



# Holy Spirit Flyer



## "Grow With the Spirit"

Volume 7 Number 1

Serving Grade K- 8 Students in Devon, Alberta

September, 2011

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## Ever growing, learning and loving in Christ.

### Principal's Message—Welcome Back!

Welcome to the seventh year of operation at Holy Spirit Catholic School. We anticipate another tremendous fun-filled academic school year. We thank God for six great years so far and look forward to serving our community for many more years to come.

Research has shown that what parents look for first, when choosing a school for their children, is that their children will be safe and feel loved and cared for. Of course as parents, we also want to know that our children will have the very best possible opportunities to reach their full potential academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Choosing the right school for your family is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. The students and staff here at Holy Spirit Catholic School will tell you that **Continued Pg.7**

## Holy Spirit



Evergreen serves Catholic families in Devon, Hinton, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Westlock. For

more information call the board office at 1-800-825-7152. The next school board meeting is **Monday, September 12th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Division Offices at Holy Trinity Church in Spruce Grove. Our next School Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held on **Thursday September 8th following the Open House and Barbeque.** All Holy Spirit Catholic School parents are always welcome.

**Everyone is Invited on Thursday September 8th!**

**Open House, Meet the Teacher, Barbeque and Carnival**

Carnival from 4:00—6:30 pm: Petting Zoo, Mud, Sweat & Gears a Bike Demonstration, Sparky, Old Red and Door Prizes!

Hot Dog BBQ served from 5:00—6:30 pm

Meet the Staff from 6:30—7:00 pm

First Parent Council Meeting 7:00 pm



**Evergreen CSRD #2 Schools: St. Joseph - K-4; St. Marguerite - Gr. 5-8; St. Thomas Aquinas High School - Gr. 9-12, Spruce Grove; John Paul II - K- 8, Stony Plain; St. Mary - K-12, Westlock; Holy Spirit- K-8, Devon; St. Gregory- K-4; Gerard Redmond - 5-12, Hinton**

# Important Dates

- August 31- First Day of School  
8:20 am—2:50 pm
- September 1—Wild Pink Yonder Parade
- September 5—Labour Day No School
- September 7—NO Early Dismissal 2:50!
- September 8—Open House Carnival 4:00pm  
Hot Dog BBQ 5:00 pm  
Meet the Staff 6:30 pm  
PAC Meeting 7:00 pm
- September 9—School Opening Mass 9:15 am
- September 13—School Pictures
- September 14—ECS 1 Kindergarten Pictures
- September 16—New Student Luncheon
- September 28—Terry Fox Run



## Catholic Girls League

Welcoming girls ages 10 -16

First meeting will be September 10th at 3:00

### St. Maria Goretti Church

We meet the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.  
Come join the fun!

Contact: Mrs. Phedelia Arnold (780) 987-9169

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for Children's Liturgy of the Word and many other jobs at our Parish. Call 780-987-2858

## Ambassadors For Christ Youth Group

Welcoming youth aged 12 to 18 years old

Registrations Friday Sept. 23th at HSCS Gym Night  
7:00pm—8:30pm

Parents come in to fill out registration forms for their youth and sign up to help supervise or lead the group for this wonderful St.

Maria Goretti Parish program run by volunteers.

Contact: Mrs. Connie Fraser, Youth Leader (780) 987-5425

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

As many of you know Mrs. Barron our school counselor is on maternity leave until early 2012. In her absence Mr. Dempsey will be available for day to day concerns.

We will also be running Rainbows Support Group for students who have experienced significant loss in their family like a death of someone close or separation or divorce of the students parents. Please contact our Rainbows Coordinator Mrs. Vani regarding this support group.

# Father James Bodula

We extend a very warm welcome to Father James Bodula to Devon, St. Maria Goretti Parish and our Holy Spirit Catholic School family. Please attend mass this week and introduce yourself to our new Parish Priest so that he feels welcome in our community. We look forward to having him become a wonderful friendly part of our school community also.





# Keys to Communication

Stay informed on all the important dates, assemblies and activities.

- ❖ **SCHOOL WEBSITE:** [hscs.ca](http://hscs.ca) Our school website will soon have a new look . Check the website often for the most current information and links to your favorite teachers. Save our link under your favorites.
- ❖ **MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS** In an effort to save trees we ask that you check our website for the most recent newsletter. Each month the newest newsletter is posted as close to the first school day of the month as possible.
- ❖ **AGENDAS** are ideal tools between home and school for students, parents and teachers. Daily checks keep parents informed and students on top of homework. Teachers love notes from parents that keep them informed too.
- ❖ **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS** are great opportunities to show each other gratitude. We value seeing parents in person and sharing your child's accomplishments.
- ❖ **PARENT HANDBOOK & CALENDAR** is a great reference for the whole school year at a glance. Please take a few minutes to read through this guide on everything from dress regulations to parking.



## Discipline at Holy Spirit

One dictionary definition of the word "discipline" is; "Training to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior, especially training that produces moral or mental improvement. Discipline can also be defined as, "Control obtained by enforcing compliance or order."

