



Upcoming Events

January 21 – 30 EXAMS – Please check the website for a complete listing of exams. All textbooks including novels must be returned to the library during exam week.

January 30 – February 1 – Ski trip to Lake Louise

January 31 – Semester break – no classes

February 1 – First day of term 2

February 5 – School Council Grad info meeting, 7 p.m.

February 6 – Report cards distributed at the end of the day

February 7, 8 – Teachers’ Convention, no classes

February 11 – EICS TALKS 7:00 PJ XXIII

February 13 – Ash Wednesday celebration, 1:30 p.m.

February 18 – Family Day – no classes

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

March 22 – No classes

March 25 – 29 Spring Break

April 1 – Easter Monday, no classes

April 2 – Classes resume

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 Mr. Hauptman, Superintendent

During 2012 the news headlines of security breaches and safety concerns brought to our attention the importance of reviewing our security and safety practices that protect not only those who work in our buildings but also our visitors. The first step we took was to ensure that all schools follow a strict sign in and out process for visitors (and employees who the school is not their regular work site) in addition to the locking of all doors except the main entrance. We are also establishing processes and solutions for schools that do not have the current ability to directly monitor their main entrance to the school.

The reasons for these changes are as follows:

- To make sure that all visitors report to the office to avoid the possible disruption of regular programming in our schools. For example, parents knocking on classroom doors to drop off forgotten lunches may not seem like a big problem but it is disruptive. The lunch can be simply left at the office for a student to pick up at break time.
- To ensure that individuals who have legitimate business in the schools are directed appropriately to places within our buildings.
- That an identifier badge or visitor badge is acquired so that students and staff know that an individual has the right to be in the building. If someone is seen without, the staff and students know that they need to report this individual’s presence in the school to the office.
- In the case of a fire or other emergency procedures that we are aware of all individuals within our buildings so they are not missed if an evacuation is required.
- This process provides a sense of security to our parents and students and demonstrates that we do care

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 19, 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.”

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enough to take the time to make safety first and convenience second.

Starting today, January 7th, Central Learning Services (CLS) implemented a new sign-in process. EICS staff who do not work in the CLS building are now required to sign in at Reception & receive a numbered Visitor Pass. Each Visitor Pass is on a breakaway lanyard, and must be visibly worn while in the building. Upon leaving the building, visitors are required to sign out at Reception and return the Pass. The only entrance to CLS for employees and visitors will be the main front door at Reception.

Individuals such as EICS maintenance staff and EICS technical support staff will have name badges - but are still required to sign in and out of CLS and schools. As Superintendent, I too am required to sign in and out of schools. So, if you see me walking by past the office, you have every right to stop me and remind me that I have to sign in.

Supervisors are responsible to ensure that all staff are aware of these security measures.

We appreciate your efforts to make this system work and that we continue to make our schools safe and caring places for all.

Sincerely,

Michael

Michael Hauptman

Superintendent

[Elk Island Catholic Schools website](#)

A Message from the Principal

As semester I comes to a close, students are busy preparing for final exams. All assignments must be submitted prior to the end of the term in order to be included in evaluation. Failure to do so will result in a mark of zero being recorded for that evaluation. Timetable changes for semester II should be completed by the end of semester I. Regulations require that students refrain from bringing cell phones or any other electronic device into an exam.

Semester II begins on Friday February 1st. New students are welcome in grades 10-12. Please make an appointment with Principal Tonita to register.

Please note report cards for semester I will be distributed on Wednesday February 6th. Diploma exam marks will be mailed to students from Alberta Education on February 22, 2013.

Accountability Pillar Surveys (AP Surveys)

The 2012-13 School Accountability Pillar Surveys will be mail by Alberta Education at the end of January. All parents of grade 10 students are strongly encouraged to complete the survey. Your feedback is important to the school and assists us in determining our strengths as well as areas for growth. Similar surveys will also be completed by all grade 10 students and teaching staff.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly. The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of survey of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rate; and provincial assessments of student learning. Survey results will be available in May 2013 and will be reported publicly as part of the school's three year education plan.

For further information please see the attached flyer. We thank you in advance for your feedback and look forward to your response.

CELL Phone Use

Parents are asked to refrain from calling their children during the school day. Students are not allowed to use their phones during class time or to receive texts during instructional time. Please respect this school wide expectation.

John Paul II Ski Trip

Forty-two students will be heading off to Lake Louise for the annual JP II ski trip at the end of exams. The bus will depart from the school on Wednesday, January 30th and will return late on February 1st. Good luck to all those who are travelling. Ski and snowboard safely!

