



MFO OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2026



Administrator's Message

As we prepare for Thanksgiving on **Monday, October 12**, we would like to begin the tradition of a social justice activity this school year. Let us collectively shine our light to provide hope and build a **"Mountain of Gratitude"** made of non-perishable foods that we will collect for the Edmonton Food Bank and for our families in need. We have so much to be thankful for and sharing what we have with others is always such a beautiful gift. It shows our 'generous heart' and keeps us focused on our Division theme, **"The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness"** (Galatians) 5.22

As principal, I would like to say **thank you...**

Thank you to Mr. Kiryluk and Mr. Banco the Assistant Principals who are always present to support our students, staff and parents.

Thank you to **all** our **Professional Staff** who have created a 'home away from home' learning environment for your children

Thank you to our **students** who reach out and support one another

Thank you to our **families** for all your support and for welcoming our new administrative team and staff at Monsignor Fee Otterson

...you are ALL so appreciated

We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving long weekend with your family. As a community, let us take time to be 'thankful' for all the gifts life brings, especially the gift of "family."

May God bless you today and always,



Welcome Fall



CLASSROOM CREEDS



NORMS



EXPECTATIONS

Building School and Classroom Culture

Rooted in Faith, Growing in Community

During the month of September, our staff was deeply committed to nurturing relationships with students, families, and one another as we began the school year grounded in faith and Joy. Anchored by our Book of the Year, "**The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be**" by Joanna Gaines, we've explored themes such as recognizing each person's unique gifts and strengths, creating conditions for optimal learning, fostering a culture of belonging, valuing different ways of learning and working, and helping children become who they were created to be, echoing our Catholic call to walk with Christ and one another. Joy is rooted in knowing that we are created intentionally by God and loved unconditionally.

Using the book as a springboard, another key focus has been the co-creation of classroom creeds and norms that reflect our shared values. Mirroring the Gospel call to be courageous, compassionate, and co-creators of an equitable, respectful and joyful class community, these norms are helping shape learning environments where faith, engagement, respect, agency, and risk-taking flourish.

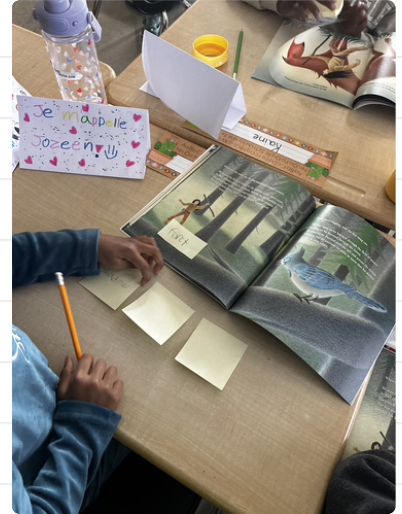
As a Catholic learning community, we believe that each person is created intentionally by God and gifted for a purpose. Rooted in Joy, we celebrate the unique strengths, identities, and gifts of every learner and every educator. As St. Paul reminds us, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us" (Romans 12:6). When we honour those gifts and help one another flourish, we

create a community where everyone belongs, grows, and becomes who God created them to be. More importantly, It invites us to see each child not only for who they are today but for who they are becoming.

ENGLISH AS ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE DESIGNATE~MRS.LEKNESS

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BOOK STUDY

Mrs. Lekness serves as our school's EAL designate, providing valuable support to students who are learning English as an additional language. Mrs. Lekness supports students in developing English language acquisition skills, vocabulary development, oral language, and many more skills.



INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES~MRS. WOOLLEY & MRS. WALKER



Sept 2026 IC's Newsletter.pdf

[Download](#)

450.5 KB

INCLUSIVE INSTRUCTIONAL COACH~MRS.SWEETLAND

READING INTERVENTION

It's the final year of the University of Alberta reading research project. The initial screening began the Week of September 14 with all students who received intervention last year. Students who scored below a standard score of 90 on two of the three measures will qualify for intervention this school year. Students who qualified for intervention completed a second round of assessment during the week of September 28, 2026. The Intervention start date begins Monday, October 5th for 16 weeks with 4 sessions per week in small groups of 2-4 students.



SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 15~SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION

~Romans 12:12~

"Rejoice in Joy"



OPENING REMARKS



STUDENTS



ALTAR

Opening Celebration

On Tuesday, September 15, we held our first school opening celebration, planned and organized by the school chaplain, Ms. Harbin. We began the journey of another school year with the theme of 'Rooted in Joy.' Deacon Gordon was the celebrant of our celebration and the liturgical readings, and reflection, focused on the theme of Joy which was centered on the book of the year, "The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be." As a staff, we are rooted in joy.



