



Welcome to another school year!

As we look forward to a faithful year of learning, we ask you to join us in *Walking Together in Catholic Education*. This year's theme is rooted in words from the Book of Micah:

As for us, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. — Micah 4:5.

And so it is that Catholic education exists; for the purpose of walking with our children, families and communities in the name of the Lord our God. In the year that has passed, we have walked together through the synod. We have also walked together on the path of reconciliation led and witnessed by our Holy Father. This year's theme recognizes all we have learned and speaks to our forward momentum in solidarity.

The gift of publicly funded Catholic education is a treasure that we hold dear. In unity we provide authentic Catholic education to more than 183,000 students across the province. With our shepherds, the bishops of Alberta, trustees, superintendents, educators, clergy, parents, parishioners, and stakeholders we lift up the faith-based education of our students in prayer and commit our energies to ensuring the future in Catholic schools.

Come walk with us.

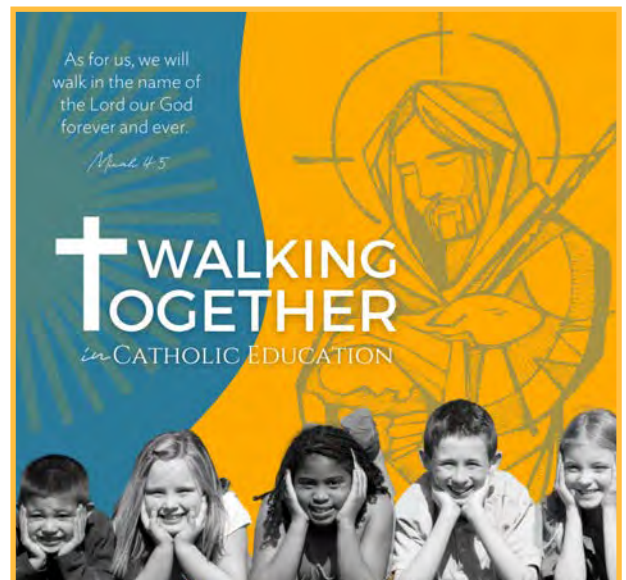
St Joseph, pray for us.

Bonnie Annicchiarico

Bonnie Annicchiarico
Director, GrACE

Teachers Join the GrACE Board Table

The GrACE board is pleased to welcome two teachers from the Religious Education Network (REN) as associate members of the board. Susanna Kaup, Secondary Curriculum Consultant of Religious Education for Edmonton Catholic School District and Grant Gay, Director of Catholic Education for Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools bring teacher voice and perspective to the GrACE table. Welcome!



Catholic School District's Publications

- † [Calgary Catholic School District](#)
- † [Redeemer Revelations](#)

Instagram

GrACE is pleased to announce:
We have an Instagram account!!



Find us @grace_advocate_for_catholic_ed

Special thank you to STAR trustee, Jolyne DeMarco for setting up and administering our new social media platform. Follow us and share your posts celebrating Catholic education in Alberta. See you on Instagram!

The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.

GrACE Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

Meet the GrACE Board 2022-2023



**Archbishop
Richard Smith**
Chair
Archdiocese of
Edmonton



Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Vice-Chair
Chief Superintendent,
Calgary Catholic
School District (CCSSA)



**Bishop
Paul Terrio**
Diocese of St. Paul



Michael Ouellette
*Trustee, Grand
Prairie Catholic
Schools (ACSTA)*



**Vincent
MacDonald**
Member at Large
Trustee, Lakeland
Catholic Schools
(ACSTA)



Betty Turpin
Member at Large
Superintendent,
Holy Family Catholic
Schools (CCSSA)



**Bonnie
Annicchiarico**
Director



Susanna Kaup
Associate Member
Edmonton Catholic
School District
(REN)



Grant Gay
Associate Member
Christ the Redeemer
Catholic Schools
(REN)

Mark Your Calendars

Catholic Education Sunday, November 6
Walking Together in Catholic Education



Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for October 2022

- † For Catholic Education: That our Blessed Mother may wrap all children in her mantle of love and bring them ever closer to her Son, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That gratitude be our way of living and being in this world, we give thanks to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: that the love of the Rosary and devotion to the Virgin Mary may thrive within our Catholic schools, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society, we pray to the Lord.
- † For Catholic Education: That our Catholic schools may be inspired by the example of the many great saints who have gone before them and who intercede for them, we pray to the Lord.

Connect Online

We ask you to help us celebrate Catholic education in Alberta. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Post your pictures and tag us so we can share them and celebrate too. Thanks for being a grateful advocate in support of Catholic education!

- † GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
- † Twitter: @GrACE4cathed
- † Instagram: @grace_advocate_for_catholic_ed
- † GrACE website
- † Email: gracedirector7@gmail.com

Can a Fiction Novel Evangelize?

Catholic educator, Ben Galeski, of St. Joseph's Collegiate, Brooks, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools has written his first novel, *Starvation Cove*, in the "Catholic milieu". Check out the story in *Faithfully* and get your copy today!

Can a fiction novel evangelize? - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY (catholiccyc.ca)



Welcome

Three new Catholic School District Superintendents have taken on leadership in Alberta's Catholic schools in the past 6 months. Please join GrACE and the provincial Catholic education community as we meet and welcome Elk Island Catholic Schools', Paul Corrigan; Evergreen Catholic Schools', Cindy Escott and Fort McMurray Catholic Schools' Natasha MacArthur-Poole.

Paul Corrigan, Elk Island Catholic School

Paul Corrigan and his wife Anna live with their five children in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. He is a member of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Parish.

He has served as a teacher and school administrator in three different boards, and has been with Elk Island Catholic since 2004. He has spent the previous three years as Assistant Superintendent of Faith formation and Wellness for EICS. Paul currently serves as the Vice-President of the Council of Catholic School Superintendents, and has previously been a member of the GrACE provincial board.

Paul was born and raised in Westlock, Alberta and is a proud alumni of St. Mary Catholic School where he attended grades 1-12. He holds Arts and Education degrees from the University of Alberta, and a Masters Degree from Newman Theological College.

Paul is an avid fan of the Edmonton Elks (even in these years of darkness), loves to read, and spend time with family and friends. One of his favourite quotes is "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly." -G.K. Chesterton

Cindy Escott, Evergreen Catholic Schools

Born and raised in Outlook, Saskatchewan, I knew that I wanted to work in the field of education from a young age. Growing up in a Catholic family, our community did not have a Catholic school so catechism was every Sunday morning before mass. Upon graduating high school, I moved to Alberta to begin my studies at the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus in Camrose, before transferring to the main campus in Edmonton where I received by Bachelor of Education in 1991. I completed my Masters in Educational Leadership through the University of Alberta in 2009.

While my first four years teaching primary grades was in an amazing public school division in central Alberta, I joined Evergreen Catholic School Division in 1996 and for the first time in my life I experienced the joy of a Catholic school community. Over the years, I have felt extremely blessed to work as a Catholic teacher from K-12, an Inclusive Education Coordinator, a school administrator, as well as an Associate and Deputy Superintendent. I am very proud and grateful to live in the Parkland County area for the past 27 years with my husband, Russ, our three adult daughters (one of whom is also a teacher) and our three delightful grandchildren, who also attend our local Catholic school.

Following in the footsteps of retired Superintendent, Mike Paonessa, leaves big shoes to fill. In the ten years that I was



blessed to work with him, his unwavering vision for our school division, the ability to build lasting and meaningful professional relationships, and the calmness during the pandemic have profoundly impacted the growth of who I am as a Catholic educator. Being a part of our senior leadership team has allowed me to expand my vision from the classroom and an individual school, to encompass the precious gift that is Catholic education in this province. I feel very honoured and blessed that the Evergreen Catholic Schools Board of Trustees has faith in me to continue the great work in moving our division forward.

Our theme in Evergreen Catholic Schools this year is "Growing in the peace of Christ". As we move into a new school year with new beginnings and new hope, we are reminded to focus on how we treat others, to be merciful, to walk in accompaniment without judgment, and to keep growing in the peace of Christ. To grow in peace, it is imperative to be deliberate and intentional in our words and actions. Our hope is to open our hearts and to be visible with our faith within our schools and community. We trust that Jesus is living in and through each of us in our calling to Catholic education.

Natasha MacArthur-Poole, Fort McMurray Catholic Schools

I would like to thank GrACE for this opportunity as we begin a new school year in the Fort McMurray Catholic Schools family. I may be new to the role of Superintendent, but I do have vast experience in Fort McMurray Catholic Schools.



Originally from Ardrossan, Alberta I made the move to Fort McMurray following my time at the University of Alberta. I have been an employee with Fort McMurray Catholic Schools since August 1995 when I started my career as a science teacher. Fort McMurray has been my home for over 25 years and I'm a strong supporter of our region, both my children graduated from Father Mercredi High School. I have and will always be a strong supporter of Catholic Schools.

