

May 2011

École St. Thomas d'Aquin

"Always Be Kind"



In partnership with family, Church and community, we provide Catholic Education of the highest quality to our students

Principal's Message:

As we enter the final two months of the current school year, we are reminded of everything that we have accomplished since September.

May is also the month that we celebrate one of the most important saints in our Catholic faith – Mary. To that end, during the month of May, each class will endeavor to learn more about and likewise recite a decade of the rosary on a daily basis. As a Catholic people, we firmly believe in the power of prayer and devotion to the Virgin Mary.

Mary epitomizes what it means to be a believer. She lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: *"She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her son's side. In a way, those memories come alive in the form of the rosary, which we are all encouraged to recite throughout our earthly life.

Even now, Mary sets before the faithful the *mysteries* of her Son, with the desire that the meditation of those mysteries will release all their saving power. In the recitation of the rosary, the Christian community enters into contact with the memories and saintly life of Mary. The rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary's own experience, is an excellent way to enter into a deeper relationship with God through prayer.

R. Dumanowski



Classes resume on
Monday, May 2nd

Reflection on Mary, Mother of God for the Marian Month of May

Mary is a very special person for us because she was the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God. She was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother and He filled her heart with so much love that she always did what He wanted her to do.

When asked to be the Mother of Jesus she replied, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord" and said "yes" to the angel that was sent by God.

(pg. 33 "Let Us Pray" Northern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Cooperative)



No School for Students:

- * **Friday, May 13th** - Kindergarten PD Day (**KIN students only**)
- * **Friday, May 20th** - Staff Meeting/PD Day (**K-6**)
- * **Monday, May 23rd** - Victoria Day (**K-6**)

MAY

Provincial Achievement Tests

Tuesday, May 17, 2011:

- Grade 3 English Language Arts - *Part A*
- Grade 6 French Language Arts - *Part A*

Wednesday, May 18, 2011:

- Grade 6 English Language Arts - *Part A*

Thursday, May 19, 2011:

- Grade 3 French Language Arts - *Part A*



JUNE

Provincial Achievement Tests

Thursday, June 9, 2011:

- Grade 3 French Language Arts - *Part B*

Tuesday, June 14, 2011:

- Grade 6 Social Studies
- Grade 3 English Language Arts - *Part B*

Wednesday, June 15, 2011:

- Grade 6 English Language Arts - *Part B*

Thursday, June 16, 2011:

- Grade 3 Mathematics
- Grade 6 Mathematics

Friday, June 17, 2011:

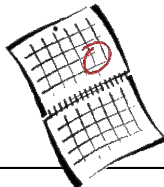
- Grade 6 Science

Monday, June 20, 2011:

- Grade 6 French Language Arts - *Part B*

Parent Council, CPF & Fundraising Society Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m.
in the School Library



Hot Lunch

Wednesday, May 11 -

McDonald's

"Healthy Choices Menu"



Wednesday, May 25 -

Taco in a Bag



The École St. Thomas Choir students were able to participate in the annual Spring Mass Choir workshop at the Dream Center on April 13th thanks to the grant provided by the Catholic School Educational Foundation.

Merci!



\$\$\$ EASY MONEY!!! \$\$\$

Don't forget to hand in your Co-op Receipts. There is a box at the front entrance. The Medicine Hat Co-op will donate back to our school a percentage of all receipts collected. This is a free and easy way to support your school.

Grade 6 parents are encouraged to attend a Parent Information Meeting on Thursday, May 5th at 5:30-6:30 p.m. to provide information regarding our first annual Camp McCoy Retreat. At this meeting, we will also be discussing the fundraising that needs to take place in advance of the trip (to help offset the cost of participation). Please mark your calendars accordingly and plan to attend this meeting.





Feeding Your Child's Mind, One **Lunch** at a Time

Well-balanced, healthy lunches delivered to your child's school just in time for lunch!
No more running to the school with forgotten lunches!
Peace of mind your children are eating healthy, nutritious lunches!
Eliminate school lunch making stress!
Easy online ordering convenience in your busy schedule!

KidsPlate also has a "Healthy Lunch Day" program newly introduced for those special lunch days your school may have with a 0.25 kickback/lunch for your schools fundraising programs!

Visit www.kidsplate.ca to contact us for more information on how to bring KidsPlate to your special lunch day programs!

"We Make Healthy Easy!"

Parent Council would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to Colleen Carefoot for all of her hard work in getting the Before & After School Care Program off the ground at École St. Thomas d'Aquin. Colleen has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure the success of this program; but is now regretfully moving on.

Thank you, Colleen – your work was most appreciated!



