

G.R.C.C.S. News

January , 2012

GERARD REDMOND COMMUNITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Grades 5-12

“Ever Growing, Living and Learning in Christ”



School Information

Principal-

Mr. Tim Fafard

Assistant Principal –

Mrs. Marlys Phillips

Family School Liaison

Mr. Randy Smith

School Phone Number

780-865-2820

Safe Arrival

780-865-5328

School Fax number

780-865-1444

Website

www.grccs.ca

Memo:

The Holy Grill is being run by Mrs. K. Goudriaan. Monthly hot lunch orders available.

News from the Admin

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Happy New Year!

We have been blessed to have been a part of your child's life thus far in our school year and we are looking forward to the many positive opportunities we will have to grow, learn and live in Christ together in 2012!

We were very pleased with the high number of parental and student survey responses we received during our School Review process that happened at the end of December. Including the information from the staff/students and parents interviews, the results clearly indicated that your children are being very well looked after here at Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School and that there is a collective feeling of belonging and well-being.

Some of the highlights from the review are as follows:

- *The community and the school are a family where relationships built on trust are nourished, cherished and provide benefits to all students.*
- *Parents and students expressed and were appreciative of the values modeled and taught in the school.*
- *Students are proud to be of the Gerard Redmond family and feel that the school has a great reputation in the community.*

Along with the commendations, recommendations were also created in order to assist us in growing as a Catholic school. The report can be found on the schools' web-site under the Parent link.

Just a reminder that all grades seven to twelve students will be required to participate in writing mid-terms and/or finals during the designated exam schedule at the end of January. A copy of the schedule can be found on our web-site. We would ask that parents write down the important dates for your child's examinations and help them prepare by creating a study schedule, establishing a quiet place to work, and ensuring that they receive a good night's rest prior to writing. Your assistance in these matters is greatly appreciated.

May your New Year be filled with great memories and many blessings.

Sincerely,

Mr. Fafard

Principal

Counselor's Corner for January 2012

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing, fun Christmas break. With only a couple weeks of classes left in the first semester, students will be looking at their second semester schedules with Mrs. Phillips. Students have an opportunity to discuss changes with administration at this time. When the second semester begins on February 1st, students will have only two weeks to make changes to their schedule. There will be **no schedule changes after February 17th** and all students must fill out a form with a parent signature prior to these changes being considered.

There are several open houses for post-secondary institutions occurring in the next couple of months. The Canadian University College having an open house March 1; DeVry is having one on February 16; Grant MacEwan is having one on March 3; Norquest College is on February 25; Olds College is on February 3, 17, and 24 (depends on the program); and St. Mary's College on February 11. As well, Medicine Hat College is hosting their Student for a Day program on February 13 – 15th and Lethbridge College has Student of the Day in February and March. NAIT is having their Information Week from February 6 -9 and King's University College has King's Encounter for rural students on March 2 – 4th. These are great opportunities for **all high school students** to become familiar with a post-secondary institution and see what they have to offer. All grade twelve students should be applying to the institutions that they are interested in attending as soon as possible before spots in programs are filled. As well, students should be applying to housing if they wish to live on campus.

The Terry Fox Humanitarian Award program recognizes any graduating students who have completed some kind of humanitarian volunteer work and demonstrate a strong performance in academics, athletics, and volunteerism. Students must be planning on attending a Canadian university immediately following graduation. Successful candidates can receive up to \$7 000 annually for four years. The deadline for application is February 1, 2012 and application forms can be downloaded at www.terryfoxawards.ca.

RE/MAX is offering the Quest for Excellence program to grade 12 students in Western Canada. Students have to submit an essay based on their interest and passion for one of the six areas: Leadership, Sports, Technology & Trades, Performing Arts, Fine Arts, and Community Service. Applications are available at www.remax-western.ca by going to the Community Care section and clicking on the Quest for Excellence Logo. The deadline is March 12, 2012.

