



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT NOVEMBER 2016

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27

During the month of November we need to take the time to remember how blessed we are to live in a country of peace. This is thanks to the many veterans who fought for us and gave up their lives for us so that we may have peace. This is a topic that our students should be discussing this month and a topic worth discussing at home. Each of our schools will be holding special celebrations on November 10th. Check out their websites for specific times.

Last week our staff spent time learning about inquiry based learning. This is one area of focus identified in our three-year plan. Inquiry-based learning starts by posing essential questions, problems or scenarios and then allowing students the opportunity to explore on their own, rather than the teacher simply presenting the content. The teacher provides appropriate resources and guidance to the students, becoming a facilitator of learning. There are many articles online on this topic. Here is one link if you are interested in learning more.
(www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/inquiry)

This month you should be receiving report cards for your children and opportunities will be available for three-way conferencing. It is important that we work together to set goals for your children to increase their achievement. A key to success is attendance. If they are not there then we can't teach them. Arriving on time is also important as most of the teacher directed teaching happens at the beginning of class. Missing a day a week amounts to two months of school over a year. The goal should be for your child to have at least 90% attendance. Check out your son/daughter's attendance and see if they are maintaining this goal. If not what are the barriers that are affecting their attendance? Is it something that needs to be discussed with the teacher?





Winter is here so please make sure that your child is coming to school with warm clothing. As well make sure that you are aware of the times when doors open to students at your school so that your child/ren are not left outside in the cold too long after drop off.

This weekend we celebrate Catholic Education Sunday. We are blessed to have Catholic schools in Yellowknife and are honored that you have chosen to have your child be a part of our family. Below is a letter from Bishop Mark, and the bishops of Alberta.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Catholic education takes its lead from Jesus Himself: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Mt 28.19-20) Simply, this means announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ and helping one another to become His disciples.

We do this by first listening to the proclamation of the Gospel. Then, after having received the Word, we begin to integrate it into our lives. We let Jesus’ words and actions shape us and form us to be his disciples, his witnesses to others. Then, as Jesus’ disciples, we can be his hands and feet and eyes to spread the Good News.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

... Christ has no body now on earth but yours. (St. Teresa of Avila)

As an integral part of the Church, Catholic schools have been given the responsibility to deliver Catholic education. They are part of the Church’s evangelizing mission in the world and are “the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out.” (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, Congregation for Catholic Education, 1997, n. 11)

They form a community to spread and deepen the faith; to form the human person with an outlook to his or her final end as well as the common good of society. In developing their physical, moral, and intellectual talents, they help their students acquire a more

perfect sense of responsibility and the right use of freedom. (cf. Gravissimum educationis, n.1) Fidelity to the truth of Christ ensures the effectiveness of their mission.

As we celebrate Catholic Education Sunday, it is good to reflect on the importance and the need of Catholic education, not only for our students, but also for the good of our communities and society as a whole. May Christ the Teacher inspire us and guide us in the coming year to be his disciples, his hands and feet and his eyes to all those we encounter.

God bless you.

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

God Bless,

Claudia Parker
Superintendent

