



Each day directly following classroom attendance, we will phone home to verify the whereabouts of children marked as absent. Please note that each call we make for an unreported absence takes precious time away from the verification of a potentially missing child.

All students arriving late (AM after 8:50 a.m. and PM after 1:05 p.m.) must report to the school office to get a late slip.

### VACATION – Family Holidays During the School Year

Taking holidays during the school year will result in your child missing valuable teaching. Although our teachers are committed to helping your child progress, extended absences are difficult because learning is an experiential and social activity. Please note that according to the School Act, teachers are not responsible to prepare lessons or homework missed during your child's holiday.

## **DRIVE-THRU LANE!!!**

AM - You are all welcome to drop off your children using the drive-thru lane in the morning; however, it is important that you not leave your vehicle unattended.

PM - After school, the drive-thru is reserved for our yellow buses and daycare vans. We therefore request that you do not use the drive-thru lane at this time of the day. Thank you!

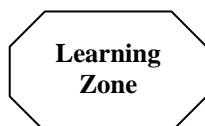
## **SCHOOL ZONE: CHILDREN LEARNING!**

We would again like to remind all our parents about our Learning Zone! As you will recall from past years, recommendations were made to alleviate the high noise level in the LRC between 3:00 p.m. and 3:33 p.m. For those of you who are new to the school, or may need a reminder, please review the following recommendations:

- 1) Parents are encouraged to arrive between 3:30 p.m. and 3:33 p.m. (12:05 p.m. on Thursdays) to pick up their children. Should you wish to arrive any earlier, you are asked to wait in the east or west boot rooms or kindergarten area before the 3:33 p.m. or 12:09 p.m. dismissal times.
- 2) Parents wishing to share a book with their pre-school child are very welcome to do so quietly thus respecting the school learning environment.

Special thanks to the School Council for these great recommendations. Together as partners, we are making a positive difference in each student's life.

Thank you All!



## **STAFF PARKING LOT**

As all parking stalls in the staff parking lot have been assigned to our staff members we thank you for not parking there. Please use the side streets around the school or Dechene Road. The staff parking lot is not to be used for dropping off or picking up students. Thanks!

## **H1N1 Information for Parents from The Edmonton Catholic School District**

Prevention of H1N1 has been the focus of our schools throughout the month of September, and this focus will continue. All schools have instructional hand washing and cover your cough posters as well as hand sanitizer stations. In addition, we ask parents and guardians to also play a part in keeping your child healthy. Please ensure that your child is well-rested before going to school. A well-rested child is less likely to contract any illness, including the flu. Please encourage your children to wash their hands regularly, particularly after playing.

You will find additional preventative measures in the H1N1 and Flu Season Fact Sheet that you should have received from your child's school in late September. We will make every effort to keep schools open during a pandemic. If schools do close, this information will be on school websites, the District website at [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net) as well as on Shaw TV on the bottom of the screen. We continue to pray for the health of all students, staff and families in our District and thank you for your continued support.

## Attention Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, & 3 Parents



Each year our Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes are involved in instructional skating lessons at Callingwood Recreation Centre.

Students must wear CSA APPROVED HOCKEY HELMETS before they will be allowed onto the ice.

In preparation for these lessons, we ask that parents purchase proper head gear for their child/children.

In the event of being unable to purchase a helmet for your son/daughter please see their classroom teacher.

Skating lessons are scheduled for the following Thursdays: Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, and Nov. 12.

Skating will take place between 8:50 a.m. and 12:09 p.m. You may refer to the fieldtrip form for the exact time your child will be skating.

Please return fieldtrip forms to your child's homeroom teacher by **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009**.

## MILK PROGRAM

Milk cards are available from the school office for \$6.00 for 10 milks and \$12.00 for 20 milks.

## TRANSPORTATION – ETS

In collaboration with Edmonton Transit, the Edmonton Catholic School District has enhanced the options available to yellow bus pass users. Students who possess a yellow bus pass will be allowed six rides per month on Edmonton Transit System throughout the week, including weekends, up to 8:00 p.m. Students will have their yellow pass punched by an ETS operator and obtain a transfer pass before boarding the bus or LRT.

## THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Come and join us on **FRIDAY, October 9** at 1:30 p.m. for our Thanksgiving **CELEBRATION** in the gym. We will again be collecting food items for an inner-city school, therefore, we'd like you to send items for **children's lunches** such as: granola bars, fruit cups, 100% juice boxes etc. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Grades 4-6 – Change of date



The Grades 4-6 Christmas Concert from **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>** to **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Please note this important date change on your calendar!

## STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

Student information forms will be sent home to parents during the month of October. Please ensure that you take a moment to update all pertinent information as it is very important that we have current telephone numbers and emergency contacts in case of illness or an emergency.

Also, we ask you to keep the school office updated to any change in telephone numbers (home/work/cell), home address, and email address when a change occurs during the school year.

## INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL EMERGENCIES

At the Edmonton Catholic School District the safety of our students is always our first priority and students are well supervised when they are on school property. When situations occur that warrant emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all students, we will provide parents with accurate and up to date information. One way to keep parents informed about an emergency and the safety procedures that have been put into place is by posting the information on the school website. Information will be posted and updated as required when a school is experiencing an emergency.

If there is an emergency situation at the school where your child(ren) attend, check the school website to stay informed and receive timely information. We also need to keep phone lines available at the school during an emergency, so we ask that you do not call the school. This will enable the staff at the school to keep in touch with emergency providers and district personnel.

Thank you for your support and help in ensuring that our students remain safe.

## STUDENT PICTURES

LIFETOUCH will be at our school on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>** for individual and class pictures. Order forms will be sent home on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please return the order form to the classroom teacher. Each student must have an order form for the photographer.

**RETAKE DAY** has been scheduled for **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>**.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The September School Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the LRC. Join us for Panago Pizza and wine!

The October School Council meeting will be held on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the LRC.

All parents are welcome to attend monthly meetings of the School Council, usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL CLASSROOM REPS

KG	Kelly Plouffe Tina Klenke
Gr. 1B	Jody LeDrew Rhonda Nolin
Gr. 1E	Tammy Massa
Gr. 1M	Michelle/David Estephan Richard Bourque
Gr. 2D	Karen Brennan Laura Schuler
Gr. 2M	Robin Flannagan Pam Brintnell
Gr. 2S	Cindy Shepel Kelly Plouffe
Gr. 3G	Christine Chung
Gr. 3HM	Caroline Thompson Pam/Kelly Marples
Gr. 3T	Arlene Pelley Tara Blasco Raj
Gr. 4B	Trish Shultz Pam Brintnell
Gr. 4C	Marguerite Maris
Gr. 4KM	Michelle Simoneau
Gr. 5A	Kathleen Korner Angela Bourbonnais
Gr. 5C	Gurudutt Shimoga
Gr. 5T	TBA
Gr. 6BR	Sandy Newbigging
Gr. 6L	Ana Krehut
Gr. 6M	Darlene Bertsch

## HALLOWEEN

At Good Shepherd School we always have fun at Halloween. On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> students will be invited to dress up in the afternoon for the Halloween Parade at 1:15 p.m. Parents, grandparents – you are welcome too!!



## SPOONS/FORKS/KNIVES (Plastic)



In an effort to save our earth and cut back on the use of plastic utensils, we ask that students bring their own utensils needed for their

lunch. Thank you.

## ENTERTAINMENT/STUDENTS UNION TICKET PAK BOOKS

Good Shepherd School Council has chosen once again to sell the Entertainment Coupon Book (\$40.00) and the Students Union Ticket Pak (\$20.00) in order to continue our effort of maintaining our excellence in technology. Both of these excellent books are filled with many 2-for-1 and 50% off discounts for top local and national merchants.

Help support Good Shepherd School with this very important fundraiser by sharing the Entertainment Book and SUTP with friends, co-workers, relatives and neighbours!

**ALL ORDERS, COMPLETE WITH PAYMENT, AND UNSOLD BOOKS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you.

Thank you to Mrs. Albert for all her hard work in organizing this program.

## An invitation.....

To celebrate Catholic Education Week



Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Mass

Good Shepherd Church

Our students will be participating in a special way at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd Church. All students and their families are invited to come together for worship as a community.

## Effective Collaborative Learning Teams - ECSD

Parent Session for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9 p.m. at Learning Support Services 7330 – 113 Street

The Learning Team is central to the successful inclusion of any child with special needs. This session will help families develop various skills and approaches to help contribute to the creation of an effective, collaborative Learning Team. A range of practical approaches for building relationships with teachers and school staff will be explored to further develop communication to be maintained throughout the school year. The session will focus on sharing your child's strengths, home-school communication strategies, promoting collaborative actions that will produce positive, productive meetings, and Individual Program Plan preparation. The session will support family members in their continued effort to meaningfully contribute to the successful inclusive education of their children as members of the Learning Team. Please register with Linda Carter at 780 989-3012

## SHEPHERD CHURCH NEWS

[www.goodshepherdatholicchurch.ca](http://www.goodshepherdatholicchurch.ca)

email: gdshep@telus.net

**YOUTH CHOIR** (ages 8-15) is starting up and the next practice is set for Wednesday September 23 from 7 to 8 pm. Further practices will be held on Oct 1, Oct 8 and Oct 21 – 7 – 8 pm. All practices will take place at Good Shepherd Church. Come join us!

