

EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights



Rev. Carlos Nunez greets students during an outdoor mass held for all four EICS schools in Fort Saskatchewan on September 21st. This celebration is the first time all four schools attended mass together. *See more photos on Page 8.*

Board Highlights

Faith Formation and Integration is Foundational to our Pursuit of Excellence in Catholic Education

Jody Seymour, EICS Director of Student and Staff Formation (SSF), offered a brief overview of the complex responsibilities shared by her six staff at September's trustee meeting.

The role of SSF is to nurture a faith-infused academic culture of excellence through engaging students in the following areas:

FAITH INTEGRATION

This area is focused on providing support and guidance to staff and students as they grow in their

understanding and commitment to faith. EICS walks with them along their faith journey and encourages them to view their world through a Catholic lens.

LEARNERS & LEARNING

All-hands-on-deck in terms of responsive instruction and quality assessment, this area is data driven and focused on supporting teachers, administrators, and students on all aspects of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum.

SYSTEMATIC WELLNESS

All of our teachings at EICS start with the understanding that well-being in mind, body, and spirit for students and staff is a foundational prerequisite for educational excellence.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community stewardship is promoted among all students and staff through opportunities to give back to their communities, embrace newcomer families, and gather at special events at the school and division level.

Notes from the Superintendent's Report

LURANA SHELTER DONATION

A total of \$1,948 was donated during our Staff Opening Day for Catholic Social Services' Lurana Shelter. The shelter is an emergency shelter for women and their children who are leaving domestic violence.

SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Our Math Assessment tools are being used by 33 school divisions across the province, five private schools and one international school. In addition, our Phonological Awareness Assessment is being used by 11 other Alberta school divisions.

BILL 85

Through our ongoing support of fostering safe and caring workplaces for all students and staff, EICS is assisting all teachers who were hired prior to 2018 in submitting for an updated criminal record check and vulnerable sector check.

2026

ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES

We are supporting Strathcona County's bid to host the 2026 Alberta Summer Games. Should the county be successful in its bid, EICS facilities are proposed to be utilized as part of an Athletes' Village.

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Division News

First Riders Get Chance to Learn About Bus Safety

The EICS Transportation Department welcomed first-time bus riders and their parents during brief sessions in August that introduced new riders to best practices for bus safety and passenger etiquette. The students

were also treated to a brief bus ride while their parents had the opportunity to tour our Transit facilities and learn about our process to ensure students arrive to their destinations in a safe and timely manner.



Summertime Preparation for the New Curriculum

In the lead up to the opening of school, more than 50 of our teachers and administration attended our curriculum camps to get up to speed with the new curriculum being introduced this year in Grade 4 to 6 Math, Science, and English Language Arts and Literature.

The all-day sessions were held in the last half of August and featured plenty of opportunities for our staff to familiarize themselves with the changes to the curriculum and learn best practices when teaching them to our students.



Division News

New Division Theme and Song Calls Us to Glorify God Through Our Actions

Based on Matthew 5:16, this year's theme for Elk Island Catholic Schools calls upon all staff and students to Go Light Our World.

"The theme Go Light Our World speaks to our mission in Catholic schools: to make disciples and share the good news and gospel teachings," explained Jody Seymour, the EICS Director of Student and Staff Formation who led the selection of this year's theme and logo. "Through allowing Christ's light into our hearts, we are called to share it with others through love, compassion, charity, and acts of service."

THEME LOGO

The selected logo shows four children releasing brightly lit floating lanterns against a night sky. It was created by Elizabeth, an EICS student.

"The lanterns in the

poster symbolize the good works of the students, and how they are letting their light shine," she said. "The lantern in the front with the school signifies the students 'shining' in academics, the lantern with the heart is them shining through their acts of charity (love), and the lantern with the cross represents them shining in their faith.

"By releasing the floating lanterns into the sky, the students are not hiding their light but letting their 'light shine before others' and glorify God who wills all of us to shine to the best of our ability."

THEME SONG

This year's song, titled "Go Light Our World", was unveiled at our Staff Opening Day, which was celebrated with a mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in



EICS Superintendent Paul Corrigan (far left) with Ecole OLPH student Elizabeth (third from right) and her family at our Staff Opening Day mass in August.

