

CONNECTIONS

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWS

March 2010

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S LENTEN MESSAGE

A few years ago, we started a tradition of praying together each day for a few moments during advent and Lent. This practice has become a simple way for us to find some quiet time together in the midst of our busy days to focus on what is really important. Today we once again begin our journey together as a community of faith. This is a very special time of year when we have the opportunity to pray, to reflect and to prepare individually and as a community for Easter.

Originating in the earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, Lent is traditionally a time when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the 40 days of Lent, each member of the community imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, Roman Catholics are encouraged to receive ashes and attend Mass on this day, if possible, in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and of our call to repentance. In the early Church, Ash Wednesday was the day on which those who had sinned and who wished to be readmitted to the Church, would begin their public penance. The ashes we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility.

The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast (only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day with no food in between). Fasting and abstinence are more than a form of penance; they call for us to take stock of our spiritual lives. As Lent begins, Catholics have the opportunity to set out our very personal spiritual goals to reach before Easter.

The reading I have chosen to focus on for Ash Wednesday is from Matthew (6:1-6, 16-18). *Your Father who sees in secret will reward you (Matthew 6:4)*. Matthew reminds us that our offerings or our penance should be done quietly not in ways that call attention to us. What Matthew is trying to help us to do is to make the focus God rather than ourselves. When God is the focus, then we are more likely to be open to Him and to the love that he wants to bring into our lives. Letting God's divine love overtake our lives requires a focused commitment. If we can get to that place where we are focused on God and our relationship with Him, it becomes so much easier to reflect that in everything else we do and in other relationships. As we begin our Lenten season together this year, let's be deliberate about our relationship with God and with each other.

Loving Father, I welcome you into my heart and ask you to do your work through me.



Lucy Miller, Ed. D.
Chief Superintendent



CALGARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 Fifth Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 4T9

403-500-2000

www.cssd.ab.ca

ST. ANGELA WORKPLACE SCHOOL ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS

St. Angela Workplace School, located in the community of Bridgeland, is accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. The decision was recently made to transform St. Angela into a workplace school in order to take advantage of the school's unique downtown location to appeal to suburban parents who work in the city core. The school will continue to serve the Bridgeland and Crescent Heights communities, maintaining its community school spirit, but is also available to families from across Calgary. The school features access to out of school care, as well as available options for parking for those who may work downtown. The central location also allows the school easy access to a wide variety of educational, sports and arts opportunities in the downtown area. For more information and to register your child at St. Angela Workplace School, please call 403-500-2011.

THE 2010–2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Through a collaborative approach with our stakeholders, the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) has finalized the 2010–2011 school calendar. Some highlights are as follows:

Start Date	September 2, 2010
Christmas Break	December 22 (Noon) – January 6, 2011
Spring Break	March 26 – April 3, 2011
Easter Break	April 21 – 25, 2011

To view the entire 2010–2011 school calendar, visit www.cssd.ab.ca.

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

The Calgary Catholic School District is seeking caring and nurturing families who are interested in welcoming international students into their homes.

- Do you have an extra, private, furnished bedroom?
- Do you have time to devote to a new member of your family (e.g. preparing nutritious meals, providing opportunities for students to better understand Canadian culture, etc.)?
- Is English the primary language spoken in your home?

If this describes your situation and you are interested in getting further information, please contact the District at international@cssd.ab.ca. Everyone living in the home that is over the age of 16 must present a police security clearance. Families will receive a monthly fee for hosting the student.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

In March 2007, Calgary Catholic School District's Board of Trustees passed motions related to fundraising based on a report prepared by a task force. This task force was established to review fundraising practices within the District and provide recommendations. At this time, the Board established a March 1, 2010 date when all schools would cease using bingos and casinos for fundraising purposes.

Over the last three years, the Board has helped to establish the Catholic Education Foundation of Calgary to help secure funding for program enhancements. The aim of the Foundation is not to replace individual school fundraising. That effort must still continue at each individual school. The Foundation is led by volunteers who are leaders in the Catholic community and are committed to Catholic education. For the past year, school communities have been planning for alternative fundraising methods to assist with funding of their educational enhancements and enrichment programs.

