



inspire. create. believe.

Dec 18, 2017

Catholic Education Centre, 9902-101 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 2P4

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Upcoming Dates

Christmas Break

Grande Prairie & District

December 23 - January 7
Classes Resume January 8

Christmas Break Fairview

December 23 - January 8
Classes Resume January 9

CEC closed for Christmas Break

December 23 - 27
Office reopens December 28



Advocacy Plan (December 2017)



The revised Advocacy Plan highlighted Student Mental Health, Catholic Education, Facilities and Transportation. These are the four pillars identified in our meetings with the Ministers of Education & Energy. For Student Mental Health, VTRA training has occurred throughout the region. We are now spending \$389,000 in Inclusive Education funding for additional Mental Health services through Catholic Family services and FCSS provides 30,000 from the City. Research indicates the earlier the intervention, the less likely the child will develop more serious mental health issues. For Transportation, we operate/contract over 100 routes and safely transport students approximately 10,500 km per day. We jointly operate a First Ride Program two times year and prior to the start of the school year, so students learn how to ride the bus. To aid with future community growth, we need a 950 student Elementary-Junior High School in O'Brien West (Grande Prairie) in Partnership with the YMCA. There is an urgent need to address a lack of capacity in our elementary schools, namely Mother Teresa (21 modular classrooms) and

St. Gerard (21 modular classrooms). Neither school was constructed to incorporate so many modular classrooms as they lack core space. St. Kateri is also challenged for space. O'Brien Lake West will meet the needs of students in the core and outskirts of the city. It would have a core for 950 students, but will open with a capacity for 750 students. Lastly for Catholic Education, our Catholic Schools support the family's efforts to teach values & beliefs that are similar to values & beliefs taught in the home. We are inclusive, caring, safe, and welcoming of all students. Faith is our pillar and through the teachings of our Church and Pope Francis we seek to make a difference in our world, by offering a values-based Catholic education. We practice Servant Leadership and participate in works of Social Justice that help the poor and marginalized. We are proud to be publicly funded and an integral part of Alberta's choice-based education system. We permeate our Catholic faith and explore other religions of the world in our classrooms. We emphasize Catholic Social Teachings as a way to improve world for all people.

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News, Events, and
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GPCSD.ca



780.532.3013

Accountability Report First Nation, Metis & Inuit

The First Nation, Metis & Inuit Accountability Report highlights the success and ongoing challenges in 2016-17. There was a 30% higher High School Completion Rate (3yr) than the Provincial Average. Diploma Exam participation (4+ Exams) increased by 20% from the previous year.

Class Size Survey

Overall class sizes remain relatively steady. To lower K-3 Class Sizes, class sizes in grades 4-12 would have to increase, more school space would need to be allocated by the province, and/or the government would have to add money to lower the class sizes.

One Act Film Festival

The festival takes place in March every year and is for High Schools. Our students participate every year and last year we supported both the festival and student scholarships. Our zone is the largest in the province. We normally host between 10-15 plays, from 7-10 schools. Each year we offer scholarships for the two best performers and best student director(s) in the festival. We also award keeper plaques for several other awards, as well as traveling trophies.

Catholic Leader Covenant (CCSSA)

As Catholic school districts we are responsible for creating an environment which promotes an authentic Catholic education in which everyone belongs. With this shared responsibility in mind, the Leadership Covenant is designed as a tool to assist us in our journey as Catholic leaders. It allows us to re-commit ourselves to the foundational dimensions of Catholic identity in our schools, and the opportunity to reflect on and continue to grow in our faith.

AP 332: Drugs, Alcohol & Other Controlled Substances

We are in discussions with our partner Boards to refine our procedures and possibly change them to manage smoking, vaping, and cannabis use via a new smoking policy.

St. John Paul II Catholic School / Faculté St. Jean-Paul II Traffic Safety

We would like to see the following in place by August 31, 2018. A controlled cross walk at 108th Street and 132nd Avenue. A full functioning Traffic Signal at the corner of 132nd Avenue and Arbour Hills Boulevard, at the entrance to St. John Paul II Catholic School. Alternatively a traffic signal at 132nd Avenue and 108th Street would improve traffic management in the area. We would further request that the City and County explore using St. John Paul II as a Regional Transit stop, allowing for the transportation of students in Grades 7-12 on "white buses" similar to Cities/ regional communities our size across Western Canada.

St. Mary's Catholic School (Sexsmith) School Travel -Final Approval Feb. 2018

The Board of Trustees granted final approval for the students/staff of St. Mary's Catholic School to travel to Quebec, on February 1-6, 2018.

Policy Review

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following Policies:

- *Policy 9 – Board Operations:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 9 - Board Operations, as presented.
- *Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 13 - *Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters* as presented.
- *Policy 14 – Hearings on Teacher Matters:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 14 - *Hearings on Teacher Matters* as presented.

Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer Nestibo, presented the November 2017 Financial Report to the Board of Trustees. Information in the November 2017 report now reflects the Fall 2017/18 Budget. Prior to this date, the information in the Budget column was from the Spring 2017/18 Budget, the report showed that revenues and expenditures are on track.

Questions or concerns regarding Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools Board News?

Send them to communications@gpcsd.ca
or call 780-532-3013.

Faith Formation Report



Faith Lead Tapson submitted the Faith Formation Report for Dec. 18, 2017.

Staff across the district attended Catholic Education Sunday in their respective parishes. At St. Joseph Parish in Grande Prairie, student representatives were selected from each school to participate in the opening procession, carrying their school banner. November 15, 2017 marked the first of three Connect Days we will have throughout the year. The purpose of the Connect days is to bring awareness to our current theme, help students recognize how they can connect with God and others, as well as focus on specific scripture that speaks to the human need for connection. All students in Grade 8 will attend a yearly retreat at their local parish. This retreat is led by the District Youth Chaplain. The focus of this year's retreat was on Development and Peace and Catholic Social Teaching.