Strong relationships with all stakeholders is key to success in any leadership role. In all the roles I have held in Fort McMurray Catholic Schools I have endeavoured to build and maintain strong relationships. I believe in the importance of establishing, sustaining and growing a learning culture, and sharing our faith. Fort McMurray Catholic Schools always strives for continuous improvement. At the heart of all improvement plans is making sure staff are well and that they are ready to take on new challenges. I'm proud of my work with my Human Resources team and as Deputy Superintendent. Sustaining staff wellness during the pandemic has been instrumental in our ability to make transitions between virtual and in person learning, and will also be essential to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our students post pandemic.

I look forward to joining and supporting the strong work Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) is doing, and will continue to do, in our province. stronger when we work together.

Catholic News in Alberta

New Bishop for Diocese of St Paul

Most Rev. Monsignor Gary Anthony Franken has been appointed the new Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Paul.

The Holy See Press Office made the announcement Sept. 15.

Bishop-Elect Franken is currently the Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. His episcopal ordination will be held Dec. 12 at St. Paul Cathedral.

His Holiness Pope Francis also accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend Paul Terrio. Bishop Terrio served as a priest in the Edmonton Archdiocese until he was appointed bishop in 2012. Bishop Terrio has been a member of the GrACE board since its inception and has been a tireless advocate for authentic Catholic education in his diocese of St. Paul and throughout Alberta. His positive and hopeful direction have inspired the work of GrACE.

Thank you for your leadership, prayers, concern and commitment Bishop Paul. May God bless you on your retirement.



Pope's Visit to Canada

“Pope Francis made a pastoral visit to Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022. The Pope’s visit provided a unique opportunity for him, once again, to listen and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to express his heartfelt closeness and to address the impact of colonization and the participation of the Catholic Church in the operation of residential schools throughout Canada.” (Archdiocese of Edmonton website)

Please see the links below with insights, speeches, video and reflections on the Papal Visit. May God continue to bless our “walking together” towards reconciliation.

Papal Visit to Canada

Calgary Diocese Resources

Synod of Synodality

In 2021–2022 dioceses in Alberta, across Canada and around the world embarked on a process of synod as invoked by Pope |Francis. To learn more about insights from the synod, please find below links to the Diocese |of Calgary synthesis and the Archdiocese of Edmonton synthesis. In addition, the Assembly of Western Canada Bishops and Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops created synthesis reports based on the work of their dioceses. The next question now, is to ask: **What steps is the Holy Spirit inviting us to take as a result of our synod experience?**



Story of Catholic Education

GrACE is thrilled to share a story of Catholic education with you in this month’s newsletter. Thank you to LeeAnn Arsenault of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools who wrote and submitted this article. Beautiful!

St Gregory the Great Student Receives Extraordinary Gift

Always the ultimate show-man, Father R. Tony Ricard captured the attention of our students during his Middle School Faith Week tour with Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools; none more so than Hailey Morin, a grade 7 student from St. Gregory the Great Catholic School.



Fr. Tony is the Campus Minister and Chair of Theology for St. Augustine High School, an International Speaker, and an Evangelist from the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

As Hailey was engaged with Father Tony’s presentation, she was taken with his energetic nature and his shiny gold shoes. She witnessed Father Tony’s love for children and felt he cares about everyone.



Father Tony Ricard

After the presentation, Hailey asked Father Tony to sign a toy, a precious possession, that she had brought with her. Father Tony didn’t have a marker so he took off his crucifix and gave it to her, telling her to keep this special gift safe and reminding her that he will pray for her.

Since receiving such an extraordinary gift Hailey uses it each night when she says her prayers. She is taking good care of it, however, one night “Jesus escaped off the cross.” She was laying in bed praying with the cross on her head, when suddenly she felt Jesus fall off the cross. She was worried, but her mom helped her fix it with nail glue.

Hailey is very honoured to be chosen to receive such a wonderful gift and that Father Tony is always there for her. In Hailey’s words- “God is always with her ‘actually.’”

Links:

- † [Calgary Diocese Synthesis](#)
- † [Edmonton Archdiocese Synthesis](#)
- † [Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops Regional Report](#)
- † [CCCB National Synod Synthesis Report](#)

Upfront with the Archbishop

Upfront with Archbishop Smith is a weekly podcast where we seek to bridge the gap between the hierarchy and the faithful by discussing the beauty, truth, and challenges of our Catholic faith.

A new episode is released every Tuesday. Subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts! Our own "made in Alberta" Catholic podcast! Check it out!



