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Principal's Message

The Principal's Message for March is being brought to you by Associate Principal, Mr. Aaron Skretting. Enjoy this reflection on the Lenten Season.

In 1733 Alexander Pope published his collection *An Essay on Man*. It is from this collection that we have derived today the popular phrase 'hope springs eternal'. As we enter the final stretch of the school year, concluding quarter three and beginning quarter four, we also enter the Easter season. It is during this season that we can again point to both the crucifix and the empty tomb as reminders that hope does indeed spring eternal thanks to the Easter miracle. Alleluia, He is risen!



In this time, as the weather improves and we see the signals of new life abound, I would like to take this opportunity to review some data that we collected from our students in the dark midwinter days of at-home learning. In December of 2020, students were asked to complete the Our School Survey, which consists of a series of questions about the entirety of their school experience. As we reviewed this data with our central office personnel recently, two items popped out.

First, students were asked to assess their own feelings about COVID and its impact on their mental health and schooling. 90% of our students responded from neutral to positive, including the following breakdown:

- 57% say that the pandemic has changed their life, but they have adjusted;
- 19% say that the pandemic has not changed their life;
- 14% say that they are **positive and hopeful**, and that the pandemic can change us for the better.



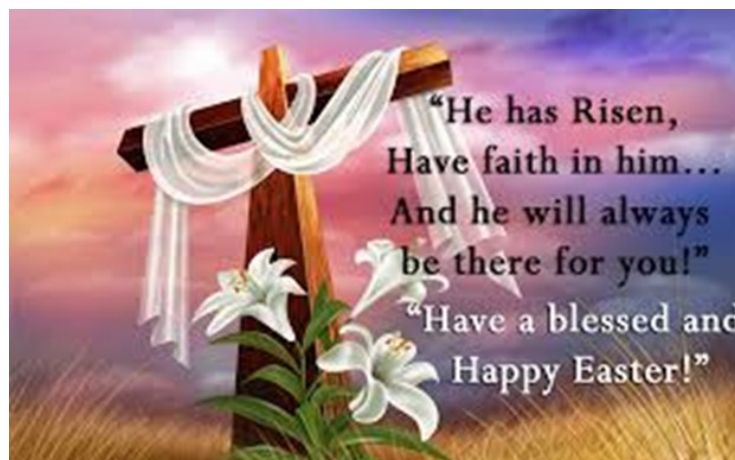
Second, students were asked to assess the school culture in a variety of areas. While all areas were well represented in their scores, 80% of our students agreed with the statement that our school is **faith-filled**. At our recent Spiritual Development Day on March 22, we were reminded by our keynote speaker David Wells that we must allow ourselves to be interrupted by God in the midst of our busyness and planning. It is in these interruptions, because we are forced to stop, that we can encounter ourselves and God - and perhaps, this is what we are seeing manifested for our students in the reality behind these statistics.



To me, as a leader in the school, it is truly heartening to see these results from our students, and reaffirms that what we do here is good, and what we do here is important. We know that it has been an incredibly hard year in so many ways for our students, and the year is not over yet. However, we must not lose heart in the face of continued challenges. Imagine how the Apostles must have felt in the hours between Holy Thursday and Easter morning - saddened, grieving,

worried, confused, disoriented, anxious. These emotions, so familiar to us this year, were overcome in three days as Christ rose from the dead, turning the cross from a symbol of Roman authority to one of eternal hope. We believe that eternal life is the fruit of the Crucifixion, and therefore as an Easter people, each spring our hope is renewed. As our calendars turn to April, let us again put into perspective the challenges that we have faced so far this year, and to look forward into quarter four with the promise of better days to come (both in this life and the next).

- Mr. Skretting



Important Dates

April 2021

April 1—Last Day of Q3 Classes

April 2—Good Friday, No School

April 2-11 - Easter Break - the school will not be open. Any at-home or distance learning materials/ packages dropped off at this time should be dropped through school mail-slots.

April 12 - Exams - See following page for Exam Information

April 15 to 16 Material drop-off/Pick-up for Q3/4 At-home Learners

- April 15 AM - Grade 12 courses

- April 15 PM - Grade 11 courses

- April 16 AM - Grade 10 courses

- PLEASE NOTE - all at-home sections will begin class instruction on Tuesday, April 20

April 19 - CCH based PD Day - no classes

April 20—First day of Q4 classes for ALL students. Grade 10s and 11s will be on Campus East. Grade 12s will be on Campus West. More information and maps to come!