This year, we will remain rooted in joy by creating classrooms and learning experiences where every child belongs, every voice matters, and every gift is celebrated. We will encourage our students to discover their strengths, embrace their uniqueness, and recognize the beauty in the differences of others. Just as the children in the story worked together to fill the sky with colorful balloons, we hope to create a school community where each person's contribution helps our entire community flourish.

Bless all new and returning students and staff who pray, work, and learn in a Christ centered, faith-based environment. We are proud of our students who engaged and centered themselves in prayer and reflection. We would like to give thanks for a wonderful and successful September, in addition to showing gratitude and giving thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us as we enter the month of October at Otterson. Each class came together to build community, and give thanks for each other and for the wonderful experiences so far.

Otterson is truly a place where we all belong😊

SEPTEMBER 17~ MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT



WELCOME FAMILIES

What a beautiful way to begin our school year together! We were blessed with a gorgeous sunny day and evening as families gathered for our Meet the Teacher Night, enjoying ice cream, reconnecting with friends, and meeting the dedicated staff who will support and guide our students throughout the year.

It was heartwarming to see our school filled with smiles, laughter, and conversation as students proudly showed their classrooms and families had the opportunity to connect with teachers and staff. These moments of connection help strengthen the partnership between home and school and remind us of the incredible community we have at Monsignor Fee Otterson School. Thank you to all the families who joined us and helped make the evening such a success. Your presence, support, and commitment to your children's learning contribute greatly to the positive and welcoming culture we strive to create.

As we continue our journey this year, rooted in our theme of **Rooted in Joy**, we look forward to working together to create a community where all students feel valued, and loved. May God bless our school year ahead as we learn, grow, and celebrate together.

SEPTEMBER 18 ~ 🏃 TERRY FOX RUN & WALK 🏃



✧ A Beautiful Day! ✧

Students at Monsignor Fee Otterson kept Terry Fox's spirit alive by partaking in the Terry Fox Run, which took place on Friday, September 18. Through our efforts of raising consciousness about cancer and collecting a 'Toonie' for cancer research, we hope to make Terry Fox's dream of cancer being beaten a reality! Each student shared their light by raising money for the foundation. On behalf of our school staff, we thank you for your toonie donations in support of continued research in the fight against cancer. A note of gratitude to Mrs. Michaud & Mrs. McCutcheon who planned

and organized this event for our students and staff and for making this day a successful and heartfelt event.
We raised \$537.75 ! Thank you to our MFO School Community for supporting this important charity.



SUNSHINE



WALKING



A GREAT DAY

SEPTEMBER 21~ELEMENTARY CROSS COUNTRY RUN





What a Race!



Friendships



MFO Team Spirit

ELEMENTARY CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Congratulations to our elementary students who participated in the Cross Country Run on Monday, September 21 at Rundle Park. Our Otters competed alongside students from many other schools and represented Monsignor Fee Ottersson with determination, perseverance, and outstanding sportsmanship. Cross country running requires commitment, resilience, and a willingness to challenge oneself, and our students demonstrated these qualities throughout the event. We are proud of their effort, positive attitude, and the way they supported and encouraged one another. A special thank you to **Mrs. Lekness, Mrs. Michaud and Mrs. Woolley** for dedicating their time to coaching the team by running morning practices and for leading them into this athletic event.

SEPTEMBER 29~ NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION ~ORANGE SHIRT DAY



PRIMARY



UPPER ELEMENTARY



JUNIOR HIGH

MFO SCHOOL WIDE ACTIVITIES

Students and staff wore orange on September 29 in recognition of the impact of Residential Schools on the Indigenous community. All students and staff engaged in a variety of school activities designed to deepen our understanding and foster connection. From reading stories, to art projects that celebrated Indigenous culture, each moment was an opportunity to learn and grow together. As we reflected on the day, rich conversations took place regarding inclusivity through curricular instruction and student engagement. As we move forward, we will carry the lessons of today with us to create a school environment that honors and respects Indigenous cultures.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to **Mr. Proudlove** and **Mrs. McCutcheon** for their leadership in planning meaningful school-wide learning opportunities. Through their dedication and thoughtful organization, our students and staff will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the history and legacy of residential schools, honour Survivors and their families, and reflect on the importance of truth, reconciliation, and healing. Their commitment to fostering awareness, empathy, and respect helps strengthen our school community and supports our journey toward reconciliation.

Please take the time to look at the pictures of activities that students engaged in from all grade levels.