École St. Thomas d'Aquin

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee will be held in the gym at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25th. This event is the École St. Thomas d'Aquin Fundraising Society's most profitable Fundraiser for the school year. Maximum family participation equals a very successful fundraiser. All participants will be treated to a Freezie as thanks for their hard work; they will also be eligible to participate in a draw for Scholastic Gift Certificates.

Please ensure that your "per word" and/or "flat rate" pledge sheets are returned to the school on the day of the Spelling Bee. If a student has been pledged on a "per word" basis, all monies are due by Friday, June 3. Remember all money raised from individual donations can be used to apply for the Alberta Government Matching "Spirit Grant" – which effectively double the funds raised.



bee

June 1st is Bike to School Day across Alberta. Get your bikes and helmets ready! More information to follow.



Thursday, May 26

Grade 5 Hepatitis B Immunizations

(Part 3 of 3)

Parents interested in learning more about the philosophy of the **New Math Curriculum**, as well as helpful information on how teachers are now teaching addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in school, are encouraged to attend an **After School Help Session For Parents** on **Monday, May 9th, from 3:05pm - 4:05pm** in the grade 5/6 classroom.

All parents (and all grades) welcome.



The Garage Sale is Almost Here!!

École St. Thomas d'Aquin will be hosting a Garage Sale on Saturday, June 4th 2011.

If you're cleaning out your toy room, basement, garage, etc., please make a special spot to store items you would like to donate or contact Angela Bitz at 403-527-5567.

Host families needed for Brazilian and Mexican students, who will be attending Monsignor McCoy High School, for the next academic year. The host families will be compensated for room and board. These students would be attending school for either a semester or for a complete school year.

For more information please contact:
Trish Carr, bt Carr@shaw.ca,
403-529-6824.



ROCK STAR DAY



School Spirit Day

Friday, May 27



Student council will be selling "ROCK POPS (Frozen Yogurt)" during the first recess for \$1.25. There will be activities in the gymnasium during lunch hour.

Please Donate!

Please bring your recyclable bottles and cans to the school on Friday, May 13th. All proceeds will be going towards the Grade 6 Camp McCoy Retreat this June!

On Saturday, May 14th, all grade 6 students along with their parents will be doing a bottle drive to help raise money for this event.



HIKE FOR LIFE

Sponsored By Med. Hat Prolife Association

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

**REGISTRATION AT 1:00 PM
AT LIONS' PARK KITCHEN**

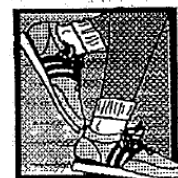
**HIKE WILL BEGIN AT 1:30 PM
Approximately 4 KM**

BEGINS AT LIONS' PARK KITCHEN

Proceeds along the Trans-Canada Walking Trail (beside River Road) to the Library, then returns

REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE WALK

GET OUR YOUR SHOES AND GRAB A SPONSOR SHEET!!



FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT: George Ibach - 527-7434
Terry Hurst - 527-6298

Flash, Bang, Boom

Join *Praxis* and the *Alberta Science Literacy Association* as we celebrate the International Year of Chemistry.

Like loud noises?

Want to learn more about explosions?

Dr. Lucio Gelmini will be in Medicine Hat to share with you with his exciting and explosive chemistry demonstration

Date: May 9, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm



Cost: FREE

Place: MHC Theatre

Dr. Lucio Gelmini, a professor at Grant MacEwan University, has been entertaining and educating Edmonton students for years with his chemistry demonstrations and now he is taking his show on the road. Dr. Gelmini loves performing his demonstration and is the chair of the Edmonton Science Outreach Network.

Brought to you by:



International Year of
CHEMISTRY
2011

An Official International Year
of Chemistry Event

Inquiries? Call Karly at Praxis 403-527-5365

ONFIRE Youth Nights

Grade 6-9

May 5, 2011
St. Mary's School Gym
6:30pm - 8:00pm



May 19, 2011
St. Patrick's School Gym
6:30pm - 8:00pm



LITEHOUSE Youth Group

Grade 9-12
EVERY MONDAY NIGHT
Monsignor McCoy High School
Drama Room
6:30pm - 8:30pm



NO LITEHOUSE - Monday, May 23, 2011 - Victoria Day

**LIQUOR BAN
MAY LONG WEEKEND AT CYPRESS HILLS
INTERPROVINCIAL PARK - ALBERTA.**

**Government
of Alberta** ■

PLEASE NOTE - A liquor ban will be in effect in all campgrounds at Cypress Hills Interprovincial

Park-Alberta from noon on Thursday May 19, 2011 until 6:00 pm on Monday May 23, 2011. It is anticipated that this proactive approach will aid in making one of Alberta's most popular parks a safer and more enjoyable place for families to camp on the long weekend. Our Provincial Parks belong to everyone and we all have a role in ensuring they remain protected and accessible for all Albertans to enjoy.

