



# THE 5 MARKS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY

Division  
Newsletter



*This month - Mark 3: An excellent Catholic school is animated by a faith-infused curriculum.*

In our schools we:

- Incorporate a religious dimension in all learning
- Advocate for a sacred perspective within a secular context
- Encourage a critical evaluation of contemporary culture
- Provide opportunities for staff to develop their abilities to infuse faith into curriculum and pedagogy
- Teach Catholic values by fostering a love for wisdom and truth

## St. Benedict School

At St. Benedict School, our faith is more than religion class. Our faith guides staff and students throughout daily decisions and tasks. Staff at our school make it a priority to share the Catholic faith with our students and permeate faith throughout daily learning activities.

- Rebecca Boorse, Grade 6 teacher



# Sacred Heart School

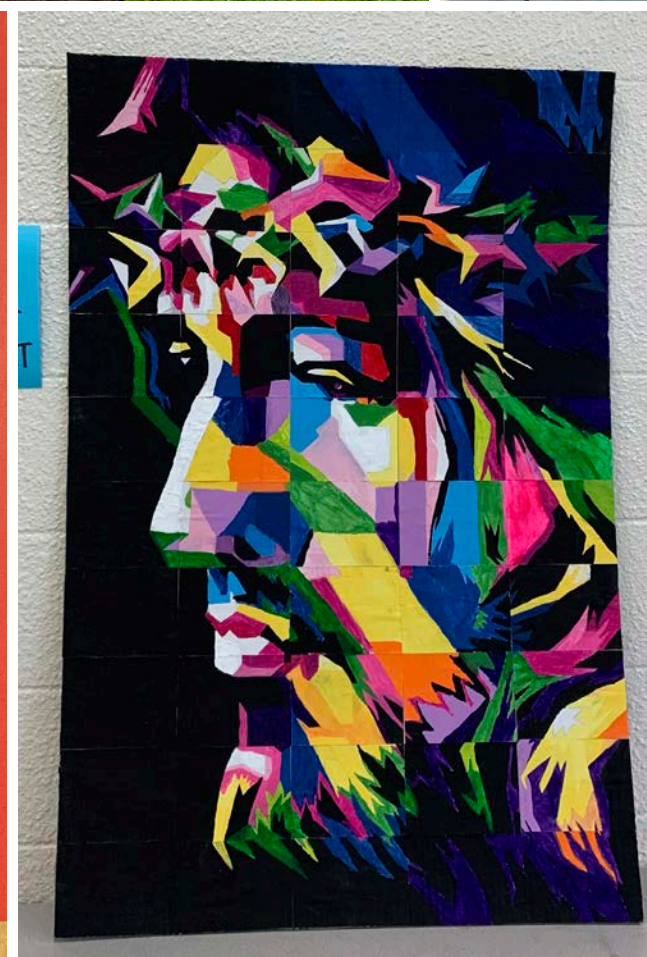
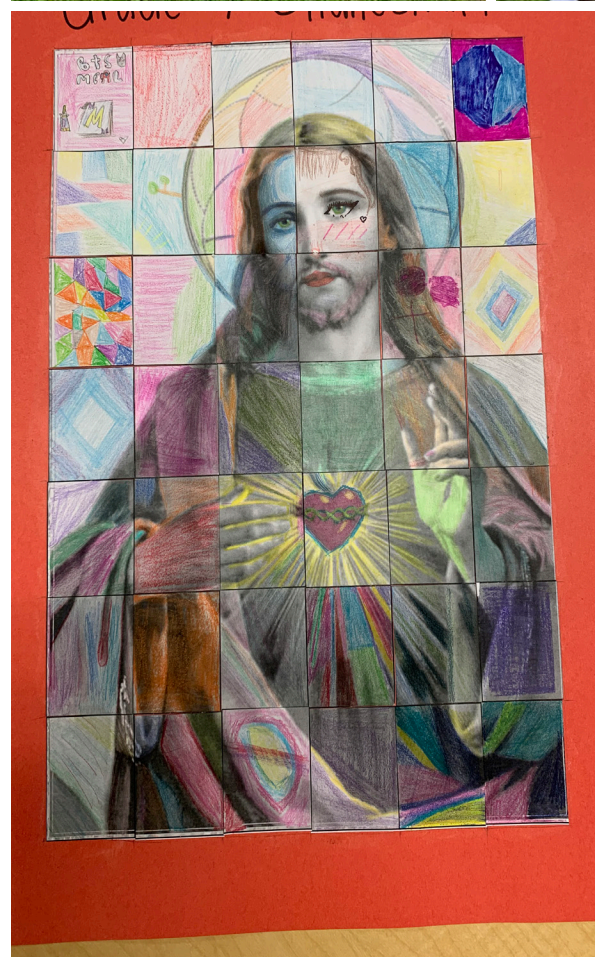
The kindergarten class practiced their spelling words on the front lawn of Sacred Heart School. Although they were only asked to write the last sound of the word, many were able to print the entire word GOD on their whiteboards. They love GOD.

