

JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PATRIOT PRIDE

<http://jp2hs.eics.ab.ca>

"Knowledge, Faith, and Pride, Acquired and Retained Forever."



Upcoming Events

March 5 – Ash Wednesday celebration, 1:00 p.m.

March 7 – PD day, no classes

March 20 – Open House/Registration Night, 7:00 p.m.

March 28 – No classes

March 31 – April 4 Spring Break

April 7 – Classes resume

April 9 – Parent/Teacher interviews, one day only, 3:00-5:30, 6:00 – 9:00.

John Paul II Catholic High School Mission

"We are a Catholic community committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of gospel values, where students' gifts and talents are celebrated and nurtured through lifelong spiritual and personal experiences." (Renewed – November 2009)

***OPEN HOUSE/REGISTRATION
NIGHT ON MARCH 20, 7:00 P.M.***

Choose 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

"Knowledge, Faith, and Pride, Acquired and Retained Forever."

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

A Message from the Principal

Catholic Education Review

During the week of March 18-21, Elk Island Catholic Schools will be conducting a Catholic Education Review at the school. The review will consist of student, parent and staff interviews, a school-wide walkthrough as well as staff, student and parent surveys.

If you would like to participate in the review as a parent, please contact Mr. Tonita and we will be sure to include you.

(Please see the attached letter from our Assistant Superintendant.)

Strengthening our Prayer Life

One of our goals during Lent will be to strengthen our prayer life as a school. In addition to Morning Prayer, teachers will lead prayer before lunch and at the end of the day. We hope that building a strong prayer life will draw us all closer to God.

Tell Them from Me Surveys

In late February, 248 students completed the *Tell Them from Me Survey* at John Paul II. The survey helps the school to understand the makeup of our students and issues that they are facing today. It also included the Accountability Pillar questions from Alberta Education. We are only now beginning to analyze the results. Preliminary results show the following:

- Students in this school have a high rate of Participation in Sports with 44% or our students playing at least one sport. This compares with the Canadian average of 43%
- 65% of our students feel accepted and valued by their peers and by others at their school.
- 79% of students at John Paul II have friends at school that they trust and who encourage them to make positive choices. This compares with the Canadian average of 77%.

- 90% of students in this school exhibit positive behaviours and do not typically get into trouble at school for disruptive or inappropriate behaviours. This compares to 87% of Canadian youth.
- 52% of our students are intellectually engaged and find learning interesting as compared to 44% nationally.
- 70% of our students tried hard to succeed as compared to 66% of students across Canada.
- Student marks in Language Arts, Math and Science mirror the national average: 76% in Language Arts (77% in Canada); 73% in Math (76% in Canada); and 77% in Science (77% in Canada).
- 84% of students at John Paul II and 84% of Canadian high school students plan to finish high school.
- 24% of our students also plan to pursue a trade or apprenticeship following high school as compared to 18% of Canadian youth.
- 50% of our students plan to attend Post-secondary after high school.

2014-2015

As we enter the month of March, planning has commenced for the 2014-15 school year. On March 20th the school will hold a Registration Evening for new and prospective students. All grade 8's from Our Lady of Angels are invited to attend as well as other students who wish to take a look at 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 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 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 JP II students in grades 9-11 as we prepare for fall 2014 registration. For students not currently attending OLA or John Paul II who are interested in registering, we encourage you to make an appointment with Principal Bill Tonita 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

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



EICS INTRODUCES NEW NSF CHEQUE POLICY

Elk Island Catholic Schools has introduced a Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) Cheque Policy. As of February 1, 2014 EICS will charge a \$25.00 fee for any cheque returned marked NSF.

This new policy was implemented due to the high volume of cheques being returned NSF. A significant amount of administrative time is required to sort out these cheques, which come from schools across the Division, and reconcile them to ultimately receive payment. If you have any questions about this new policy, please contact Hedi Klassen, Director of Financial Services at 780-449-6457.

GRADUATION 2014

Graduation 2014 will take place Sunday, June 22 (Mass at OLA 5 pm followed by Commencement Ceremonies at the DOW at 7:30 pm). Caps and gowns will be ordered for your child for the DOW ceremonies.

Graduation Banquet will be Saturday, May 10 at 5 pm. Tickets will go on sale soon.

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

LEADERSHIP NEWS

The leadership students will be donning their chefs' hats and preparing a Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast on March 4. Come hungry for a free pancake breakfast!

