



Archbishop MacDonald High School

14219 - 109 Avenue, Edmonton Alberta T5N1H5

Tel: 780 451-1470 Fax: 780 455.5571

May 2017

Parent Newsletter

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

Psalms 28:7



Principal's Message

We are entering the final two months of the school year! Both May and June will be busy months as the final exams quickly approach. Kick off to the final exam season begins with the I.B. exams being administered from May 1-19, we wish those students writing, all the best during this time.

My most enjoyable time of the year quickly approaches as the grade 12's prepare for their convocation and banquet May 26 & 27 respectively. This is the time we can all celebrate in our students' accomplishments. Your children have done us proud in many ways such as: impressive performances in one act plays culminating in a provincial berth, impressing the adjudicators at a music festival, organizing a successful high school dance, donating blood to the red cross, qualifying for badminton provincials, raising over 10000 for charity or creating impressive works of art. We should all rejoice in how wonderful our students are. Please refer to our website for more details of the grad events. I can hardly wait!

There is nothing more amazing than natural beauty in any form. The simplest, most plentiful things found in nature—blades of grass, a drop of rain, or the bloom on a flower cannot be created by human hands. The creation of life whether it is human, animal or plant is precious and fleeting and it certainly brings home the importance of enjoying the simple things around us. Take time on this Victoria Day May 22 to enjoy the beauty that surrounds you.

God Bless!

Mr. J Fiacco

May Calendar

May 1-19 **IB Diploma Exams – Schedule on following Page**

May 22 **Victoria Day – No School**

May 24 **Festival of Bands –Red Deer**

May 25 **Grill for Grad Breakfast 8-9 am**
Music Concert

May 26 **Grad Commencements**

May 27 **PD Day: All Day – No School for Students**
Grad Banquet

****The June Exam Schedule is now posted on the front page of our website**

May 2017 IB Diploma Examination Schedule

Morning Exams			Afternoon Exams	
Date	Time	IB Exam	Time	IB Exam
M. May 1			12:00 – 3:45*	Biology (HL) (40 candidates) Papers 1 & 2
T. May 2	9:00-10:30	Biology (HL) (40 candidates) Paper 3		
W. May 3			12:30-2:45	English A Literature (HL) Paper 1 (16 Candidates)
R. May 4	9:00-11:15	English A Literature (HL) Paper 2 (16 Candidates)	12:30-2:15*	Mathematics (SL) Paper 1 (51 Candidates)
F. May 5	9:00-10:45	Mathematics (SL) Paper 2 (51 Candidates)		
M. May 8				
T. May 9			12:00-3:00	History (HL) (16 Candidates) Paper 1 & 2
W. May 10	9:00-11:45	History (HL) (16 Candidates) Paper 3		
R. May 11			12:30-3:00*	Chemistry (SL) Papers 1 & 2 (42 Candidates)
F. May 12	9:00-10:15	Chemistry (SL) Paper 3 (42 Candidates)		
M. May 15			12:00-3:45*	Physics (HL) (11 Candidates) Paper 1 & 2
T. May 16	9:00-10:30	Physics (HL) (11 Candidates) Paper 3	12:30-2:15	Spanish ab initio (SL) Paper 1 (6 Candidates)
W. May 17	9:00-10:15	Spanish ab initio (SL) Paper 2 (6 Candidates)		
R. May 18			12:30-2:15*	French B (SL) & (HL) Paper 1 (28 Candidates)
F. May 19	9:00-10:45	French B (SL) & (HL) Paper 2 (28 Candidates)		
M. May 23	All 5 credit IB DP classes resume			

- All Exams will be written in room 205 & 209 unless otherwise indicated – Please see notifications outside of room regarding exam seating.
 - Students are expected to arrive 10 minutes before the start of the exam.
 - **Exams cannot be rescheduled under any circumstances.**
 - **Please note: exams listed in bold with an * are written outside of regular school hours:**
 - Students writing exams in ≥ 4 IB DP subjects will be exempt for the entire examination period.
 - Students writing < 4 IB DP subjects will only be exempt from classes during their exam writing times.
-

Grad Update 2017

Commencement → May 26, 2017 @ Shaw Conference Centre, Hall D, 7pm

Gown distribution will begin at 4:30pm in the Foyer of Hall D and will be completed by 6:15pm. If pictures are wanted with the Gown, then you should arrive early to allow time for this.

Doors will open at 6:00pm for general seating.

All Graduates are asked to have picked up their gown and be in the holding area by 6:15pm.

Gowns will be returned immediately following the Ceremony.

These are not assigned seats.