School Council Meeting

The next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday February 5th in the staff room. The focus for this meeting will be **Graduation 2013!** For more information about graduation, all parents are invited to attend.

Open House/Registration Night

Planning has begun for the 2013-14 school year. All parents are invited to attend our Registration Night on Tuesday March 19th. Registration forms will be going out to students in mid-March. Students wishing to register for next year are encouraged to make an appointment with the Principal as soon as possible.

EICS TALKS

A Coffee House is scheduled for February 11, at 7:00 p.m. at Pope John XXIII Catholic School to review the recommendations for all EICS school including the Fort Saskatchewan schools. Information will also be posted on the EICS website after January 28. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee house.

GRADUATION 2013



Graduation 2013 will take place Friday, June 28 (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 11 at 5 pm. **ALL GRADUATES MUST ARRIVE AT THE SHAW BY 4:30 FOR THE GROUP PHOTO.** Tickets will go on sale soon. Stay tuned...

Grad photos will be taken on January 28 and 29. Please call Mrs. Melnyk to set up an appointment if you haven't already done so. Also, please contact the office to see if your school fees are up to date; otherwise, your child will not receive grad photos.

HARBOUR POOL INFORMATION

Piranhas Summer Swim Club of Fort Saskatchewan AGM and early registration: Wednesday February 20th at 7:00 pm Harbour Pool Meeting Room. For more information see our website: fortsaskpiranhas.ca

LEADERSHIP NEWS

JPII Leadership has some exciting events coming up!

Matchmaker just wrapped up and on Feb. 14, you can purchase your results. The students love to find out who they are "matched" with.

Lent is upon us. Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fat Tuesday is on Feb. 12. Team Leadership will be hosting a free pancake breakfast. Breakfast service will begin at 8:00am and run until classes start. Come and enjoy Shrove Tuesday breakfast fellowship with your peers and staff as we prepare for the Lenten Season.

Also in February, look for Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day will take place Feb. 27, and will bring about awareness of bullying in our community. Pink Shirts may be purchased from Team Leadership for \$7.00.

Geomeer! Thank you so much to parents and students

who donated items for Geomeer. The family was overwhelmed with the gifts of kindness sent from our school. The family was so thankful as they were unsure how they would manage getting through the Christmas season. Thank you again on behalf of Team Leadership.

EXAM-TIME BLESSING

By the time you are reading this, exams will be upon us at JPII. This can be a pretty stressful time to say the least. While study and diligence are important, it can be easy to forget to call on God during this time to help in our time of need. No, God won't write your exam for you, but I truly believe that God can help you get through the fog of anxiety and distractions so you can concentrate on your studying and focus on the exams at hand.

Perhaps when you have a moment – particularly when you feel distracted or anxious, you can pray the following prayer. It ends with asking for the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary to pray for us. If you are a parent you can pray in intercession as well with a simple rephrasing of the prayer for your son or daughter replacing "me" with the student's name!

Holy Spirit, Giver of all good gifts, enter into my mind and heart. Give me the gift of knowledge and the grace to use it wisely. Help me in all my endeavors. Give me perseverance and fortitude. Help my memory, that I may remember what I learn and recall it when necessary. Guide me in my studies and in my exam writing. Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, help me to persevere in faith.

Our Lady of Good Studies, pray for me. Amen.

You don't have to feel alone in your studies! Keep in mind as well that whatever the outcome, you'll know you did your best for God by sincerely seeking His help and preparing thoroughly for your exams with the help of His grace. Mr. Scott Walker, Chaplain

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL



JPII Welcomes the Alberta HiLights Wheelchair Basketball Program to the school from February 11th to the 15th. Initiated in 1987, HiLights is an education and awareness program that promotes inclusive sporting experiences for youth of all abilities. The Alberta Northern Lights provides two sets of 10 specialized sport

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wheelchairs to schools, community groups, or any other interested parties, so that participants can try the sport of wheelchair basketball, or engage in other sport or everyday activities with the wheelchairs.

Look forward to this opportunity in PE classes, Personal Fitness classes and at lunch hour!

Basketball

Both senior girls and boys basketball teams are enjoying the season. The boys did well in the JP II tournament January 11,12 taking the bronze medal. The girls are playing in a tournament in Lloydminster this weekend.

Good luck girls!

The junior boys and girls are also playing and improving on their skills.

More sports news next newsletter.



