EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

School Plan for Continuous Growth
2013-2014

School: Holy Family Elementary Junior High School

Date: 11/18/2013

“This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24
Edmonton Catholic School District Foundation Statements

District Mission Statement

Inspired by

• Love of the Father
• Faith in Jesus Christ
• Hope from the Holy Spirit

We believe in God and we believe

• that each person is created in the image and likeness of God
• that each child is a precious gift and sacred responsibility
• in the goodness, dignity and worth of each person
  • that Christ is our model and our teacher
  • in celebrating and witnessing our faith
  • in transforming the world through Catholic education
  • that Catholic education includes spiritual growth and fulfillment
  • that learning is a lifelong journey
  • that all can learn and develop their gifts
  • in building Christ-centred communities for service to one another
  • that all have rights, roles and responsibilities for which they are accountable
  • that Catholic education is a shared responsibility in which parents have a primary role

The mission of Edmonton Catholic Schools is to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another.

District Vision

Our students will learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.
Our School’s Foundation Statements

Holy Family Elementary Junior High School Vision –

Holy Family will provide a learning environment that maximizes the opportunity for each person to be recognized as unique and worthwhile human being.

Holy Family Elementary Junior High School

Mission Statement:

We, at Holy Family School, provide a learning environment that maximizes the opportunity for each person to be recognized as a unique and worthwhile human being. Students will have the opportunity to learn and develop in a positive and creative family environment, allowing them to discover their own gifts and uniqueness and to show an appreciation of others. The dignity of self-worth of each individual will be manifested during curricular and extracurricular activities, thus enhancing the student’s self-esteem. Our model in daily living will continue to be our savior, Jesus Christ.
Step 1: DEFINE

Definition of what is required in developing the School Plan for Continuous Growth for 2013-2014:

- As a school we have been asked to identify two or three of the five District Goals for Continuous Growth; that are areas of growth for our school community. Once these areas have been identified we will develop our school goals, strategies, and actions that will help to move us forward as a school community. These areas of growth will be identified by considering the results from the Provincial Achievement Tests; the District Satisfaction Survey; as well as considering how we are meeting the needs of our students at the present moment by looking at our school demographics.
Step 2: Discover:

Review of Holy Family School Goals for 2012-2013

Review of Goal #1  By June of 2013, the learning environment of Holy Family School will reflect more closely, the 21st century learning statement. Our staff will understand and use the fluencies to create provocations that entice our students to implement the five Fluencies in their search for knowledge. We will see an overall improvement in students learning as assessed by our school based assessments and our PAT results.

Strategies and Actions:

* Teachers were involved in a book study of “Literacy is Not Enough” by Lee Crockett. All teachers were provided with a copy; work was done around the key concepts in the book.

* Teachers were involved in two professional development days about the fluencies. Our first one was held in November and had staff working with the five fluencies; they were challenged with the task of ordering the fluencies in order of importance for teaching. After listening to a video clip of Lee Crockett explaining the fluencies they understood the meaning of each and came to a realization that they all work together. In March we spent a second day beginning to create projects using the Fluency Planner.

* Our Elementary teachers were involved in several Guided Math in-services, this information then allowed the teachers to create guided math lessons, and stations. This format of teaching assisted our teachers in targeting individual student needs; through a series of mini lessons and math stations targeted to the needs of their students.

* Elementary and Junior High Teachers created a provocation for their students, this provocation was centered around one of the KLOs for a unit of study in Term 3. These provocations were used within the classrooms, however we did not reach our goal of having the students use the Solution Fluency to solve the problem posed to them. This will be a goal for further work in 2013-2014.

Review of SMART Goal #1:

Date:  June 2013  Met  X  Not met
Review of Goal #2

By June of 2013 we will be on our way to changing the learning environment so that students have access to the technology needed to both research and produce presentation that reflect the knowledge gained through the application of the five fluencies. This will be measured by the plan that will be developed to create a Learning Commons.

Strategies and Actions:

* A Critical Participatory Action Research survey of students was completed. However since this goal was linked to AISI money were did not complete the survey of parents. As well, because the survey was developed by the AISI staff, it was not developed in such a way as to target our desired outcome. Therefore we did not reach our goal in changing our current learning regime in order to better meet the style of learning various students.