April 30 - Mass for St. Joseph, The Worker and Blessing of the Stations of the Cross on Campus West - this will be livestreamed from Campus West on CCH's YouTube Channel



Exams—Important Dates

April 12 - Exams - students only attend for the following reasons:

- To write a diploma exam if they have opted to write
- To make up assessments that were missed prior to the Easter break
- In the event that a teacher requires student(s) to attend (to submit assignments or make up tests/exams)
- If they are part of a special program

PLEASE NOTE: Shuttle buses to Campus West both in the morning and at the end of the school day WILL NOT be running. Students who require transportation to Campus West will need to make their own arrangements (ie: parents drive or public transportation).

Diploma Exam Schedule:

Monday April 12	9:00 AM	English 30-1 Part A	West Campus
Tuesday April 13	9:00 AM	Social 30-1 Part A Social 30-2 Part A	West Campus
Wednesday April 14	9:00 AM	English 30-1 Part B	West Campus
Thursday April 15	9:00 AM	Social 30-1 Part B Social 30-2 Part B	West Campus
Friday April 16	8:00 AM 12:00 PM	Math 30-1 Math 30-2 Biology 30	West Campus
Monday April 19	8:00 AM 12:00 PM	Chemistry 30 Science 30	West Campus
Tuesday April 20	9:00 AM	Physics 30	West Campus

School Fees—Now Past Due

School fees are now past due! Please go to Fee Payments on the Catholic Central High School home page and pay by SchoolCash Online

<https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

School fees are now past due! While we know it has been a particularly challenging year, we do rely on these fees to help provide programming options to students, as well as classroom resources and instructional tools for staff and students.

Please go to our school homepage and use the “Fee Payment” button to pay through SchoolCash Online. If you have any issues or need to arrange for alternative options, please contact Joanne Fehr at fehrij@holyspirit.ab.ca



Re-registration for 2021/22 School Year

Reminder to all parents/guardians: In order to build next year’s timetable and assign students to sections, we require all returning grade 10 and 11 students to have completed re-registration forms for next year. An email was sent to parent contacts in early February to access SchoolEngage for this process. If you require assistance with this process, please contact Ms. Magill through the school office. Please note that a student’s timetable for next year cannot be built until a re-registration is processed.

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/registration/current_family_registration



Thank you to Mrs. Schmidt

On behalf of the staff and students at Catholic Central, I would like to thank Mrs. Schmidt for being a light to us in this challenging year and for sharing her time and gifts to us as she took on the duties of acting Associate Principal. We will be forever grateful for her steadfast support, words of wisdom and encouragement, and compassion and care as we navigated this most unusual school year.

Merci, Mrs. Schmidt!

Welcome back Mrs. Dempsey

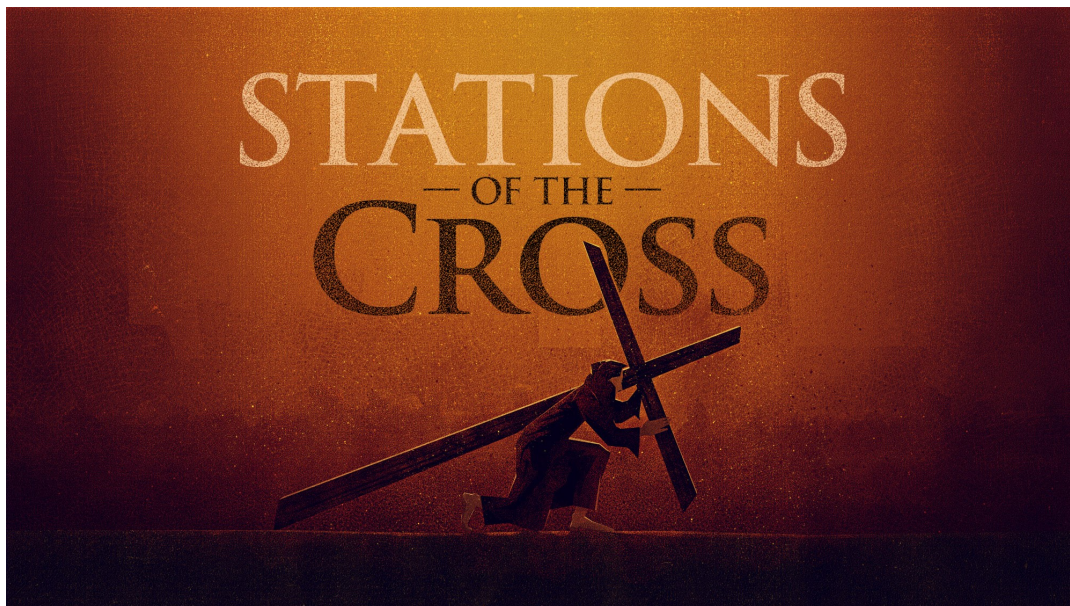
Mrs. Dempsey, who had previously gone on maternity leave upon the birth of her baby girl, Harper, is returning to her position as Associate Principal on April 1st. Welcome back, Mrs. Dempsey!

