

FATHER LEDUC CATHOLIC SCHOOL

May 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Spring

Wondrously February withdraws to
warm March with a golden glow
from Spring's shining sun sent
down to lead the way
for April's soothing showers
soon to bring fragrant flowers
and dance on May's blossoming bounty.

~ by Barbara R Johnson ~

The sun is out, the grass is green and we are hoping for an end to the snow. It must be either May or June! The school year is winding down and now more than ever we need to remind our students that their hard work and effort will pay off when they work toward their personal goals until the end of the year.

In the past few months, a significant number of initiatives were launched with great success. As part of our safe and caring school's initiative and student centered philosophy we gave students an opportunity to voice their opinion in a gr. 4-6 survey. "Tell Them From Me" is a perception survey that is widely used across Canada to determine student opinions about their school. Our results are very encouraging and the feedback from our students will help direct decision making for next year. Their words will be shared with the staff and the students and through our website with the school community.

We are looking forward to the construction of our playgrounds and the landscaping around our beautiful school in May and June and will keep you informed of the progress.

Many blessings to you and your families!

Tara Malloy
Principal



400 Sheppard Blvd
Leduc, AB T9E 1C1
780-986-0045

In this Issue:

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- Grocery Card Fundraiser
- Yearbook Sales
- Arbor Day
- Property Tax Declaration
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St. Michael's Parish

Adult Confirmation Class



Are you an adult Catholic who has never been Confirmed? Then this class is for you!

St. Michael Parish will be holding a series of Tuesday evening sessions for adults who are practicing Catholics and who have already received their First Communion, but who have never received the sacrament of Confirmation.

If you were Confirmed as a child, but would like to learn more about this sacrament, then you are also welcome to attend this class.

Classes will take place on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm starting on **Tuesday, May 9, 2017**. Successive classes will be on May 16, May 23 & May 30. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4, 2017 with Bishop Gregory Bittman. For more information, please contact Linda at the parish office at 780-986-3253.



St. Michael Parish Grocery Card Fundraiser

St. Michael Parish is selling grocery cards as an easy way to fundraise without a single penny coming out of our pockets. For every card that is purchased, a percentage of the money stay in the parish. We all have to buy gas and food—so why not buy these items with our parish grocery cards???

The cards include **Co-op, No-Frills/Super-Store, and Safeway/Sobey's**. They can be purchased with *cash, cheque, Visa, Master Card, or Debit*. Cards can be obtained from the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. They are also on sale at the back of the church after all masses on the fourth Sunday of every month.

For more information, please call St. Michael Parish office at 780-986-3253.



We are pleased to announce that we are working hard on our FIRST YEARBOOK! If you are interested in this keepsake of our FIRST YEAR at FLCS please go to your school cash online account and order a copy today!!

Deadline to order is May 31st!! Don't miss out!!

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE!

The St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Division has compiled a list of surplus equipment that is available for purchase by the public. You can view a list of all available equipment on the Division's website at www.starcatholic.ab.ca under the News section.

Father Leduc Catholic School Bell Times

Warning Bell: 8:30 am

Day Begins: 8:40

Announcements and Prayer: 8:40-8:45 am

Block 1 8:45 – 9:24

Block 2 9:24 – 10:03

Block 3 10:03 – 10:42

Recess 10:42- 10:57

Snack 10:57 – 11:07

Block 4 11:07-11:46

Block 5 11:46 – 12:25

Lunch Recess: 12:25-12:55 (bell rings at 12:50)

Eating Portion of Lunch: 12:55-1:10

Block 6 1:10-1:50

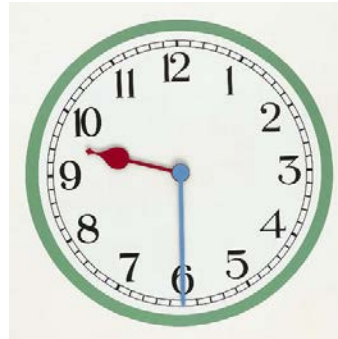
Block 7 1:50-2:30

Block 8 2:30-3:10

Dismissal 3:10

There will no longer be early dismissals on the first Wednesday of each month.

Please call 780-986-0045 if your child will be absent or late.



Like us on Facebook!



Please check out the Father Leduc Catholic School Facebook page! It would be even better if you liked and shared it!

April 7, 2017

Dear Father Leduc School,

The City of Leduc, the Leduc Environmental Advisory Board (LEAB) and Communities in Bloom, in partnership with Canadian National Railway (CN), Tree Canada and the Government of Canada, are proud to present 2017 Arbour Day tree planting event. You are cordially invited to attend the Arbour Day event and participate in planting trees with our community volunteers. Arbour Day is a wonderful way to enjoy Leduc's green spaces, while improving them and enhancing them for future generations to also enjoy.