Mrs. M. Phillips
Career Councillor

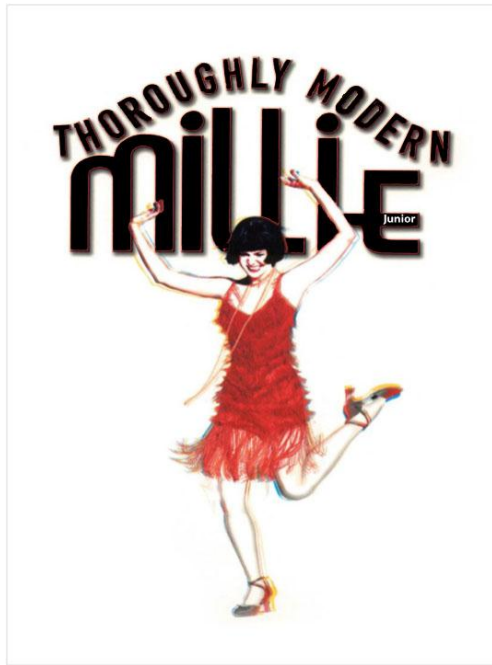
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Reminder to students to wear warm clothing and winter boots as the weather has changed and temperatures are colder.

Important Dates

Exam Week – Jan 25th -30th
No School – Jan. 31st.
Report Cards Jr/Sr – Feb. 1st

Musical – Spring of 2012



This year's spring musical will be *Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr.* Set in 1920's, Millie comes to New York to become a modern woman: she bobs her hair, shortens her skirt and is going to marry her boss for money (instead of love.) With catchy numbers and amusing plot twists, this musical is sure to be fun for all.

Auditions are for students from grades 5 – 12. Anyone interested in singing, acting or dancing is encouraged to audition. Make sure to sign up and prepare for your audition - they take place January 17, 18 and 19th.

High school students wishing to help with the technical aspects of this musical need to fill out a *Crew Information Sheet* and return it to Miss McCune as soon as possible.

We are also starting to collect items for costumes and props. If you have any 1920's style clothing (flapper dresses, bowler hats, etc.) that you are willing to donate or lend to the production, your support would be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Miss McCune (smccune@ecsr.ca)

Raiders Athletics Update:

January 6 & 7 saw the senior boys' basketball team and Raiders Athletics host the first annual Raiders Junior Basketball Classic. In a continued effort to expand the programs at the school, the decision was made to start hosting an annual basketball tournament. Hosting tournaments helps to increase the profile of the school in the community and surrounding areas. Visiting teams talk about how much they enjoyed the event and word starts to spread. This results in teams calling you to attend your events instead of organizers trying to find teams. Next year's event already has teams from Edmonton, Stony Plain and Whitecourt wanting to attend.

Results from Raiders Junior Basketball Classic:

- Boys: Gold – Holy Redeemer
- Silver – Gerard Redmond
- Bronze – Harry Collinge
- Girls: Gold – Holy Redeemer
- Silver – Harry Collinge
- Bronze – Gerard Redmond

At the beginning of the Christmas break both the senior girls and boys basketball teams travelled to Fort Saskatchewan and Warburg respectively for tournaments. The senior girls' team was short-handed for the trip with three girls leaving for holidays and one girl on the injured reserve list. The team only had five girls but played very well despite the roster. The girls dropped the first game but bounced back in the second game just narrowly losing by four points. During the second game the team, at times, only played with four girls on the floor. It was truly an iron woman style of game. The girls continued with their strong play in the third game but were unable to achieve a win due to their low numbers. We look forward to seeing what the girls can accomplish with a full roster.

The senior boys' basketball team faired very well in Warburg before the break. The boys opened the tournament doubling up on Hughenden 60-30. The boys stumbled a bit in the second game against the home team. Despite leading for most of the game the boys came up a little short losing 55-49. Andrew Newman lead the team in the lose with 27 points. The boys regrouped for the bronze medal game where they faced a team from Christ The King School from Leduc. It was a back and fourth game but the boys stayed composed and pulled out the win 50-42. Tylor Murray led the team in the win with 18 points and shooting 75% on the line.

The senior girls play next at the Harry Collinge JV Basketball Tournament and the senior boys travel to Fort Saskatchewan for the JP II basketball tournament Jan. 13 & 14.

Cheerleading

Upcoming Cheerleading Competitions

Junior Cheerleaders

Saturday, January 28th: 2:15 pm at Edmonton Expo Centre

Saturday, February 11th at Edmonton Expo Centre

Senior Cheerleaders

Saturday, February 11th at Edmonton Expo Centre

Saturday, March 3rd at University of Alberta

Saturday, March 10th at West Edmonton Mall

Parents, it is imperative that with competitions fast approaching that ALL cheerleaders attend ALL practices—including Saturday or Sunday practices. Please support our success! Thank you in advance!