**SCHOOL WIDE
ACTIVITIES**



**CRITICAL THINKING
SKILLS**



COLLABORATION

 **OCTOBER**

OCTOBER EVENTS



📅 OCTOBER 1~MFO PRACTICE FIRE DRILL #2 📅

Safety

The safety of our students and staff remains a top priority at Monsignor Fee Otterson School. As part of our ongoing commitment to emergency preparedness and compliance with safety regulations, we continue to practice regular fire drills throughout the school year. On October 1, we will conduct our second fire drill to ensure that all students and staff are familiar with evacuation procedures and can respond safely and efficiently in the event of an emergency. These practice drills help reinforce important safety expectations and contribute to a safe learning environment for everyone.

We encourage families to reinforce the importance of fire drill procedures at home by talking with their child(ren) about listening carefully to staff directions, remaining calm, and following safety expectations. These conversations can help students feel prepared, confident, and ready to respond appropriately during emergency situations.

🏃 📅 OCTOBER 1~JUNIOR HIGH CROSS COUNTRY RUN CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏃

Junior High Students Who Advanced

A huge shout out to our Junior High Cross Country team for their outstanding effort at the Cross Country Run at Rundle Park today! Our students represented Monsignor Fee Otterson with determination, resilience, and school spirit as they tackled racing against other students in the division! They pushed themselves to do their best and we are very proud of our team. Whether they were striving for a personal best or simply persevering through every step of the race, each student demonstrated commitment. We are also grateful to Mrs. Draudson for her dedication to our students. Her willingness to spend early morning hours coaching, encouraging, and training runners played an important role in helping our athletes prepare for today's event.



OCTOBER 2 ~Custodial Appreciation Day



THANK YOU

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to a group of true "superheroes," our dedicated custodial team: Mr. Edgar, Mr. Honorio, and Mr. Rizwan. Every day, often behind the scenes, they work hard to ensure that our school is clean, safe, welcoming, and ready for learning. From maintaining classrooms, hallways, and common spaces to responding

quickly to unexpected needs, their commitment helps create an environment where students and staff can thrive.

Their care for our school community extends far beyond their daily tasks. They take great pride in supporting the well-being of our students, staff, and families, and their efforts are felt in every corner of our building. While much of their work happens quietly in the background, its impact is seen and appreciated each and every day. They are truly the “hidden miracle” of our school. Thank you, Mr. Edgar, Mr. Honorio, and Mr. Rizwan, for all that you do to make our school a place we are proud to call home. We are deeply grateful for your dedication, care, and service.

📷 OCTOBER 2~ PICTURE DAY 📷

Dear MFO Families,

Picture Day will take place on Friday, October 2, 2026. We look forward to welcoming our photographers from **Edge Imaging** for this annual school tradition.



Students are encouraged to come photo ready and prepared to smile! Individual student photos will be taken throughout the day and will be used for school records, student identification, and optional family photo orders.

If your child is absent on Picture Day, a **retake day is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2026.**

Thank you for helping make Picture Day a success. We look forward to seeing all of our students shine!

📅 CELEBRATING TEACHERS OCTOBER 5



OCTOBER 5~ WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Celebrated at MFO

We celebrate our teachers and thank them for their wonderful dedication, creativity, support, and kindness. Our students will remain at the heart of our professional dialogue, and we are inspired each day by their very presence. Our commitment to students will center around professional development this year as we work to remain current in innovative and progressive practices in learning and teaching. We thank our teachers for their dedication to Every Child, Every Day, No Exceptions and we look forward to a strong year ahead.

OCTOBER 5-9~ READ-IN WEEK

Event Information

October 5-11 Read in Week

Book of the Year: "THE WORLD NEEDS WHO YOU WERE MADE TO BE"

Read-in Week Theme: **LET STORIES SOAR!!**

During this week, we celebrate the importance of reading in our lives! We welcome all special guests as we kick off Read in Week on Monday, October 5. All parents/guardians are

invited to book a day and time to read a story to their child's class(es) as we all come to share a **love of reading with the students.**

Monday, October 5

Drop Everything and Read Day

- Teachers will pick a time during the day to stop, drop and read with students for 10-15 minutes without any interruptions.

Tuesday, October 6

Teacher Swap Day

-Teachers organize a swap to suit their schedule and read to a class.

Wednesday, October 7

Dress as Your Favourite Book Character Day

- Dress up as your favourite book character for the day. If you have a copy of the book, don't forget to bring it with you to school!

Thursday, October 8

Cozy Reading Day

- Wear your comfy clothes, pjs, and bring your plushies, blankets and curl up to read your favourite books!

