

ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PATRIOT PRIDE

<http://stjp2.elcs.ab.ca>

“Knowledge, Faith, and Pride, Acquired and Retained Forever.”



Upcoming Events

February 27 – PD day, no classes

March 6– District Faith day, no classes

March 19 – Open House/Registration Night, 7:00 p.m.

March 27 – No classes

March 30 – April 3 Spring Break

April 7 – Classes resume

April 9 – Parent/Teacher interviews, one day only, 3:00-5:30, 6:00 – 9:00. **Sign-up information will be out in late March.**

St John Paul II Catholic School Mission

The mission of St. John Paul II Catholic School is to provide a thoroughly Catholic education that pursues excellence and Christian virtue in all things. Inspired by the love of Jesus Christ, we see to lead students to become active participants in building a community of faith, hope, and love. In the words of our patron, St. John Paul II, “Let your faith shine before the world.”

OPEN HOUSE/REGISTRATION NIGHT ON MARCH 19, 6:30 P.M.

Choose St JP II for

- a warm, caring Catholic environment
- small class sizes
- focus on inclusive education
- a well-rounded CTS program
- a growing fine arts program
- strong extra-curricular programs
- leadership opportunities

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A Message from the Principal

We are well into the swing of semester 2. Despite the crazy weather, it is an exciting time of year. While we are very much concentrating on working through this semester and doing all we can for our students this school year, we are also beginning to think about and make the preliminary plans for next year. We are putting the finishing touches on our 2015-2016 Student Handbook and getting it ready to send to the printers shortly and have our Open House, which is to take place on March 19th at 6:30 pm, mostly planned.

More to the matter at hand, we have entered the season of Lent. Beginning with our Ash Wednesday celebration last week, we will spend the next several weeks preparing ourselves for the joy of the Easter season by praying, alms giving, and fasting. While it is a season of self-restraint and reflection, it is also a time to grow in our faith and to anticipate the coming of Easter, the most joyous time of the year.

Basketball season is nearing its end. All of our teams have put in an amazing effort, worked hard, and played their best. We are so proud of and well represented by all of our teams and their dedicated coaches. Equally, our curling team is representing our school well and has had a very successful season so far. I'd like to extend my thanks to the team and their coach for all of their hard work. Badminton season will begin in March.

We have so many exciting things happening over the next month from field trips to leadership events, and sporting events not to mention our annual Europe Trip over Spring Break. We are truly blessed to have such a diverse and dedicated staff to make it all happen. We are equally blessed to have a fantastic student body that continually make us proud.

Steve Tymko, Principal

2015-2016

As we enter the month of March, planning has commenced for the 2015-16 school year. On March 19th the school will hold an Open House and registration evening for new and prospective students. All grade 8's from Our Lady of Angels are invited to attend as well as

St. John Paul II is currently accepting registrations for next year. Parents of students who are not already registered at the school should call Mr. Tymko, Principal, 780-992-0889 to make an appointment.

February 26, 2015

other students who wish to take a look at St. John Paul II. Parents of existing students are also welcome to join us as we outline the programs and activities offered. In addition to a formal presentation about the benefits of a ST. JP II Education, students will have an opportunity to tour the school, view many of our clubs and activities and take a look at our programs.

Come join us next fall. It is going to be a great year.

Thinking About St. John Paul II in September?

Information will be going home with students in grade 8 at Our Lady of Angels Catholic School and to all current St. JP II students in grades 9-11 as we prepare for fall 2015 registration. For students not currently attending OLA or St. John Paul II who are interested in registering, we encourage you to make an appointment with Principal Steve Tymko to begin the process. Towards the end of March, on-line course selection will take place for all students who are registered.

21st Century Learning Opportunities

- Personalized learning plans
- Career Pathways Model
- Wireless environment for digital learners coming soon
- Strong community partnerships
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- Work Experience in grades 10-12
- Growing Fine Arts Program
- French Immersion Opportunities

Innovative Thinking

- Choices in teaching and learning formats
- Distance Learning experience to supplement programs
- Peer Mentorship
- Community Volunteerism
- Personal Fitness and High Performance Training programs

St. JP II Offers You

- A warm, caring, Catholic environment
- Christ centred learning
- Focus on emerging technology
- Small class sizes
- Leadership skills and opportunities
- Student retreats building a stronger community
- Dynamic and energetic staff
- Personal contact – where every student matters
- Academic, personal and faith-based counselling

Proud Traditions

- Academic excellence
- Strong athletics program
- Competitive teams
- Faith formation
- Service learning
- Vibrant student leadership
- Second language learning
- Great extracurricular experiences
- Positive inclusive learning environment



Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) has been awarded a new Grade 9-12 school in Fort Saskatchewan which is scheduled to open in September of 2017. Naming of this school early in the process will assist in creating community awareness and engagement.

