

A Message from the Superintendent

Jo-Anne Lanctot

Living Waters Catholic Schools, part of Alberta's publicly-funded education system, proudly serves approximately 1950 students in the communities of Edson, Whitecourt and Slave Lake.

Welcome back to all of our staff, students and families as we start up the 2019-2020 school year. As we open our doors to returning staff and students and to newcomers, I would like to welcome and thank you all for choosing Living Waters Catholic Schools as your home for teaching and learning. Our Central Office staff, our Admin teams, our teachers and our support staff have been working feverishly over the summer to ensure that our learning environments are clean, safe and ready for learning.



Whether you are a teacher, support staff, administrator, parent, community partner, etc; our belief is that we all have a role to play in supporting the students who are in our care. At Living Waters Catholic Schools, our goal is that every child who enters our doors will graduate from a faith-filled, safe and caring environment prepared for future success so that they may create a better tomorrow by knowing themselves, God and the world.

We all have been entrusted to give students in our care the tools to succeed in our global community and the skills to achieve their potential in order to pursue their interests and passion. Our Blueprint 5.1 document is our roadmap and our commitment that will ensure that we are focussed on student success, staff success and continuous improvement as we build pathways to the future.

We will continue to build coherence and increase our collective efficacy across the division so that we can better serve all students in our care. With the New Education Act and New Teaching and Leading Quality Standards in place effective September 2019, we are making changes in our policies, procedures and protocols to ensure that they are all aligned with the new Act. Being faced with uncertainties around budget, we are committed to providing our staff and students with the resources that they need to teach and learn. Receiving the Classroom Improvement Funding over the past couple of years, has allowed our schools to become well-resourced and our staff has had many opportunities for professional learning. Now, is the time to put the learning and the resources to work for the benefit of our students. As a division, we are committed to maximizing and leveraging the strengths and resources that dwell within our schools and communities to have the greatest impact on student learning.

Daily our schools will be focussed on the development of the mind, the heart and the spirit. Our schools are faith-filled, safe and caring, inclusive and welcoming: essential conditions for the mind and soul to thrive and we are committed to providing optimal learning environments for all students who enter our doors. As we continue to build pathways to the future, it is expected that our students will be given opportunities to develop and engage their skills so that they may learn always, and learn in all ways.

Mathew 19:26 reads, *"With God all things are possible"*. As the school year unfolds, and our staff and students settle into the business of learning, I know that God has a plan for us, and with him we will encounter his abundant love and much success as we learn about ourselves, Him and the world. As a Catholic School Division, we have a sacred responsibility to ensure that the dignity and respect of each child is cherished each and every day, and I know we have the right people in our buildings and our communities who are dedicated to make this happen! I wish you all a great year of learning!

We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)