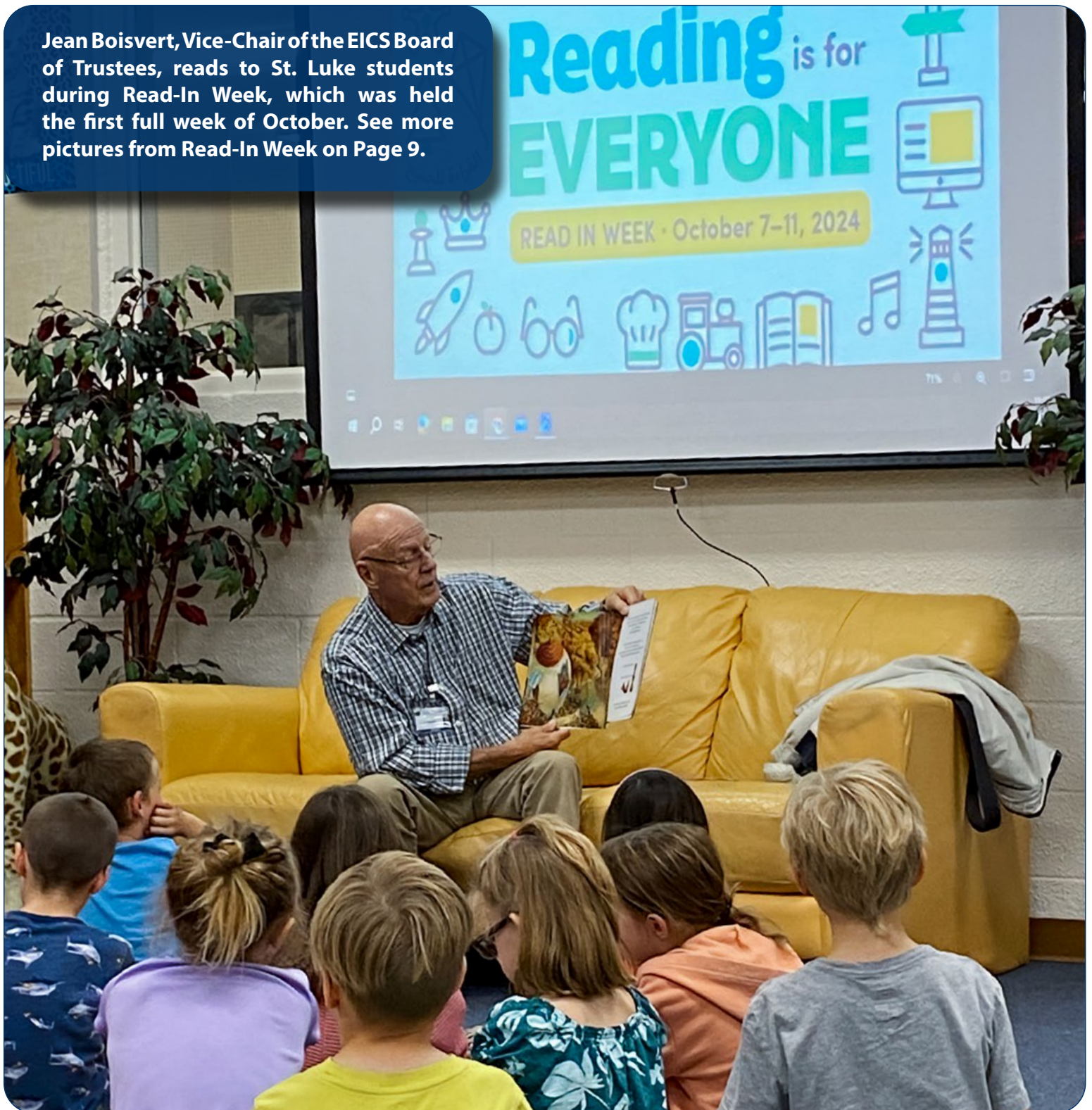


EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights

Jean Boisvert, Vice-Chair of the EICS Board of Trustees, reads to St. Luke students during Read-In Week, which was held the first full week of October. See more pictures from Read-In Week on Page 9.



Board Highlights

Faith in Christ is the root of everything at our division

FAITH FORMATION

Starting October's EICS Board of Trustees Public Meeting with the first Trustee Faith Formation of the new school year, EICS Director of Student and Staff Formation (SSF) Jody Seymour noted that the Board will spend time during the next eight monthly board meetings seeking to understand Jesus through the Gospel of John's unique lens, and his chronicling of eight key moments that reveal Christ's divinity. These moments invite all readers into a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus.

These moments are also connected to the Division's theme for this year and the next two years: Rooted in Christ.

"This is the purpose of our faith theme this year: to foster experiences that draw us, and those we serve,



St. Patrick Catholic School students Betty and Joe begin the October EICS Board of Trustees meeting with prayer and a land acknowledgement. October's meeting was held at our elementary school in Camrose.

into a deeper relationship with Christ, forming His disciples who share the Good News," Seymour told the Board.

