

Building Community Mark #5

Catholic schools recognize that each and every stakeholder is responsible for the common good. Our Catholic faith teaches us that God will be found with and in each other. In community our faith is made real.

Community has certainly been a focus for GrACE this past month. As we complete the diocesan meetings and workshops with more than **175** stakeholders, the vibrancy of our faith has never been more evident. Participants have engaged in real conversations about their own faith journeys and shared their zeal for Catholic education. Over lunch, prayers and dialogue, community has flourished.

Catholic community is, of course, our own school/parish/district. But Catholic community is also our diocese; community is also our provincial Catholic community. As we commit to excellence and advocacy locally we also reach out to our sisters and brothers down the road and across the province, for it's in community that our strength will be found.

The mission of **GrACE** is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.



*Student voice makes a difference!
 FrancoSud GrACE workshop March 18.*



*Archbishop Pettipas and Trustee John Kuran,
 Grouard-McLennan GrACE workshop.
 March 12.*

GrACE is growing!

We are proud to announce as this month ends that we have **6** confirmed GrACE groups within the province. Read on for an update of who they are and what they've been doing:

Confirmed GrACE Groups

GrACE CTR	Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
GrACE ECSD	Edmonton Catholic School District
GrACE EICS	Elk Island Catholic Schools
GrACE STAR	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools
GrACE CCSD	Calgary Catholic School District
GrACE ECACS	East Central Alberta Catholic Schools



Grouard-McLennan- Superintendents Karl Germann (GPCSD) and Betty Turpin (HFCRD)

GrACE CCSD March Update

Calgary Catholic School District GrACE is in the process of organizing a large scale engagement session with parents, principals, staff and pastors across the district.

GrACE STAR March Update

St Thomas Aquinas GrACE Group is happy to report that they have 3 confirmed dates for community events in Wetaskiwin (April 3), Leduc (April 9th), and in Lacombe (May 13). Advertising for the events has begun and they are excited and looking forward to their first community engagement!



#gottagracegroup ECACS

St Paul Workshop Participant Comments...

- "I have an increased awareness of the community effort that is needed to promote Catholic education. I appreciate the tools and insights provided."
- "I realize that I need to be more involved in advocacy. I need to pay more attention to what is happening around me."
- "I realized how important everyone's story is as it influences their passion about Catholic education."



St Paul Diocese GrACE workshop participants

Workshop Participant Comments...

- *"I'm going to start helping in more Religious activities at school and volunteer in many more things like this." (Student)*
- *"I will be telling my parents and friends that attend Catholic schools to get involved in GrACE."(Student)*
- *"I think if parents could have access to this information and resource it would be very impactful as it was for me. I will try to be a less "passive" participant in my child's Catholic education going forward."*
- *"The presentation was so informative and inspiring that I am forced to re-evaluate how I can be an advocate."*

FrancoSud Workshop Participants

35 days to Catholic Education Week!



Calgary Catholic Participants

GrACE is a partnership of stakeholders resolutely committed to Catholic education within the province of Alberta.

The gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta is a true blessing. As a community we are called in gratitude, faith and action to ensure that our children and future generations continue to learn and grow in our Catholic schools

Let's celebrate Catholic Education Week May 6-10

Wear blue for World Catholic Education May 9.

GrACE CTR March Update

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools' GrACE has scheduled a community engagement in Okotoks for April 8. As well, their GrACE group has set aside a half day in May to be on retreat as a leadership team with the sisters at the Divine Mercy center.

GrACE EICS March Update

Elk Island Catholic Schools' GrACE is pleased to launch its first annual GrACE contest: **A Celebration of Catholic Education**. EICS students at all grade levels are invited to submit their work on the importance of or their experience with or contribution to Catholic education. The theme is "We are God's Masterpiece."

ECSD GrACE March Update

Edmonton Catholic Schools' GrACE has created a FACT card (summary of the importance of Catholic Education). The K of C will distribute the Fact Card through their membership and ECSD will attach a letter to the Fact card and send it out to all parents through email.

GrACE Facebook page is
www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed

GrACE Twitter address is @GrACE4cathed

Email GrACE at gracedirector7@gmail.com

Celebrating Catholic Schools Hashtag
[#ibelieveinCatholiced](https://twitter.com/ibelieveinCatholiced)

Grouard-McLennan Workshop Participant Comments...

- *"I just love how our community wants to come together!"*
- *"I am grateful that there is something being done respectfully and gracefully to keep our Catholic schools."*
- *"I am confident knowing that there is a coordinated effort to build advocacy for Catholic education."*