



Holy Family Matters

Central Office News and Update January 2012

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Holy Family Catholic Regional School Division is excited to announce the newly acclaimed trustee, Vivianne Gayton through a by-election in Ward 4, Subdivision 2 Grimshaw/Berwyn held December 19, 2011.

Vivianne was born and raised in the Peace Country. She and her husband moved home to Grimshaw in 2006, with their three children, all of whom attend Holy Family School. She has been an active community volunteer for many different organizations, and currently sits on the board of the Grimshaw Municipal Library. "If my children benefit from an organization, then I feel a responsibility to support that group however I can."

This ward had been vacant since the 2009 election.

What is a New Year's Resolution?

A New Year is upon us already. Where does the time go? To get some information together to share with all of you, I decided to do some searching into the "New Year" or January 1st. The history of the New Year's Resolution was quite interesting. A **New Year's resolution** is a commitment that a person makes to one or more personal goals, projects, or the reforming of a habit. A key element to a New Year's Resolution that sets it apart from other resolutions is that it is made in anticipation of the New Year and new beginnings and people commit themselves to it for an entire year as a lifestyle change.

The ancient Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. There are other religious parallels to this tradition. The concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

Not a bad idea for anyone. I then decided to look a little deeper into January 1st, the holy day.

During the "Twelve Days of Christmas" the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, one of which is January 1st, which some of you may remember as "The Feast of Circumcision" commemorating the first shedding of Christ's Blood on behalf of mankind. The day has also been known as the day that Christ the Lord was named "Jesus" or "Christ's Name Day". Today the feast is called: "The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God" and is one of the most important feasts. In fact, the Church regards this feast as so important that it is a "Holy Day of Obligation".

On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy Word".

As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her.

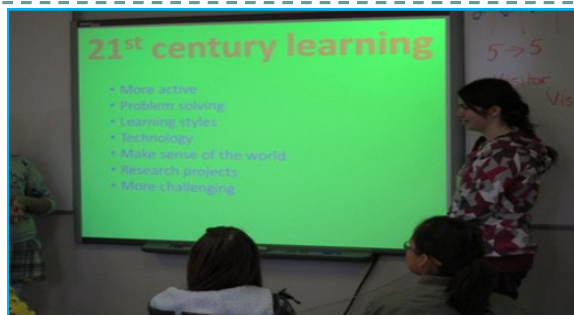
"O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!"

Denise Valiquette

Board of Trustee - McLennan



Alberta Initiative for School Improvement

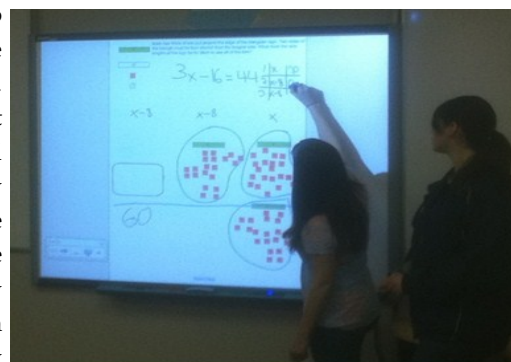


It has been exciting to see our students present their 21st century learning to the School Board and Central Office staff each month. The Board of Trustees and Central Office staff continues to be impressed by the quality of the 21st century learning projects that schools have presented. Presentations have been varied. From Grade 2 students to Grade 11 students have presented and the presentations have been in all subject areas.

In **October**, Krystle Brulotte's grade 8/9 students presented the kinds of activities they do in their Math classes to challenge their brains. At the beginning of most classes, they do Math Starters that get them engaged and interested right off the bat. The students said it has helped them learn to persevere until they are able to figure out the problem. Because the problems are fun, the students enjoy doing them and moving up to the more challenging levels.



In **December**, a few of Mrs. Goudreault's Grade 9 math students talked about the new math curriculum and presented multiple ways to solve a math problem. They stated one of the goals of the new program is to have students find ways to solve problems in ways that work for them. They explained there are many different ways to solve a math problem and students are learning to choose the way that works best for them and then share those new ways with others. Gone are the days when there was only one way



to do the problem - the teacher's way. Mrs. Goudreault said she is often surprised because students will come up with a way that is different from any way she has ever seen a problem done. We are creating thinkers!

Tell us whay you think?



What do you think of the School Calendar?

We want to know what students, parents and staff think of the proposed school calendar and what **YOU** think could be considered in the creation of future calendars! Log in to the interactive discussion board that allows you to vote and comment. Doing so helps us to make school calendars that work for families, schools and communities.

It's quick and easy! Just log in to:

<http://prsd10.ideascale.com/a/ideafactory.doid=17212&mode=top&discussionFilter=byids&discussionID=21935>

Login between January 10-25 and HAVE YOUR SAY!