LIBRARY NEWS

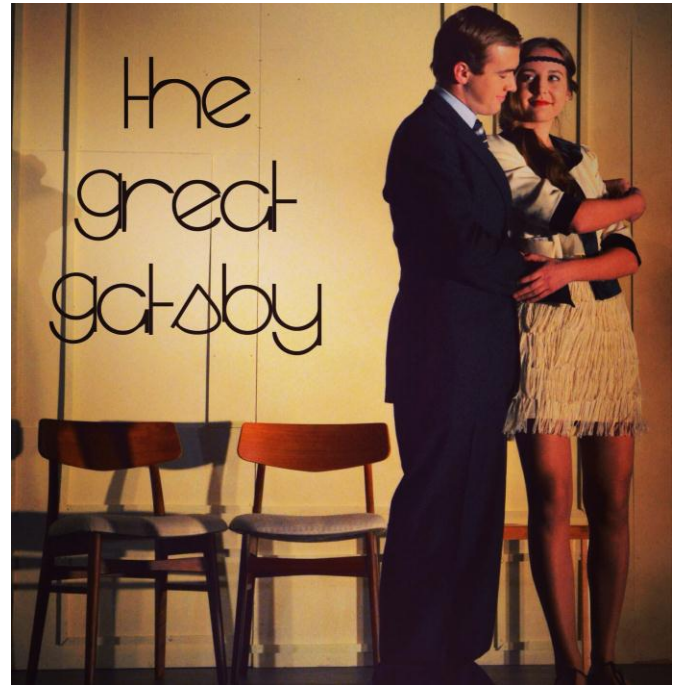


Where, oh where are the many, many outstanding textbooks and novels from semester 1? Please check your lockers and homes for the countless books that are still AWOL and floating

around. We are in desperate need of them.

Thank you to all the families that placed magazine orders during Read-in Week in October. By now, you should be receiving your magazines, if not please inform Mrs. Sutton or contact QSP directly @ 1.800.667.2536.

DRAMA



(see more photos at the end of newsletter)

A special thank you to all the students, parents and community members that helped make the Great Gatsby a huge success. We are extremely grateful for your time, effort and kindness. We hope you enjoyed the play and are incredibly excited for our future growth and success.

The drama club will be doing a one-act show with the drama class at JPII and will begin practices April 8th. Practices are held in the drama room on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15 - 5:00. If anyone is interested in participating in our spring show, please let Ms. Jenkins know.

We look forward to seeing you!

Ms. Jenkins

SALT & LIGHT

On March 5th we celebrate Ash Wednesday and enter into the 40 days of Lenten observance. 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, we can 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

March 4, 2014

something, ensure it is really a sacrifice. Perhaps the small suffering we experience in abstaining from something, getting up early to pray, giving charitably, etc. will give us a glimpse into the ultimate sacrifice made by our Lord on the cross. May God bless you and yours as you turn back with a repentant heart

Mr. Walker, School Chaplain

Here's a song that for me captures the essence of Lent as we walk with Christ in his suffering. Youtube it, it is worth more than a read – it is worth a listen!

40 Days – by Matt Maher

Forty days to wander

Forty days to die to self

Forty days to grow stronger

As faith breaks open the gates of hell

The jubilee is over,

But grace is far from gone

In the hearts of the faithful

Broken on the wheels of love

'Cause in the desert of temptation

Lies the storm of true conversion

Where springs of living water drown and refresh you

And as the Jordan pours out change

Your true self is all that remains

Where springs of living water bind and break you

Forty days to remember

The Paschal Sacrifice

Forty days to discover

His passion calls us to new life

The jubilee is over

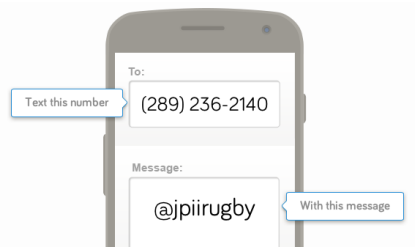
But mercy's far from gone

In the arms of the Father

As the wayward child comes home

Patriot Rugby 2014

Come one! Come ALL! Rugby practices have begun for both Men's and Ladies' JPII teams! Grades 9-12 welcome! Make sure players listen to announcements and/or subscribe to the JPII Rugby Remind101 for practice times!! More information to come, regarding tournaments and regular season games.