Social Media from around the Province

Pamela Rath @PamRath · Sep 18
 Sunday morning drive by @StFrancisCCSD. A cross, a flag at half p
 & 1 Corinthians 13:13 ...the greatest of these is love. ❤️🙏
 #IBelieveinCatholicEd @CCSD_edu @GRACE4cathed

St. Alphonsus School CCSD @alphonusus.st · Aug 30
 St Alphonsus staff celebrate our school opening mass at Mary, M
 of the Redeemer Church. We're looking forward to a great year!
 @CCSD_edu

PorCCSD @PorCCSD · 4h
 A beautiful work of Faith, Hope, Love is displayed with positive messages about
 our school. Feeling so blessed to see this huge sign as we walk through our junior
 high hall 🙏❤️ #IBelieveinCatholicEd @CCSD_edu

Joseph Dumont @PrincipalDumont · 1h
 We had an amazing day at iur @GSACRD new staff faith retreat!! Great
 work by @gsacrd_faith @ChrisMMacKinnon @deskofdoug

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division, Southern Alberta
 August 25 at 12:29 PM · 4h
 This year's theme for our new Faith Plan is "Arise! Pilgrims of Hope!" Being able to gather our
 whole staff for our Opening Mass was indeed a great and hopeful way to begin the school
 year!
 Thank you so much to Bishop McGrattan and our local clergy for leading the celebration!
 Thank you as well to St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School & Council for all your hard work
 organizing, and to Catholic Centre, High School, Lettsburg for hosting! #IBelieveinCatholicEd

St. Helena Jr. High
 @StHelena_CCSD

Fantastic Opening Mass today! It was so great
 gathering as a whole school at church to celebrate &
 pray as a Hawks Family!

Caroline McDonald
@apstgreg

We had our first school liturgy today. The children were so well behaved and participated with joyful hearts! Love all the firsts that this year is going to bring!!! #ecssdPEACE

Archbishop Jordan @AbjJordan · 23h

On Thursday, we were able to celebrate Mass for the first time as a school community in years! We were also fortunate to have staff and students from Madonna Catholic School join us! Here are some amazing drone shots of the Mass! Thank you to @andrew_fiebiger for the shots!

St. Isidore CCSD @stisidoreccsd · 2h

Students at St. Isidore have been learning about Agape love. Our wonderful Grade 2/1 class produced these beautiful illustrated prayers to show their learning and love ❤️

St. Monica School @StMonica_CCSD · Aug 30

Lovely opening mass celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral. Excited to start the new school year! @CCSD_edu @calgarydiocese #IBelieveinCatholicEd

GenesisOnline_ECSD
@GenesisonlineE

We've been reflecting on our Division theme "Let Your Light Shine Forth" & our school theme, spreading good in all we do. Inspired by "What Do You Do With a Chance?" students show how they plan to contribute to positive change! We look forward to putting our words into action! 💜

Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division
August 30 at 2:54 PM

In preparation for the start of the school year, CTR teachers and staff gathered together for an opening PD in Okotoks yesterday. The day began with mass and a blessing from Bishop McGrattan, a tradition at CTR, followed by a presentation from Dr. Astrid Kendrick on staff wellness. The afternoon was focused on professional learning and team planning in the area of student wellness. This week marks the start of class for many of our students! Welcome Back!

Bishop McNally H.S. @BMcNallyCCSD · Aug 31

A terrific way to begin the year, with all staff from our NE Family of Schools, attending mass at St. Thomas More Parish. Our faith in God guides our work, our purpose and our lives. #love #1corinthians13:13 #believeinCatholicEd @CCSD_edu @GrACE4cathed



Sam Boehm @miss_boehm

Today we talked about all of the ways that God made each of us special and had fun finding the letter stickers that spell our specially picked names 🍷 @Stlcs_EICS



ECSD @EdmCathSchools

Archbishop Richard Smith blessed the new Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre today. This offered our staff the opportunity to gather in fellowship and celebrate our new building and the growing legacy of Edmonton Catholic Schools. #ECSDfaithinspires #abed #yeg



Alene Mutala @AleneMutala · Aug 30

What a wonderful Opening Mass at Santa Maria Goretti Church with Fr. Glenn and 21 schools. Let Your Light Shine Forth. #ecsd #Grace



St. Jerome School @stjerome_ccsd · Sep 1

A year of ❤️: our Faith theme for this school year 🏠 @GrACE4cat



St. André Bessette @SABCatholic · Sep 2

A busy day at SAB today with our Opening Mass and a Welcome Back BBQ! We can't get enough of the energy this year! #bettertogether #wearecardinals

Show this thread



St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School @CalcuttaECSD

Today we celebrated St. Teresa of Calcutta! We began the day with Trustee Mutala for our school opening celebration. Then, as a school community, we created pictures showing how students can let their light shine forth. It was a fantastic day! @AleneMutala @EdmCathSchools

Bonnie-Lynne Boehm @MrsBoehm · Aug 29

Today is the day @EICSCatholic! Opening Day for our division! We are #BetterTogether! Quietly listening to these amazing musicians practice this morning fills my heart this morning! #newyear #community

St. JP II Catholic @STJPIICATHOLIC · 21h

Growing in the peace of Christ. Our entire school travelled to Holy Trinity to celebrate mass. Grateful to gather as a community with our families and our parish.

