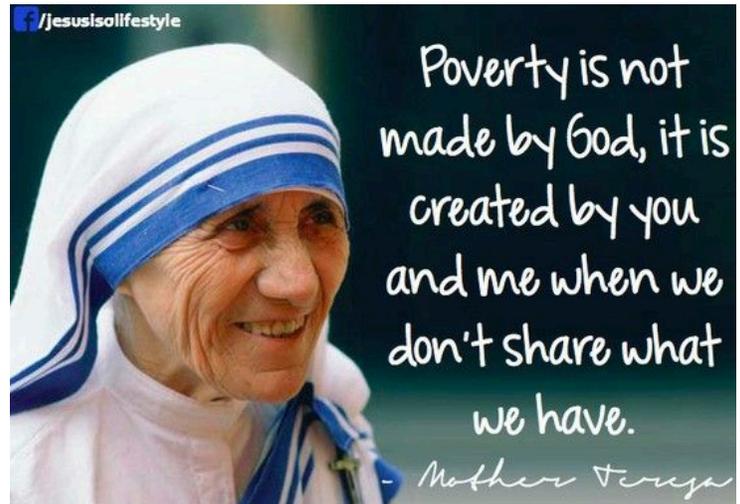


École Mother Teresa School

February Newsletter

Welcome to February! The month of love...

February also marks the beginning of one of the most important liturgical seasons for Christians around the world. We will enter the season of Lent, which marks the six weeks prior to Easter Sunday. Lent is frequently seen as a solemn time in our faith journey, and oftentimes we give something up or fast and remind ourselves of the sacrifices that Jesus made for us. We also have Shrove Tuesday and Pink T-Shirt Day! This month also marks a "winter break" for students while teachers participate in their annual Teachers Convention and PD. It is BUSY! Thank you for your ongoing support and help! Our school is amazing because of the love you give our staff and students.



Important Information

- **Faith:** Holy Doors of Mercy project- During the Lenten season we will begin a variety of social justice activities across our school community. A letter will come home prior to the start of Lent with specific details on what each grade team is doing. Together we can make big differences in our community and with our own learning!
- **Shrove Tuesday:** It's that time of year again! Lent is almost upon us! And you know what that means?!? We will have pancakes in celebration of Shrove Tuesday on February 13 and are looking for parent volunteers to help flip! Please fill out [this form](#), if you are interested in helping us as we begin our Lenten journey.
- **Valentines Day and Lent:** Following directions from the Archbishop, we are making some changes to how we'll celebrate Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day this year. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, which is also Valentine's Day. To honour the significance of Ash Wednesday in our Catholic faith, we will be dedicating this day solely to its observance with special activities and reflections. Therefore, all our Valentine's Day celebrations will take place on February 13th. Candy grams will be available for purchase from February 6-9 and delivered to students on February 13th. Bring a dollar and send positive messages and treats to a friend. Money will be used to support our school-wide Doors of Mercy project and school initiatives.
- **Intention forms:** As we look to plan next year, please fill out [this form](#) as soon as possible to let us know if your family will or will not be returning to our school community. We are hoping to have an idea of numbers in place by February break. Thank you for your help.
- **Schoology:** February 2nd, our school community spent time learning about calendars in schoology. Teachers are working to add important assignment and assessment dates into schoology calendars for parents to access. As parents and guardians, this will help you to

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stay informed about upcoming due dates to support your child's academic success. Please click on the schoology link below to learn how to look at your child's calendar and contact kristin.miller@rdcrs.ca with any Schoology questions.

- **Athletics:** Just a gentle reminder to all our athletes, parents and fans to please read the letter below regarding our role and expectations as fans and players in Middle School Athletics. Thank you for your support and go Crusaders!!!
- **French Immersion:** Various grades in our French Immersion community will have the opportunity to support EOLRS at their upcoming carnival, as well as attend French cultural presentations at Ecole Camille School in Red Deer and another with all of Red Deer Catholic and Public French Immersion students.
- **Fine Arts:** Don't forget to get your Aladdin tickets on sale through Powerschool. We are so excited and thankful for all those who have put countless hours into preparing for the show!
- **Surveillance:** Similar to many of our schools within surrounding areas and Red Deer Catholic, our school community has recognised the potential benefit of having cameras within the common areas of our school. This includes shared spaces used by our Sylvan Lake community after school hours and on weekends. Please know that these will be installed during the month of February with hopes of deterring some current behaviours and vandalism in certain areas inside and outside our building. As expected, privacy and FOIP regulations will always be adhered to.
- **Grade 9 Farewell:** Grade 9 parents/guardians, please watch your email for a survey to help plan for the grade 9 farewell. This will be sent before the winter break.

Important Dates

- **Please check the school calendar for our basketball and other school activities**

Important Links

- [New curriculum info for parents](#)
- [EMTS schoology support for parents](#)
- [School calendar](#)
- [2022-2023 AEA Report](#)

As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, our doors are always open. God Bless.

Yours in Christ,



Mme Erika Pottage



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February 5, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians.

As we approach the middle of our basketball season, we wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate our teams and to also remind athletes and parents of the expectations during sports. As a faith-filled school community, we work hard to empower youth development and enhance the educational experience through participation in school sports. We strive to integrate sportsmanship, personal growth and leadership through our programs.

As per Alberta Schools Athletic Association, all competitions must be conducted with a high standard of courtesy, fair play and sportsmanship. We all have a role to play in this shared responsibility.

- **Coaches:** The coaches must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship. These are evidenced by proper acceptance of officials' judgment, positive encouragement of player performance and bench behavior.
- **Athletes:** Athletes must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship by proper acceptance of officials' judgment and by showing proper respect for opposing athletes as well as for teammates.
- **Spectators:** Spectators, both student and adult, must demonstrate courtesy and good sportsmanship by positive cheers of encouragement for their team, not against the opposing team.

As parents, guardians and spectators, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards when we enter a facility to cheer on our team. Please know that negative cheering, argumentative comments or shouting towards refs, opposing fans, players, parents, scorekeepers and coaches, or any other display of unsportsmanlike conduct, will not be tolerated. In such a case, you may be asked to leave the facility by a ref, athletic director, teacher liaison or administrator from either our school, or the host school. This is to

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maintain a safe, welcoming and caring environment for all athletes, volunteers and spectators.

We know games can get exciting and competitive but regardless of outcome, our goal is to develop character, lifelong skills and positive relationships. Overall, we are struggling to retain refs for our youth sports, mostly due to the negative behaviours overshadowing the positive ones within the sports communities. Middle School sports are a great skill level to train our refs, who are often teens themselves, helping them to gain the skills to move onto the next level. We thank you for working to lift up our athletes and refs, for cheering positively, for respecting the game and for helping us shape our athletes to become the best possible teens they can be.

Finally, if you are willing, or have the confidence to share your knowledge of the game and would like to join our community as a volunteer ref or coach, please do not hesitate to call.

We always appreciate the time and effort coaches, teachers and refs give to our students on their evenings and weekends.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My door is always open.

Yours in Christ,



Erika Pottage