The 2017 Arbour Day will be extra special this year, as we will be celebrating Canada's 150th Anniversary. Our goal is to plant over 1000 trees in Caledonia Park to enhance the existing natural area. As part of this celebration, we welcome Elder Jerry Saddleback from Maskwacis Cultural College to share stories and traditional knowledge about First Nations history. A commemorative plaque in honor of this Canada 150 activity will be unveiled at the event.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Time: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Caledonia Park, 3206 Coady Blvd. Leduc, AB T9E 7J8

Please find a map with driving directions and parking attached to this invitation.

Volunteers are welcome to enjoy a free snack for participating and a face painter will be on site to make the day special for our volunteers!

Please note that there is no registration required to attend Arbour Day, just simply show up with a shovel and your reusable water bottle! We look forward to your participation!



Canada

TreeCanada



ArbresCanada



LEAB
Leduc Environmental
Advisory Board

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.



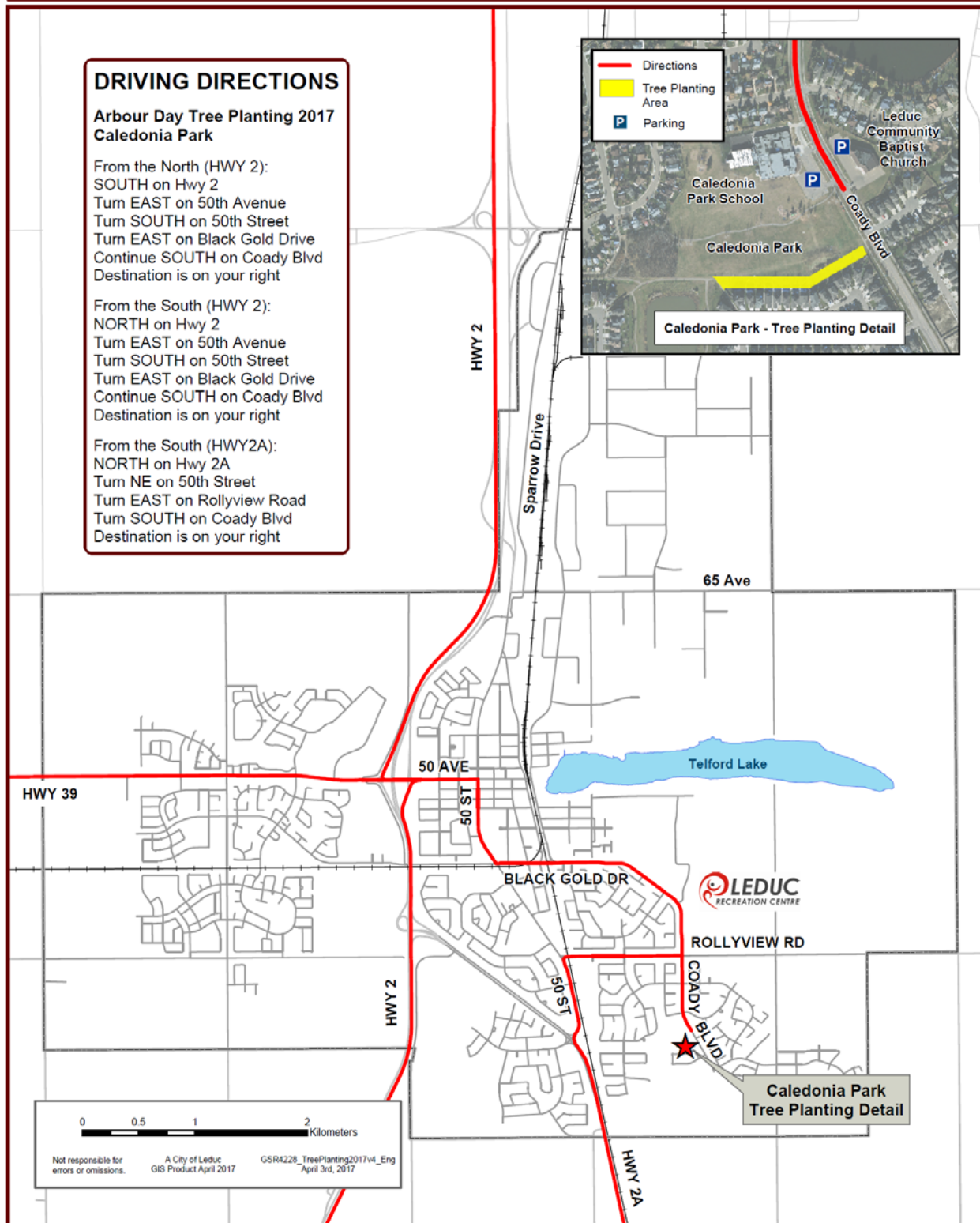
DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Arbour Day Tree Planting 2017 Caledonia Park

