



## Weekly Newsletter- Feb. 1-5, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we enter the month of February we will be focusing on Kindness. We will have many classroom and school-wide activities that remind our students to take extra care this month to develop a habit of kindness. We hope that all families will embrace this at home and enjoy the emphasis on this special trait we all possess. May God bless everyone in our St. Vladimir community.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Kristy Desmarais*

*Mrs. Joanna Schipper*

*Principal*

*Assistant Principal*



### REMINDERS

1. **Spirit Day** will be on Friday, Feb. 12 – Wear red, pink and white
2. **Term 1 Summary Report** – you can view your child's summary progress report for the first half of the school year using your Powerschool account. Be sure to check it out.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA



TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING  
IN THE SCHOOL AND STAY  
CONNECTED VISIT US ON  
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

St\_vladimir\_ecsd



This website is a valuable tool for information about your child's school and ECSD information as well as many educational links. Be sure to visit the website throughout the school year for up to date information and all the latest news at:

<https://stvladimir.ecsd.net>

## St. Matthew Parish News

For more information about any of the programs offered by St. Matthew Parish you can call the office at 780-475-2888.

Please take note that our office hours had changed. We are now closed on Monday. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday – 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sunday from - 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 pm.



**ST. VLADIMIR VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**  
For all new students to the school so tell your friends to go to the school website to find the link for our live presentation!  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021 6:30 PM**



## POWERSCHOOL PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL

The Edmonton Catholic Schools PowerSchool parent and student portal is a secure website that allows parents and students to access attendance, grades, fees and student information in real time. Please remember to check out how your child is doing in school on a regular basis. Our recommendation is to check on their progress as least once a month.

**The First Summary Report of 2020-2021 will go live on January 29, 2021 at 3:00 pm. This report is best viewed on a desktop or laptop rather than through the Powerschool APP on your phone.**

PowerSchool is used for all students/parents from Kindergarten to grade 12. It is critical that you have access to your account. Ensure that you remember your username and password. Once your account is set up you have it for as long as your child is registered with ECSD.

If you have forgotten your username and/or password, please go to the login page at <https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/>, click on the "forgot username or password" and follow the instructions.

### ST. CECILIA VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Open to all grade 6 families interested in attending for their junior high experience.

Some of the highlights include the return of music programming, an enhanced digital makerspace and CTF programs and the Advanced Math and Science Division Focus program.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 6:30 PM**



## Kindness Month

We are excited to celebrate KINDNESS this month. In February, KINDNESS WILL SPRINKLE LIKE CONFETTI with the following activities:



- **Kindness Challenge** – every Mon., Wed., Fri. on announcements
- **Poster Draw** – every student is automatically entered into the draw
- **Kindness Tree** – write or draw how we show kindness and add it to the board
- **Kindness Confetti Board** – Staff will add notes containing compliments for staff and students
- **School-wide Treats** – thanks to School Council, students will receive two special surprise treats this month
- **Staff Kindness Cart** – will visit each classroom and staff will select an item to brighten their day

These activities will be occurring for the full month of February and will be highlighted during Random Acts of Kindness week on Feb. 16-19!

## Spirit Days

We will be scheduling some special days to celebrate the fun and excitement in our school community. These days will be an opportunity for students to participate in some school spirit! Participation is always optional, and we hope to share some laughter and joy on these special days. Friday, February 12 will be WEAR RED, PINK AND WHITE DAY!



## Valentine's Day

Classes will celebrate Valentine's Day with activities and a card exchange in their classrooms. In order to be safe, we are asking that all Valentine's cards be brought to school by this Friday, Feb. 5 so that they can sit. Cards will be placed in an envelope or bag on Feb, 12 and students will be asked to open them at home.

## Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is fast approaching. We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 16 with pancakes in each classroom. The food will be individually wrapped and provided to each student by the staff only. Thank you to our School Council for providing funds to celebrate this special day.

We will also observe Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17 with a special celebration and giving of ashes. According to the archdiocese of Edmonton and instruction from our parish priest at St. Matthew's Church, we will be distributing ashes through a sprinkling of ashes on the crown of the head to avoid any contact with the staff and students. Our celebration will be done virtually using our SmartBoards therefore each class will celebrate in their classroom cohorts.

## Lenten Notes – Division Chaplain

### **A Different Kind of Lent This Year By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB**

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season. When Lent rolls around, we are invited to ask ourselves, "Ok, what can I give up this year, so that I can create room for God in my life?" However, after being in a pandemic for about a year and with a few months still to go, my first response is, "Lord, I have no more things to give up!" The Lent of 2021 will not be about giving up things, because we have already been doing so for almost a year now. Perhaps this Lenten season we are invited to ponder what we have received? Allow me give you an example.

A family that I am quite close to shared with me how the pandemic had impacted them: Wednesday night soccer has been cancelled, vacation plans were moved to the backyard, and visits to grandma became Facetime calls. In other words, their regular routine was derailed and they were understandably sad about it.

Then came a statement that I did not expect. "Once the pandemic began, we started to get to know the other families in the neighborhood." At first I thought I had misheard the conversation — we were standing six feet apart with masks on. "Yes, Father. We have gotten to know our neighbors and made friends in the neighbourhood after having lived here several years. It has been a great blessing." I must confess: I was surprised to learn this. How could anyone feel



blessed during a pandemic?

During my drive home, I pondered what my friends had shared with me, and wondered: what have I received?

So far, I have been extremely fortunate. The pandemic has been only an inconvenience for me. In contrast, others have had a very difficult time and suffered greatly: jobs have been lost, relationships have suffered, and family members have died and gone to Heaven.

For many, there will be no thanksgiving that flows from the pandemic. Their loss has far outweighed any gain. I am somewhat embarrassed to think of how fortunate I have been relative to the sufferings of others.

And yet, when I ponder the last twelve months, the most meaningful moments I have experienced have been listening to others share about their losses.

There is a special and holy connection that is formed when others share their pain with us. Despite the tremendous poverty they feel, they give us a priceless gift of sharing their deepest feelings and memories — a fragile intimacy that can be treasured long after the pandemic has ended.

The Lent of 2021 will be unique — focused more on sharing than giving up. If you are like me, and have only been inconvenienced this past year, let us give thanks to God for that. For those of you who have suffered a painful loss, I encourage you to share your experience with others. Being vulnerable is rarely easy, but your loss is something you can bless others with. I know that I have been blessed by what others have shared with me.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



<b>February</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Priest Virtual Visit – 1:00-1:30 p.m. Grade 2/3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>St. Vladimir Virtual Open House – 6:30 p.m. for new registrations for the 2021-2022 school year</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Valentine’s Day Activities, Wear RED, PINK OR WHITE, Assembly 8:45 a.m.</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Family Day NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>16-19</b>	<b>Random Acts of Kindness Week</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday – Pancakes in classrooms</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>St. Cecilia Virtual Open House 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>25 - 26</b>	<b>Teacher’s Convention</b>



<b>March</b>	
<b>1-5</b>	<b>Grade 3 CCAT</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Priest Virtual Visit 1:00-1:30 p.m. – Grade 5</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Demonstration of Learning 1-4 &amp; 5-7 - Virtual</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Assembly 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Full Day – follow Friday's schedule</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Half Day – follow Thursday's schedule</b>
<b>29 – April 2</b>	<b>Spring Break – NO SCHOOL</b>