Help us to ensure Cypress Hills continues to be a safe place for everyone to enjoy and appreciate. We hope and expect all park users including youth to act and behave responsibly and be prepared and able to deal with adverse weather and emergencies. We encourage you to discuss the issues with your children.



**HATTERLAND CHILDREN'S THEATRE
will be holding auditions
for "The SNOW QUEEN"**

This will be performed at the Cultural Center, Black Box Theatre
On Wednesday, November 30th - Saturday, December 3rd, 2011
(5 performances).

Please come prepared to sing a song of your choice.
(Professional voices are not necessary, but need to have some musical ability.)

** Fulltime Rehearsals start on September 6th, 2011**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL BRENDA @ 504-5015.



*Registrations can
also be dropped
off at Sports
Connection,
Source for Sports
on Kingsway Ave.*

**MEDICINE HAT
MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
2011 REGISTRATION DAYS**

Medicine Hat Mall
Saturday, March 26, 9:30am-6:00pm
and
Medicine Hat Walmart
Saturday, April 9, 9:00am-3:00pm



<u>BOYS & GIRLS</u>				<u>GIRLS ONLY</u>			
<u>AGE</u>	<u>YEAR OF BIRTH</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>YEAR OF BIRTH</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>COST</u>
5-6	2005-2006	T-Ball(U6)	\$55	15-16	1995-1996	Bantam(U16)	\$85
7-8	2003-2004	Parent Pitch(U8)	\$55	17-19	1992-1994	Midget(U19)	\$90
9-10	2001-2002	Mites(U10)	\$70	20-23	1988-1991	Junior(U23)	\$90
11-12	1999-2000	Squirts(U12)	\$70				
13-14	1997-1998	PeeWee(U14)	\$75				

(AGE LIMIT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2011)
(Maximum Family Rate \$170)

NOTE: older players participating in the High school league will only be required to pay a portion of their school team fee (yet to be determined as it depends on the numbers of school teams entered in the league).

For further information contact 504-1171 or check out our website at
www.medhatminorsoftball.ab.ca

BOARD BULLETIN

April 12, 2011 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESENTATION –



Mr. Ian Rattan, a first year Teacher at Monsignor McCoy High School was in attendance to be recognized by the Board for his nomination for the Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr "First Year Teacher" Award. Mr. Rattan was introduced by Mrs. Drew a fellow teaching colleague. The winner will be announced on May 11, 2011. Good luck Mr. Rattan!

PRESENTATION – The Board recognizes the significant contribution the Catholic Schools in our community make to the Annual Rotary Music Festival. The following individuals are recognized for their contribution in the success of the student performances which positively represent our Division locally and provincially. The Board recognized the following individuals as Ambassadors for Catholic Education: Mrs. Helen Snortland, Mrs. Maureen Woelfle, Mrs. Patricia Swan, Mrs. Dana Bruins, Mrs. Erika Bodnaruk, Mrs. Grainne Concagh, Mrs. Grace Hellman, Mr. Corbie Dornier and Mr. Jim Schmid.



In Picture Left to Right:

Mrs. Patricia Swan, Mrs. Maureen Woelfle, Mrs. Helen Snortland, Mrs. Grainne Concagh, Mrs. Grace Hellman, Mr. Jim Schmid, Mr. Peter Grad, Board Chair
(Missing: Mrs. Erika Bodnaruk, Mrs. Dana Bruins, Mr. Corbie Dornier)

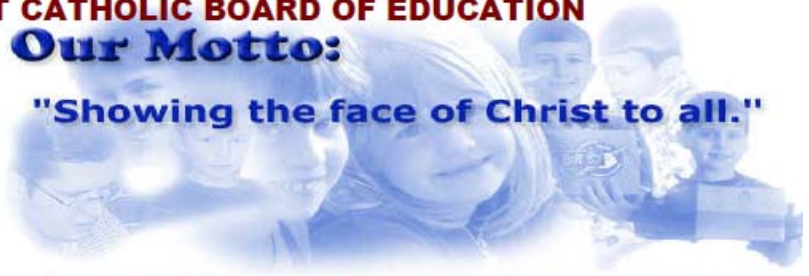
PRESENTATION – Mr. Rolf Traichel, Director of Information Systems was in attendance to provide the Board with an overview of the Information Systems in the Division. It is evident that the Division Information Technology profile has expanded exponentially in the last number of years including both the quantity and type of equipment supported as well as the extent of services offered to both students and staff. The Division is proud of the State of the Art technologies in both the hardware and software applications available to Division students and staff. Future plans are to continue to consolidate infrastructure services including, but not limited to, the Student Information Reporting System and the Division phone system. Preparation continues to support the use of Student Owned Devices. The goals for the IT Department remain challenging; but we continue to be excited about adapting new technologies to better the Division overall.