Welcome Mr. Mikuliak

We are blessed to have Mr. Mikuliak who will join our teaching team in quarter 4. This extremely talented and visionary teacher will be teaching Drama 10/20/30 for the last quarter of the school year. Welcome, Mr. Mik!

New Stations of the Cross, Campus West

Thanks to the generous donation of time, treasures, and talents from alumnus staff in collaboration with a present staff member of CCH, the chapel of St. Joseph, The Worker, on Campus West has now been outfitted with new Stations of the Cross. We are grateful to receive this gift from Dr. Carmen Mombourquette and his wife, Sharon Mombourquette, Dr. Mark Nixon, and Mr. Don Reichert.



**2021 ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE (ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR)
SURVEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:**

If you are a parent of a grade 10 student at Catholic Central, you may have already received a mail notification from Alberta Education with the option of completing a survey online. We would be grateful if you would take the time to complete the survey as your feedback provides us with direction to better serve our students, your children.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the AEA provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success. The data from the surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning help to inform both the division and the school on important decisions and areas of focus for the next school year.

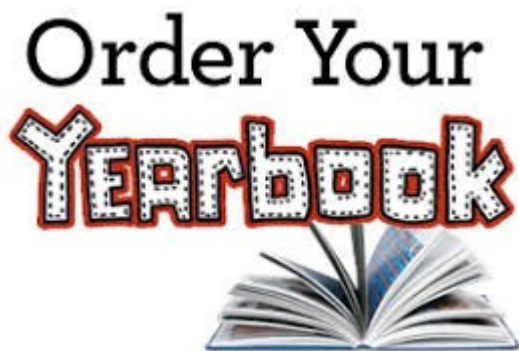
From March 25-April 23, 2021, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual AEA Survey. The LAST DAY for all survey submissions is April 23, 2021.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly. **Additionally, please be advised that any question that you answer "I don't know to" will have a negative impact so try to answer to the best of your knowledge.**

Survey results will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.



Don't miss your chance to own

Heroes Among Us

the CCHS 2020 - 2021 yearbook!

Pre-order your copy today through

SchoolCashOnline

The cost is \$40 per book.

The deadline to order is

Friday, May 7, 2021.

Yearbooks will be delivered in September, 2021

To stay informed regarding all things Yearbook,

follow us on Instagram at [cch.yearbook](https://www.instagram.com/cch.yearbook).

April Update—CATHOLIC CENTRAL GRADUATION 2021

GRAD PHOTOS: Nearly all graduates have already had or have booked appointments to have their grad photos taken. If you are still in need of booking a sitting, please contact Mrs. Noyes at noyess@holyspirit.ab.ca

GRAD STATEMENTS: The Google Form has been opened in the Grad 2021 Google Classroom for graduates to submit their grad statements. The deadline to submit a statement is Friday, May 28th. Grads, if you are having difficulty with writing your statement, please contact Mr. Vercillo at vercilloa@holyspirit.ab.ca

GRAD FEES:

◆ Grad fees for 2021 include the following: grad photo sitting fee, individual convocation photo, cap and tassel, facility rental (Enmax), diploma covers and grad boxes, as well as live-streaming production services (Feature Productions) of the ceremonies. The fee per student is \$55 and can be paid through SchoolCash Online.

- ◆ Please note that School Fees must also be paid in full at the time of Grad Fee payment.
- ◆ As we would like to be as flexible as possible and have as many graduates attend without obstacle of cost, should there be a need to waive Grad Fees, please contact Mrs. Polec at polecj@holyspirit.ab.ca
- ◆ While we are still unsure of what June 12, 2021 will look like as we do not know what outdoor gathering numbers will be, we welcome all grads to attend the Convocation in either: a) their grad formal attire (suits, dresses, etc.) or b) a grad gown (which can be rented through SchoolCash Online). These grad gowns are made OPTIONAL. If you wish to order a grad gown please go to Options and Choices in SchoolCash Online. There, you will see an additional rental charge of \$110.00. When the gown is returned in good condition on the Monday following the event (June 14), you will receive a \$100.00 refund. When ordering a gown, please remember to select the size option that corresponds with your height for your grad gown.
- ◆ Grad fees are due by Wednesday, May 5th, 2021. By paying your grad fee, you have RSVP'd for the event on June 12, 2021.
- ◆ Please note: There will be no Grad Fee refunds unless Catholic Central High School cancels the event entirely.