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION REGISTRATION FOR 2009/2010**

**We are accepting registrations for the 2009/2010 Sacramental Preparation Programs.**

If you have a child going into grade 2 or 6 and you would like to prepare your child to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, (Grade 2), 1st Eucharist (Grade 2), or Confirmation (Grade 6) please call the Parish Office at 780-487-7765 and speak to Veronica or Sandra.

**REGISTRATION WILL ONLY BE  
AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PARISH  
OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS.** Last day to register is Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

Kindergarten Immunization – Immunizations protect your child from serious childhood diseases. Diseases spread more easily when children are together in a group. Ensure your child is protected from vaccine preventable diseases by having his/her immunizations up to date. Kindergarten immunizations are given at the Public Health Centres.

If you have any question, please call:

- Health Link Alberta at 780-408-LINK (5465) or 1-866-408-LINK (5465)

## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!!

There's something new happening in our neighborhood, just down the road at the Lessard Community League. On Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, a very enthusiastic group of 25 volunteers took 2 ½ hours to dismantle the 25 year-old rink structure to make way for a brand new one.

A special thank you goes out to Connor and Ryley Appelt and Connor Swaby of Good Shepherd School for showing up at 7:30 a.m. with their tool belts to help out. It's leaders like these that help make our community a better place. THANKS BOYS!!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Girl Guides of Canada – Fun, Friendship and Adventure – Call Goldie @ 780-481-4688.

Art Gallery of Alberta – 2009 Autumn – Saturday Art Classes for Kids and Youth - More information is available by calling 780-422-6223.

## CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION



Please remember to drop off your Campbell's Labels in your classroom collection basket or in the collection bin by the announcement table. For more information about the program you can visit their website at

<http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english/>.

# SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION

Hosted by our Grade 5 students



Our opening celebration on September 16<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful gathering of students, staff, parents and community members. At the celebration we had the opportunity to pray together, welcome each other into the new school year, and introduce our theme for the year: “We Can Make a Difference”. We will continue this theme throughout our school year. Thank you to Mrs. Morris for being present at our celebration, to the people who put it all together, and thank you to all family members who were able to attend. Your participation is appreciated.



## **GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS OF CHILDREN DURING LUNCH**

Dear Parents,

Below is an outline of the lunch time expectations. In order to make eating lunch at school a positive experience for all of the children, please take some time to go over these expectations with your child. Our primary concerns are that the children eat their lunch and that they are safe during this time.

Please note that there are TEACHER SUPERVISORS that float between all the classes and Grade Six monitors assist in each classroom.

Thank you for your attention to and assistance with this. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school (780-444-4299).

Sincerely,

Good Shepherd Staff

### **EXPECTATIONS OF CHILDREN DURING LUNCH**

- The children are asked to ensure that they eat their healthy and nutritious food (sandwiches, vegetables, etc.) before the snacks and treats (cookies, pudding, etc.).
- The children are asked to eat their own lunch and not that of their classmates because of possible food allergies.
- The children are asked to remain in their own chairs while they are eating lunch (to prevent bumping into others and choking on food, to prevent spills, etc.). They are also asked to keep any garbage or recycle items at their desk until the lunch recess bell rings.
- The children are asked to use calm and settled voices while they are eating their lunch. They may talk to their neighbours but their focus should really be on eating their lunch.
- The children need to ask a supervisor (Grade Six monitor or teacher supervisor) to leave the classroom for bathroom breaks and/or drinks.
- The children are asked to ensure that their space (desk and floor) is tidy before they head out for their recess break.
- Please note that the children do not have access to a microwave; therefore please do not send items that require heating. Also please note that the school does not provide cutlery.

### **AREAS THAT GRADE SIX VOLUNTEER MONITORS WILL ASSIST WITH**

- Assist the children in remaining settled during lunch (ensuring they are eating, ensuring they are using "inside voices").
- Assist the children with containers and or packages that they need help opening.
- Assist in ensuring that the children remain seated while they are eating their lunch.
- Assist the children in cleaning up their lunch area before heading out for recess.
- Let the teacher supervisor know if there are any concerns or situations that need to be addressed.