* The investigation into the elements of a Learning Commons, involved four teachers and the two administrators of Holy Family. This team went out to visit Katherine Therrian School, to consider how they developed their learning commons; how they worked with multi-grade groupings, and how their teachers collaboratively planned to develop the various projects that were used in this learning center. We investigated the practice of FLEX time at Father Michael Troy School; to see how we could incorporate that concept here at Holy Family. In May and June of 2013 we began the discussion of formatting our Thursday mornings to be project learning mornings. We discussed what this would look like and how we would structure our Thursday mornings to allow project based learning in multi grade groupings to happen.

Review of SMART goal #2:

Date: June 30, 2013   Met   Not met X
Review of Goal #3: By June of 2013 we will continue to work at increasing our students’ understanding of a life rooted in Christ’s call to discipleship by involving them in social justice projects. This will be measured by the number of projects that our students have been involved in, that reach out to the community outside of our school.

Strategies and Actions:

* 26 students from Grade 8 & 9 attended We Day in Calgary on October 24, 2012.

* Our students then lead a number of initiatives in our school including;
  
- Food Bank Collections for St. Theresa’s Food Bank
- Penny Collections
- Valentine day buttons
- Christmas Concert (WINGS)
- Front row seat sale Sign of Hope
- Glee Benefit Stollery Hospital
- Fine Arts Gala (Free the Children)
- Terry Fox Run
- Shrove Tuesday and Share Lent collection for our Foster Children

Review of SMART goal #3:

Date: June 30, 2013  Met

Overview of Review of Goals:

Of the three goals for the 2012-2013 school year we have made some progress in the area of meeting student needs; by developing teaching strategies that more closely meet the way our students learn. We have begun the work of changing our learning environments; by providing them with easier access to technology, by continuing to upgrade our computer labs; completing the wireless capabilities at Holy Family, and by providing them with access to a cart of Ipads. We have only begun our work in these areas and will continue to look at what we need to do to provide our students with better ways of learning that suit their needs.
## Review Data

### Provincial Achievement Results with Regression Analysis

#### 2012-2013

#### Grade Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Actual Score</th>
<th>Predicted Score</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>69.64</td>
<td>66.94</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>54.13</td>
<td>65.75</td>
<td>Below expectation</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Grade Six

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Actual Score</th>
<th>Predicted Score</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>59.54</td>
<td>61.32</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>46.11</td>
<td>48.27</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>57.42</td>
<td>58.34</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>62.16</td>
<td>57.93</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Grade Nine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Actual Score</th>
<th>Predicted Score</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>63.38</td>
<td>66.99</td>
<td>Statistically Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>58.74</td>
<td>60.13</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>61.08</td>
<td>65.83</td>
<td>Statistically Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>69.40</td>
<td>67.30</td>
<td>Within Expectation</td>
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</table>
Satisfaction Survey results from parents, students and staff

- Our students performance on the PATs
- Areas of concern are parental involvement
- Access to programs of support for our at risk students

Holy Family School details and demographics

Population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of students:</th>
<th>556</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 Voices &amp; Kindergarten:</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary:</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High:</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English Language Learners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>179</th>
<th>32% (of total population is ESL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 Voices &amp; Kindergarten:</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23% (of ESL pop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary:</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>42% (of ESL pop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>35% (of ESL pop)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FNMI statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 Voices &amp; Kindergarten:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary:</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Number and severity of special needs students

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>52</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 Voices &amp; Kindergarten:</td>
<td>23 (Mild/Mod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary:</td>
<td>7 (Includes LD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Code 40</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High</td>
<td>11 (Includes LD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Code 40</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Dream

District Goal One: An excellent start to learning

1.2 Recognize and provide for the diversity of student needs within our schools so they can achieve their maximum potential within a safe and caring school environment.

1.5 Explore, identify and implement strategies related to the success of our English Language Learners.

District Goal Two: Success for every student

2.2 d) Ensure that appropriate and approved resources are used to support learning in the classrooms and that appropriate resources are allocated to support departments.

