



Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School

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Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School Monthly Happenings – March 2015

Students, Parents, Staff, and Parish,

I love Pope Francis and the messages he delivers to each of us – please consider it for yourself:

Fasting - Pope Francis has asked us to reconsider the heart of this activity this Lenten season. According to Francis, fasting must never become superficial. [He often quotes the early Christian mystic John Chrysostom](#) who said: “No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.”

But this isn't to downplay the role of sacrifice during the Lenten season. Lent is a good time for penance and self-denial. But once again, [Francis reminds us that these activities must truly enrich others](#): “I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.” So, if we're going to fast from anything this Lent, Francis suggests that even more than candy or alcohol, we fast from indifference towards others.

In his annual Lenten message, [the pope writes](#), “Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”

Describing this phenomenon he calls the *globalization of indifference*, [Francis writes](#) that “whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.” He continues that, “We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own.”

But when we fast from this indifference, we can begin to feast on love. In fact, Lent is the perfect time to learn how to love again. Jesus—the great protagonist of this holy season—certainly showed us the way. In him, God descends all the way down to bring everyone up. In his life and his ministry, no one is excluded.

“What are you giving up for Lent?” It’s a question a lot of people will get these next few days. If you want to change your body, perhaps alcohol and candy is the way to go. But if you want to change your heart, a harder fast is needed. This narrow road is gritty, but it isn’t sterile. It will make room in ourselves to experience a love that can make us whole and set us free.

Now that’s something worth fasting for. (taken from <http://time.com/3714056/pope-francis-lent-2015-fasting/>)

Parent School Council meeting is on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30pm. *Please consider attending and participating.*

All families should now have functional Powerschool usernames and passwords for students and parents in Grade 7 & 8 to better monitor student progress. If you haven’t done so already, please log-on and update your family information / verification form. This is our main line of ensuring accurate communications with each student and family!

School fees are now past due. You can pay fees by logging on to your Powerschool account. This year and moving forward the school division is going to collection agency for past payments.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please let me know by contacting the school at 780-998-3716 or brette@eics.ab.ca

Enjoy the Season of Lent!

Mr. Brett Cox

March

- 2 Mini-Golf Mania in Gymnasium ALL DAY Gr 7 project based learning activity
- 4 Early Out / Grade 6-7-8 Faith presentation at St. JP II from 9:30-10:30am / **Jersey Day** is theme
- 5 Grade 6 TELUS World of Science
- 6 Staff Professional Development Day - No School
- 9-13 Portfolios go home for all Grade 5/6 students
- 11 Hot Lunch
- 13 Grade 5/6 Basketball from 1:00-7:40pm in Camrose (NEED rides home)
- 16-19 Book Fair
- 17 Grade 5 TELUS World of Science
- 17-18 Three Way Conferences for all student (on-line registration info to come)
- 20 Hot Soup *PSC supplied lunch
- 25 Hot Lunch
- 27 Day-in-Lieu – No School / End of Term 2 Grade 6 Options

28-April 6 Spring Break – No School

Please share in the Lenten Season and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

April

- 7 Return to school
- 8 Early Out / Hot Lunch
- 22 Hot Lunch

May

- 6 Early Out / Hot Lunch
- 13 LA Part A Grade 6 PAT Exam 9:00-11:00am
OLA Track & Field Day ALL Grade 5-8 students (to be changed)
- 19 Rain out day for OLA Track & Field Day ALL Grade 5-8 students
- 20 Hot Lunch
- 20-26 Bonjour Trip 2015 to Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa
- 21 Grade 6 to Strathcona Wilderness Centre
- 26 Grade 6 Tour Alberta Legislature
- 27 EICS (Division) Track & Field Day (Sherwood Park - first place OLA representatives)
- 28 Tentative date for Annual Celebration of the Fine Arts at DCC
- 29 Rain out day for EICS (Division) Track & Field Day (Sherwood Park - first place OLA representatives)

June

- 2 Zone Track & Field Day (St. Albert) (first place in EICS representatives)
- 2-4 Outdoor Education – 2 Camping Trip
- 3 Early Out / Hot Lunch
- 12 Grade 8 Farewell Mass 6:00pm at the church
- 17 LA Part B - Grade 6 PAT Exam 9:00-10:00am

- 17 Hot Lunch
- 18 MATH Grade 6 PAT Exam 9:00-10:15am
- 19 SCIENCE Grade 6 PAT Exam 9:00-10:00am // Grade 7 & 8 Exam 8:45am
- 22 SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 6 PAT Exam 9:00-10:00am // Grade 7 & 8 Exam 8:45am
- 23 LA Grade 7 / 8 Exam 8:45am
- 24 MATH Grade 7 / 8 Exam 8:45am
- 25 WEM Swimming ALL students Grade 5-8
- 26 School Awards Day and Report Card distribution