

EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights



St. Luke Catholic School students create portraits using natural materials during Take Me Outside Day. See more on Page 9.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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School maintenance projects came in under budget at \$1.2 million for the 2022-2023 school year

With the previous fiscal year ending on Aug. 31, 2023 the Facilities Department provided an overview of the more than 100 projects performed at each of our schools during the previous budget year.

This information was presented via a slide show by Facilities Director Claude Valcourt.

In total, the cost of all projects was \$1.2 million, coming in \$405,000 under budget. Money not used was transferred to the current fiscal year to support other school maintenance projects.

Some of the work completed during the 2022-2023 fiscal year includes:

- Duct cleaning

- Roofing
- Sidewalk repair and resurfacing
- Asphalt paving
- Security camera installs
- Painting
- Flooring
- Landscaping
- Window repair
- Air Conditioning up-keep
- PA system upgrades
- Washroom upgrades
- Drainage upgrades
- Gym equipment repairs and floor re-coating
- Inspections and repairs of playground equipment.

Board Highlights

Additional notes from October's public meeting

ATA MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT RATIFIED

The Board of Trustees ratified locally bargained items as part of the new memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) and The Alberta Teacher's Association at its October meeting.

The MOU is in effect for the period of Sept. 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2024.

Most negotiations between school boards and the ATA are handled centrally at the provincial level, however boards and local ATA unions may negotiate additional details that would apply specifically to them and require approval from the division's Trustees.

STUDENT ENROLMENT REPORT

Student enrolment for 2023-2024 is up over the previous school year, according to data that was



Our Lady of Mount Pleasant students Quinn (green sweatshirt) and Sophia (pink sweater) begin October's Public Board of Trustees meeting with a land acknowledgement and prayer.

collected as of Sept. 30.

As a result of higher than anticipated enrolment, EICS expects to receive additional instructional funding from Alberta Education in support of our students.

When this funding will arrive, and how much it will be, has not yet been determined.

REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATHS

Trustees unanimously

supported a motion to purchase wreaths for each of our school communities to use during their respective commemoration ceremonies in honour of Remembrance Day.

POLICIES REVIEWED AND APPROVED

In October, Trustees reviewed three existing policies and agreed that no changes are required:

- **Policy 6:**
Board Operations
- **Policy 7:**
Board Governance
- **Policy 12:**
Role of the Superintendent

Each month the board's policy committee reviews existing policies and provides a recommendation to the rest of the Trustees regarding potential updates if any are warranted.

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Strathcona County & Sherwood Park
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Board Highlights

Trustees focused on spiritual and professional growth

To start October, the EICS Board of Trustees held their annual retreat at Métis Crossing near Smokey Lake.

Dr. Tim Goodbrand was the featured guest speaker who emphasized the importance of generational faith and the constant demonstration of belief to others.

Trustees engaged in discussions about the Old Testament and the significance of maintaining prayer and faith within their families, friends, and acquaintances.

As part of the retreat, the Trustees crafted their own rosaries under the guidance of Trustee Teresa Makowecki, with the intention of gifting them to someone special.

Fr. Mark Sych delivered an insightful talk, further emphasizing the need for a constant demonstration of belief.

Trustees were inspired



Above: EICS Trustees and Superintendent Paul Corrigan with Fr. Mark Sych. Top Right: Trustee Teresa Makowecki creates a rosary. Bottom Right: Trustees take a tour of Métis Crossing.

by the venue’s outdoor tour, called Meet the Métis, where they engaged in the history of the Métis settlement.