Banquet → May 27, 2016 @ Shaw Conference Centre, Hall A, 7pm

The doors open for Cocktails at 6:00pm and Graduates are asked to be in their seats at 6:45pm.

**** All students & family members must have their tickets with them for entry into both evenings.**

Athletics

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Vancouver Sun Run on April 23! We traveled to BC with three other high schools from the district and our Edmonton Catholic Schools team placed 5th overall in the Youth Team Division! We had a fantastic trip with 18 fantastic students, and we're already looking forward to next spring's race.

- Mrs Suda, Ms Greer & Mr Como



MAC Badminton once again had another successful season in the City Division 1 Conference. We participated in the Harry Ainlay Invitational Tournament and finished 3rd overall in points. Later, in April we took home the team championship in the Oscar Romero Invitational Tournament. Building off of this win we successfully sent three athletes to represent us in the High School Badminton Provincials in May. First-time player Lydia S., will be participating in the Senior Girls Single event. Jo Sheen Y. and Nicholas Y. will once again be competing in the Senior Boys Doubles event. Good luck to these athletes and congratulations to all players this season.



MAC Choir Update!

Congratulations to the choir for an outstanding performance at the Kiwanis Music Festival. They received "Superior" grades in both classes and were recommended to move on to the Provincial Music Festival on Tuesday, May 30 at McDougall United Church in Edmonton (time TBA). We'd love to have an audience, so please come show your support!

SU Newsletter May 2017

Students' Union's most recent event was the Spring Dance. The theme was Neon Revolution. Our team worked tirelessly to plan this dance and assemble decorations, and the student body loved them! Students that attended the spring dance loved it and raved about the DJ we chose, and the colorful decorations that adorned the hallways. Overall, it was a successful event planned by Students' Union.

The next event on our schedule is the David Adomako-Ansah Scholarship Scavenger Hunt. Our committee is preparing for the start of this event on May 9th, and already has several teams assembled. This event will go on for a week and a half, and our students are excited to start! It holds promise for being one of Mac's best fundraisers that this school year has seen.

Maleah S.

Students in grades 10 & 11 have access to: myblueprint.ca

This interactive program assists students with self-assessment - occupation investigation - post-secondary planning. We encourage parents to talk with their child about the various activities myblueprint.ca offers.

Summer Career Camp

Choosing only one career for the rest of your life is not realistic. At the Summer Career Camp, we teach you how to design a dynamic career that adapts as you change throughout life.

Who should attend

This program is designed for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 looking to jump-start their career. This includes students going into grade 10 this fall and students who are taking a gap year or are upgrading post grade 12.

What to expect

- Learn how to be an agent of your own career
- Identify your skills, interests, values and other attributes
- Practice exploring and researching your career options
- Connect with professionals who will share their career stories and advice
- Visit workplaces on and off the University of Alberta campus
- Map out the next few steps you will take to move forward in your career

Summer Career Camp 2017

Monday, July 10 to Friday, July 14, 2017

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily

[University of Alberta, North Campus, Students' Union Building](#)

[View the full schedule](#)

Cost & Credit

Daily transportation costs to and from camp are the responsibility of each participant.

Edmonton Public School Board students

We've partnered with Edmonton Public School Board to offer students in the division reduced pricing.

Fees are \$50 + GST. Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive 2 credits on their transcript.

All other students

Fees are \$300 + GST. No credits are being offered at the time.

Waitlist

Summer Career Camp 2017 has now reached full capacity.

To be placed on the waitlist, please provide your information in [this form](#).

WE ARE CALLED...

TO BE LEADERS OF HOPE AND MERCY

May 2017

Jesus said to the disciples, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life...If you know me, you will know my Father also." ~John 14: 6-7~

This passage from the Gospel of John takes place right after Jesus has washed the feet of his disciples and is preparing for his impending arrest. He has reassured them that there are many rooms in his Father's house, and that he will go prepare the way for all. When the disciples say that they are unsure about how to get to be with their God, Jesus' answer is simple...follow him. The way to God is to be found in the person of Jesus. Living your life in relationship with Jesus, and therefore with God, is the key to eternal life!

The month of May begins with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, which also marks the beginning of Education Week. It is fitting that this week begins with a celebration of the life of this faithful servant of God, a carpenter by trade, who had the special ministry of watching over and caring for Jesus and Mary. We take time to thank all our staff for their dedication and commitment to nurturing our students to help them grow in mind, body, and spirit.

Mark your calendars - Saturday, May 13 is the 32nd Annual Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow, in partnership with the City of Edmonton, at the Commonwealth Recreation Centre. Grand Entry takes place at 1 pm and 6 pm. Drop by at any time from 1-10 pm to enjoy this amazing spiritual celebration of culture!

