



Mother Teresa Catholic School

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Dear Grade 4 and Grade 7 parents, Accountability Survey

All Grade 4 and 7 parents in the province of Alberta will be mailed a survey from Alberta Education sometime between January and March that collects data on your child's school. Mother Teresa Catholic School works very hard to analyze this data and ensure we consistently improve each year! Every year we add more programs, teacher training and student resources so that our students receive exemplary teaching and excellence in learning.

The purpose of this letter is to share just some of the work and initiatives that are happening at Mother Teresa School so parents can avoid the “**don't know**” answer choice when completing this important survey. “**Don't Know**” answers actually **negatively impact the overall survey** results for our school. If you have questions while completing the government survey please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me directly henrichauvet@gpcsd.ca. Please consider reading the information below and keep this e-mail handy as a reference when completing the survey that will come to you by mail. To make finding the information again easier, we will also post this information on our School Website in our Information for Parents section and it will be titled “Did You Know?”

Did you know???

Safe & Caring: As our #1 priority every year, to make our school even more safe & caring we are focusing on character development through many anti-bullying presentations and opportunities. We kick off each year with the class norms to form a community / family atmosphere. We also have at least 1 presentation from an outside source to talk / motivate our students in making positive choices. The buddy bench is also unique to our school in which a child who is looking for a friend at recess can find one.

Our Gr. 5-6 AMA cross-walk patrol program has been very successful every year and we appreciate the staff and students that help get our students to and from school safely!

Teachers have also partnered with the John Howard Society and Catholic Family Services to bring in a variety of programs on peer relationships, citizenship, and positive choices into their classrooms.

Every 2nd year, our Grade 7's participate in the two-day EUREKA character development program this year to give them skills on peer relationships. Our RCMP liaison officers when available, have also done presentations and answering questions on proper use of social media, cell phones and internet safety. For our younger students they also offered the Point-Pause-Proceed program and Stranger Safety presentations.

Last but not least we ensure that every bullying or peer-conflict complaint is investigated and followed up with appropriately. Last year our school ranked in the top 5% of all schools in the province in this category and we are working hard to ensure this continues this year!

Citizenship & Communication: Our three year theme is “Living Discipleship” and to date our students have donated to Coats for Kids, collected items for the Food Bank, thanksgiving meals, Operation Christmas Child, Mitten Tree, fundraising for local and international charities (metowe), and have sent cards to those in need in GP and across Canada. Our choir also visited and performed

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for the residents of Points West Manor as well as for the QEII foundation Festival of Trees. The Jr. High students are set to partake in another service project in Jasper during their Faith Retreat.

Communication continues to improve between home and school by keeping a very up to date school website, using our Twitter account to share the learning happening in our school, providing a Text-to Parent service through Remind 101 so that parents are constantly informed and Synervoice auto e-mail and phone call service. We still continue to deliver information in a variety of ways to meet the needs of all families; newsletters, e-mails, phone calls, information posters and most importantly personal visit are also still extremely important to us! It's YOUR school ... we want you to be a huge part of your child's learning team!!

Program of Studies: In addition to core subjects (Math / LA / SCIENCE / SOCIAL) as well as Health, Physical Education, Religion, Art, Music and French, we continue to share options with three other schools to offer a wide variety of course selections including Drama, Band, Robotics, MultiSport, Active Living, Computers, Foods & Fashion, Resistance Training, The Apprentice and Discover & Imagine to our students; more options are added each year as they move to upper elementary, into Jr. High and finally into High School.

A student-led club is also booked for every month of the year where students offer each other a wide range of activities including, drama clubs, chess club, art clubs etc. We add authentic cultural experiences to our school and continue to host exchange students from Quebec and this year we are sending a group of Grade 6 to Montreal who will later host 30 students from Montreal in our community; this is done through our partnership with the SEVEC Twinning exchange program.

Physical Education, Athletics & Fine Arts: In addition to our Jr. High sports programs we continue to offer a Gr. 4-8 intramurals program, a Grade 1-4 Floor Hockey Club and a Grade 4-6 Volleyball Club. We will once again organize a K-6 Winter Carnival / Ski Trip and our Grade 7/8 students will be heading to Jasper for their ski trip / faith retreat in March. Having two gymnasiums in our school also allows us to ensure that students have excellent access to a quality facility during Physical Education.

We are proud that we offer a K-4 Music program, a 5-8 Band and 5-6 Drama program and a variety of Choir opportunities through Mrs. Smith's extra-curricular clubs. In our main gathering area students enjoy Table Tennis and Air Hockey to give students plenty of activities when waiting inside on cold days and for Jr. High's during their break times

Quality of Education, Teaching and Learning: Our teachers have been busy during School collaborative days developing Professional Growth Templates based on research projects they have chosen from either Literacy, Numeracy or Differentiated Instruction. Teachers in at our school realize that each child may need a slightly adapted approach and/or choice when completing work to show their best and this research gives them the tools and time to plan for lessons to be challenging yet supportive for each student! We continue to have teacher lead teams for Differentiated Instruction, Literacy, Numeracy and Mentorship of new staff. We have also started to have all teachers given time to observe in each other's classrooms to share ideas, support students and collaborate on best practices in Education. We are proud to say that due to the hard work of the staff and support & partnership of excellent parents that our students continue to achieve well.

Work / Career Preparation: Even before reaching High School, to help ensure our students are equipped with the **knowledge, skills and attitudes** necessary for learning and working throughout their lifetime our school equips students with a variety of strategic information and skill development opportunities. Daily, a morning work/school success tip is given to the students during morning announcements. More importantly, direct programs have been booked in January and February to help students and families start planning now for their future! Jr. Achievement is contacted to present to our students each year. Jr.high students also take part in the Grande Prairie Career fair which hosts over 2000 students from 7-12. The jr.high grades also have a career section of the health curriculum to

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study some careers of interest. All of the resources are very easy to use and are designed as a resource for parents and children to assist in examining each child's talents and interests as well as what opportunities are available after High School.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at school 780-814-9732 or email at henrichauvet@gpcsd.ca

Sincerely,

Henri Chauvet

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