TRANSPORTATION

Skating and ski season are in full swing with the school programming. With that in mind, please remember that skis and snowboards are not permitted on the school bus during a regular fixed run (AM from home, PM to home) and skates must have skate guards.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As per EICS Board Policy, Bus Service will be cancelled when the temperature is below -40C. Bus Service may also be cancelled if road conditions are not safe for travel. In the event that service is cancelled, families will be advised via SynreVoice, a message will be placed on the website at eics.ab.ca, or, you may contact us at 780-449-6480.

ITEMS PROHIBITED ON THE YELLOW BUS

Toboggans, sleds, skis and snowboards are not allowed on the bus.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. Drivers will insist that children be appropriately dressed before boarding and leaving the bus.

A LETTER FROM THE STOLLERY TO OUR GRADE 9 STUDENTS

At this very moment, there is a child in the Stollery receiving specialized care from a team of world-class professionals because the community has made it a priority to care. And, you are one of the people in that caring community.

With the selfless actions of donors like you, we have helped map a route to world-class care, ensuring that every child who comes through the doors receives the very best care possible.

This state-of-the-art care that children receive at the Stollery Children's Hospital is creating a legacy for the future as patient and family outcomes continue to improve. On behalf of all of us at the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation, and the thousands of sick and injured children we serve, thank you for all of your hard work and effort in organizing and participating in a fundraising initiative in support of the Stollery this past year.

With the second largest catchment area in the world, over 1.7 million children rely on the Stollery Children's Hospital for their health care, more than any other children's hospital in Canada. We are honoured that you made these children a priority and took the initiative to support the Foundation. Thank you for helping us do everything we can to send more of them home to their families.

With this strong community support, and kind efforts of donors like you, we can ensure the Stollery remains at the cutting edge of research and education, puts to use the very best technology and equipment, has the ability to invest in innovative programming, and continues to strive for infrastructure excellence as the number of critically sick and injured patients treated there increases year after year.

As we look forward to all that 2013 has in store for us, we know you will join us in sending best wishes to all of the families who are currently at the Stollery, and in celebrating all of the children who the Stollery has helped to send home to their families.

Happy New Year! We wish you and yours all the best, now and for always

Stephanie Perilli

Manager, Community Initiatives

Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation

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Become a fan at www.facebook.com/stollerykids

Help us send children home. Donate today.

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JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS!

The Japanese Exchange program is actively seeking more host families to help billet 2 Japanese exchange students. The students will be in Canada April 12-26, 2013 and would live in your home, as a member of your family. The billet students are very patient, polite, humble and accommodating. They will be supportive of any opportunities you offer them, be it grand or simple.

Should you have any questions about this program, I would be happy to talk to you about this. Call Ms. Zaleschuk at 789-992-0998.



GRADE 9'S LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE

Recently the grade 9 Phys Ed class was fortunate to have square dance lessons from members of various square dance clubs. The grade 9's enjoyed themselves and did very well. A big thank-you to the "pros" who came to demonstrate and help.





Your voice matters.

Alberta Education invites you to play an important role in your child's education.

By completing this survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to gauge the quality of education your child is receiving and make improvements where needed.

When you fill out the attached Accountability Pillar survey, you're adding your voice to the future of education in your school and throughout Alberta. Results are used by schools, school authorities and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved.

Thank you for your participation.

Jeff Johnson
Minister of Education
MLA, Athabasca – Sturgeon – Redwater

Your voice is a priceless resource.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Keith Bowen, Alberta Education
E: Keith.Bowen@gov.ab.ca
T: (780) 422-4750
(toll-free access within Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Please return your
completed survey
in the enclosed,
pre-paid envelope by
February 22, 2013.

Alberta
Government

A true picture of our success.

Measuring the quality of your child's education

We want to know that our children are receiving a quality education in a great school. Grades are important, but there's more to it.

A great school helps every child to make the most of their talents and abilities, is welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and allows parents to play a key role. It's all about each student's success.

While it's easy to agree on such goals, how do we measure our progress toward them?

The Accountability Pillar is an innovative and straightforward way to measure our learning goals as schools, school authorities and as a provincial government.

School authorities receive a results report that is colour-coded and easy to read. At a glance, it points out successes and areas of concern from both a local and provincial perspective.

The results report shows which measures have improved, remained consistent and which have declined. It allows everyone — parents, teachers, school authorities, students and the province — to celebrate successes and respond to challenges together.

The Accountability Pillar looks at:

- **Survey results** — every year between January and March we survey students, their parents and teachers to see how they perceive the quality of education they receive and take part in
- **Student learning indicators** such as dropout rates, high school completion rates and the number of students eligible to receive Rutherford Scholarships
- **Student results** from Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

Details about the Accountability Pillar and how to obtain results are available online at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/accountability>