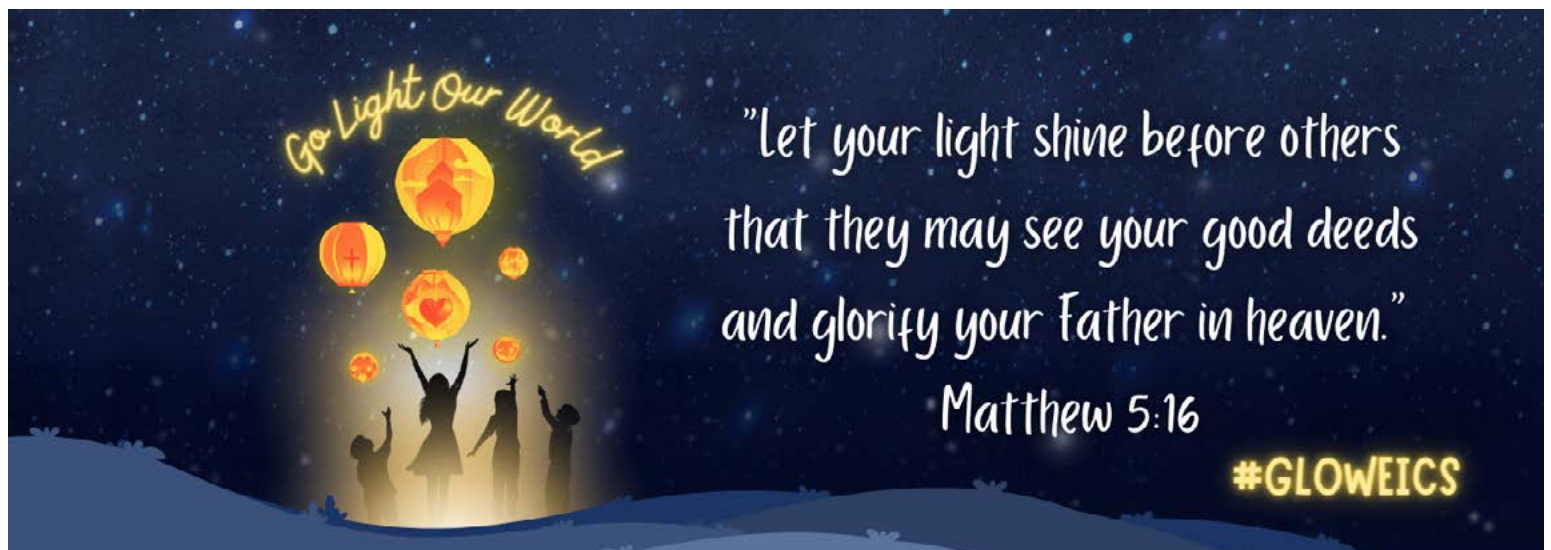
August.

In crafting the song, Holy Spirit Catholic School music teacher Nellie Kimball-Blanchard worked with her Grade 3 and 4 students to create something that is truly beautiful and memorable.

"There are many things that need to work

so that students can sing it successfully," Nellie explained.

"That often means I need to revisit parts of the song and bring it back to the children. It is quite different singing alone at home versus a group of energetic youth."



Division News

Go Light Our World: Staff Opening Day Celebration in Photos

All EICS staff gathered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish on Aug. 29 for the division's annual Staff Opening Day mass, which was led by Archbishop Richard Smith.

We were also honoured to have Elder Garry Gairdner and Knowledge Keeper Rob Davies begin our celebration with a smudging followed by a blessing and prayer to the Creator by Elder Gairdner.

Following the morning mass, Fr. Leo presented a thought-provoking keynote speech at the church and provided a subsequent discussion relating the art of cooking to Catholic leadership during an afternoon session for the division's Central Leadership Team.