Holy Family School Goal 1-2013-2014

During this school year our focus will be on improving the reading and writing competencies of all students, most specifically our ELL learners; we will look at strategies to improve the math abilities of all students.
Second Goal and Sub-goal:

**District Goal Two: Success for every student**

2.2 Ensure that every school and department is committed to improving student learning and achievement within the context of a 21st century Catholic learning community.

a) Implement the “Transform! Engage in Christ-Centred Learning for Today and Tomorrow” plan focusing on 21st century fluencies.

b) Ensure that a variety of assessments including formative and summative are used and that assessment practices are aligned with 21 century competencies.

**Goal Three:** Quality teaching and school leadership

3.1 Provide timely and relevant professional learning opportunities for all staff.

**Goal Four:** Engaged and effective governance

4.1 Ensure that every school and department is committed to improving student learning and achievement within the context of a 21st century Catholic learning community.

a) Ensure that technologies are embedded into the instructional design of the programs of study.

**Holy Family School Goal 2**

We will fully implement our L.I.F.T Project Based Learning mornings, involving our students in meaningful projects that connect to the curriculum and target the competencies set out in the Ministerial Order on Learning.
Third Goal and Sub-goal:

District Goal 4.4 Seek, promote and engage in responsive and responsible community partnerships.

Sub-Goal
4.4a) Build, maintain and foster relationships and partnerships that promote the development and enhancement of programs and services within the life of our school.

Holy Family School Goal 3
We will increase the number of parents involved in our school, and will work to ensure parents are well informed about what is happening in our school on a regular basis.
**Step 4: Design**

**District Goals:**

**Goal One:** An excellent start to learning

**Goal Two:** Success for every student

**Sub-Goal:**

1.2 Recognize and provide for the diversity of student needs within our schools so they can achieve their maximum potential within a safe and caring school environment.

1.5 Explore, identify and implement strategies related to the success of our English Language Learners.

2.2 d) Ensure that appropriate and approved resources are used to support learning in the classrooms and that appropriate resources are allocated to support departments.

*Holy Family School Goal 1- 2013-2014*

**During this school year our focus will be on better meeting the needs of our diverse population. We will work to improve the reading and writing competencies of all students but most specifically our ELL learners. In addition we will look at strategies to improve the math abilities of all students.**

**Strategy:** To identify the students who require assistance with English as a second Language; as well as identifying students in our school who are struggling.

- **Action:**
  - Student profiles will be created to capture the diverse needs of our students. Each term teachers will meet with the Learning Coach to identify strategies that will be used both in and out of the classroom to meet the needs of these diverse students.
  - At each reporting period a report will be run to identify students in our Junior High who are not reaching their potential. Strategies will be identified that will help them to become successful. Our Learning Coaches will assist teachers in developing lessons and assessment practices that will meet their needs.
- **Strategy:** Change our teaching pedagogy to better meet the needs of our students

**Actions:**

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o Our teachers will consider the paradigm shift and will consider what changes to their teaching practice are needed in order to better meet the learning needs of our struggling student, our ELL students, as well as better meeting the needs of the 21st century learner. These identified changes will be part of the teachers’ growth plan.

o Our Grade 3 & 7 teachers will be involved in the Cohorts offered by our district to help them learn how to create inclusive classrooms; thereby better meeting the needs of these diverse students.

o Providing a Learning Coach in both the Elementary and Junior High levels of the school, each of these coaches are specialists in their areas. We have increased their time from the basic funding received from the district.

**Strategy:** To ensure there is dedicated time spent in Guided and Independent reading conferencing, as well as ensuring that there are appropriate reading resources available to students.

➤ **Actions:**

  o Reading resources will be purchased to be used for our Level 1 & 2 students in the Junior High areas.
  o Guided Reading resources and independent reading material will be purchased for the classrooms the target will be materials to assist our ELL students.
  o Committed time will be spent in meeting with students both during independent and Guided reading conferences
  o Our Junior High students will be given extra time for reading, independently and buddy reading.
  o Creation of a lunch time paired reading group targeted specifically for ELL students.
  o Multi-grade groupings for guided reading will be developed. This will allow us to better support those students who are well below their grade level in reading.
  o We will use the strategy of Daily 5 to ensure that we are dedicating time to reading and responding each day.
  o Our elementary teachers will continue their professional development in understanding the Empowered Writers technique for teaching writing.