PAC News

Mrs. Nicole Schoenberger, our past President, has tendered her resignation last December due to her family relocating to St. Albert. We sincerely appreciate all of her efforts and her willingness to be so actively involved in the life of Gerard Redmond and we will miss her greatly.

If you are interested in becoming an active member on the Parent Council, please commit to attending our meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of every month at the school@ 6:30p.m.

A major topic under current discussion is the purchase of a 24 seat mini-van by the School Council to assist the school in transporting our students to and from extra-curricular and athletic events.

We will be soliciting your input in greater detail in the very near future, so please be on the look-out for a School Council e-mail with more specific details regarding this matter and the opportunity for you to share any thoughts or concerns at this time.

Hope to see you on Feb 8th at our next meeting.

Tim Fafard

Principal

Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School

Hinton, AB

780-865-2820

Top Ten Test-Taking Tips for Students

Here are the top ten tips to success!

1. Have a Positive Attitude

Approach the big test as you'd approach a giant jigsaw puzzle. It might be tough, but you can do it! A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.

2. Make a Plan

The week before the test, ask your teacher what the test is going to cover. Is it from the textbook only? Class notes? Can you use your calculator? If you've been absent, talk to friends about material you may have missed. Make a list of the most important topics to be covered and use that as a guide when you study. Circle items that you know will require extra time. Be sure to plan extra time to study the most challenging topics.

3. The Night Before

Cramming doesn't work. If you've followed a study plan, the night before the test you should do a quick review and get to bed early. Remember, your brain and body need sleep to function well, so don't stay up late!

4. The Morning of the Test

Did you know that you think better when you have a full stomach? So don't skip breakfast the morning of the test. Get to school early and do a ten-minute power study right before the test, so your brain is turned on and tuned up.

5. Test Time

Before the test begins, make sure you have everything you'll need - scratch paper, extra pencils, your calculator (if you're allowed to use it). Understand how the test is scored: Do you lose points for incorrect answers? Or is it better to make guesses when you're not sure of the answer? Read the instructions! You want to make sure you are marking answers correctly.

6. Manage Your Time

Scan through the test quickly before starting. Answering the easy questions first can be a time saver and a confidence builder. Plus, it saves more time in the end for you to focus on the hard stuff.

7. I'm Stuck!

Those tricky problems can knock you off balance. Don't get worried or frustrated. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. If you're still stuck, circle it and move on. You can come back to it later. What if you have no idea about the answer? Review your options and make the best guess you can, but only if you don't lose points for wrong answers.

8. Multiple-Choice Questions

The process of elimination can help you choose the correct answer in a multiple-choice question. Start by crossing off the answers that couldn't be right. Then spend your time focusing on the possible correct choices before selecting your answer.

9. Neatness Counts

If your 4s look like 9s, it could be a problem. Be sure that your writing is legible and that you erase your mistakes. For machine-scored tests, fill in the spaces carefully.

10. I'm Done!

Not so fast - when you complete the last item on the test, remember that you're not done yet. First, check the clock and go back to review your answers, making sure that you didn't make any careless mistakes (such as putting the right answer in the wrong place or skipping a question). Spend the last remaining minutes going over the hardest problems before you turn in your test.

Follow these test tips, and you'll know you did your best - congratulations!

We're Making Jam!

Gerard Redmond School is having a jam fundraiser.



We are currently taking preorders for natural, homemade jam, in a variety of flavours.

Orders can be placed by completing the following order form and returning it, with payment, to the school or by phoning the school at 780-865-2820. All orders must be received by Friday, February 17th, 2012.

All preorders will be available for delivery or pickup March 1, 2012. Order form will be available on the downloads on our website.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will be put towards purchasing equipment for the Home Economics Lab.

\$5
a jar

AVAILABLE FLAVOURS:
STRAWBERRY • STRAWBERRY RHUBARB • RASPBERRY •
BLUEBERRY • BUMBLEBERRY (STRAWBERRY, BLUEBERRY &
RASPBERRY)