If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dave

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL



Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball Team for finishing 2nd place in their league division at the completion of regular season play. The boys began their playoff run last night on Feb. 25th and beat Old Scona 103-80. The guys are on to the semi-finals Tuesday March 4th and hopefully the league final Thursday March 6th.

Zone play-downs in order to qualify for Provincials begin the week of Monday March 10th.

Good luck boys the rest of the way!

Mr. Stecyk

Senior Girls Basketball

The girls lost a close game to Fort High in playoffs this week but it was a great game. The girls have come a long way this season! Zones begin on March 10! Best of luck, girls!



Robert, or Ms. Lynne Zwicker.

Subscribe for email or text message alerts for rugby updates!

New message _ ↗ ✕

Recipients **jpiirugby@mail.remind101.com** Send an email to

Subject (You can leave the subject blank)

March 4, 2014

5



March 4, 2014

Dear Parents & Guardians:

Re: **Introducing ACORN Online Payments**

Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) is pleased to advise that **ACORN Online Payments** is now available for school fees. This convenient new tool is accessible through the PowerSchool Public Portal. Methods of payment include Visa, Visa Debit, MasterCard or Interact Online Debit and there is NO transaction fee of any kind to parents for using this tool.

How do I use ACORN Online Payments?

1. Please go to the school website.
2. Click on PowerSchool - located under Quicklinks on the left hand side.
3. Sign in using your PowerSchool Username and Password.
4. Click on the Student Fees - located on the left hand side.
5. Please follow the instructions provided. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

What if I don't have a PowerSchool Account yet?

1. Please go to the school website.
2. Click on PowerSchool - located under Quicklinks on the left hand side.
3. Click on Create Account - located in the bottom right side of the box.
4. Complete the top portion with name, username, password and your email address.
5. You will be asked for a "Net Access ID" and "Net Access Password" for at least one child registered in EICS.
6. The ID and Password are specific to each individual student. If you do not have these handy please contact the school office for assistance.

What if I have a PowerSchool Account and have more than one child to pay fees for?

1. Please log into the PowerSchool Public Portal with your existing account.
2. Click on Account Preferences. Then click Students.
3. You may add the name(s) of the additional children here.
4. You may be asked for the "Net Access ID" and "Net Access Password" for each additional child you wish to add to your ACORN Online Payment account. For assistance in this regard, please contact the child's school office.

Will the school continue to accept school fee payments by cash or cheque?

1. Yes. However, it is our long-term goal to have all fees paid using ACORN Online Payments. Over time, this online payment method will result in cost savings for schools, thereby providing Principals with additional funds and flexibility to allocate resources to areas with the greatest impact on student success.

Thank you for your consideration in using ACORN Online Payments! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Mr Bill Tonita

Principal
John Paul II Catholic High School





JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Knowledge, Faith, and Pride Acquired and Retained Forever

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Bill Tonita – Principal; Steven Tymko – Assistant Principal
jp2hs.eics.ab.ca

March 4, 2014

Dear Parents of the John Paul II Catholic High School Community,

During the week of March 17th of this year, we will be conducting a School Improvement Process in your community. The purpose of this process of gathering, analyzing and synthesizing information is to assist in the creation of a strategic plan that continues to move and improve your school. Our ultimate goal is to impact student learning and to ensure that children are successful.

The School Improvement Process was developed by Alberta Education specifically for Catholic Schools. The process involves gathering data and evidence through surveys, interviews, documentation review, and general observations. To make this a success, we need your assistance.

What can you do to help us with the process?

- Talk to your son or daughter about their school experience and how they can contribute to the process by speaking with the review team or by taking a survey during this week. All grade 10 – 12 students will be surveyed and some of them will be chosen to be interviewed.
- Let the school know that you would be willing to have a short interview with a member of the team. This can be conducted in person or by phone during the day and into the early evening. If interested let the school know your name, contact number, and best time to reach you. You may also send an email to shawnh@eics.ab.ca to indicate your interest.
- As a John Paul II Parent, please take time to fill out the parent survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JP2ParentSurvey>

Please note, only one survey per household will be registered by the program. The survey is now available until Wednesday March 19th.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please contact your school administration or contact me directly at 780-449-6451 or by email at shawnh@eics.ab.ca.

Yours In Catholic Education,

Shawn Haggarty, Deputy Superintendent

Bill Tonita, Principal