



An Exciting Month 📺

🎵 Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"



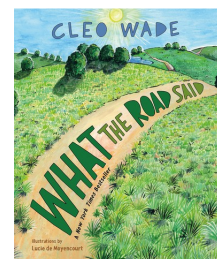
Christmas is a time to prepare for...



"The coming of Christ into the World"



"Almsgiving"



"Serving others"

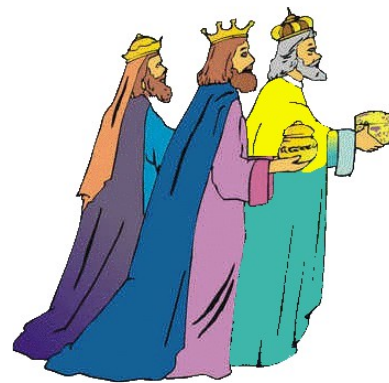
🔔 Mrs. Kucy; Mr. Madunicky; Mr. Kiryluk's ...

Administrative Message

As a Catholic school community, we create places and spaces in our school where God can be encountered as the one who welcomes us each and every day. As a staff, we approach our work with a committed heart to discover the gift in each child, just as God does. This is our invitation from God to see the children as He does. At Monsignor Fee Otterson school, we open our hearts and the hearts of our students to find the 'Christ Child' in those places and in those people who may be forgotten, but where Christ most assuredly can be found. It is our own quest for Christ

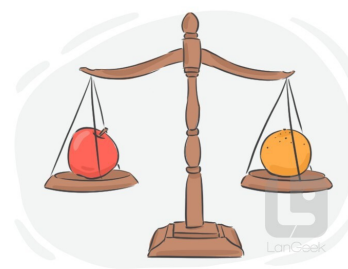
which takes us to those in need. As we reach out and celebrate the gift of each one of us, we ask Jesus, the Light of the World, to fill our lives during this Christmas season with love, compassion, forgiveness, peace, joy and gratitude. As a faith-based community may we always 'have room in our hearts' for those who need our constant support, especially during this season of Advent. When we trust and hope in God, anything is possible.

We are committed to "Every Child, Every Day, No Exceptions"



BALANCED

As we look to December, we try to understand what it means to be **'Balanced.'** This means that we understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives; intellectual, physical, and emotional to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and the world in which we live.



How can parents help to develop students who are balanced at home?

- Encourage your child to participate in a wide variety of structured activities
- During less structured time, be aware of the activities that your child is participating in
- Take time for quiet reading or reflection
- Students who spend a lot of time digitally should be encouraged to also exercise and play
- Discuss the food groups with your child. Spend a few minutes during a mealtime deciding if what your family is eating is balanced
- Spend time as a family doing many different activities

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

MFO



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

- Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae



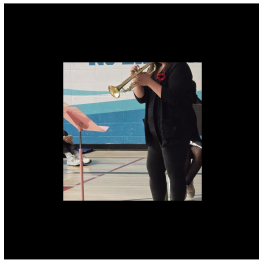
Remembrance Day Ceremony

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The junior high liturgical team planned and organized a beautiful Liturgy of the Word for our school community. We were blessed to have Deacon Gordon as our celebrant for this ceremony.

Remembrance Day, a national day, commemorates and honours the Canadian soldiers who lost their lives so we may live in freedom. Poppies were given to students that morning. The students were reverent as they reflected upon all of those who sacrificed themselves so that we may have peace.

We are often reminded, on many occasions, of the importance of peace in our lives and throughout the world. We will continue to pray that our lives will be blessed with a peaceful world. It truly was a beautiful tribute to all the fallen soldiers and to the present soldiers who continue to make a difference on a national and global level. Special thanks to our lead teachers, Ms Harbin's band students who performed for this very meaningful ceremony of remembrance.



Last Post



Alter



Reader



MÉTIS WEEK

November 15-22

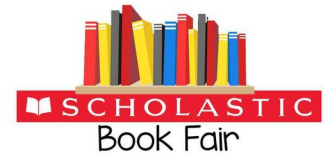
Métis Week is an annual commemoration held in November to honour the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Métis people, in Canada. This week of recognition centers on Louis Riel Day, marking the anniversary of Riel's execution in 1885. Métis Week includes ceremonies, educational events, and community gatherings to celebrate Métis identity, honour historical resilience, and highlight the ongoing contributions of the Métis Nation. It serves as a time for both reflection and pride, acknowledging past injustices while celebrating the vibrant Métis culture and the strength of its people today.



Scholastic Book Fair

November 17 - November 20

We're excited to share that our daytime Scholastic Book Fair was a resounding success, raising an incredible **amount of dollars** for our school! The event was buzzing with energy and enthusiasm as students explored a wide variety of books and discovered new favourites.