"In the Old Testament, the tabernacle was the mobile sanctuary where God's glory would rest, representing His presence with His people," she said. "John's Gospel is now

telling us that Jesus is the new tabernacle, the new and living presence of God among us. He no longer resides in a tent or temple made of human hands but in human flesh."

It is this belief that Jesus is God that must be the foundation from which faith springs forth.

STUDENT AND STAFF FORMATION PRESENTATION

Following her Faith Formation Seymour touched on the vital role her Student and Staff Formation - Faith, Curriculum & Wellness team plays inside and outside of the division.

These presentations by EICS directors are a great

See BOARD on Page 3

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Board Chair
Strathcona County
& Sherwood Park
Email



Jean Boisvert
Vice-Chair
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Strathcona County
& Sherwood Park
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Al Stewart
Member
Fort
Saskatchewan
Email

Board Highlights

Behind the scenes: Student and Staff Formation's student support

BOARD from Page 2

opportunity for Trustees to better understand the role of senior administration at the Division level and how their respective areas reflect the mission and vision as set forth by the Board and the Superintendent.

Within the Student and Staff Formation department, Seymour works with a team of five consultants whose work touch on every aspect of the division assurance strategy's key pillars of Faith Integration, Learners and Learning, Systemic Wellness, and Community Engagement.

For this year, her team worked with school chaplains to create the three-year theme Rooted in Christ, along with the ideas and strategies schools will utilize to ensure their honouring of the theme is aligned with the division's mission and the **Five Marks**

of a Catholic School.

The Student and Staff Formation team also leads and supports all things related to curriculum.

Currently, EICS has 25 teachers who are part of the pilot program for the new Social Studies curriculum. Our instructional staff can choose to participate in pilot curriculum to provide feedback that might help revise the final product, and it also enables them to be one step ahead in preparing for the new curriculum once widely implemented across the province, Seymour explained.

SSF also supports and leads literacy and numeracy. Our division is a recognized leader in Alberta for creating, providing and facilitating literacy and numeracy assessments that are utilized by other school divisions in

the province, she noted.

Her team is also responsible for organizing our division's Staff Opening Day Mass and our annual Faith and Wellness Day celebrations, in addition to other formation and holistic well-being opportunities throughout the year.

Seymour and her team also work to navigate the implementation of the digital provincial assessments with our IT department, and lead Catholic School Reviews, which assist schools in identifying strengths and areas of improvement in regards to its Catholic identity.

NEW SCHOOL CODE FOR BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

The Trustees voted to approve the procurement of an additional school code for Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic

High School in Camrose, to be effective January 2025.

School codes are used by the province to track multiple funding grants and specific school information related to space utilization. For operational funding to be available for the 2025-2026 school year, the new code is required prior to the province's Budget 2025 being finalized.

BOUNDARY REVISED TO INCLUDE NEW FORMATION

The Board unanimously approved all three readings of Bylaw 001-2024 to amend division boundaries by welcoming a section of land south of Vegreville.

Following a vote to join EICS by residents in the area during the spring, they are now eligible to seek election to the EICS Board of Trustees

See MEETING on Page 4



Administration from each of our schools and our Central Leadership Team met for their annual retreat near Pigeon Lake in mid-October. The two days of professional development featured guest speakers who tackled faith and how it can influence our vision for our schools and division, what workplace burnout looks like, and strategic thinking to build plans that align with our assurance strategies.

Division News

Superintendent's Report to the Board

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Schools throughout our division and our Central Learning Services office celebrated Catholic Education Week from Oct. 19 to Oct. 25.

Our schools celebrated the right to publicly-funded Catholic Education in Alberta through various activities and welcoming special guests throughout the week.

Our schools also had opportunities to gather for Mass with staff and families of EICS students at parishes

in communities where we serve students.

DIVISION ENROLMENT INCREASES YEAR OVER YEAR

Student enrolment in most of our communities are up for the new school year. In total, we're blessed to serve 6,891 students in all of our schools from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL REVIEW

Every few years each one of our schools is reviewed

by division administration to celebrate successes and highlight areas of growth in their delivery of Catholic Education to our students.

The review for Holy Spirit Catholic School is [available here](#).

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS INFORMATION NIGHT

Construction for the new high school is expected to be completed in the coming months, and we will be hosting an information night at Our Lady of Mount Pleasant,

39 Mount Pleasant Drive in Camrose, on Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

ARCHBISHOP'S ASSURANCE UPDATE

Our division is the pilot board for the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton's School Board Assurance process, and we have had several meetings with Archbishop Richard Smith and members of his Senior Team, who have been able to join administration at several events in the last few weeks.

Board meeting continued

MEETING from Page 3

or vote for a Trustee in the October 2025 election.

RESPONSE TO THE REAL PROPERTY GOVERNANCE ACT, 2024

In light of the Alberta Government's **The Real Property Governance Act, 2024**, the Board voted to send a letter to the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association regarding its concerns related to the Act and the Board's land ownership.