@archedmonton #ecssdPEACE

East Central Catholic Schools
August 25 at 5:15 PM · 🌐

East Central Catholic Mission and Ministry Day kicks the year off with Father Cristino Bouvette.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
September 1 at 10:30 AM · 🌐

Meet the new kids on our education block!

Yesterday, we welcomed our new staff to our community during our Division Opening Celebration at St. Joseph High School. The staff also recited their Pledge of Service in front of their peers.

We are truly blessed to have you.
#rdcrs #newfaces

Cindy Escott @EscottLearning · Aug 27

We had a wonderful @EvergreenCSSD Faith Development Day with @SarahHart! A wonderful message, from a beautiful soul, to be open and courageous in our faith and to show mercy to our neighbour! This year is going to be amazing! #ecssdPEACE #IBelieveinCatholicEd

PEACE OF CHRIST
God is doing something good
God is doing something good
He began a work in me
He'll be faithful to complete
God is doing something good



Bertha Kennedy Catholic School

September 9 at 2:28 PM · 🌐

Beautiful Welcome Back Liturgy today at St. Albert Catholic Parish. Congratulations to our Grade 4 class and new students for receiving a Bible. Many thanks to all the parents, grandparents and family members who participated in the celebration today.

GPCSD @GPCSD · Aug 30

We celebrated our opening ceremony and Mass for the start of the 2022-2023 school year! Over 700 staff were in attendance on Friday.

We are so excited for the first day of school tomorrow!



FMCSO @FMCSO · Aug 23

We brought our entire #WeAreFMCSO teaching staff together to kick off the school year! 🎉

It was also faith theme launch! 🙏

Do Small Things with Great Love

"Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." - 1 John 3:18

Here are some highlights!



Ecole Father Jan

September 9 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

Arise! Go with God!

Yesterday, we were blessed to be joined by our Division Chaplain, The Doug, for our Opening Liturgy.

We were so fortunate to be able to celebrate the start of school together. The Doug challenged us to Show up, Take a Chance & Love like Crazy!

Lakeland Catholic School Division @LCSD_150 · 3h

"Lord, you are my rock."

In this week's update, Superintendent Pamela Guilbault shares a reflection from Franciscan Media.

lrcssd.ca/our-division/l...



STAR Catholic School Division

August 29 at 8:50 AM · Instagram · 🌐

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Reflection Day 2022! It was an incredibly inspiring day and, best of all, we finally were able to come together in person! 🙏

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🙏 @saintandrebeaumont Today St. André staff participated in Reflection Day with the entire STAR district! We had the privilege to learn from the keynote speaker Leah Perrault and attend Mass officiated by Archbishop Smith. Thanks to Father Leduc Catholic School for hosting and to the STAR Catholic School Division and board for the faith filled day! #assaabeaumont #BelieveInCatholicEd



Rosary School
 August 31 at 9:32 AM · 🌐
 This morning Mrs. Collins invited our students to pray the Rosary. We would like to invite our parents and community members to join us every Wednesday @ 8:30 am. If you have any intentions that you would like to add that day please let Mrs. Stewart know through email or a call to the school.
 780-836-3625



STAR Catholic School Division
 September 6 at 2:20 PM · Instagram · 🌐
 #BelieveInCatholicEd 🇺🇸
 @stbenseduc What a beautiful way to begin our school year. In prayer. 🙏🇺🇸
 @starcatholic #blessed #schoolcommunity



Lakeland Catholic School Division
 August 31 at 8:57 AM · 🌐
 Yesterday, Lakeland Catholic welcomed staff back for the 2022-23 school year.
 #LCSJoy



Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools
 August 30 at 10:13 AM · 🌐
 On August 26, over 700 staff from Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools gathered to celebrate the opening ceremony and Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Congratulations to all our service award recipients, Rotary Award recipients, Edwin Parr Nominee and Ambassador of Christ award winner!