In January, EICS provided criteria on naming schools and sent out a survey for ideas. Based on this survey, 65 suggestions came back for consideration. After consultation with our Board of Trustees, we have now created a short list of the top 5 names for consideration. To assist you in ranking these 5 names, we have attached a quick survey that will ask you to rank them in terms of preference. To participate in this survey please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FortHigh2>

As well, we have added a link beside each of the Saints that will provide information on that Saint to help you in ranking them. To find out more about these Patron Saints, you may wish to visit Catholic Online at www.Catholic.org which has a wealth of information.

St. Andre (Bessette) - Patron Saint of the sick, the afflicted, the poor and those that are on the fringe. [St. Andre Bio](#)

St. Marguerite (Bourgeoys) - Patron Saint against poverty, loss of parents, loss of children and people rejected by religious order. [St. Marguerite Bio](#)

St. Nicholas - Patron Saint of children, sailors and ships and against imprisonment and injustice. [St. Nicholas Bio](#)

St. Kateri Tekakwitha - Patron Saint of ecologists, people in exile and environmentalists. [St. Kateri Bio](#)

St. (Aloysius) Gonzaga - Patron Saint of young Christian students and those afflicted with disease. [St. Gonzaga Bio](#)

Many thanks and blessings for your involvement in this exciting initiative!

GRADUATION 2015



Graduation this spring will be held on Saturday, May 10 and Saturday, June 20. On May 10 there will be the grad banquet and dance at the Shaw Conference Centre. On June 20 we will have the grad mass at 3 p.m. followed by the commencement exercises at 7:30 at the Shell Theatre. (Please note the change in date for the commencement mass and exercises.)

*Graduation Banquet will be Saturday, May 10 at 5 pm. Ticket prices will not be determined until late March. Sales of banquet tickets will take place in April.

*Grad photo retakes are on March 3. Please book online at www.lifetouch.ca/northernalberta

*Baby photos! Please bring them in labeled, to the front. Fine the white box with the label and drop it in.

*Valedictorian applications are available in the front office.

Please check the Grad page on our website for all pertinent information.

JAPAN STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2016

This program is open to all students currently in Gr. 9-11. There will be an information meeting on Friday, Feb. 20, at 11:30, in Rm. 202. Please see Ms. Zaleschuk for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS



There are still many, many, many textbooks outstanding from semester one. May the 40 students PLEASE check your lockers, vehicles and homes for these books.

The cost of unreturned books will be added to each student's fee account. The clear the fee, please return the book or pay its replacement cost as soon as possible.

THINKfast

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish; and he will eat for life; but what happens when all of the fish are gone?

St. John Paul II is hosting a ThinkFast at the school! ThinkFast is an overnight educational fundraiser event held at the school! All St. JP II students are welcome to participate! The students who participate will be going without food for 25 consecutive hours; from 10:00am on Friday March 20th to 11:00am on Saturday March 21th. Students will stay at the school for the duration of the ThinkFast and will be participating in the Stations of the Cross at OLA Church. Please support the fight for Social Justice and donate to this cause sponsored by Development and Peace – the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. For further information about ThinkFast and donations, please contact Mrs. Tully at the school or by email at ewelinat@eics.ab.ca Sign up with Remind to: [587-802-0268](tel:587-802-0268) Message: @fastjp2



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR
**Development
and Peace**

SALT & LIGHT

Lent 2015

Marked by ashes from Ash Wednesday, we enter into our Lenten observance. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded to “repent, and believe in the Gospel” and are marked outwardly with the sign of our Savior – the Cross. The cross announces that the one who resisted the devil in the desert those 40 days walks with us. As we seek to walk more closely in step with Jesus, these 40 days of Lenten observance remind us constantly to turn away from those things that distract and lead us away from God. This is opportunity to repent for the times we have not cooperated with the love of God in our lives, have fallen short, and have sinned. To observe