GRAD MASS:

- ◆ We are still working on the logistics of celebrating a Grad Mass on the evening of June 11, 2021 with our Parish priests.
- ◆ The options are heavily dependent on the diocesan restrictions and Alberta Health guidelines for indoor and outdoor gatherings.
- ◆ More information to come!





Call for Audit Committee Public Members

The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division is requesting applications from members of the public to fill two (2) positions on the school division's Audit Committee as public members.

Under the new *Education Act*, the school division's Audit Committee is to be comprised of three (3) trustees and two (2) members of the public.

The Committee will be responsible for:

- recommending external auditors to the Board;
- reviewing the annual financial statements and reporting to the Board; and
- ensuring appropriate internal controls exist and are maintained.

Qualifications for the public members:

- Ideally have financial experience and/or a professional accounting designation;
- Independent to the school division; and
- No financial or personal interests with the school division's audit firm, KPMG.

Public members will be compensated for their time on the Audit Committee, as per [Board Policy 18, Appendix A: Trustee Compensation, Allowances and Reimbursement Rates](#). If you are interested in serving on the Audit Committee, please submit a letter of interest that includes a brief summary of your work experience and qualifications to:

Lisa Palmarin, Secretary-Treasurer

The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division
620 12B Street North, Lethbridge AB T1H 2L7

Email: secretarytreasurer@holyspirit.ab.ca

Fax: 403-327-9595

Deadline for applications is on or before April 30, 2021

For further information, please contact Lisa Palmarin, Secretary-Treasurer, by phone (403-327-9555) or email (secretarytreasurer@holyspirit.ab.ca).



“Share the Mission” Award Call for Nominations!

Nominations are now welcome for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division’s *“Share the Mission Award.”* This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have:

- Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students;
- Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow;
- Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools;
- Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations;
- Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions:

We are a Catholic faith community, dedicated to providing each student entrusted in our care with an education rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ

Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society, our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will live, celebrate, and proclaim their faith.

Our Catholic faith is the foundations of all that we do.

If you know of an individual or group deserving of the *“Share the Mission Award,”* please forward their name to Rhonda Kawa at kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca by June 11, 2021.

Nomination information is accessible on the division’s website at:

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/share_the_mission_award



APRIL

Monthly Theme: Empathy in a Digital World

Special Days to Remember	
Month of the Holy Spirit	
1	Holy Thursday
2	Good Friday
3	Holy Saturday
4	Easter Sunday
17	Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha
25	World Day of Prayer for Vocations



God of all,
I know that everyone doesn't look like me,
act like me, and think like me.
Yet you've created us as one family,
one remarkable family
with many differences.
You call us to live in community.
Deepen our empathy,
our ways of feeling with others,
of understanding each one
and appreciating the beauty of all.
May your empathy lead us more
and more to feel your presence with us.
Amen.

Adapted from Teaching Kids to Care (Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP)

Click [here](#) for a printable version of this prayer.

Be Gracious

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! We rejoice that we are now celebrating the Easter season but on our recent journey through Holy Week, we recalled the story of the Passion and remembered the suffering of Christ. We experienced his pain as he was misjudged, persecuted, and ultimately crucified. And yet there was hope through the resurrection.

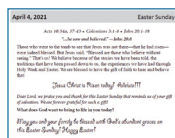
Jesus lives on in each of us - his goodness, his decency, his empathy, and his mercy are the gifts he has left us with. We are called to build the kingdom of God and one of the ways we do this is by teaching our children to be empathetic like Jesus. He felt the pain of others, he deeply understood their needs and entered into their experiences. Parents teach their children such important moral lessons every day. If you would like to read some ideas about how to cultivate empathy in your children, you might like to check out [this article](#).



Faith & Family

During this pandemic, we are hearing that some students are spending just too much time online. We all need a gentle reminder perhaps to put down our devices and "look up"! That includes the kids and moms and dads too! There's no better time to "look up" than in the springtime! Spend some time outside this spring - enjoy the nature that God created. Parents, what was your favourite thing to do outside when you were your child's age? Spend some time with your child enjoying that activity and creating a beautiful memory together! That memory will last a lot longer than the pleasure gained by any amount of time scrolling through social media.

In the meantime, if you want some great tips to consider as you supervise your child's use of media, you might like to explore the resources at [Common Sense Media](#).



We hope you are enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family. To access the April cards, click [here](#).