School Events in Pictures

Fun and Games Welcomed Students Back from Summer

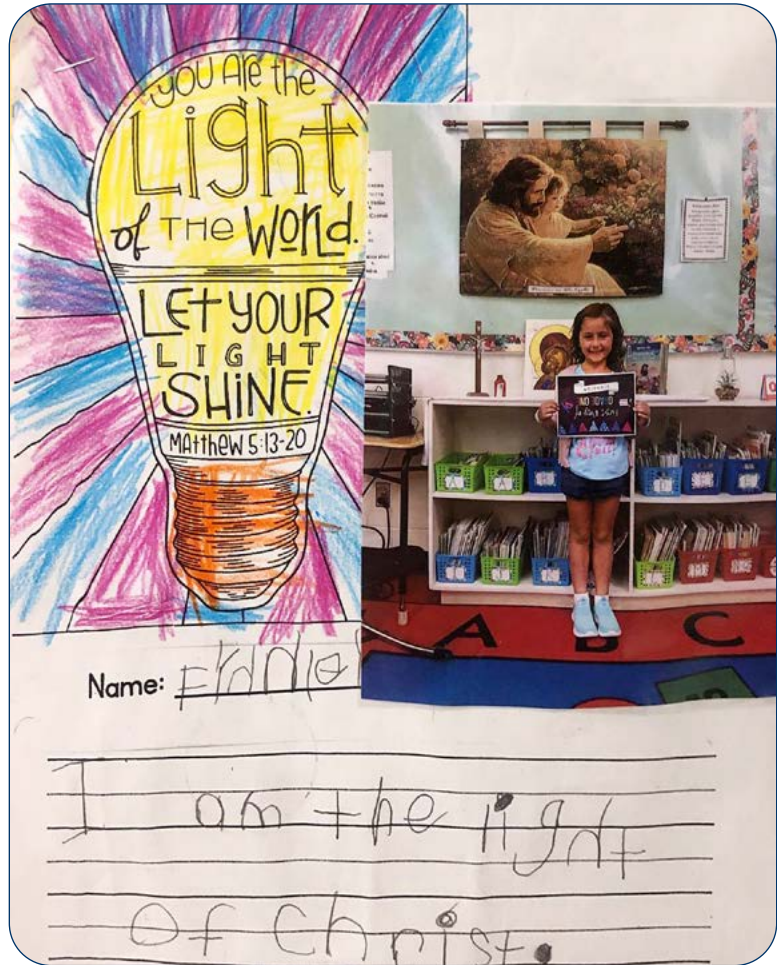
From doughnut fishing to barbecues and more, the first few days of the new school year featured plenty of activities for new and returning students to bond with their classmates and have fun at the same time.



School Events in Pictures

Schools Embrace Division Theme Go Light Our World

Students embraced the division theme Go Light Our World throughout the month of September with various celebrations that remind each of us of Christ's calling to represent his love through our good deeds.



School Events in Pictures

First All-School Mass in Fort Saskatchewan since 2014

For the first time in almost 10 years, all of our schools in Fort Saskatchewan came together to join in mass at Taurus Field. This also marks the first time since St. Andre Bessette Catholic High School opened its doors a few years ago.

The mass was celebrated by Rev. Carlos Nunez of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, and featured a beautiful rendition of this year's division theme song, "Go Light Our World", performed by members of our school communities.



School Events in Pictures

EICS Terry Fox Runs Raise \$20K for Cancer Research

The annual Terry Fox Run was a great success for all of our schools in each of our communities. We continue to recognize the legacy of Terry Fox through educating our students

about him and his goal. Since he embarked on his inspirational Marathon of Hope in 1980, the Terry Fox Foundation has collected more than \$850 million in support of cancer research.



October Trustee Event Calendar

A look at the month ahead

- **October 1 - 3:**
Annual Board of Trustees Retreat
- **October 6:**
Attend the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton's Archbishop's Dinner
- **October 13:**
Attend the Ukrainian Bilingual Liturgy at St. Basil Ukrainian Church
- **October 18:**
Board of Trustees Public Meeting
- **October 31:**
Board of Trustees Professional Development

NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Oct. 18

1 p.m.

Our Lady of Mount Pleasant School,
39 Mt Pleasant Drive
in Camrose

Visit our website for meeting agendas and minutes.



Catholic-integrated education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in the communities of Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville.

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