



Holy Family Matters

March 2011

Issue 108

Central Office News and Updates March 2011

St. Andrews students Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sunday February 27th St. Paul's Catholic community of High Prairie had the privilege of celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for 38 of our young people. Archbishop Gerard Pettipas celebrated this event, he confirmed the young people and gave a beautiful and meaningful homily. The students were prepared by two of St. Andrew's staff along with Father Tony, our parish priest. The sacrament of reconciliation was provided a few days before confirmation followed by a full day's retreat lead by Chris Doll. Thank you Chris, job well done. Comments from the students: it was amazing, it was excellent , very good day. The confirmed student received gifts from the parish: a Confirmation candle from the Catholic Women's League and a Confirmation Certificate, a Confirmation pin and a Bible from the parish.

After the final blessing a luncheon was served, provided by the parents and the parish. We were happy to have our Superintendent Betty Turpin and her husband Brian at this special event. Thank you Betty.

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Central Office Peace River. OPEN to the public.



"SHINE" UPDATE

Here are photos from the Grade 8/9 "SHINE!" Retreat in January!





Faith Formation Highlights - March 2011



St. Andrew's Confirmation Candidates have a Retreat Day - Feb. 24th, 2011 at St. Paul's Parish in High Prairie.

Glenmary Grade 12 Students and Rosary Grade 8 & 9 Students and Confirmation Candidates are preparing for a retreat day with Speaker: Ken Yasinski from Saskatoon, Sask. in April.

Ken Yasinski is the founder of Face2Face Ministries. Speaking since 1999, he has become one of Canada's most sought after Catholic speakers, giving over 150 presentations a year. Through his gift of communicating, his audience is captivated by the love of Christ and His Church. He has spoken for conferences, rallies, parish missions, schools, teacher retreats, professional development days, and retreats to youth and adults across Canada as well as internationally. At the core of every message, Ken challenges people to realize their full potential in life – to be a saint. In 2010, Ken's first book was published, "The Fullness of Purpose," and he released his fifth worship CD "Reckless Love."

The "Alpha Program" is being held at St. Stephen's School with 14 staff participants.

We have a wonderful group gathered each Wednesday after school to take part in this worthwhile course that is a study and refresher of our Christian Faith. For more information about the Alpha Program, please contact Chris Doll.

All of our schools are preparing for the **Lenten Season**. Our Social Justice component will include the study of our Catholic Social Teaching; Fundraising activities for Development and Peace: Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Celebrations.

The **Religious Education Congress** will be held in Anaheim from March 17-20th. It is the largest Catholic conference in North America. We are fortunate to have 3 from our Division attending the Congress this month. For more information go to ReCongress.org. We also have teachers attending the SPICE Conference (Sharing Purpose in Catholic Education) held in Kananaskis, April 28th – May 1st.





Were on the Web
www.hfcrd.ab.ca



CONGRESS 2011 THEME REFLECTION

Hold Firm ... Trust!!

Our Congress theme, "Hold Firm ... Trust!" draws us into the outrageous love of a God who steadfastly accompanies us on the journey, steadies us in times of challenge, and leads us to refreshment and renewal.

The prophet Jeremiah likens the one who trusts to a tree by the waterside that does not fear even in year of drought.

Nourished at its roots by the rich soil it grows and expands through all seasons.

Drawing wisdom from this image, we are confident that if we dip into the rich soil of God's presence, are centered on a power greater than ourselves; we too will flourish and grow through seasons of dark and light.

– Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC
Director, Office of Religious Education

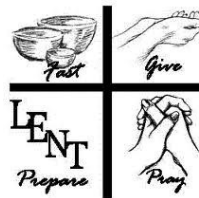


Project Link Update

March is...Nutrition Month. This year's theme, "Celebrate Food...From Field to Table" focuses on choosing local foods, cooking foods yourself, discovering where food is grown and eating meals together (with family or friends). This year, try planting a garden, make a new recipe for your family, visit a local farm, pick local produce when in season or look for "Product of Canada" on food labels.

Project LINK is facilitating a student physical activity challenge for all district students. This challenge is two weeks and encourages students to get active and complete weekly goals. In January 2011, Canada released updated physical activity guidelines for youth and they are now recommending 1 hour of physical activity every day.

For more information, contact **Stephanie Arseneault**, Registered Dietitian and Project LINK Coordinator at 780-624-3956.



Dear Lord,

As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent.

Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You... **AMEN**



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand!