

SAINT GREGORY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

The month of September was a very exciting and busy month for students and staff at Saint Gregory Catholic Elementary School. All students have settled nicely into the new year and we invite parents to come into the school and volunteer in some capacity.

We welcome back Ms. Amy Jardany to our school, acting as a part-time aide in our Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs. We feel very fortunate to have Amy join our excellent staff!

We had a very successful Meet the Parent/Teacher Night on Tuesday, September 13th, even though we picked the coolest day of the month to host this event. We thank our Parent Council for running this event. They served over 150 hamburgers and over 100 hot dogs. We also thank Mr. & Mrs. Hryniuk from Tim Horton's for the use of their barbecue. Thank you to all the parents that assisted with this event. A special thank you to our new parent council. Maybe 'new' is the wrong word. Returning again are, Angie, Ray, Coreen and Lindsay. Jean is staying on in the capacity as Fund Raising Coordinator and Book Fair Coordinator. Marilyn Litke is staying on as Popcorn Coordinator. Marci is staying on as Hot Lunch Coordinator and Angela Ross is our 'new' Milk Coordinator.

This year we are focusing our attention on the theme "Ever Growing, Learning and Living in Christ". For each liturgy we will focus on this theme. We invite you to come to our Thanksgiving liturgy on Thursday, October 6th, beginning at 1:45 in the gymnasium. ALL parents, relatives and friends are cordially invited to join in this celebration. In giving thanks for all that we have and for our belief in the symbol of our hands as a tool for giving, we are asking our students and staff members to bring at least one non-perishable food item to school sometime during the week of September 26th through October 4th. These food donations will be delivered to the food bank, in time for Thanksgiving. Thanking you in advance for your usual generosity to those in need.

Mrs. Bashforth, Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Carre are looking after our Cross-Country Runners this year. The students will be attending a Cross-Country run at St. Joseph School in Spruce Grove on Thursday, September 29th as a wind up. We certainly thank them for their hard work and dedication to our students. We are also looking for coaches for volleyball and basketball this year. If you have an interest, please contact Mr. Zarski at the school.



**Ever growing, learning and
living in Christ.**



FOOD BANK



Saint Gregory will once again be collecting for the food bank from September 26th until October 4th. Thank you for your generosity.

HALLOWEEN FUN DAY

Our Annual Halloween Fun Day will be on October 31st. This event will be held in the gym. If you would like to volunteer please let the office know. Thank you.



THANKSGIVING DAY LITURGY



We would like to welcome everyone to attend our Thanksgiving Liturgy on Thursday, October 7th at 1:45 p.m. in the gym. We look forward to seeing you.

APPROPRIATE OUTDOOR WEAR



We would like to remind parents to please send their child/ren to school with weather appropriate jackets, hats, mitts/gloves, and proper foot wear.

VOLUNTEERS

We wish to express our gratitude to the many volunteers that come into our school. If you are a volunteer, Evergreen Catholic Regional Division no. 2, requires that a Child Welfare Check be conducted. There is no cost for this service, which can be obtained through the Town of Hinton office. If you are visiting please sign in at the office. We appreciate your attention to this request.

COOKIES FOR A CAUSE

If you are a youth (6 years or older) who likes to bake please join us in the church hall (Our Lady of the Foothills) on Saturday, October 15th at 10 am to bake cookies for a worthy cause. If you have any questions please call Linda at 865-1127 or the parish office at 865-3045.

PURDY'S FUNDRAISER

It is time for the Annual Christmas Purdy's Fundraiser! All orders are due Friday, October 21st. Please make cheques to Saint Gregory PAC. Extra forms are available in the office.



SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

Thursday, October 20th is School Spirit Day. We would like to encourage all students and staff to show their school spirit on this day by wearing the school colors, blue and white.

PUMPKIN PRAYER

(Cut off the top of pumpkin) Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.

(Remove the innards) Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me to forgive others.

(Cut open eyes) Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me.

(Cut out nose) I'm sorry for the times I've turned my nose at the good food you provide.

(Cut out mouth) Let everything I say please You.

(Light the candle) Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do.

Amen



COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

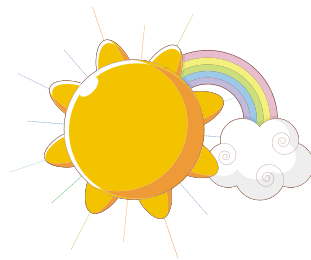
St. Gregory School is pleased to be offering the Rainbows Program again this year if there is enough interest for grades one to four. Death, divorce, separation and abandonment are estimated to impact 50% of Canadian children. Each of these can change a child's life forever. Yet many of us believe our children are doing fine. Appearances can be deceiving. When the family unit falls apart, everything these children have known, trusted and counted on is either gone or changed. Some children last out, withdraw, or bury their pain, anger, confusion, fear, sadness and guilt. Many grieve in silence.

The Rainbows Program provides a safe, confidential, peer-support environment for healing. Through fun activities, games and discussions, RAINBOWS helps children understand and accept the changes in their lives. They are taught communications, problem solving and positive coping strategies to get what they need from life.

Rainbows groups are small informal, age appropriate meetings of students with a trained facilitator. Each group meets once a week for twelve sessions during school time and scheduled at the most convenient time for your child and teacher. These support groups are open to all students from grades one to four. Children that were previously part of the Rainbows Program are encouraged to continue if you feel the program can benefit them further.

If your child is part of a single parent family, stepfamily, has experienced the death of a loved family member, friend or struggling through a painful experience, this will be an opportunity for him/her to share with a special someone on the outside what is happening on the inside.

If you are interested in having your child attend the Rainbows Program, please feel free to contact either Barb Kneteman or Randy Smith.



St. Gregory is an "Allergy Aware" school that asks parents/students to continue to avoid bringing possible allergens such as peanut butter into the building. For your information, there is a 100% peanut and nut free peanut butter replacement now available. This product looks, smells and tastes just like peanut butter. We encourage you to find out more about WOWBUTTER on the website www.WOWBUTTER.com. It will provide reassurance that the product is safe for schools and will not affect anyone with strictly a peanut and/or tree nut allergy who smells, ingests or comes in contact with this product as well as verification that it is manufactured in a peanut/nut free facility. If you do use this product, please label it so that we are aware.



