

The Month of Mary



**Gentle Mother
Peaceful Dove
Teach Us Wisdom
Teach Us Love**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting	May 28, 2010
Holy Redeemer Graduation	May 29, 2010
Board Meeting	May 31, 2010
ASBA Spring General Meeting	June 7 & 8, 2010
St. Mary of the Lake Outreach Graduation	June 11, 2010
Admin Retreat	June 15 & 16, 2010
ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting	June 18, 2010
St. Joseph Graduation	June 26, 2010
Board Meeting	June 28, 2010

May 2010

A Message from the Superintendent...

The principal of transparency and the virtue of hope.

My topic this month has to do with maintaining a clear vision and purpose in difficult times. There is an old saying I am sure you all have heard, "It's hard to remember that your initial goal was to drain the swamp when you are up to your _____ in alligators". Our goal is excellence in Catholic education and successful graduation for every child enrolled in our schools. The swamp is the current lack of financial support necessary to make this happen. In times like these, we must force ourselves to keep our focus on the goal or the vision and not be controlled by the immediate problems.

If we as a Board and Division truly mean what we say, then we must maintain all of the programs and supports we have in place to ensure success for every child. If we do less than this then we are not fulfilling our vision. And yet of course we must always be mindful, careful stewards of the public purse. Our Board has already written a letter to our stakeholders stating our intention as to budgeting for the coming year. We will not cut programs or staff. We cannot jeopardize the great successes we are achieving.

And now we will proceed cautiously to plan as carefully as we can without endangering what is important - successful learning and teaching for the 21st century learner. It is all about the kids, not the dollars.

And so we will be people of hope and of prayer. We will plan from the mountain tops and persevere through the valleys. We will know that we can count on God's help, and we will not be afraid to thank God for his generosity and abundance and ask that it continue. Let us never forget the awesome power of prayer!

Carol Lemay

Visual Literacy

What is an Okapi?

Recently I attended a workshop facilitated by Lynnell Burmark, author of "Visual Literacy, Learn to See, See to Learn." This workshop reinforced the importance of visuals and how they can be used to enhance and accelerate classroom instruction.

Did you know... Humans process visuals 60,000 times faster than text!

Did you know... That the eyes are the most powerful information conduit to the brain? Nerve cells devoted to visual processing... account for about 30% of the brain's cortex, compared to 8% for touch and 3% for hearing.

Did you know... that visual aids have been found to improve learning by up to 400 percent?

How often do we ask our students to create a picture after they have done the assignment or finished the task? If they had the chance to create a picture or use pictures to start a conversation or a piece of writing, they would be better prepared for developing their language and their ideas.

How often do we find ourselves providing students with text only, ask them to read it and make sense of what they have read. Take for instance the student who stumbled across the word okapi as he read a short story. For the student who has never experienced or seen an okapi, they would have never been able to comprehend what it could be used for or what it does. With a visual to support the text, then a student is more able to put things in to context and increase his/her understanding.

Consider using a sequence of visuals to tell a story or to represent a historical event and listen carefully to the language, the emotion and the understanding that will follow. Encourage your students to use visuals in presenting their ideas, thoughts and understandings as well. It is through the combination of words and images that we elevate our thinking to the highest levels of understanding.

As educators we can involve our students in the creation and presentation of their own knowledge by teaching them to use multimedia to express themselves. With the use of internet, we need to encourage our students to illustrate, demonstrate and celebrate in their own creative ways.

In learning it is so important to move from the concrete to the abstract. Therefore, consider the value of increasing the level of visual literacy that you are using to enhance your classroom instruction.

A rose



is a rose



is a rose!



*Jo-Anne Lanctot
Deputy Superintendent*

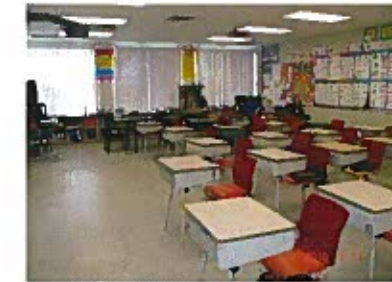
Meeting the Needs of our growing population...

In order to provide adequate, effective safe and caring educational space, Living Waters has the following capital projects:

- 1) A new Junior/Senior High School - St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy - in Slave Lake, opening in September 2011.



- 2) Two new modus modular classrooms for St. Joseph School to address the high utilization numbers which will be ready for occupancy by September 1, 2010.
- 3) One new modus modular classroom for Vanier Community Catholic School in Edson to address the high utilization numbers which will be ready for occupancy in September 1, 2010.



- 4) Modernization of St. Joseph School Cafeteria in Whitecourt.



- 5) Modernization of old classrooms at Holy Redeemer High School in Edson.