Friday, October 9

Buddy Reading Day

- Teachers will coordinate a time to read with a buddy class.

To support our school wide initiative, "**Mountain of Gratitude**" this month, each student will be asked to bring in one non-perishable food bank item during read in week and for the month of October. Our hope is to build a mountain of non-perishable food items in the Library Learning Commons that will bring joy to many families in our city. These items will then be transported to the Edmonton Food Bank for families in need as well as some of our MFO families. Our goal is to create a beautiful visual of food items for all students to see. This will be a great opportunity for our students to be involved in an act of service within our own community.

Thank you for supporting this initiative😊

When?

Monday, Oct 5, 2026, 08:00 AM

OCTOBER 9~ THANKSGIVING DAY CELEBRATION

SCHOOL WIDE CELEBRATION

Our Thanksgiving Day Celebration is to be held on Friday, October 9 at 11:00am in the gymnasium. We invite all families to join us to celebrate in the spirit of thanks as we count our many blessings

in life. Our celebrant for this celebration is Deacon Gordon ☎



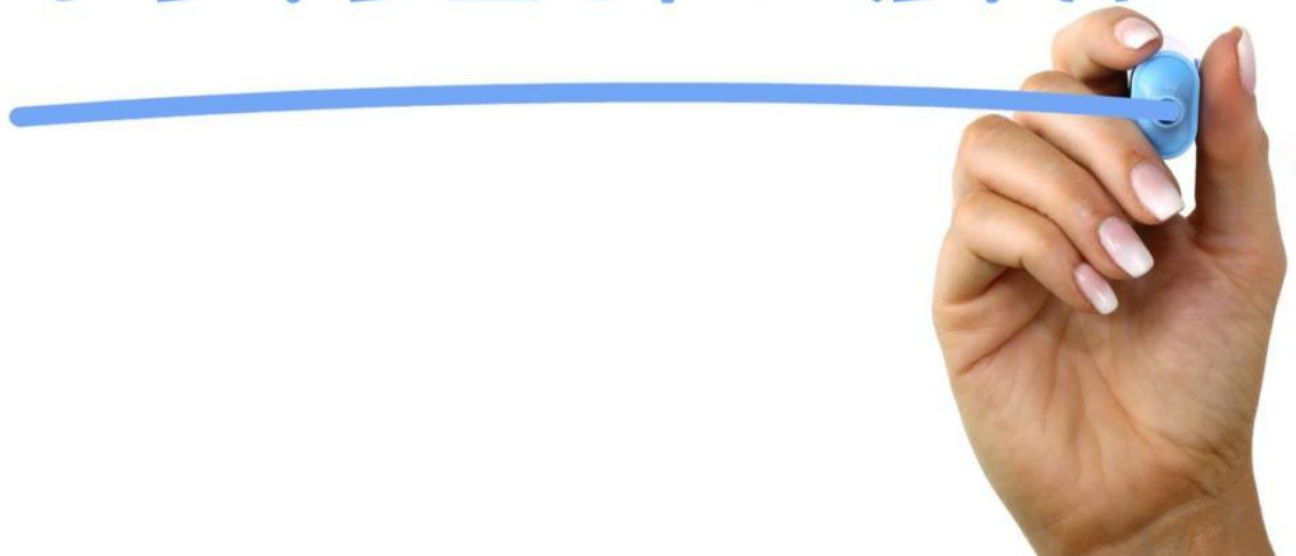
OCTOBER 12~ THANKSGIVING DAY NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 17-23~CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

OCTOBER 19~PROVINCIAL REFERENDUM NO SCHOOL

📅 OCTOBER 23~ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY NO SCHOOL 📅

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



MFO Staff Engaging in Professional Development

Our first professional development day is on Friday, October 23 which means there is NO SCHOOL for all MFO STUDENTS.



OCTOBER 20~ SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL/PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

SAC/PFA ~ NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 20

The following members have the following roles 2026-2027

CHAIR: Chris Bullen

VICE CHAIR:

PARENT FUNDRAISER TREASURE: Charles Mangwende

SECRETARY: Heather Gratix

CASINO CHAIR: Tara Heisler

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

The next school council meeting is booked for Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30pm. We are looking for families to volunteer their gift of time and serve for the benefit of the students in the building.

OCTOBER 30~ HALLOWEEN



FLEX SESSIONS👻

Halloween is such a fun time for the students at MFO and we will hopefully be celebrating on Friday, October 30. There will be flex sessions offered for both elementary (all day) and junior high students (afternoon).