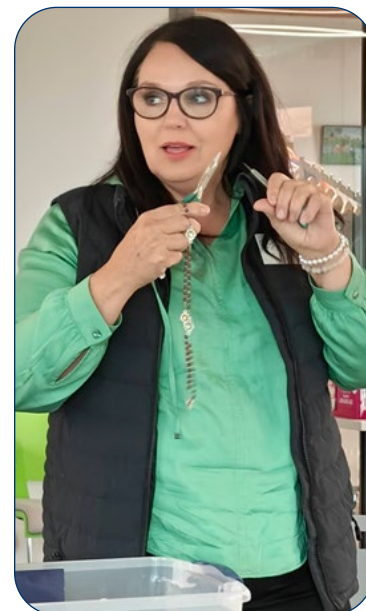
The retreat concluded with a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Smokey Lake, where Fr. Sych led Liturgy for our Blessed Mother and blessed the handmade rosaries that were created by the Trustees.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At the end of October, the Trustees gathered at our

Central Learning Services Office for a professional development day.

The day offered Trustees the ability to speak with Superintendent Paul Corrigan, learn and experience the division’s new initiative EICS Circles, which is about focused listening (see Page 6 for more), coordinate advocacy plans with local elected officials, and discuss governance, among other topics that keep the division running smoothly.



Go Light Our World



“Let your light shine before others
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

#GLOWEICS

Division News

Fr. Jim Corrigan leads high school students in Mass during our Here Comes the Sun Retreat in October.



Here Comes the Sun Retreat invites staff, students to reflect on holistic well-being; share lessons with peers

Between Oct. 10 and 12, students and staff from each of our schools gathered to learn innovative ways to care for their well-being through a set of workshops that addressed their spiritual, mental, and physical health.

Organized through our

Here Comes the Sun well-being program, each day offered opportunities for a small collection of students and staff to understand new ways to care for themselves and then demonstrate these new approaches to peers.

Fr. Kris Schmidt of St.

Francis Xavier Church led the faith formation discussion, speaking to the role of the church in forming community and providing support. Métis artist Krista Leddy and Elder Garry Gairdner shared their knowledge of Indigenous art. Steven Csorba from PEPY

shared the importance of active and healthy habits.

All three days began with a mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

This program is funded through a \$440,000 grant from Alberta Education's Mental Health in Schools Pilot.

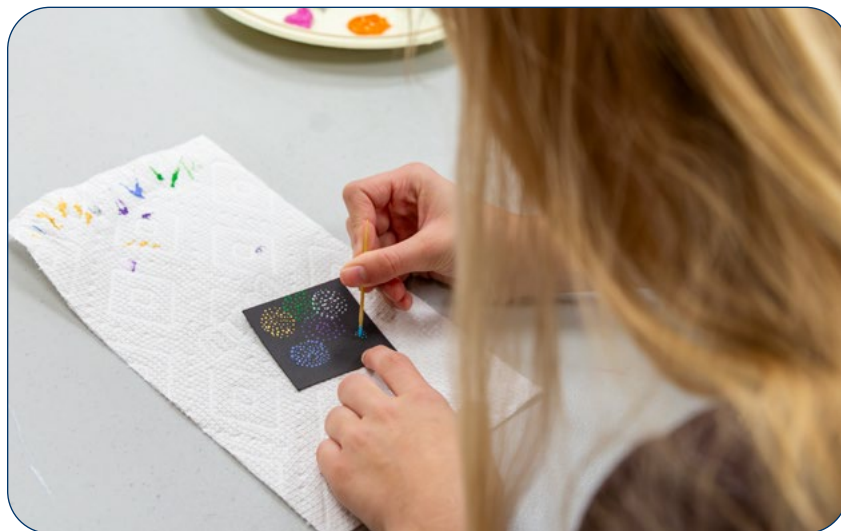


Students and staff from each of our schools participate various activities during the Here Comes the Sun Retreat that demonstrate the power of teamwork (left) and communication (right). See more photos on next page.

Division News



Our Here Comes the Sun Retreat featured a variety of activities for students and staff. Clockwise from top left: Students enjoy lunch; Fr. Kris discusses the importance of a church community on well-being; students try to keep beach balls from hitting the ground; creative expression is explored through dot art and colouring; and a (successful) trust exercise.



Division News

Systemic wellness was focus of Administration Retreat

Members of the Elk Island Catholic Schools Senior Leadership Team met with all principals and assistant principals from our schools at our annual Administrative Retreat near Pigeon Lake in early October.