Sources: Loyola Press, "How to Raise Kids Who Care", Institute for Catholic Education

Be Grateful

We have discovered, especially this year, how important it is to be gentle with each other. Today, we engage so much in the digital world. Because of this, it is important that we teach children to be just as empathetic with the person they are interacting with online as they are with a friend sitting beside them in their classroom.

In the 2020 edition of The Catholic Perspective, the Institute for Catholic Education highlighted the life of Carlo Acutis. As they shared in this article, there are many young people who give wonderful witness to how to be empathetic in their online interactions, using the power of media for good. They noted, "The Holy Father offers the example of the newly beatified [Carlo Acutis](#) as a digital witness for young people. Carlo is being called a #DigitalDisciple and #CyberApostle for the way he witnessed to his devotion to the Eucharist in his online work...He created a website that gathered and shared information about Eucharistic miracles..." Carlo demonstrated beautifully how to live a dignified online presence.

"The Church recognizes the importance of digital culture, especially in the lives of young people." We are grateful that we have the gift of technology and our prayer is that we use it to help to share the Good News. "In our Catholic schools we are teaching our students that we don't equate faith in Jesus with the culture of 'influencers' and 'followers'", but to discover their own life in the context of their community of faith. (Institute for Catholic Education) Let us give thanks that we have good and holy people showing us the way to live good and holy lives - in person and online!



Catholic Education

All students in Alberta learn about digital citizenship but in our Catholic schools, digital citizenship is taught through the Catholic perspective which is always about maintaining and promoting the dignity of the human person. It is so important to teach our children how to be empathetic as they are learning to use digital media. We teach our students how to ensure their digital footprint is one in which they maintain their own dignity as well as the dignity of those with whom they are communicating.

This [document](#) created by the Institute for Catholic Education in Ontario is very much in line with what is happening each day in our Alberta Catholic schools too. Perhaps some of the items on this poster might be helpful to you as you work with your child's school to teach digital citizenship at home too.



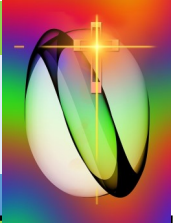
Pope Francis offers this encouragement to young people: "You can become what God your Creator knows you are, if only you realize that you are called to something greater. Ask the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness. In this way,...you will be fully yourself."



"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

(Ephesians 4:32)

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS



U of L Course Registration Workshop

The U of L will be holding a virtual workshop for Holy Spirit students who are attending the U of L next fall. This workshop will give them step-by-step instructions as well as hints and tips on how to pick their classes for fall 2021.

Date: Wednesday, April 28th at 6:00pm.

The link to join is:

<https://uleth.zoom.us/j/9556547558>

Virtual Career Exploration

Career Transitions is offering sessions to give students a look into careers and the opportunity to talk to someone working in that field. These sessions are very well done and offer a lot of information.

The next sessions are:

Teacher—Wednesday, March 31,

Hairstylist—Thursday, April 1

Genomicist & Bioinformatician—Tuesday, April 27

Engineer—Wednesday, April 28

Register for these free sessions at: www.careersteps.ca

Students can also view past sessions on the website.

Virtual Trades Showcase

CAREERS: The Next Generation is offering free monthly virtual Trades Information Sessions.

Up coming sessions are:

Cooking—April 15

Information & Communication Tech—April 27

Sheet Metal - May 12

Register for these sessions, or view past sessions at:

www.careersnextgen.ca

Grade 11 Tip

This is a great time for Grade 11 students to be looking into programs and post-secondary institutions for next fall. Students can virtually check out different post-secondary websites, view the programs, see what each institution has to offer, as well as the costs involved. Students should also be looking into scholarships and what they will need to apply for them.

Hopefully by gathering information this spring students will avoid feeling overwhelmed next fall.

Most institutions start to accept applications October 1st and some scholarships have early deadlines.

On May 11, at 6:00pm, the U of L will be hosting a virtual **Grade 11 Information Event** for students and their parents to find out how they can prepare for their grade 12 year.

Heritage Youth Researcher Summer Program (HYRS)

If you are in grade 11 and have at least an 85% average in each of math 20-1 or 20-2, biology 20 and one other Grade 11 science you can apply for a 6 week summer research position at the U of L.

For more information and how to apply go to:

www.uleth.ca/node/2969

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2021

March Hours

All Rap and Work Experience students please submit your March timesheets or pay stubs by email or text to Mr. Boschee or Mrs. Gurr.

Your Off-Campus Team

Mark Boschee - Off-Campus Coordinator
Cell: 587-220-4258 or Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca

Wendy Gurr - Career Practitioner - 403-327-4596 Ext 312 or Email: gurrw@holyspirit.ab.ca