A heartfelt thank you goes out to our **amazing parent volunteers**, whose time and dedication helped make the fair run smoothly. We also want to extend our deepest appreciation to Mrs. Hussain, our **Media Resource staff member**, whose thoughtful planning and organization were key to making this event such a success. Thank you to everyone who contributed to fostering a love of reading in our school community!

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

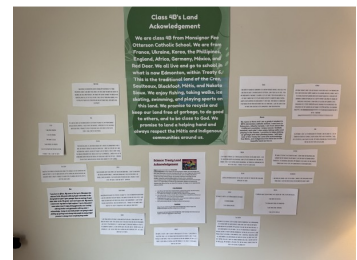
It was an absolute pleasure to see our families in the school during Demonstration of Learning day/Parent Teacher Conferences. The day was designed to provide students with an opportunity to highlight and showcase their learning by celebrating their successes and to hear about areas of growth. We truly appreciated the support shown by families and the strong turnout, which reflected the engagement. Your involvement, both academically and in partnership with our school, makes a significant difference, and it was wonderful to reconnect and celebrate student learning together. Thank you for making this day special for your child(ren).



Reader's Theatre



Agency



Personalized Land Acknowledgements

DECEMBER EVENTS

CHRISTMAS FUN!

CHRISTMAS SCHOOL SPIRIT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, WE ARE ENCOURAGING ALL STUDENTS TO DRESS IN CHRISTMAS attire (ex. Santa/elf hats, sweaters, earrings) ON A DAILY BASIS. WE WANT TO SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS CHEER AS WE LOOK AHEAD IN EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.



The *JH Student Leadership Team* have planned a **Welcome to 15 Days of Christmas Awesomeness!!** More information will follow next week. Stay tuned!

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

Monday Mornings

Advent Celebrations prepare us for the coming of Jesus, who is the Light of the World. The lighting of the Advent candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding Jesus' birth.

1st Sunday of Advent- November 30, 2025

An Advent Celebration will take place in the gymnasium on Monday, December 1 at 9:00 am–HOPE

2nd Sunday of Advent– December 7

Virtual Advent Celebration on morning announcements on Monday, December 8–FAITH

3rd Sunday of Advent– December 14

Virtual Advent Celebration on morning announcements on Monday, December 15–JOY & LOVE

4th Sunday of Advent– December 21 - Love



TWO IMPORTANT SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

BETHLEHEM TOY EXPRESS

DECEMBER 1-15

Dear Families,

Just as the wisemen brought gifts to the Christ child, we will bring our gifts to children who live not so very far away. In the true spirit of Christmas, we are excited to share an opportunity to bring hope and joy to children in our city through the **Bethlehem Toy Express** initiative which begins Monday, December 1. This project reflects the meaning of the Christmas season through lived Catholic values such as compassion, kindness, and service by ensuring that children who might

otherwise go without a gift this season experience the joy of receiving one. We are Christ for One Another.

How You Can Help:

Attached to this School Messenger email, you will find a Bethlehem Toy Express newsletter with a **return slip**. Families who wish to participate are asked to:



1. **Complete the return slip** indicating your interest and submit it to your child's homeroom teacher.
2. Once the teacher receives your slip, they will provide you with the **name, gender and grade** of a child.
3. Purchase a toy of **reasonable value** to ensure fairness and equity.
4. **Wrap the toy** and attach a tag that reads:
To: **Child's Name**
From: **Santa**
5. Return the wrapped gift to your child's homeroom teacher by **Monday, December 15**

Your generosity will bring light into the world and remind students whose families may be facing challenges that they are loved. Together, we can demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas through service.

May God bless you and thank you for making a difference and helping us share joy and Spirit of the Christmas Season!

HAT, TOQUE & MITTEN TREE

DECEMBER 1-16

In addition, some parents have asked if we are planning other projects. We are also planning to meet the needs of families here in our community and in Edmonton who may need our support. We would like to also suggest a project which you may wish to become involved in.

Children in many areas of the city do not attend school with **mittens, scarves, and toques**.

The school has placed a Christmas tree in the main foyer.

Families can help others by having their child bring in one of the above items suggested to hang on the tree and support children during the winter season. We are hoping our small gesture will help those in need. The school will begin welcoming and collecting "**Donations**" on **Monday, December 1** until **Tuesday, December 16**. Thank you for your generosity and support.



We will deliver these items prior to Christmas, in spreading the Christmas Spirit!

ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANCELED

RESCHEDULED FOR A SPRING CONCERT

In light of recent events that unfolded in October and also having the extended break in November, we **regret to inform you that our annual Christmas Concert will be canceled this year.** The shortened preparation time has made it challenging for our music teacher to



adequately prepare the students for a performance that reflects their hard work and talents.