➤ **Strategy:** To improve our students math abilities by continuing to develop our understanding of Guided Math.
- Action: Our elementary math teachers will continue to develop their understanding of guided math; they will work at incorporating this into their classrooms.
- Action: We will work to create math games that can be part of the Guided Math stations, these games will be targeted at helping students strengthen their basic math concepts.
District Goal:
Goal Two: Success for every student

Goal Three: Quality teaching and school leadership

Goal Four: Engaged and effective governance

Sub-Goal:

2.2 Ensure that every school and department is committed to improving student learning and achievement within the context of a 21st century Catholic learning community.

   a) Implement the “Transform! Engage in Christ-Centred Learning for Today and Tomorrow” plan focusing on 21st century fluencies.

   b) Ensure that a variety of assessments including formative and summative are used and that assessment practices are aligned with 21 century competencies.

3.1 Provide timely and relevant professional learning opportunities for all staff.

4.1 Ensure that every school and department is committed to improving student learning and achievement within the context of a 21st century Catholic learning community.

   a) Ensure that technologies are embedded into the instructional design of the programs of study.

Holy Family School Goal 2

We will fully implement our L.I.F.T Project Based Learning mornings, involving our students in meaningful projects that connect to the curriculum and target the competencies set out in the Ministerial Order on Learning.

Strategy: To dedicate our Thursday mornings to Project Based Learning.

Action: We will engage our students in 21st Century Learning by dedicating our Thursday mornings to project based learning. This morning will be called L.I.F.T (Learning In depth For Tomorrow); each Thursday morning students will be involved in developing solutions for scenarios created by our teachers. These scenarios will be based on K.L.Os for the various subject areas. Over the course of the year we expect to involve our students in grade specific and cross graded projects.
**Action:** Students will use the 21st Century competencies of critical thinking/problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity and innovation. We will be developing rubrics that will help us assess students’ progress in each of these areas.

**Action:** Teachers will be involved in collaborative planning on Thursday afternoons in order that they have time to develop projects that are based in 21st Century pedagogy.

- **Strategy:** To ensure all students have access to Technology needed for these projects.
  - Action: Purchase of new technology; more roving carts of devices available to students and teachers.
  - Action: Develop a policy that allows students to bring in their own devices and ensure they are used appropriately and safely.

**Strategy:** To develop our teachers understanding of how to create projects that reflect 21st Century skills.

**Action:** Six of our teachers along with the administrative team will attend the Buck Institute Project based Learning workshop offered by the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. These teachers will then share their understandings of how to build good projects with the staff.

**Action:** The resources that will be used will be Lee Crockett’s work and our previous understandings gained through our book study from last year Literacy is Not Enough. We will use the resources available to us from the Buck Institute; teacher resources will be purchased, as well as accessing on line resources.
**District Goal:**

4.4 Seek, promote and engage in responsive and responsible community partnerships.

**Sub-Goal:**

4.4 a) Build, maintain and foster relationships and partnerships that promote the development and enhancement of programs and services within our District.

**Holy Family School Goal 3**

We will increase the number of parents involved in our school, and will work to ensure parents are well informed about what is happening in our school on a regular basis.

**Strategy:** To develop better relationships with our parents by involving them in the life of our school.

- **Action:** To ensure all parents understand how they can be involved on our parent council, this will be done by communicating the roles and responsibilities of parent council to all members of our parent community.
- **Action:** To better communicate what is happening in our school to parents, through the use of SynerVoice; our website; and our newsletter.

- **Strategy:** To involve parents in the day to day needs of our school

- **Action:** By communicating to our parents the needs within our school, inviting them into becoming more involved in the day to day actions of our school.
Step 5: Deliver

Draft plan shared with:

Staff: November 21, 2013

Parent Council: December 4, 2013

Completed Plan:

Uploaded to the portal and school website: November 29, 2013

Step 6: Debrief of 2013-2014 plan

In March of this year we will review this plan; making additions to our strategies and actions, as well as noting where we are on implementing our action plans.