From the North (HWY 2):
SOUTH on Hwy 2
Turn EAST on 50th Avenue
Turn SOUTH on 50th Street
Turn EAST on Black Gold Drive
Continue SOUTH on Coady Blvd
Destination is on your right

From the South (HWY 2):
NORTH on Hwy 2
Turn EAST on 50th Avenue
Turn SOUTH on 50th Street
Turn EAST on Black Gold Drive
Continue SOUTH on Coady Blvd
Destination is on your right

From the South (HWY2A):
NORTH on Hwy 2A
Turn NE on 50th Street
Turn EAST on Rollyview Road
Turn SOUTH on Coady Blvd
Destination is on your right



Not responsible for
errors or omissions.

A City of Leduc
GIS Product April 2017

GSR4228_TreePlanting2017v4_Eng
April 3rd, 2017



Healing Hooves

An Emotion Regulation Camp for Kids



Healing Through Human Animal Connection

This group is designed to help children manage difficult feelings (i.e., *anxiety, sadness, frustration*), gain self-awareness, develop a positive self-image, and improve daily problem-solving skills. Through work with our therapy horses (also goats, cats, and donkeys), group discussions, and other activities, kids will learn more about themselves and develop resiliency. Ideal for children diagnosed with Depression, Anxiety, ADHD, and other mental health difficulties.

Age: 8-11 years

Time: 9:00am-11:30am

Dates: July 10-14

Place: Mystic Meadows Equine Centre (8 km south of Leduc)

Contact: 780-612-8577 ext1 or info@familycounsellingcentres.com

This group will be facilitated by a Registered Psychologist and covered under Employee Benefits Plans for Psychological Services; direct billing available for some EAP's including ASEBP, Greenshield, Blue Cross, and FSCD. Partial funding may be available through FCSS for low-income families under subsidized counselling



Family
Counselling Centres

“I AM ME”

A GROUP FOR GIRLS

JULY 31– AUGUST 4



*‘Where your child can start accepting themselves just
as they are’*



Age: Girls 7-10 years

Time: 9:00am-11:30am

Place: Mystic Meadows Equine Centre (8 km south of Leduc)

Contact: 780-612-8577 ext1 or info@familycounsellingcentres.com

This group will be facilitated by a Psychologist and covered under Employee Benefits Plans for Psychological Services; direct billing available for some EAP's

This group is designed to help girls feel empowered, gain self-awareness, develop a positive self-image, improve daily problem-solving skills, feel connected with their peers, and develop emotion regulation strategies. Through work with our therapy horses, group discussions, and other activities, girls will learn more about themselves and develop resiliency.





Catholic Education: Confronting Fiction with Facts

In the past few weeks there have been questions asked about publicly-funded Catholic Education in Alberta. As President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, I would like to offer the following information for clarification:

Fiction: It has been suggested that eliminating Catholic Education in Alberta would be easy.

Fact: Catholic Education has been operating in Alberta since the 1840's and has held a longstanding, distinct role in Alberta's public education system for all of these years. It is enshrined in the *Constitution of Canada*, Section 93, solidified in the *Alberta Act* 1905 and further supported by the *Alberta School Act*. Alberta Education is currently ranked 5th in the world overall in the area of Education and Skills (per the Conference Board of Canada) and Catholic Education in Alberta is proud to be an integral part of this success story.

Fiction: Amalgamating Catholic and Public Schools would lead to substantial savings of taxpayer money.

Fact: Catholic Education in Alberta serves over 175,000 students (approx. 30 per cent of all Alberta Students) in over 430 schools. The only way to save taxpayer money would be if all 175,000 students simply stop having access to education altogether. There has been no study that has indicated any money would be saved by eliminating Catholic Schools: the same number of students, educated by the same number of staff, driven to school by the same number of busses, maintained in the same number of schools (which the province is currently short of) would be needed. In fact, studies done on the amalgamation of municipalities, health authorities, and schools in other provinces have seen the administration cost increase considerably due to the effects of amalgamation.

Fiction: Catholic School Boards never work together with Public School Boards.

Fact: The vast majority of Catholic Separate School Boards and Public School Boards do work together collaboratively to actualize efficiencies while respecting each other's differences, through shared bussing, Joint Use Agreements, Joint Purchasing Partnerships for Utilities and other examples. There are even several successful archetypes of shared facilities whereby Catholic and Public Schools operate independent schools in different wings of a building complex with a joint use space in the middle (often a public recreation center or public library.)