Our school is teaching Catholic values and fostering love and truth by honouring the 215 Indigenous children buried at the Kamloops Residential School site. Prayers were offered up in each classroom.

The grade 7 classes designed the art projects below. Every student painted or coloured a square to form a contemporary picture of Jesus.

The grade 1 students painted the sidewalk in art class. The first picture depicts our Catholic roots and the second one says "I love Jesus". Although students were allowed to create any picture they wanted, these two students chose to focus on our Catholic faith. It is evident that a religious dimension is permeated into all learning in this class.

- Karen Ballhorn, Vice Principal



# St. Augustine School

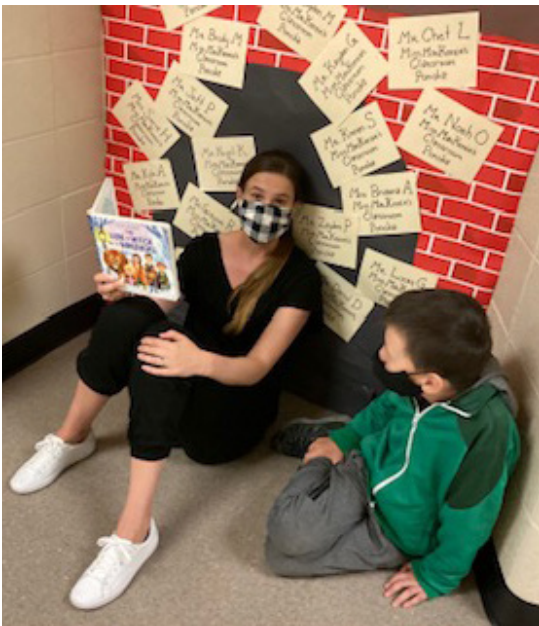
Our grade four novel study, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis, is an example of how we embed faith learning in all we do through resources and the value of individual supports.

The earth is not for our use, but a gift from God to treasure. Grade 3 students share thanks to God for the gift of our Earth.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* - Psalm 119:105

Simultaneously, kindergarten learns about Jesus as a lighthouse as grade 12 students are celebrated and encouraged to share their light during Grad Week.

- Kari Davidson, Acting Principal



*"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'"*

- John 8:12



# Father Leduc Catholic School

At Father Leduc Catholic School we permeate faith in our daily learning activities. The grade five students were asked to write using a picture of Jesus as a prompt. Their words were creative and inspiring. To the right is the picture prompt.

The grade five students were engaged and focused as they wrote about Jesus. We are so blessed in Catholic schools to be able to infuse our faith in everything we do.