World Catholic Education Day falls each year on the Feast of the Ascension, which is May 25 this year. This special day is one which highlights the many gifts and great richness to be found in Catholic education. As we look to the world, we, in Alberta, are also deeply grateful for our publicly funded Catholic education. Please visit the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association website to read their article, *Catholic Education: Confronting Fiction with Facts*, <http://www.acsta.ab.ca/news/2017/4/4/catholic-education-confronting-fiction-with-facts>.

The Government of Alberta has passed *Bill 1, an Act to Reduce School Fees*. The intent of this bill is to reduce transportation fees and school fees by 25%. We are awaiting the release of the guidelines to school districts, which will go into effect on June 1, to help us establish our fee structures. Look for further communication from your school later in June.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is pleased to offer Diploma Exam Preparation courses and Summer School courses through the Department of Alternative Education. Visit their section of our website to learn more and to register: <https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8412/Pages/default.aspx> .

May is the month of Mary, our Holy Mother. As we celebrate Mother's Day on May 14, it is a wonderful time for us to honor all women, be they mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, or others who fill this vital role in the lives of our children. I would like to leave you with a special prayer for them:

O Loving Lord,

As Mary was the model of prayer, of love, and of obedience to the will of God, by your grace make mothers holy and rich with your gifts.

Bind families together in the bonds of peace and safety so that mothers will feel nurtured by love.

May all mothers enjoy good health and spiritual well-being to enable them to care for their families.

Amen

Adapted from *Prayers for Mothers*, Bishop Kevin Manning, Parramatta Diocese

Many blessings,

Joan Carr

Superintendent

The Image of “Church as Mother”

As we celebrate Mother’s Day, I’d like to come back to a theme that Pope Francis often refers to: “Church as mother.”

Pope Francis says, “I like this image a lot, as it seems to me that it tells us not only how the Church is, but also shows us the face of the Church, this Church of ours, should increasingly show” (Wednesday General Audience, September 18, 2013).

The Pope starts by reminding us what a mother does for her children. First of all, the Holy Fathers says, “she teaches us how to proceed in life... she orientates us, she always tries to show us the right path in life in order to grow and become adults. And she does this with tenderness, with affection, with love, always – even when she tries to correct our path because we lose our way a little or take routes that might lead us to a fall.”

My mother, Olga – God bless her, taught me as a young boy about God, about love, and the importance of family and friends. She taught me about caring for neighbours. For example, an elderly lady in her eighties lived not far from our home in Lavoy. Each day someone in our family was called upon to check in on “babunia” or great-grandmother, though we weren't related. Babunia lived in a small house without electricity, heat or running water. When I was old enough, my turn came to bring babunia groceries, wood, coal, water, whatever she needed. It was quite the honour, even though I confess at times I would rather be playing with my friends. My mom also taught me my daily prayers – the Our Father, the Hail Mary, how to make the sign of the Cross, and the Ten Commandments – in Ukrainian I might add, and before I attended my first-ever summer Catechism program with the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate at the age of 5 (mom didn't want the Sisters to think that she neglected her duty as a mother in passing down the faith to her children!).

Like a mother, like my mother, the Church does likewise. Pope Francis says, the Church “orientates our lives, she offers us instruction on how to walk in the right path.” Take the Ten Commandments: “they concern our way of behaving towards God, towards ourselves and toward others, just as a mother teaches us how to live well.”

Secondly, the Holy Father says, “when a child grows and becomes an adult... and assumes his or her responsibilities... they do what they want, and at times, they may happen to stray away from the path... A mother always, in every situation, has the patience to continue to accompany her children. She is animated by the strength of love... and even when her children make mistakes, she always finds a way of understanding them... to help them.”

Right after high school, my brother and sisters left home to look for work and start lives of their own. Mom, and dad, always expressed an interest in how things were going. They shared in our joys and successes, and they offered a shoulder to cry upon when things weren't going so well. Even today, when my brother and sisters speak among ourselves, when we ask, “Are you going home for the weekend,” “home” always means mom and dad’s, where we grew up together, and learned to love and to cry together.

“The Church is the same,” says Pope Francis, “she is a merciful mother who understands, who always tries to help, to give encouragement even when her children have made mistakes or continue to do

so. She never closes the doors of her house to them: she does not judge, but rather offers God's forgiveness, she offers her love to invite her children to return to the right path and even when they have fallen into the deepest abyss, the Church is not afraid to enter into their darkest night with them in order to give them hope."

Finally, the pope says, "a mother also knows how to ask, to knock on every door for her children, without calculation but with love. And I think of how mothers know, most of all, how to knock on God's door! Mothers pray a lot for their children, especially for those... most in need."