A Halloween Parade will take place in the gymnasium for our elementary students in the afternoon as they showcase their costumes. **Please do not allow children to wear gruesome and/or inappropriate costumes, or carry any toy /replica weapons. More information to follow 📢**

🍷LUNCH🍷

DROPPING OFF LUNCH

If you are dropping off a lunch for your child at the school office, please write your child's name on the lunch bag. Also, we encourage students to bring a water bottle to school for easy access and to stay hydrated throughout the day.



POWERSCHOOL

In September, emails were sent to our school community for families to sign into a PowerSchool account. Please ensure to follow through with your PowerSchool account if you have not done so

already. This will allow you to access your child's attendance and student information such as assessment and reporting as well as being able to pay school fees.

In Edmonton Catholic Schools, we report to parents, guardians and students on an ongoing basis. Gone are the days when parents and students would have to wait for a report card to come out just three times a year. We use a 'Gradebook' program that integrates with PowerSchool, called PowerTeacher Pro, digital platform (SPACES EDU) where teachers input assessment information as it happens and Google classrooms. Families and students are encouraged to check PowerSchool "Grades and Attendance" regularly to keep up to date on student progress. Click [here](#) to access the parent guide for more information on assessment and reporting. If you are unsure about your PowerSchool account, please contact the school to receive support and assistance.

School Registration Fees 📖 🏫

💰 PAYING SCHOOL FEES 💰

The 2026/2027 School Registration Fees support the operational decisions made and we are dependent on this financial support to carry out the educational goals set for the school year.

Method of payment is the standard *online payment* through your PowerSchool account.

We would appreciate *school fees* being paid by October 31.

We appreciate your attention to this request.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

STUDENT SAFETY

Dear Families,

We would like to draw your attention regarding safety procedures during drop off and pick up times. As you are aware, traffic becomes very congested between 8:00-8:40 and 3:00-3:30. We are doing our very best to try to manage the crosswalk and the bus drive-thru. We are asking for your support and awareness of several ongoing issues that continue to be of concern. It is with the safety of our students that we ask the following:

- Please note that U-Turns and jaywalking are not safe or legal in a School Zone.
- Please avoid dropping off or picking up your child in the middle of the street or in front of the north or south entrances.
- Please avoid blocking any driveways, allow time to park a bit farther away and plan your routes appropriately and considerately. Families of students in Grades 4 - 6 are *encouraged* to drop off/pick-up their children a block or two away from school where traffic is less.
- Please slow down, the **speed limit is 30km/h** in front of the school.
- Drivers must yield to pedestrians at both crosswalks.

As parents/guardians, **we can all contribute** in some way to ensure safety and improve traffic flow around the school and surrounding area. Thank you for your ongoing support when it comes to traffic safety. 😊

MFO~ HEALTHY HUNGER HOT LUNCH FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR 🍷

🍷HOT LUNCH🍷

These are the proposed dates for Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch this school year:

Friday, October 16 - **Papa Johns**

Friday, November 6- **Subway**

Friday, November 20- **Boston Pizza**

Friday, December 11- **Edo Japan**

Friday, January 15- **Subway**

Friday, February 5-**McDonald's**

Friday, February 19 -**Booster Juice**

Friday, March 5- **Subway**

Wednesday, March 17- **Confetti Sweets/Crumble**

Friday, April 16 - **Boston Pizza**

Friday, April 30 - **Papa Johns**

Friday, May 14 - **Subway**

Friday, June 4 -**Edo**

June Fun Day DQ Blizzards To Be Determined

Monsignor Fee Otterson Hot Lunch Program

Simply go to www.HealthyHunger.ca and create your account today!

Bonus: It's a Fundraiser for our school!

By enjoying delicious lunches, you're also supporting programs, activities, and resources for all students. Thank you for making a difference!

How It Works

Step 1: Create An Account

Click "REGISTER ACCOUNT" to set up your parent account

Already have an account? Just log in!

Step 2: Add Student(s)

Add your child(ren) by entering their name, grade, school, etc.

Step 3: View Lunches

See all upcoming hot lunch dates

Step 4: Order & Pay Online

Pay easily with Visa or MasterCard

Order for one day OR the whole season!

Important!

Make sure you receive a confirmation email after placing your order. If you don't get one, your order did not go through!

Important Notes:

- ✓ We NEED volunteers to deliver lunches. Without help Healthy Hunger lunches can not happen.
- ✓ If your child is absent, contact the school by 10:30am to arrange pick-up, orders cannot be cancelled after the deadline
- ✓ Unclaimed meals will be donated
- ✓ Orders can be cancelled up to the deadline — no refunds after



Smore

Use Smore to create beautiful newsletters