Fiction: Catholic Education is overly influenced by the church.

Fact: Catholic Education is a unique partnership between the school, home and parish. Together this partnership is a close relationship between the faith community and the Church, through locally elected trustee representatives who independently create policy and govern their Boards. It seeks to develop a student's whole person by integrating academic excellence permeated in faith. The central focus of Catholic Education is Jesus Christ.

Fiction: Only Catholics can go to Catholic schools.

Fact: Catholic Schools are open to all students and families that choose a fully Catholic Christian faith based education experience. As per the Alberta *School Act* Catholic schools must accept all Resident Students (of the same faith) and if there is space and programs must accept Non-Resident students.

Fiction: Catholic schools are public schools with a crucifix on the wall and a religion class.

Fact: Catholic Schools are distinctive faith communities that nurture the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical wellbeing of students through the integration of the Alberta Education curriculum with gospel values and a sacramental life. Christ is the center of the Catholic School and his presence and teaching permeate the whole of the school day and the whole of the school building.

Fiction: Catholic schools teach intolerance and hate towards some groups.

Fact: Catholic Education is inclusive of all students and strives to have all children recognize their inherent beauty as children of God. Children are encouraged to see themselves as more than the sum of their parts; more than their race, religion, ability, gender, colour, sexual orientation, etc. This inclusiveness and moral imperative is supported by safe and welcoming school board policies & strong anti-bullying policies.

Fiction: Catholic schools do not teach about sexuality and wellness.

Fact: Catholic Schools teach comprehensive provincially mandated Health and Wellness Programs which are age appropriate. Programs on sexuality do include abstinence, a transcendent view of the person, and are taught from a Catholic worldview. The goal is to provide students with the information to make good and responsible choices.

Fiction: Public schools subsidize Separate schools.

Fact: There are two distinct constitutional rights regarding taxation: the right to access the property assessment base for financial support and the right to equity and fairness in funding. Catholic Education is funded through education property taxes, grants and general provincial revenue, exactly the same as public schools. Funds for schools in Alberta are pooled provincially and then distributed to schools based on enrolment numbers. The pooling of funds allows for a balanced approach to allow resources to go where parents choose to send their children to school. Each Alberta student carries funding into the education system of their choice.

Maintaining the current taxation base is a vital connection between school boards and their electors, especially those electors without children in the school system. It provides a mechanism for direct accountability of school board trustees to their electors for the quality of education provided. It provides a clear link between taxation and representation, the most fundamental principal of any democratically elected organization and it further creates a structural interest in the local school board, because of the investment required by the electors in that board.

In closing, I would like to stress that Catholic Education in Alberta has and will continue its proud legacy of cost-effective excellence in teaching within a welcoming, safe and caring faith school environment, honouring the sacred trust of our parents and of our community.

Adriana LaGrange

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adriana LaGrange". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'A' and 'L'.

President, Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association



May 2017

Re: Education Property Tax - Declaration of Separate School Support

Dear Catholic Elector:

STAR Catholic School Division is committed to ensuring a strong connection with Catholic electors in all of its communities. Catholic education is funded through education property taxes, grants and general provincial revenue. As a Catholic elector, you need to be aware of your right to support your Catholic schools through your property taxes. This right provides a vital connection between Catholic separate school boards and you, their electors.

Taxes declared in support of the Catholic separate school division benefit the children we serve. The Constitution Acts of Canada and the Alberta School Act stipulate that individuals who are Catholic must direct their education taxes to Catholic separate school boards where they exist.

To ensure your property taxes are supporting your Catholic separate school, you must declare your school support as “separate” on your annual property assessment notice and tax bill. If a declaration of school support is not filed by a property owner, the property assessment and tax bills show the school support going to the public school division. If your support designation is incorrect, it should be corrected by completing and submitting a School Support Declaration form, obtained from your local city, town or municipal office. A change in school support does not take effect until the following calendar year.

Thank you for advocating for your faith-based schools and your right to support them with your local taxes.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Father Leduc's May Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 ECS Field Trip to Telus	2	3 Class Photos ECS Grad Photos 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Grade 6 PAT	12 Face to Face Grade 6	13 Confirmation Retreat 	14
15 Rocks & Rings 	16 Grade 3 & 4 Discover E in class field trip	17	18 NO SCHOOL	19 NO SCHOOL	20	21
22 NO SCHOOL	23 Orange Shirt Day Grade 6 Trip to Legislature	24 Grade 5 trip to Ukrainian Village	25 Blessing of Altar	26	27	28
29	30 School Council Meeting 7pm	31	June 1			