

January 25, 2010

For Immediate Release

EICS Board of Trustees Approve 2010-11 School Calendar

Sherwood Park, AB – At the January 19, 2010 Regular Board Meeting, Elk Island Catholic Schools' (EICS) Board of Trustees approved the 2010-11 Division School Calendars. The Division School Calendars are now available on the EICS website www.eics.ab.ca under Schools-School Calendars.

EICS Administration and the Board of Trustees sincerely thanked everyone in the EICS community – parents, staff and students – for their comments and feedback on the Division calendar. It is important to note that all feedback received, including the Division online survey, were recorded and taken into consideration.

“The 2010-11 Division Calendar continues to build on the strengths of the 2009-10 Division Calendar,” said Board Chair, Tony Sykora. “After reviewing feedback on the calendar and the constraints imposed on the Division in developing the calendar, such as Division-wide transportation of students in all four of our communities and the Diploma Examination and Provincial Achievement Test Schedules, which are set by Alberta Education, I am pleased with the outcome and look forward to another successful year.”

The 2010-11 Division Calendar is similar to this year's calendar – including a number of new initiatives that were introduced in the 2009-10 Division Calendar, such as: early dismissal once per month and the November break.

EICS Board of Trustees Approve Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School's 4-day week school calendar for the 2010-11 school year.

Dr. Garnet W. Millar, GWM Consulting LTD., presented an interim report on the results of the implementation of the 4-day school week calendar at Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School to the Board of Trustees at the January 19, 2010 Regular Board Meeting. The report titled *Time for Learning* summarizes the results garnered from qualitative and quantitative research.

“The interim report *Time for Learning* is a comprehensive and valuable document for our Division,” said Luisa Davidse, EICS Camrose Trustee. “I am especially pleased that all issues were presented – both the strengths and concerns. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute their comments and feedback – it is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Principal Pat Olafson, Assistant Principal Bob Charchun and the students, parents and staff in the OLMP community for their hard work in making the 4-day calendar a reality.”

According to the general impressions and highlights of the interim report, although it is premature in the school year to make definitive recommendations, there are trends in the results that are worth noting:

- The general satisfaction with the new calendar during the first term is very high with students, staff and parents – an average of 9.0 out of a possible 10.
- The number of student office referrals for disciplinary reasons, including suspensions, has decreased significantly during the first term of 2009 compared with the same period as last year.

More detailed information, including issues and focus group comments, are available in the interim report *Time for Learning* available on the EICS website www.eics.ab.ca under Division-Reports and Publications-Other or on the OLMP website at olmp.eics.ab.ca.

EICS, part of Alberta's publicly funded education system, is committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values. EICS is dedicated to providing quality, faith-based learning environments to students of any background and faith, where their skills are nurtured and celebrated by dedicated, caring staff.

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