



February 2016

# Au Courant

*École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite D'Youville*  
51 Boudreau Road  
St. Albert, AB T8N 6B7  
(780) 459-5702  
[www.essmy.ca](http://www.essmy.ca)

## February Events:

- 1- Semester 2 begins
- 2- Report Cards go home  
MPA Meeting  
School Council Meeting
- 3- Skip-a-thon
- 4 & 5- Teacher's Convention  
No School
- 9- Shrove Tuesday/ Pancakes at lunch
- 10- Ash Wednesday- Mass at Holy Family 9am
- 15- Family Day/ No School
- 19- Early Dismissal 11:18
- 22- Blessing of our chapel

## March 2016

- 1- MPA Meeting  
School Council Meeting
- 2/9- PARTY Program- Gr. 9s
- 7- High School Open House 7pm
- 8- Jr. High Open House 7pm

## Lent

The English word *Lent* comes from the Old English *lencten*, by way of Middle English *lente*. Both the Middle English and Old English terms refer to springtime, and literally to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs in the spring. Lent is the 40 day period of preparation for Easter Sunday and one of the major liturgical seasons of the Catholic, Orthodox, and certain Protestant churches. During the season of Lent, we are invited to pray, fast, and give to those less fortunate.

As a liturgical season, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday, when the Easter Triduum begins. Holy Thursday (Last Supper), Good Friday (Crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (Resurrection) make up the Triduum, tri meaning three.

Pope Francis encourages us during this Jubilee Year of Mercy to live Lent more intensely and consider it as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. During the weeks of Lent, take the time to meditate and rediscover the merciful face of the father.

No matter how busy you are in life, with some greater awareness and new perspectives you can consciously pray, fast, and give of yourself this Lent.

As a school, we will be presenting daily challenges where all are invited to reflect, go beyond and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Pray with us as we offer these intentions and challenges:

- That we say a silent prayer for those who feel as if they do not belong.
- That we focus on the gifts each person has and use our gifts to serve others.
- That we stop, listen and be present to God.
- That we become a person who walks with humility.
- That we demand nothing from others, only from ourselves.
- That we begin each day with a peaceful attitude.
- That we take time to forgive.

### **Open House: Junior High and High School**

ESSMY will host a High School Open House on **March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 7- 8:30** and a Jr. High Open House on **March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 7- 8:30pm** for perspective ESSMY students.



If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our ESSMY community, please encourage them to contact the school office at 780-459-5702 for more details, or to check out our website.

### **School Council**

The next school council meeting is on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 from 7-8 pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend!

Future meeting dates for the year: Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, June 7

### **DEL F Exam**

As you may already be aware, we offer our grade 12 students the opportunity to write a French Proficiency Exam, DELF- Le Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Française. This exam certifies the "French Language skills of candidates from outside of France" and is intended to give students international recognition for their accomplishments in French Second Language Learning. This certificate can be used for post-secondary and employment purposes.

More detailed information will be emailed to our grade 12 families shortly, as well students have received information from Mme Lajoie.

### **Shrove Tuesday**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, in celebrating Mardi Gras, students will receive a pancake and sausage at lunch courtesy of Student Council.



### **Report Cards and Semester 2**

Here are a few reminders about the end of semester and startup of semester 2:

1. Powerschool will be enabled February 1.
2. Semester 2 begins February 1. Junior High students remain in their cores, however their options will change. If students require an option, we will address these beginning February 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. Report cards go out February 2<sup>nd</sup>, outcomes will be emailed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
4. Welcome to M Akoua who will be replacing Mme Larose.

### *Art Department*

The art seven and eight students completed claymation and whiteboard movies. We presented them to the University of Alberta secondary education teachers. The student teachers and their professor were very impressed by their work and sense of humor. The art nine students completed 25 ceiling tile paintings and Pop Art paintings. We worked in sculpture, painting, printmaking, watercolour and developed skills and creativity. We had a great semester of Art! Next semester we will exhibit in the community at the Arden, St. Albert Library and the Art Gallery of St. Albert.

Pam Wilman  
Art Teacher

### *Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Survey*

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2015, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

### *Blessing of Pope Francis Chapel*

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be honored with the presence of Archbishop Richard Smith who will be blessing our chapel. We welcome families to join us on this special occasion in the gym.

A decorative graphic with the words "Save the Date" in a stylized, cursive font. The word "the" is smaller and positioned between "Save" and "Date".

### **Career Fair**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be hosting our Career Fair. We are asking parents to participate by being the presenters and sharing your expertise with our students. We will be emailing detailed information at a later date.

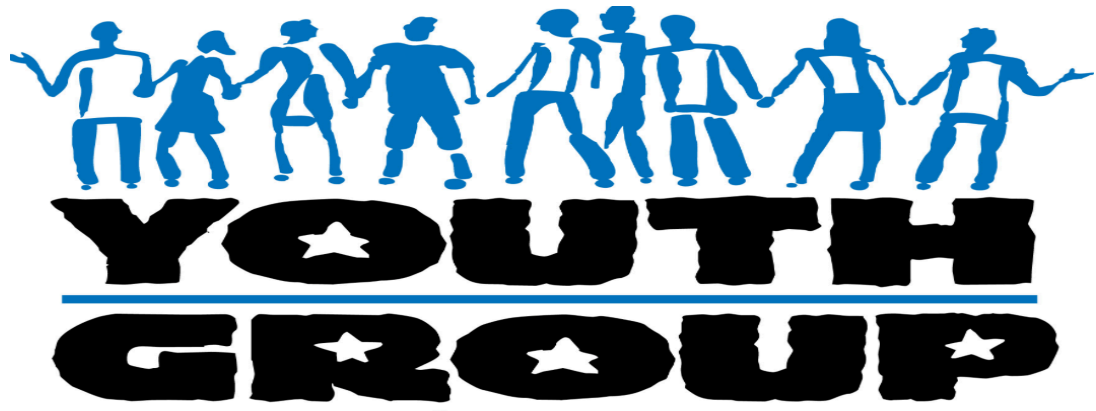
### **Holy Family Youth Group**

**Verve** is for students in grades 6-8 and they meet every Wednesday from 7-8:30pm.

**Unite** is for students in grades 9-12 and they meet every Sunday after the 5pm Mass  
Please check the parish website for more information

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

All are welcome; it's a great way to live your faith with your friends!



### **St. Albert Catholic Mass Times**

St. Albert is very fortunate to have three Catholic Churches within its city limits. Please see below for weekend mass times and locations:

#### **Holy Family Parish**

75 Poirier Avenue

Saturday evenings 5 pm

Sunday mornings 9 am and 11 am

Sunday evenings 5 pm

#### **St. Albert Parish**

7 St. Vital Avenue

Saturday evenings 5 pm

Sunday mornings 9 am and 11 am

Sunday evenings 6:30 pm

#### **Communauté catholique francophone St. Albert**

9 Muir Drive (Chapelle Connelly McKinley)

Chaque dimanche à 9h



For any further information, please check out website:

<http://www.essmy.gsacrd.ab.ca>