While we understand this may be disappointing, we are excited to share that we will be **hosting a Spring Concert** instead. This event will provide our students with the opportunity to showcase their musical growth and continue spreading the message of hope through the book of the year, 'What the Road Said,' and reflects hope in us as we reflect hope in others which is so important to our school community.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating together in the spring.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL/PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2



Families,

We warmly invite you to attend our upcoming **School Advisory Council/Parent Fundraising Association meeting**. This is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas, collaborate, and help shape initiatives that directly benefit our students.

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 2 at **6:30 PM**

Location: Otterson Staffroom

To make the evening enjoyable, we will have **coffee and donuts** available for everyone. Your presence and input are invaluable as we work together to strengthen our school community and create meaningful opportunities for our children. Please take the time to join us as we truly appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you there!

During the November meeting, we established the following roles for the 2025/2026 School Year
CHAIR: Chris Bullen

VICE CHAIR:

PARENT FUNDRAISER CHAIR: Charles Mangwende

PARENT FUNDRAISING CHAIR: Heather Gratix

SECRETARY:

CASINO CHAIR: Tara Heisler

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Tim McMullen; Simona Shropshire

We are pleased to announce that new council members have recently been established, which is an exciting step forward for our school community. However, we are still in need of a **Secretary** to join the team. If you are interested in serving in this role, we would love to hear from you at the meeting.

Thank you

SCHOOL WIDE SLEIGH RIDES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18~ FULL DAY OF CLASSES

We are excited to share that on **Thursday, December 18**, our students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will enjoy a full day of festive sleigh rides around the school grounds. This special experience will include a team of horses pulling the sleighs, creating a winter wonderland atmosphere for our students to celebrate the season. To make the day even more memorable, we will be serving **hot chocolate and marshmallows** for all students as they enjoy this winter activity. Families are warmly invited to join us during the day to take photos of your children and share in the joy of this event.

Christmas is always a time of excitement, festivities, and joy.



JH CHRISTMAS FLEX SESSION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19~ HALF DAY

MFO continues to offer FLEX time to our students in grades 7-8. FLEX refers to an opportunity for students to have extended voice and choice over their learning. FLEX runs on Thursdays of each month until the Month of June.

With teacher guidance, students will select from a variety of sessions hosted by teaching staff, and they will register for these sessions using their student PowerSchool identification and login information. We are currently offering back-to-back sessions on Thursdays that have been designated as FLEX.

All the sessions offered will have numerous links to the Alberta program of studies and will provide students with opportunities to try something new, meet new friends, and discover new interests and passions. We continue to look forward to growing our FLEX model into a highly beneficial experience for students.



SANTA'S BREAKFAST 🥞

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19~ PANCAKE BREAKFAST

We are thrilled to announce a joyful event to kick off the Christmas season! Our School Advisory Council (SAC), Parent Fundraising Association (PFA), and dedicated parent volunteers will be hosting a **Pancake Breakfast** for all students in the gymnasium on Friday, December 19. This special celebration is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school family and enjoy the spirit of the season.



To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone, we will be **staggering the arrival of grades** and calling classes down to the gymnasium throughout the morning. Each group will be welcomed with delicious pancakes, mandarin oranges, warm smiles, and festive cheer. Adding to the excitement, our talented **junior high band students will provide live entertainment**, filling the gym with music and Christmas joy. **Santa Claus himself will be making a special appearance**, bringing extra magic to the day!

We are so grateful to our parent community for their support in making this event possible. It promises to be a fun-filled and memorable morning for all our students. We look forward to celebrating together and creating joyful memories as we head into the Christmas season.

HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

KINDERGARTEN CLASS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Kindergarten - Thursday, December 19

As a Division, Thursday, December 18 is a full day and Friday, December 19 is a half day. As a result, kindergarten students in the AM program will **attend school on the morning of Thursday, December 18**. Kindergarten students in the PM program will **attend school on the afternoon of Thursday, December 18**. Therefore, both am & pm programs **will not attend school on Friday, December 19**. Please refer to Miss Kelly's and Mrs. Eckford's Google Classroom and Newsletter for more information.



CHRISTMAS BREAK SCHOOL HOURS

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Christmas Holiday School Hours

Thursday, December 18 FULL DAY of classes

This enables our students, families, and staff to get an early start to the Christmas break.

Friday, December 19 early dismissal at 11:39 (Elementary)

Friday, December 20 early dismissal at 11:39 (Junior High)

We wish you all the hope, joy, happiness, and peace that the Christmas season brings. AND...

Wishing the Monsignor Fee Otterson school community, a happy, healthy, and a blessed New Year!

Classes resume for all students on **Monday, January 5**



SCHOOL REGISTRATION FEES

SCHOOL FEES

The 2025/2026 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. Please pay school fees as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate your attention to this request.



HEALTHY HUNGER

HOT LUNCH

UPCOMING LUNCH DATE:

Friday, December 12 - Edo Japan



Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters