During this school year, we have also focused on the theme of mercy, just as we have focused on other faith themes, such as love and justice. It is wrong, however, to think of mercy as a passing theme. When we change our focus to a different theme in September, we will want to continue to explore and celebrate the idea of mercy. Mercy is the heart of God who gives himself to us, accepts us and bows down to forgive us. Like God’s love, God’s mercy lasts forever. It embraces all who trust in God and it changes us by giving us a share in God’s very life. We are given a glimpse of God’s mercy in the reading from the book of Numbers which describes all that God blesses us with: his presence, protection, grace, and peace. God’s care, love and dedication for us is complete and God holds nothing back in his relationship with us.

As disciples of Christ, mercy must also be at the heart of each one of us. We must be willing to be merciful, just as the Father is merciful. We must be willing to forgive just as the Father forgives us. In other words, mercy must become part of who we are and how we act. It must be a part of our relationships with one another. We must hold nothing back.

As human beings, we often struggle to be who we are called to be as God’s children. We make plenty of mistakes alongside our successes; and we can learn from each mistake and success. It is helpful and wise, therefore, to seize the opportunity to evaluate our thoughts, words and deeds in the light of mercy. Have we worked hard to look at one another with love, seeing beyond appearances to see people as God sees them? Have we spoken words of encouragement and taken the time to listen to others? Have we shared God’s message of mercy with others and continued to make God’s mercy visible through acts of mercy? If yes, we can take this opportunity to celebrate and dedicate ourselves to continue being merciful. If not, we can work to make a change. We can decide to roll up our sleeves and set about helping others today and tomorrow and the next day.

(Adapted from CCSD Homily, Jan-Feb 2017)
School Fees

Families you can pay for your school fees online. The online system offers families the ability to pay fees throughout the year. Please go to our website homepage at www.cssd.ab.ca/olqp and click on the blue Online Fee Payment button located to the left of the screen. Your family can also pay for school fees at the office by cash or cheque.

Our students benefit from many activities and school field trips supported by school fees.

Currently, we have over $50,000 in school fees that are outstanding as of January this year.

When school fees are not paid, and a class has a field trip planned, teachers and administration spend hours and hours phoning parents requesting school fee payment for the field trip. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Thank you!

Roadway Safety

As you know, the safety of our children is of paramount importance to police, school and parents. In order to ensure our students remain safe around roadways you can help us.

Some of the primary offenses observed by our local police force includes: jaywalking (adults and students), failing to obey traffic signs of the school patrols, making an illegal U-turn in the middle of a road, failing to yield for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, etc.

Your commitment to traffic safety is greatly appreciated and will help us to ensure that everyone is safe particularly during drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you.

Renovations Up-date

Our Learning Commons and small gym have been operational since the end of December 2016. We are completing little touch ups and some minor repairs. Thank you OLQP School community for your patience and understanding during the fall months.

Annual School Survey

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 received a survey from Alberta Education. In February, all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school. Students in grades 4, 7 and 10 already completed this in October/November as part of the Our School Survey. All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2017, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

“POP OPEN A GOOD BOOK TODAY!”

On February 13 and February 14, OLQP School Council will be selling “From the Farm to Table Canada” healthy and delicious popcorn. Flavours that will be available includes: Bold White Cheddar, Dill Pickle, Kettle Corn and Butter & Salt.

All bags will be sold for $2.00. All profits from our mini-fundraiser will go towards buying new books for our school classrooms. Thank you for your donations of books during our Book Drive in November and December.

Keep on Reading OLQP!
Carnaval Celebration— Oui, c’est le Carnaval! On February 6th we will kick off our Carnaval celebration with Folklorfolie from Quebec.

We have introduced something new to our Carnaval this year. We will be having an Opening Games Parade. In preparation for this, the students will be making masks for the parade on the afternoon of Feb. 6th. On February 7th and 8th we will be having fun with annual Carnaval Games outside and crafts inside. The students will start with a Carnaval Parade around the school field. There will be a prize for the student with the best mask from each division. The Bonhomme Carnaval will be there to lead the parade. There will be hot chocolate served to the students after the games outside. Students will be enjoying our Cabane à Sucre on February 9th. To end the week, the French Immersion students will be enjoying a French movie in the afternoon of February 10th. It should be a fantastic Carnaval week!

Co-op receipts — We continue to accept Co-op grocery receipts. Remember we receive 1% of the total of all receipts. All monies collected go back directly to the school in order to support extra-curricular programming for students, etc. Please drop them off to the office or send them to school with your child.

Lost and Found — We often have many, many coats, mitts, hats, toques, scarves, shoes, jackets, lunch kits, water bottles, thermoses, and other items in our lost and found. Due to hygiene reasons, those items left after Easter break will be discarded. Coats, etc., are washed and donated to various charities in Airdrie and area for the less fortunate. Lunch bags, etc., are thrown out. We appreciate your co-operation in retrieving your child’s items.

Kindergarten and Grade One Registration — Registration is ongoing throughout the school year. A child who turns four years old on or before March 1 is eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of that same calendar year. For example, this means to register for kindergarten in September 2017, a child must turn four years old on or before March 1, 2017. The child’s birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration. All families are encouraged to inquire.

We are encouraging families that have not attended OLQP’s kindergarten program, but wish to enroll into the grade one program to register as-soon-as-possible. We are beginning to plan for the 2017-2018 school year. Part of the planning process is to ensure that we have teachers hired to teach the programs and also supports in place for all our diverse learners. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please give the school a call.

Thank you! — A big thank you goes out to all the parents and volunteers of our sporting programs. We thank you for driving the students to participate in the basketball games in Calgary and area.

Students and teacher coaches, thank you for supporting the basketball program at OLQP. Many, many hours are spent practicing skills, drills and enjoying home and away games. It is critical that these opportunities are available in all schools in Alberta.

OLQP is on Twitter. Go to the home page, click on the Twitter Widget, login to Twitter or click on the box to view only!
**Rocky View Transportation**

If your child wants to ride on another bus after school in order to go to a “friends” house, it must be pre-arranged with rocky View Transportation. Please call the Ride Along Line at 403-948-9107. If Ride-A-Longs are not pre-arranged, your child may be denied access to that bus. All requests must be made by noon of the same day. Bus drivers are notified of your request. Thank you for your cooperation.

**St. Paul Church Mass Times**

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday - 5:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am, 11:00am and 7:00pm

Children’s Liturgy is available at most weekend Masses during the school year except Sundays at 7:00pm.

**Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday 9am to noon (Closed for lunch 12-1)

1:00pm to 3:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45pm

**Thank you OLQP Band!**

The grade 7 and 8 OLQP Band was invited to play at the Calgary Hitman Game on Friday, January 27 at the Calgary Saddledome. It was an outstanding evening of sports and entertainment.

$2 from every ticket purchased at the event, as well as a portion of 50/50 sales, went to the Calgary Catholic Education Foundation (CCEF). CCEF is a charitable organization that provides grants for enhanced learning opportunities for our students. Over the past five years, the CCEF has provided over $30,000 in funds to support student learning at OLQP School.

**Pink Shirt Day at OLQP School**

February 22 is Pink Shirt Day in Canada.

Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. Each year, on Pink T-Shirt Day, I encourage all of you to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. Take the message and remember it all year long.

It is so important that victims of bullying know they are not alone and there is help and support available. Wearing a pink shirt on this day sends a strong message to them that others care. Often, the simple act of wearing a shirt can start conversations - conversations can be a big step towards healing and helping!
Connections
CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017

Thanking Bishop Henry for his service
As you may have heard, Bishop Fred Henry will be retiring after 19 years of service with the Calgary Catholic Diocese. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Henry for the strong relationship and spiritual guidance he provided our district. As our leader in faith, Bishop Henry worked collaboratively with our district on many of our faith-based events and initiatives and his support has been invaluable. We wish Bishop Henry all the best in his retirement and we look forward to working with his successor, Bishop McGrattan. Bishop McGrattan comes to Calgary from his previous position as Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough. He will be installed Monday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. in a ceremony at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Evening Credit Courses
The Calgary Catholic School District offers a variety of Evening Credit Courses in Semester II (February – June 2017). These courses are available to all high school students, as well as adult learners. Courses will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as one Wednesday, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Bishop Grandin and St. Francis high schools. Visit our website under Students/Academic Services/Evening Credit Courses for more information.

High School Open Houses
CCSD high schools host annual open house nights in January and February to provide prospective students and their parents the opportunity to learn more about our high schools and the programs offered. Visit our website under News to see the dates and times of upcoming open houses.

Did you know?
Mark your calendars! The Calgary Catholic Education Foundation will be hosting fundraising events with singer/songwriter Steve Bell on April 7 and former astronaut Robert Thirsk on May 23. Stay tuned for more information.

Kindergarten Registration
All CCSD elementary schools offer a half-day kindergarten program. Depending on total kindergarten enrolment, schools may offer a choice of morning or afternoon classes on a first-come, first-served basis. To register for kindergarten in September 2017, children must turn four years old on or before March 1, 2017. Your child’s birth certificate is required at the time of registration. To register, contact your local Calgary Catholic school or visit our website under Parents/Registration to learn more.

CCSD Nights with the Calgary Flames
We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Calgary Flames to offer CCSD students, staff and their families a fun night out while fundraising for their school. The next CCSD night will take place on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. vs the Arizona Coyotes. Tickets can be ordered online at www.calgaryflames.com/ccsd. Tickets are $37 each and for every ticket purchased, $10 will be donated back to your school for fundraising. For more information, please visit our website under News.

Teachers’ Convention and Family Day
There will be no classes on Thursday, February 16 and Friday, February 17 for Teachers’ Convention, as well as Monday, February 20 for Family Day. We hope everyone is able to enjoy quality time with family on this holiday.