The two-day retreat was a great opportunity for senior administration at schools to gather and explore new approaches in supporting student and staff well-being as well as to share their own experiences and best practices.

We were blessed to host Archbishop Richard Smith from the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton for a session where His Grace spoke to the critical role teachers and all school

administration serve in our division's delivery of Catholic Education.

His Grace also hosted a Q&A session during our retreat to answer some questions from our staff based on his session.

Fr. Jim Corrigan from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church also delivered a remarkable Mass in which he called on our administrative teams to reflect on what delivering Catholic Education means to them.

The retreat also included two sessions from Kathleen Lane, EdCan Network's Program Director of Well at Work. Her sessions focused on our Here Comes the Sun initiative and how our school



and Senior Leadership Team can help further refine our approach to systemic wellness across the division.

EICS CIRCLES

Bonnie-Lynne Boehm, the EICS Director of Inclusive Learning, led an EICS Circles session that integrates our Catholic faith, encourages dialogue and empathy, and fosters community.

The EICS Circles team has engaged in workshops

for educators that integrate elements of circle processes that focus on connections and security, attachment, and trauma-informed teaching.

As part of our Here Comes the Sun mental health grant and our systemic wellness initiative, the EICS Circles approach seeks to foster faith, community, and connection in support of the holistic well-being of our staff and students.

EICS Circles reminds us that we belong together.



Above Left: School administrators lead the closing song at the conclusion of the 2023 Admin Retreat.

Above Right: Archbishop Smith speaks with administrators about their role in delivering Catholic Education.

School News

Grade 4 students receive Bibles in annual tradition

Grade 4 students across EICS received their Bibles in Masses held throughout October as part of our faith formation program.

The Bible stands as a tool for students to deepen their understanding of God's messages to us through scripture.

Through receiving new Bibles, students are encouraged to grow in their faith and continue to study and reflect on their religious teachings throughout their education.

Students dive deeper into learning about the structure of the Bible and understanding that the Bible contains the history of our salvation, our reconciliation with God, and the many struggles faced by Christ's

followers.

Receiving their very own Bibles is a monumental step in the faith journey of our students, with a dedicated Mass to bless and present them with their Bibles.

Throughout the Mass, students honour that God's word is entrusted to them with the intent of His word in their minds, on their lips and in their hearts.

The Mass focuses on reminding students they may live out their lives as children of Christ.

Receiving a Bible in Grade 4 and keeping it until Grade 12 can symbolize a commitment to one's faith and the importance of incorporating religious teachings into one's daily life.



Grade 4 students received new Bibles during Masses that were held throughout the month of October. Above Left: Fr. Jim Corrigan blesses EPK Grade 4 students and their Bibles at Van-Es Camp. Top Right: Grade 4 students at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School with parish priest Fr. Carlos Nunez. Middle Right: St. Luke Grade 4 students with Fr. Jim. Bottom Right: St. Nicholas students celebrate Mass.

School News

1,120 socks donated by Holy Spirit Catholic School for seniors in need during #Socktober drive

Through an October #Socktober collection drive, Grade 4 students at Holy Spirit Catholic School led an initiative that resulted in the donation of 1,120 pairs of socks to help seniors who are in need.

"#Socktober provided an opportunity to bring our division theme to life as we Go Light Our World through supporting seniors in need within our community," said Principal Aoife Cahill of the Oct. 10 to Oct. 27 donation drive. "Our staff were inspired following our professional development day in October where we volunteered at

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. While there, Grade 4 teacher Brandy Smith read about Operation Friendship Senior Society and the #Socktober initiative."

The socks were donated during a school assembly on Friday, Oct. 27 to Operation Friendship Senior Society (OFSS). They will be given to seniors living in OFSS residences as well as to those who are at least age 55 and in need in Edmonton's inner city. Having a dry pair of socks as backup can help prevent frostbite and other health issues caused by having

wet feet or wearing damp footwear in cold weather.