Lent, the Church encourages us to offer an ongoing sacrifice of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving with the deeper intent of being led back to the God who both loves and forgives us. I would encourage you to make this Lent meaningful in a new way this year. If you usually “give up something” perhaps consider a commitment to pray a special prayer daily during this season – or – if you still want to give up (abstain) from something, ensure it is a meaningful sacrifice – something that will guide our hearts and minds back to God. The amazing thing about giving up something meaningful is that it necessarily directs our hearts back to God by giving us opportunity for prayer and works of love. Perhaps the small suffering we experience in abstaining from something, getting up early to pray, giving charitably, etc. will give us a small glimpse into the ultimate sacrifice made by our Lord on the cross. May we all enter the season with our whole beings – turning our hearts back to the one who loves us more than we can possibly imagine.
Mr. Walker, School Chaplain

Drive for Elk Island Catholic Schools!

www.eics.ab.ca under Careers

Are you retired? Need or want extra income?
Looking for flexible work? Staying at home with children?
If so, join the EICS Transportation Team as a Bus Driver! Call 780-449-6446.

Visit our Careers Section at www.eics.ab.ca and start living the life you've always wanted!

Childcare? No Problem!
Bring them with you!

Work Close to Home
We need drivers for Sherwood Park, Ardrossan & South Cooking Lake!

Flexible lifestyle - same days off as students!
Work full-time or casual!

Great Pay & Benefits
Dental, medical, full-training, plus much more!

Fun & Supportive Workplace

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Seeing Christ in Everyone

**Do what you want to do - more often.
Join EICS!**

IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

...to order school portraits!

Order on line at mylifetouch.ca, or call 1-866-457-8212 if you have lost your proof sheet or order form.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

St. JP II is kicking off its Apple Program on Monday Feb 23rd with the help of parent council. We are seeking community donors to help support our program that provides apples as a healthy snack for our students. The health committee's goal is to make healthy choices more accessible to our students. Anyone interested in joining can speak to Miss Balla (sarahb@eics.ab.ca)

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL

The season is winding down for the Senior Boys Basketball Team. The first week of March will see the semi-finals and final game for the Edmonton Metro Basketball League Playoffs, and the Zone Championships will begin shortly after that. With the regular season over, the team finished in 7th place and will fight for a playoff spot. There is also a tournament in Redwater on February 27 and 28. The Patriots have had a good season with strong competition and managed to beat some strong teams, particularly in tournament play. Thank you for your support throughout the season.

Coach – Mr. Cameron Keats.

Senior Girls Basketball

The girls have made huge improvements this season and are ready to move into playoffs with confidence. League playoffs begin next week and zone competition begins in March. It has been wonderful to receive so much fan and parent support this year, and we are truly grateful to all of our Lady Patriot Supporters. The team had an awesome time at their tournament in Hanna on Feb 12th and 13th. It was definitely team bonding at its finest. Good luck girls!



CURLING



The St. JP II curling team (Rebecca Bartz, Brendin Serna, Shaylin Sharpe and Michael Barbour) will be curling today to competing for a chance to go to provincials. Best of luck to the team!

PIRANHAS SWIM CLUB

Fort Saskatchewan's Summer Swim Club



- Non-profit competitive Swim Club based out of Harbour Pool
- A coached program for all ages (4 – 18)
- Runs May 1 – mid August (depending on level of competition desired)
- Flexible practices and swim meets
- Great fun and fitness
- Great opportunities for parents to get involved and volunteer in the club

Registration dates for 2015 at Harbour Pool:

Early Registration and AGM on Wednesday

February 18th 7:00 - 9:00pm

In - person registration on Tuesday March 10th
6:30 - 8:00 pm

In - person registration on Wednesday March
18th 6:30 - 8:00 pm

For more information:

Send us an e-mail: executive@fortsaskpiranhas.ca

registrar@fortsaskpiranhas.ca

Check our Website: www.fortsaskpiranhas.ca

Patriot Rugby 2015

We are getting organized for the 2015 rugby season.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dave Robert, or Ms. Lynne Zwicker.

Talk to Ms. Zwicker to subscribe for email or text message alerts for rugby updates!

To receive messages via text, text **@jpiirugby** to **(289) 236-2140**. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @jpiirugby'.