The Act enables the province to have first right of refusal to the land a school is on if that school building is vacated. However, the Board is seeking further clarification

of what might happen if the land under an EICS school is owned by a local parish.

POLICY UPDATE

The Policy Committee reviewed **Policy 7:**

Governance Budget

during the October public meeting.

After discussing what type of event attendance that could quality for reimbursement,

a professional learning expense, or travel expense, the Board voted to defer second reading to the November public board meeting for the committee to further refine the policy.



The Board of Trustees held a PD Day on Monday, Oct. 21 to discuss its assurance and advocacy strategies going into next calendar year. More information about the strategies will be released once they are finalized.

School News in Pictures

Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation were honoured at all schools across our division at the end of September. Honouring these days is one part of our commitment to teach our students about the experience of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.



School News in Pictures

Catholic Education Week was held between Oct. 19 and Oct. 26, and offered plenty of opportunities for our school communities to gather in thankfulness for the gift that is Catholic Education and to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and the impact He has in our lives.



School News in Pictures

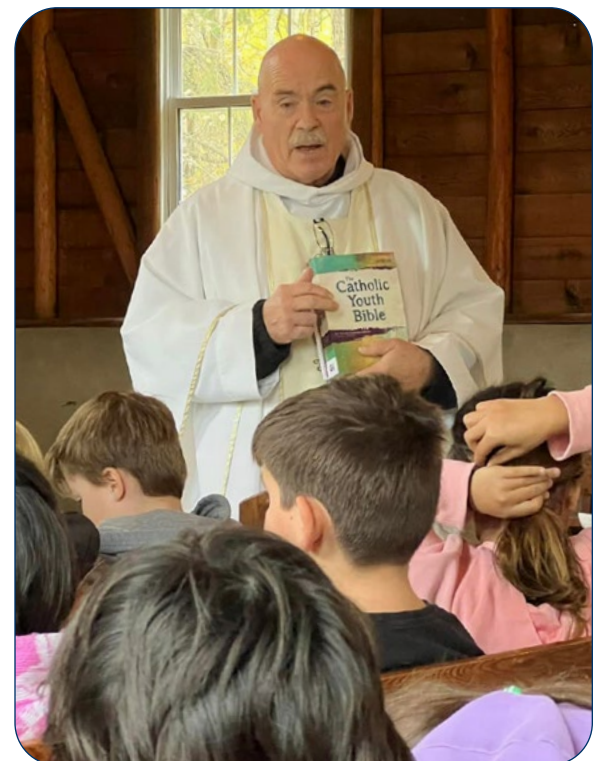


Throughout the month of October, many of our schools journeyed to Camp Van-Es on student leadership retreats, where students explored their faith and developed their leadership skills along with a deeper sense of community among their peers.



School News in Pictures

Every October each Grade 4 student in our division receives a Bible to encourage them along their faith journeys. The Bibles come courtesy of the support our division is blessed to receive from The REAL Foundation, which recently donated \$30,000 in support of our division and our pursuit of Catholic Education.



School News in Pictures



Thank you to all of our special guests who read to our students during Read-In Week between Oct. 7 and 11!. Clockwise from top right: St. John Paul II Catholic School teacher and Edmonton Elks cheer team member Matthew Herbert performs a routine with fellow cheerleader Dalila; Linking Generations' Pani Lynne reads to St. Nicholas Catholic School students; Holy Redeemer Catholic School students get a visit from Nicolas Beaudoin of the Sherwood Park Crusaders; EICS Trustee Al Stewart reads to St. John XXIII Catholic School students; Oil Kings player Landon Hanson poses with Madonna Catholic School students; author Leanne Pastor reads her book at Holy Spirit Catholic School; and EICS Superintendent Paul Corrigan reads to Holy Redeemer students.

School News in Pictures

Halloween festivities at our schools this October ranged from the traditional dance to pumpkin carving competitions with senior citizens at Rivercrest Care Center, and creative culinary creations.



School News in Pictures



Sarah Melenka, who won bronze at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris as part of Team Canada’s sitting volleyball team, visits St. Mary’s Catholic School in October.

Trustee Event Calendar for October

October 2

Holy Spirit Catholic School Mass.

October 4

Tour of South Cooking Lake area with St. Luke Catholic School.

October 8

Ukrainian Bilingual Divine liturgy at St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church.

October 11

St. Mary Catholic School’s

Awards Night.

October 19-20

Attend local Masses in celebration of Catholic Education Week.

October 21

Board Professional Development.

October 22

Theology on Tap at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church.

October 23

EICS Board of Trustees Public Meeting.

October 24

St. André Bessette Catholic School Awards Night.

October 25

GrACE Summit.

Alberta School Boards

Association Zone 2/3 Meeting.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 27

1 p.m.

EICS CLS Office

310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta

Visit our website for meeting agendas and minutes.



ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Seeing Christ in Everyone

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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Follow EICSCatholic to stay up-to-date on what’s happening at our division!

