“Pray especially to Our Blessed Mother Mary, placing all your intentions into her hands. For she loves you as she loves her Son. She will guide you in all your relationships so that peace may fill your life.”
- Mother Teresa

**Upcoming Dates**

**Vocation Days**
April 30-May 7

**Mental Health Awareness Week**
May 1-7

**Education Week**
May 1-5

** Hats On! For Mental Health**
May 3

**GPCSD**

**Staff PD - No School**
May 5

**Non-Operational Day - No School**
May 19

**St. Thomas More, Fairview PD/Staff Meeting - No School**
May 19

**Victoria Day**
May 22

**Cultural Day**
May 27

**St. Joseph Catholic High School, 1:00-5:00 PM**

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**GPCSD Students recognized for Service at Leaders of Tomorrow Awards**

On April 26, students from Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools were recognized and awarded for volunteer service at the 2017 Leaders of Tomorrow Awards, offered by Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau. In order to be recognized for an award, an individual has to be nominated and exhibit dedication and excellence in any field of volunteer work and inspire the spirit of volunteerism in others and exhibit leadership in their volunteer activities. The students who received the Leaders of Tomorrow Award were **Yna Nicole Tejol** and **Chelsea Currie** from St. Joseph, and **Caden Nelson** and **Tenley Cooke** from St. Mary’s (Sexsmith). In addition to the Leaders of Tomorrow Awards, the event also presented the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which are given to individuals who demonstrate exceptional learning in Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey. The GPCSD students who received the Duke of Edinburgh Award were **William Pernal** and **Miles Potter** from École St. Gerard, **Bennett Winnicky-Lewis** and **Joshua Calkins** from St. Jospeh, and St. Joseph Graduate **Keaton Winnicky-Lewis**. We are incredibly proud of our students for their commitment to service and all the amazing work they do for the community.

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**Mental Health Awareness Week: May 1-7**

Come be a part of Mental Health Awareness Week, taking place this year from May 1 to May 7. A focus on positive mental health for students, families, schools and communities contributes to building welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging. Students who are mentally healthy are better able to achieve success, are more resilient and are more likely to build healthy relationships. For more information about supporting positive mental health in schools, please visit the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca/mental-health.

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**Hats On! For Mental Health - May 3**

On Wednesday May 3, Albertans are invited to wear a hat to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health. Schools can participate by encouraging both students and staff to wear hats, and by engaging in conversations focused on understanding mental health and the importance of removing stigma associated with mental illnesses.

You can learn more about Hats On! For Mental Health at [canwetalk.ca](http://canwetalk.ca).

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**GPCSD Schools participating in Get Out, Get Active Challenge**

Students and staff from Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools have formed several teams to participate in the Primary Care Networks’ Get Out, Get Active (GOA) Challenge. The event runs from April 24 to June 4 and encourages participants of all ages and abilities to increase their daily physical activity. Visit [www.getoutgetactivepcn.com](http://www.getoutgetactivepcn.com) to learn more about Get Out, Get Active.
Jennifer Rimmer will become the new District Principal of St. John Paul II/Faculté St. Jean-Paul II. She will be completing her term as District Principal of St. Mary’s Catholic School before beginning her new position in August 2017. Jennifer joined our District in May 2008, and since then has acted as Assistant Principal of St. Joseph School and the Head of the School Department. Jennifer was transferred in 2013 to St. Mary’s school where she filled the role of Assistant Principal, high school guidance counselor, RAP/Dual Credit/Work Experience Coordinator, and Classroom Support Teacher. Jennifer has always shown a strong commitment and passion for her students, their education, and the community.

Julia Corcoran was appointed as the new District Principal of St. Mary’s Catholic School in Sexsmith, starting in August 2017. She will be returning to a familiar community as she first began working with our District at St. Mary’s School in 2007. At the school, Julia worked on and assisted in planning the integration of Grades 10, 11, and 12 to turn St. Mary’s School into a High School. In 2012, Julia was appointed Assistant Principal of St. Mary’s, and was appointed Assistant Principal for St. Joseph in 2013. She helped develop the Grade 9 Families through building strong relationships with teachers, students, and parents. Julia is an active leader with a strong belief in student success and a commitment to learning.

Michele Allen was announced as the newly appointed District Principal of St. Patrick Catholic School on April 10. She will be begin her new position in August 2017. Michele started with our District in 2013 where she taught Grade 3 at St. Thomas More Catholic School in Fairview. Following this teaching experience, she was appointed Co-Principal with Paulette Goodall. Michele seeks to improve and enhance the education society and cultivate better learning for her students as a member of the Alberta Teachers Association and DestiNation ImagiNation. Michele is eager to build upon her knowledge, as an educator and administrator, to foster a school community built on faith, love, and learning.

Vocations Days: April 30 - May 7

Vocation Week is now Vocation Days, extending to over two weeks! During the week of May 1-5, students will apply their knowledge to contest entries (posters, essays, and poems) which are due Friday May 5, 2017. Three Seminarians, Travis Chabot, Devan Jaeger and Michael Uso-Ereyi, will be hosting presentations the week of May 1-4. Marian and Gerald Logan will be presenting on the Vocation of Marriage and Fr. Leo and Fr. Remi will provide their own presentations in a lead up to the World Day of Prayer.

Education Week: May 1-5

Education Week, May 1-5, provides the opportunity to celebrate the importance of education and to highlight the great work being done in schools across our province. This year’s theme - Learning is a Journey - acknowledges the role education plays in preparing students to pursue their career interests in a diversified economy, while also ensuring they experience the joy of learning while at school.

Visit bit.ly/GPSCSEdWeek for more information and resources on Education Week.

Cultural Day: May 27

On Saturday, May 27, come and enjoy a variety of Aboriginal cultural experiences with the FNMI support staff from Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools. All GPCSD families are welcome to attend this fun day, which runs from 1:00-5:00 PM at St. Joseph Catholic High School. Activities for the day will include bannock making, building dream catchers, jewelry making, tipi teachings, talking sticks, drumming, games, music, and more.

3D Charity Hockey Tournament

The 16th edition of the 3D Charity Hockey Tournament goes May 4th, 5th, and 6th 2017 at the Coke Centre on the Community Knowledge Campus in Grande Prairie. It is also the 1st edition of the 3D Charity Soccer Tournament that goes May 5th and 6th at St. Joes High School. Students from the Peace Wapiti, Grande Prairie Catholic, and Grande Prairie Public School Districts will play hockey and soccer to help raise money for students in the three districts who are dealing with serious medical concerns. Members of our local RCMP and Grande Prairie Fire Departments will also have teams in the soccer tournament to help support this great community event.

For more information, please like the Facebook page at 3dcharityhockey and check our web page at www.3dcharityhockey.com for schedules, community sponsors, and other important information items.