OFSS Community Relations Manager Jimmy Morrison said the annual #Socktober campaign is crucial for the seniors who are served by the non-profit organization.

"We thank Holy Spirit Catholic School for the donation of 1,120 pairs of warm socks for #Socktober. A pair of socks is a basic necessity item that we sometimes take for granted," he said. "For our seniors, it represents warmth and hope, and they know that someone cares about them."

To collect as many socks as possible, Brandy worked with fellow Grade 4 teacher Lisa Hall and some Grade 4 students to coordinate a kick-off event and host other initiatives — including a sock hop party and creating a sock wall — throughout the donation drive to encourage giving.

"We hung each pair of socks up and created a huge number line in groups of 10, which became a fantastic opportunity to learn math, and also see just how much you can do to help out others when you work together," Brandy said.



Jimmy Morrison from Operation Friendship Senior Society accepted 1,120 pairs of socks from Holy Spirit Catholic School to support seniors in need in Edmonton's inner city.

School News

An October spent in the Great Outdoors

The cooler temperature and beautiful colours of the fall season are a great reason for students to get outdoors and explore nature — and this past October was a perfect can't-miss opportunity.

Students at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School explored the area around Rocky Mountain House as they hiked trails along Nordegg and rafted along the North Saskatchewan River.

On Wednesday, Oct. 18

some classes went outside in recognition of Take Me Outside Day to do some work or use what they found in nature to make art.

A non-profit organization, Take Me Outside is focused on getting students outside of the classroom more often to counter balance sedentary lifestyle choices. This enhanced curriculum helps to improve student mental health and an overall understanding of nature.



School Events in Pictures

Special guests celebrate Read-In Week across EICS schools

Special guests were welcomed by schools across our division in celebration of Read-In Week.

From members of our EICS Board of Trustees and our Senior Executive Team to the Sherwood Park Crusaders AJHL team and

the University of Alberta Golden Bears, our students were treated to some great guest readers and some incredible stories.

Each year, Read-In Week highlights the importance of reading and encourages life-long learning.



Clockwise from top right: EICS Trustee Jean Boisvert; members of the AJHL's Sherwood Park Crusaders; Thérèse deChamplain-Good, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Excellence; Brett Cox, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; and Paul Corrigan, Superintendent.

Community Supporters

Local Kiwanis Club donates \$3K for hungry students

More students will have access to a nutritious lunch this school year thanks to a \$3,000 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Sherwood Park to EICS.

The donated money will be used by three EICS elementary schools in Sherwood Park to provide lunch to students on days when they attend school without one. These schools are Holy Spirit Catholic School, St. Nicholas Catholic School, and École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School.

“Hunger inhibits the ability to focus and perform in a classroom,” noted St. Nicholas Principal Peter Rachmistruk. “We are very grateful to the Kiwanis Club for providing funds to help feed students who require additional food to set them up to be successful for the day.”

“The Kiwanis Club believes that children are our future. So any initiative promoting the well-being of the child is something that we seek to support,” local Kiwanis Club President Peter Harrop said.



Elk Island Catholic Schools received a \$3,000 cheque from the Kiwanis Club of Sherwood Park this fall. Left to right: Deborah Harrop, Kiwanis Club Secretary; Aoife Cahill, Holy Spirit Catholic School Principal; Peter Rachmistruk, St. Nicholas Catholic School Principal; Alyre Morin, École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Principal; Karen Cloutier, Kiwanis Club member; Roy Bird, Kiwanis Club Past President.

Upcoming Trustee Event Calendar

- **Nov. 16 - 17:**
Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta Meeting
- **Nov. 17-19:**
Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting
- **Nov. 19 - 21:**
Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting
- **Nov. 27:**
Board of Trustees Audit Committee Meeting
- **Nov. 23:**
ATA Induction Ceremony at ABJ
- **Nov. 29:**
Board of Trustees Public Meeting
- **Dec. 5:**
St. Joseph's College Alumni Gathering

NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 29
1 p.m.
EICS CLS Office
310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta

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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