My dad doesn't hear well. He lost his hearing in a near-death car accident when I was a young boy. I'm grateful to God that he's still with us, approaching his 89th birthday! It was mom who laid awake in her bed each night, listening, awaiting the safe return of her children from volleyball or basketball practice or a game, a night out with friends, or an all-night "drive-in movie." She kept constant vigilance in prayer. And even when we moved away from home, in search of adventure and excitement, mom's prayers carried and sustained us over the years.

Pope Francis says, "The Church does likewise: through prayer, she places the lives of all her children in the hand of the Lord..."

The Holy Father concludes, and so "we see in the Church a good mother who shows us the path to walk in life, who is always patient, merciful and understanding, and knows how to place us in God's hands."

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we offer a word of prayer and thanksgiving to God for all moms who have showed us love and raised us to be who we are today.

Happy Mother's Day to all moms!

And to my mom, Happy 88th birthday! I love you!

Bishop David

AMORIS LAETITIA CHAPTER 8: ACCOMPANYING, DISCERNING, AND INTEGRATING WEAKNESS

A law is a rule for the actions of members of a community which help the community to work well. Therefore, a quality of a good law is that no one should be held to that which is impossible: everyone should be able to understand and follow. If something were impossible, it means an action is unable to be done, to occur, or exist under any circumstance. To experience and respond to God's love - especially that which is found in a marital relationship of husband and wife, both are forms of love that are very possible and entirely worthwhile.

The Church is aware there are different realities of conjugal relationships within the world and among cultures which observe various degrees of public commitment. Like Christ her teacher, the Church holds out for the very best for everyone under her care, directing each person and all couples to the relationship which will bring the deepest satisfaction and the highest of happiness. It means also that it does not and will not prevent her from accompanying those who may find themselves at a different stage in this life or in a relationship which may need assistance or even correction; if you are on the path toward an alignment with God's will and genuine human fulfillment, there is further goodness and hope to be discovered, together.

Among many couples, sadly there may be a misunderstanding of what Marriage is and can be. There is particular concern for those people who distrust marriage due to the many difficulties experienced in our society, or due to the challenges that are merely anticipated within the marriage bond; however, these couples and families should not dismiss or give up on marriage as a way by which to publicly commit, express their love, and grow in relationship. For her part, the Church can re-introduce and re-present the many positive elements, genuine promises, and valuable benefits to be found within the stability of a marriage. Too often these greater aspects are overshadowed by negative misperceptions, and that is as unfortunate as it is unfair. This persistent message of the Church on the immense purpose and value of strong marital relationships requires gentle humility to hear and good faith to follow. The Church will seek always to offer her witness of the Truth to those entrusted to her care. Every good teacher understands each student to be at a different level of learning, and yet, they also believe how each student can and should belong within their classroom. Similarly, the Church maintains that every person may be at a slightly different level of moral ability, yet all people belong within her pastoral care, deserving her attention and encouragement. What the Catholic Church can do to assist individuals and affirm couples collectively is the overall work of Christ and therefore becomes the main message of *Amoris Laetitia*.

It must be noted that for anything challenging or a rule to be followed, there is a difference between defiance and weakness. Defiance means knowing and being able to do something, yet remaining unwilling. Whereas weakness suggests a willingness to do something, while perhaps remaining unaware or unable. Defiance or weakness is a choice based on your attitude, and your attitude is what determines the human acceptance or rejection of the Truth. A person with an attitude of arrogance prevents any receptivity due to closing off one's heart and mind. Whereas a person with the virtue of humility is able and open to a deeper understanding of the rule and the Truth. Encouragement in growth and affirmation of a person serves as an invitation to know, become better able, and remain willing to experience the authentic joy that comes from a healthy and mutual love.

Chapter 8 reminds us of the difference between the simple following of rules and the genuine spirit which animates and directs them. We must seek to possess a proper attitude if we are to know the joy of God's love in this life. Perhaps a verse from the humble prayer of St. Francis can be borrowed:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love...

It is the second verse which is the most helpful with our subject. If we can console another, then can we be healed; if we are willing to understand another, then shall we ourselves be better understood; if we choose to love another, only then shall we feel an authentic love in return. To understand the love the Church encourages, we must understand that the focus begins - not with ourselves, but first with others.

The main message of Chapter 8 is to share hope in the face of difficulty or despair. Effectively it is written to help us understand that no person nor any couple is held to a standard that is impossible; as we can believe, so we are to be. It must be remembered that it is only *with* Christ that all things become possible. And if Christ's law on marriage reflects that of God's love, it is the absolute best law by which we are all invited to live and follow as individuals and couples, together.

Father Dean Dowle