



Holy Child

December 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Peace be with you. During the month of November, we were blessed to have our students and staff lead us in a beautiful and meaningful Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, a meaningful Remembrance Day Ceremony, and a thoughtful school assembly and presentation on our Fruit of the Spirit this month, which is peace. What a wonderful way to approach the season of Advent in anticipation of the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We would also like to express our gratitude and thanks to so many of the parents and guardians who participated recently in the Holy Child demonstration of learning, which took place on November 23rd. It was so nice to see students taking the initiative in sharing their successes and the learning that is taking place on a daily basis.

Celebrating learning and literacy, we would also like to thank the students, parents, and staff who made it possible to have a successful book fair this year! Each year the school benefits from this fair, as a percentage of the sales are contributed back to the school.

As we enter into the month of December, we look forward with excitement to celebrating with you at our Christmas Concert, which is being held at the Basilica this year, in addition to experiencing the wonderful community Christmas market! Please read the newsletter for more details.

Take care and God bless.
Madame Christine Samson,
Principal





UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 3 – **First Sunday of Advent**
- Dec. 4 – Tourtiere & Empanada order deadline
- Dec. 5 – Advent Celebration in the gym 9:00 am
- Dec. 12 – PAC meeting 6–7:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Dec. 13 – Spanish Mass 10:15 a.m. at Corpus Christi
 - Christmas Concert at the Basilica
- Dec. 18 – **Sock/Slipper Day**
- Dec. 19 – **Tourtiere/Empanada Pick up**
 - **Christmas Hat Day**
- Dec. 20 – **Christmas Market**
 - **Fun Sweater Day**
- Dec. 21 – **Christmas Market**
 - **Grinchwear Day**
 - **FULL DAY OF CLASSES – dismissal 3:15**
- Dec. 22 – **Pajama Day**
 - **HALF DAY OF CLASSES – dismissal 11:30**



DECEMBER 23rd TO JANUARY 7th
CHRISTMAS VACATION



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Our Spanish Bilingual teachers worked so hard creating a beautiful Dia de los Muertos experience for our staff and students. Grade 4 to 6 staff and students from Blessed John Paul I even came to participate for the morning. There was a dance residency, time spent at the altar, and a beautiful art display. The day was capped off with a wonderful Family Night here at Holy Child. Families enjoyed pan de muertos (special sweet bread for this occasion), a dance performance, art display and goods for sale. Thank you to all staff and families who joined us for this wonderful event!



REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Staff and students participated in a special Remembrance Day liturgy which gave us time to pause, reflect and be grateful for peace and freedom. The readings also asked us to ponder how we can be peacemakers. We were very blessed to be joined by Lieutenant Skyee Atlas Slate who shared special stories from his time in the military. Lieutenant spent the whole morning at our school, and visited each classroom to answer any questions students had!



GRADE 6 BAKE SALE SUCCESS!

The Grade 6 students are thrilled to announce that **they raised over \$430 at the Demo of Learning Bake Sale!** Thank you to all the families who contributed cookies and volunteered their time running the booth. Stay tuned for other upcoming fundraising events in support of the Grade 6 Camping Trip.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



We wanted to say a huge thank you to Amanda P and Jen for all their hard work, time and dedication to setting up and running the Scholastic and Barefoot Book Fairs. The Book Fairs were extremely successful, and many books were directly donated to each classroom and the school library. Thank you to all families who stopped by and bought books for a great cause!



RECESS AND ACTIVITIES: WEATHER

With the cold weather approaching, this is a kind reminder that students are to dress appropriately for the weather. Recess is important to children to provide a break from regular school routine, a chance to get some fresh air. We will only cancel outdoor recess when Environment Canada determines that the temperature is below -20 degrees Celsius (including wind chill) or during wet, rainy days in accordance with District Procedures. Air quality is monitored similarly to extreme cold temperatures. The suggested guideline is that students do not go outside when air quality reaches an index of 7 or more. Whenever outdoor recess is cancelled, an inside, supervised recess break will occur.

DIVISION & SCHOOL PLANS 2023-2026

We are all partners in Catholic Education! As our commitment to excellence in learning and providing a quality Catholic education to our students, the division has created an Assurance Dashboard, where parents/guardians are able to view division and school plans for continuous growth. Please take a few minutes to read this information, which is found on our Holy Child School website

SCHOOL ASSURANCE DASHBOARD:

HOLY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE CHRISTMAS BUREAU FOR FAMILIES

Ms. Jahnavel Sanchez, our Family Support Worker at Holy Child kindly shared a link that families who are in need may be able to apply directly to the Christmas Bureau, in order to receive support that may be needed during Christmas time. Please feel free to take a look at this link for further information: Christmas Bureau of Edmonton

EDUCATION MINISTER VISITS HOLY CHILD!

Honorable Minister Demetrios Nicolaides' visited the Grade Six classes on November 28th. He spent valuable time in the classroom, answering questions the student had prepared. Thank you to our grade six teachers, students, and staff who all made Minister Nicolaides visit to Holy Child a great experience.



THANK YOU! U OF A NUTRITION STUDENTS

We would just like to extend a big thank you to the University of Alberta nutrition students, Yuxin Guo, and Nicole Wang, for sharing their nutrition knowledge with our grades 4 and 6 classes during the last six weeks! We appreciate your enthusiasm and the learning that you brought to our students and staff during your practicum at Holy Child. All the best to you in your future endeavors!

NOMINATE AN EXCELLENT TEACHER TODAY!

Consider nominating an educator for a 2024 Prime Minister's Award! Download your nomination package today. Submit your nomination electronically or by mail by January 11, 2024. Help us celebrate those who go above and beyond to create safe spaces for their students, continue to work hard to make learning fun and inspire the next generation to be bold innovators and creators. Prime Minister's Awards recipients for Teaching Excellence, Teaching Excellence in STEM and Excellence in Early Childhood Education can receive:

- A certificate from the Prime Minister
- National recognition and promotion of their best teaching practices.

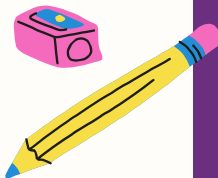


ÉCOLE ESCUELA
HOLY CHILD
Catholic Elementary School



**PARENT COUNCIL &
FUNDRAISING SOCIETY**

Parent Council & Fundraising Society News



DECEMBER 2023

Upcoming Events

Dec 12th

Parent Council/Society
meeting 6-7:30pm, Virtual
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84680113912>

Dec 19th 3:00pm-6:00pm
Tourtiere/Empanada pickup

Meeting Dates

All Welcome | 6-7:30pm
School Library or via Zoom

Tuesday, Dec 12th (Virtual)

Wednesday, Jan 10th (Virtual)

Wednesday, Feb 7th (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 6 (in-person)

Wednesday, April 10 (in-person)

Wednesday, May 8th (Virtual)

Wednesday June 5th (in-person)

December 20th + 21st



Everyone's favourite event!
Holy Child's 6th Annual

Christmas Market

Donate new or lightly used items to the school (for
all ages + adults) so the kids can 'shop' for those
on their list. See parent letter for more details.

Parent volunteers are needed for set up, tear down and wrapping!

<https://signup.com/go/SLrhScX>

Christmas Market

Volunteers/wrappers needed

<https://signup.com/go/SLrhScX>

Reminders

- Join the Council or Society for 2023/2024! Email us to find out more details
- Read meeting minutes at www.holychild.ecsd.net under StudentLife
- Follow us on Facebook for school information @GrandinSchoolSociety



GrandinParents@gmail.com | @GrandinSchoolSociety



December 20th + 21st

Everyone's favourite event!
Holy Child's 6th Annual
Christmas Market

Donate new or lightly used items to the school (for all ages + adults) so the kids can 'shop' for those on their list. See parent letter for more details.

Parent volunteers are needed for set up, tear down and wrapping!
<https://signup.com/go/SLrhScX>

The Holy Child Christmas Market is a very special annual event on **Wednesday, Dec 20 and Thursday, Dec 21, 2023** where students have the opportunity to 'shop' for Christmas presents for their families. At the market, students select gifts from donated items which are then wrapped by volunteers and taken home for Christmas morning.

Each year students take great care in selecting the "perfect gifts" for their family members. They express great joy in telling why they selected the gifts they did and excitement in the anticipation of their loved ones' reactions to their gifts.

DONATIONS

Holy Child families are asked to donate new or gently used items for the Market. There is no set limit on the amount you can donate, however it is suggested that you donate at least one item per person your child will be buying for (ex; if your child is buying for 4 family members we ask that you donate at least 4 items).

Donations will be collected at school December 4th-18th. Send your items to school with your child or bring them to the front entrance of the school and drop them in the Rubbermaid bins provided.

Donations of wrapping paper, tissue paper, bows, and gift bags are also greatly welcomed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW OR GENTLY USED DONATION ITEMS: toys, games, craft items, scrapbook supplies, aprons, place mats, puzzles, baby toys, picture frames, books, posters, candles, candle holders, vases, jewelry, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: for health reasons we cannot accept unsealed make up, clothing, pierced earrings, shoes, hairbrushes, or hair accessories. Please do not send movies, games, magazines or books that have inappropriate messages, pictures or themes. Stuffed animals are welcome but they must be clean and very gently loved.

WE ANTICIPATE BEING SHORT OF GIFTS FOR DADS, TEENS AND BROTHERS. Suggestions for donations: golf balls & tees, hats, tools, ties, coffee mugs, candy, CDs, movies, games, etc.

All items must be clean and in good shape. (ex; ensure all puzzle pieces are included) Remember, the items you donate will be a Christmas gift for a child's loved one, chosen from the heart.

Families are asked to contribute \$0.50 for each item being purchased by their child.

The 6th Annual Holy child Christmas Market

Please complete the following information so we know who your child is buying for at the Christmas Market. Return it along with your money to your child's classroom.

Your child's teacher will discuss with your child which family members they are buying for.
Your child **does not** buy for him/herself.

Child's name: _____

Classroom: _____ Teacher's name: _____

My child is buying for:

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Sibling (s) name(s)/age(s):

Additional family members:

Total money sent at \$0.50/family member: _____

Please return your child's form and payment to their teacher
by **Friday, December 15/23**.

Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at the Holy Child Christmas Market.

Please sign up to volunteer at

<https://signup.com/go/SLrhScX>



2024 is our Casino Year!

Save Feburay 28th + 29th, 2024 in your calendar to volunteer for the MOST IMPORTANT fundraiser our school is fortunate to have.

Volunteer sign up coming in January!

Casino fundraisers can bring up to \$75K in cash funds to our school.

Healthy Hunger

2024-01-26	
2024-02-23	
2024-04-26	
2024-05-31	

Hot Lunch is BACK!!

Last Friday of the month.

Register & pay for your child online at
www.healthyhunger.com

Volunteers needed each month to help deliver lunches to classrooms from 11:30am-12:15pm.
Sign up online!