- Erin Barrett, Grade 5 Teacher

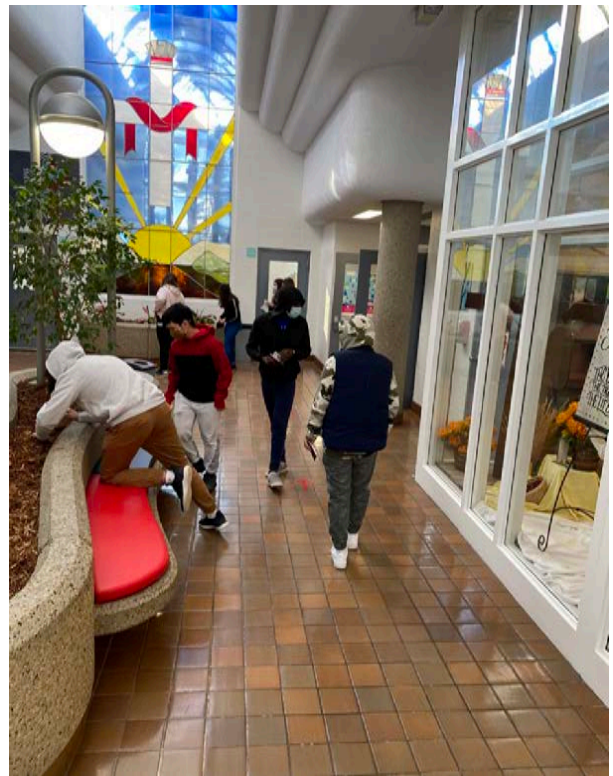


## Christ the King School and STAR Catholic Outreach

At his year end Mass on June 3, Father Silvichan shared in his homily "We make our lives beautiful when we live our lives with the Lord." Reflective of the Gospel that day, his message emulates that we foster our Catholic values through living a life with Christ.

Whether students were on a scavenger hunt during an in-school faith retreat with our resident Youth Minister Mrs. Currie, or out enjoying the sun as part of a Phys Ed class, living life in Christ is indeed beautiful. As this year ends and administration and staff wrap up and plan for the next, we all foster a love of Christ in our students and with each other as we live and grow together. Have a well deserved and blessed summer!

- Lynn Karasiuk James, Acting Vice Principal and Learning Support Facilitator



# École Mother d'Youville School

We were so excited to have our Retreat Day. Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to meet as a whole school; this created an intimate retreat environment and an opportunity for staff to witness their own faith and permeate it in the classroom. Each retreat featured a virtual component from Face to Face Ministries and a hands-on, rosary building activity. Finally, individual classrooms were able to build and share in community with a pizza snack.

COVID has presented challenges when it comes to Sacramental Preparation. We are blessed to have several school staff members on our Confirmation team. Mrs. Nordhagen, Mme Roy, and Mrs. Rastovski permeated faith in their classes and the school community as we prayed for our Confirmands. We will present each of our students with a wooden cross that will be blessed by Father as recognition and celebration of their hard work this year.

We are blessed with a community who truly feels that "every child matters." This month, students designed T-shirts, which will be made into a school shirt for Orange Shirt Day. This allowed us to open up discussion and teach students about the dark mark of Residential Schools on Canadian and Catholic histories. We will support Sacred Heart of the First Peoples with the proceeds of these shirts so that we can connect with our brothers and sisters as a means of healing and reconciliation.

On June 10th, several Elders joined us to help us put our tipi up in our Learning Commons. There was a smudging, offering of gifts and the opportunity to learn about Aboriginal teaching and understanding within our own school.

- Angela Rastovski, Vice Principal



# École Notre Dame School

Faith is not just religion class. We see it infused at our school the moment you step off the bus or enter our building. We know faith is shown in our play time, and we celebrate our virtues throughout the month when we read scriptural passages and when homerooms discuss each monthly theme on a daily basis. This is shared to our entire school community through parent weekly emails, social media posts, student work, and staff faith professional development.

Being a faithful community member is an essential part of who we are. We pray for the weak and vulnerable, for leaders, and for those closest to our hearts as a whole school and in our homeroom classes, and we remember to always give thanks. We teach our students to love each other through their words and actions, just as Jesus taught us through his discipleship. Staff are reminded of opportunities to foster love, wisdom, and truth to bring out the best in every student.

- Colette Chamulka, Acting Principal