BUDGET 2011 – 2012 – The Board of Trustees announced they met in-camera to review the draft Budget. The following motion was presented in the public meeting: THAT the Board of Trustees direct Senior Administration to further revise the budget and that the Board hold a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m. to approve the budget for the 2011 – 2012 school year.

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – Annually the Board holds an organizational meeting to determine Committee Representatives and the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. The Board wishes to engage in that process prior to the end of each school year rather than after the start of the school year. This practice will comply with regulations set out in the School Act and Board Policy beginning this year.

Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported that the Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Reports will again be a combined report submitted to the Province.

- **Ecole St. Thomas d'Aquin Modular Classroom** (portable) – The Division removed the modular at the elementary school from the active inventory, following an engineering report that determined there are some structural issues with the modular. Although the recommendation did not indicate the building was unsafe, a decision was made to no longer use that facility at this time.

- **Town Hall Meetings** are being held to engage our Support Staff and Teaching Staff to provide them the opportunity to tell us what is working well and what can be improved upon in their assignments, their schools and the school division overall. A Community Town Hall Meeting is planned for **May 09, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Parish**. The meeting will engage stakeholders on the **2011-2012 Budget, Centennial Celebrations** and the **Board's Strategic Plan**. Please plan to attend.
- **Centre for Academic & Personal Excellence (CAPE)** – The Board of Trustees & Senior Administration plan to schedule a meeting with the Board & Senior Administration from CAPE to discuss our current partnership and future opportunities that might exist. CAPE currently leases the former St. Louis School, a facility owned by the Board.

TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT

A consultant was hired to review the School Bus Transportation System as a whole, not including St. Michael's School Bow Island. The report is to provide an objective opinion of school bus routes, pick up & drop off locations, ride times, impact of cross attendance etc. Outcomes of the findings along with recommendations will be presented to the Board in June in the form of a report.

SOUTHRIDGE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT WITH NOTRE DAME

The City of Medicine Hat will no longer be providing the city bus service through Southridge to take students to Notre Dame. Historically the Board paid for the city bus pass for those particular students. There is no contractual agreement between MHCBE and the City. In light of the decision by City Transit, the Board passed the following motion: THAT the Board works with Totem Transportation to find the most efficient manner of transporting eligible middle school students in Southridge to Notre Dame Academy.

THREE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

The Board approved the Three Year Capital Plan to 2014. The primary features of the plan are the construction of a New Elementary School in Sector 5 and the Modernization of Monsignor McCoy High School.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

In May, the Student Logo Contest winner will be announced. The art work will be published as the official LOGO celebrating 100 Years of Catholic education. The student will be recognized at their school assembly; will receive a special certificate and a \$100 Gift Card to Cole's (Chapters/Indigo) Book Store!



The next Catholic School Board Meeting is Thursday, May 12, 2011 @ 6:00 pm
@ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 – 1st Avenue SW., Medicine Hat.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education & Service (1911-2011)



May 2011

École St. Thomas d'Aquin



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Classes Resume Education Week <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	3 →	4	5 Camp McCoy Retreat Parent Information Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	6 <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	7
8 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	9 New Math Curriculum/ After School Help Session for Parents 3:05 - 4:05 p.m. <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	10 Parent Council, CPF & Fundraising Society Meetings 7:00 p.m. (School Library)	11 Hot Lunch  "Healthy Choices Menu"	12	13 Kindergarten PD Day Bring your recyclable bottles and cans for the Grade 6 Camp McCoy Trip! <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	14
15	16 <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	17-19 Provincial Achievement Tests  Grade 3 English Language Arts (Part A) Grade 6 English Language Arts (Part A) Grade 6 French Language Arts (Part A) Grade 3 French Language Arts (Part A)			20-21 Staff Meeting/ PD Day No School	
22	23 Victoria Day No School	24	25 Hot Lunch Taco in a Bag  Spelling Bee in the School Gym 12:45 p.m. 	26 Grade 5 Hepatitis B Immunizations (Part 3 of 3)	27 ★ Spirit Day! ROCK STAR DAY ★ Rock Pops \$1.25 <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	28
29	30 <i>Canteen</i> 12:00 - 12:25p.m.	31				