At Holy Spirit Catholic School discipline is viewed holistically and is much more likely to reflect the first definition. We invite parents and students to understand the school's expectations through holding ongoing discussion to clarify values and expectations. We regularly communicate

our expectations through our school calendar, student handbooks, the web page and newsletter; as well as through school assemblies and in the day to day modeling and guidance offered by our staff.

When new families consider our school, a common question is, "What is your school's discipline policy?" or "Do you have a zero tolerance discipline policy?" The simplest answer to the first question is that we base our approach to discipline on our faith. Jesus taught his disciples the values and expectations of the Catholic faith by modeling and through dialogue. At Holy Spirit, our approach is much the same; we set expectations, lead by example and involve students in dialogue about behavioural and academic expectations. With regard to the second question, "Do we have a zero tolerance policy?", we believe that each student has the right to be treated with dignity and as an individual. A zero tolerance policy inhibits our ability to work with each student on their personal growth and understanding.

### Why Zero Tolerance Doesn't Work

In the US, where zero-tolerance policies exist in 75 percent of schools, severe punishments are meted out for certain offenses, no matter the individual circumstances, sometimes resulting in ridiculous outcomes. One policy forced the principal of a Delaware school to suspend a six year old boy for bringing a camping utensil to school because it was seen as a weapon. Studies have repeatedly shown that "zero tolerance", does not deter misbehavior and in fact results in more students dropping out of schools and becoming involved in criminal activities.

This type of "discipline", then, is really punishment. Punishment relates to power and force. In his book *Teacher Effectiveness Training* (2003), Dr. Thomas Gordon said, "power is disguised as "authority," and power is terribly destructive in human relationships" (pp. 200-201). Punishment works as long as the punisher is perceived as being bigger and stronger. Fear of an authority figure is not as productive in shaping behavior, as is respect. If our goal is to build mutual respect and teach personal responsibility, punishments meted out under a zero tolerance policy will not help us achieve our goal.

### What Does Work

The school's behavioural expectations are clearly stated in our student agendas and in our school calendars. Teachers begin the school year by reviewing behavioural expectations in a way that is age appropriate. Parents are welcome to express any concerns about overall behavioural considerations through the Parent Advisory Committee or by contacting the principal directly.

Of course not all students will have the same level of understanding about behavioural expectations, nor will they have the same ability to regulate their own behaviour. It is therefore imperative that each child and each situation be treated as a unique opportunity to help that student grow in their understanding and in their ability to make good choices.

At Holy Spirit Catholic School we believe that each time a child makes a poor behavioural choice, is an opportunity to help that child understand the problem, generate possible solutions, evaluate those solutions and make a decision. We believe it is important for all of the students involved in a situation to learn to resolve the issue. Input from the students involved helps us develop an agreement wherein each student can accept responsibility for his or her behaviour, and to find ways to resolve the situation. It is through this process of dialogue, agreement and resolution that we can take advantage of every opportunity to help children grow as responsible, valued individuals within our community.

What the newsletter each month to learn more about how we as teachers and as parents can help our children to take responsibility and make good choices based on Catholic Values.

"Let us forgive those who trespass against us."

# Upcoming Events

## The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton Youth Rally 2011

Saturday October 15, 10 a.m.—9 p.m.

Archbishop O'Leary High School

8760—132 Avenue, Edmonton

\$50 per person

Speaker: Michael Chiasson Music: FX of Grace

Contact: Mrs. Roxanne Persson 780-987-4807

## Milk Vouchers

Milk vouchers are 75cents each this year available at the office.

## Hot Lunch

Watch for many exciting new changes to Hot Lunch. Same great food and web based ordering and payment!

## Stay Active This Fall!

Although we cannot advertise all the different sports and drop in activities happening around Devon we do encourage Holy Spirit families to enjoy the many activities available beyond school hours. A great resource is The Town of Devon website.

## Eye See... Eye Learn

Eye see...eye learn is an early childhood program of the Alberta Association of Optometrists. Funded by Alberta Education and Alberta Health and Wellness, it is designed to ensure eye health and/or vision problems do not prevent children from getting a positive start to learning. The project supports government's goals for prevention and early intervention for at-risk children and youth. The success of the ESEL program relies on the involvement of both parents and teachers. Each fall, teachers send more than 50,000 parent information packages home with Kindergarten students. For more information, visit [www.optometrists.ab.ca/fribbit](http://www.optometrists.ab.ca/fribbit)



## Arabesque Rhythmics

To register and find out more information, please contact:

780-242-9069 or

[arabesquerhythmics@gmail.com](mailto:arabesquerhythmics@gmail.com)

Or visit:

[www.arabesquerhythmics.ca](http://www.arabesquerhythmics.ca)

School Picture Day is coming soon:

Tuesday Sept. 13th

Wednesday Sept. 14th for ECS 1 Kindergarten only

*All portraits not purchased must be returned to the school.*

If you have any questions regarding your portraits, please contact

Lifetouch at 1-866-457-8212



# THANK YOU CARNIVAL VOLUNTEERS!

A great carnival would not be possible without all the donations from parents, staff and students and businesses. This year we combined this fun event with our Open House and Barbeque. So many wonderful volunteers help in many ways around Holy Spirit School to make this event and many others possible. We are currently looking for Parent Volunteers to help with Fund-raising and School Council so if you can contribute in this way please contact Mr. Dempsey, Principal or Mrs. Glebe, Assistant Principal at your earliest convenience for more details. Call 780-987-5730 or email: [sdempsey@ecsr.ca](mailto:sdempsey@ecsr.ca)





# Phone Directory

| Staff          | Extensions | Assignment                          |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Dempsey    | 111        | Principal                           |
| Mrs. Glebe     | 110        | Assistant<br>Principal              |
| Mrs. Barron    | 115        | Counseling and<br>Special Education |
| Mrs. Herriman  | 100        | Kindergarten                        |
| Ms. Teasdale   | 101        | Grade 1                             |
| Mrs. Vant Hoff | 102        | Grade 1                             |
| Mrs. Pocha     | 105        | Grade 2                             |
| Mrs. Johns     | 104        | Grade 2                             |
| Mrs. Joyce     | 107        | Grade 3                             |
| Mrs. Laarz     | 106        | Grade 3                             |
| Mr. Bolkowy    | 201        | Grade 4                             |
| Ms. Lapointe   | 202        | French/Grade 4                      |
| Mrs. Jensen    | 206        | Grade 5/6                           |
| Mrs. Tamblyn   | 207        | Grade 5                             |
| Mrs. Kearley   | 205        | Grade 6                             |
| Mrs. Weins     | 200        | Grade 7                             |
| Ms. Gardner    | 109        | Grade 8                             |
| Mr. Mazurek    | 107        | Grade 7                             |
| Mr. Hardy      | 137        | Phys. Ed                            |
| Mrs. Tamblyn   | 207        | Special Ed.                         |

### General Office

|             |     |                  |
|-------------|-----|------------------|
| Mrs. Vani   | 300 | School Secretary |
| Mrs. Swityk | 116 | Financial        |
| Mrs. Stecyk | 133 | Librarian        |

### Support Staff

|                |  |                   |
|----------------|--|-------------------|
| Mrs. C. Jensen |  | Teacher Assistant |
| Mrs. Shields   |  | Teacher Assistant |
| Mrs. Hugh      |  | Teacher Assistant |
| Mrs. Miron     |  | Teacher Assistant |

### Custodial Staff

Goran Ilievski  
Amy Tkachuk

### Continued from Page 3- Principal's Message

Our vision is "becoming all God wants us to be." We are focused on identifying the unique gifts of each individual and helping to create the best life pathways for your children. In our society there are some fundamental learning's which every student should acquire. Every student should learn to read, to spell, to perform basic arithmetic and learn to write with accuracy and clarity. Students should learn to value their unique gifts. Students should be able to interact with modern technology with a keen eye on what is appropriate and what is not. They should experience success and learn what they need to do so they may travel on their own chosen pathway—whether it be to pursue further study or a career. Above all, students should feel cared for, safe, valued and loved. These fundamental learning's are what we excel in at Holy Spirit. As a Catholic School we do everything with Christian values and a moral perspective. Our school values are CLEAR—Christ Likeness, Respect, Kindness, Empathy, Self-Control, Fairness and having a Conscience. We hope that our students will learn the value of a personal relationship with Christ Jesus as they follow His path.



**Computers  
FOR SALE  
\$125 !**

These completely refurbished computers include an LCD monitor, keyboard and mouse are loaded with Open Office Software. They are fully internet capable. Make your cheques payable to Evergreen Catholic School Division No. 2. Drop by with your payment and pick them up while supplies last. At this price they won't last long.

## Lost & Found Items

Each year our Lost & Found Boxes overflow with items that are not claimed. We have two large plastic containers located near the gymnasium. One is designated for Holy Spirit Gym Wear and the other for everything else. Please take time to look for any lost items regularly and if you do not have success finding missing items let the office know. Thank you for your help.



If you plan on taking the school bus this school year please contact Parkland Student Transportation as soon as possible at: 1-780-963-8452.

## *September 2011*

*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:7*

| Sun | Mon                                  | Tue                                 | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 4   | 5<br><i>Labour Day<br/>No School</i> |                                     | 6  | 7<br><i>Regular Dis-<br/>missal Time<br/>2:50!</i> | 8<br><i>Open House<br/>Carnival, BBQ,<br/>Meet our Staff &amp;<br/>Parent Council<br/>Meeting 4-8 pm</i> | 9<br><i>Mass 9:15 am<br/>At St. Maria<br/>Goretti Parish</i> |
| 11  | 12                                   | 13<br><i>School Picture<br/>Day</i> | 14<br><i>Picture Day<br/>for ECS 1<br/>Kindergarten<br/>only</i> | 15   | 16<br><i>New Student<br/>Luncheon</i>  | 17   |
| 18  | 19                                   | 20                                  | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24   |
| 25  | 26                                   | 27                                  | 28<br><i>Terry Fox Run</i>                                       | 29   | 30   |  |