



# Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
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May 2026

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# Administrators' Message

- We hope that each of our families had a wonderful Easter with loved ones. Easter, the feast of the resurrection, is the greatest celebration of the Christian Church. What Sunday is to the week, Easter Sunday is to the liturgical year. The resurrection is the reason for our faith and hope. Through the resurrection of Jesus, we know that one day, we too will rise from the dead. As we witness the signs of new life through the Spring season, we celebrate our own new life and new beginning through the Easter Season.
- At BDM, we celebrated the joy of Easter with a Divine Liturgy at St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Parish celebrated by our own Bishop David Motiuk. It was moving and very meaningful for all who attended.
- During May, we honour Mary, the Mother of God. During May, we will continue to pray for countries devastated by war and conflict each morning by saying the Our Father and three Hail Marys for faith, hope and charity.

# Administrators' Message

We were so pleased to have parents of grade five and nine students join us for our IB Gala on April 30! Students were very excited about sharing their Exhibition and Community Projects with families and they did a wonderful job! Our students truly are demonstrating agency and making a difference in the world around them.

May 9 – 15 is Catholic Education Week and May 14 is World Catholic Education Day. We are so grateful to be able to celebrate the great gift of Catholic education in our province.

We invite students, parents and staff to wear blue throughout the week of May 9 – 16 to celebrate Catholic education. Our Alberta Bishops have provided a letter celebrating Catholic Education week. Please take a moment to read [Alberta Bishops' Letter for Catholic Education Week May 2026](#).

In May, we recognize the many volunteers who work in our school and do so much to help us. We would especially like to thank the parents who come to our School Council meetings each month. Your time, input and presence at these meetings is appreciated more than we can say! We would also like to thank those parents who volunteer to organize our hot lunches each week. Your time and commitment are appreciated so much.

Terry Volk  
Principal

John Edwards  
Assistant Principal

Joe Estephan  
Assistant Principal



# Chief Superintendent Anderson's Message

Join Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson as she reflects on the Easter season, supporting good mental health, and the many celebrations that take place in spring. [Click here](#) to read her May Message.



# IB Coordinators' Message

Our IB Coordinators invite you to follow our school on social media to stay updated on all the exciting happenings in our PYP and MYP classrooms and school community. This is a great way to learn about events, achievements, and to gain insight into how the IB programs are implemented at Bishop David Motiuk.

Join us online to stay connected!

Instagram: [bishopdavidmotiukecsd](#)

Facebook: [Bishop David Motiuk School ECSD](#)

As always, we welcome questions about the IB programmes in our school. Andrea Olivieri is the coordinator for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Lyndsy Panizzon is the coordinator for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). They can be reached at [Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net](mailto:Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net) and [Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net](mailto:Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net)





## Thank You Staff & Community Volunteers

Many of the activities our students enjoy at school, such as sports teams, drama productions, band, and a variety of clubs, are possible because of teachers, staff, and community members who generously volunteer their time. They often give their evenings and weekends to make these opportunities happen. Extracurricular activities are not part of the regular school day but are still an important part of learning and growing. These experiences help students gain confidence, develop interpersonal skills, and build a sense of belonging.

Our school and Edmonton Catholic Schools are grateful to all our teachers, staff, and community members who volunteer their time in various ways, including organizing, supervising, conducting, directing, coaching, and refereeing.

Working together, we can show respect for the teachers, staff and community members who volunteer their time outside of regular work hours.

## Lumen Christi Student Faith Leadership Award

The Lumen Christi Student Faith Leadership Award was established to celebrate one student from each school who, through their actions and service to their school community enhance the Catholic identity of their school.

We congratulate Laura de Wee, the recipient of this year's Lumen Christi Student Faith Leadership Award. Laura is a dedicated grade 9 student at Bishop David Motiuk School. As a practicing Catholic, she exemplifies faithful leadership by living Church teachings daily, serving as an altar server in her parish and contributing to school prayer life. Laura is an active member of the school leadership team, she witnesses faith through her Christ-like interactions with others, through sharing her faith and experience in class discussions and in the grade 9 faith club. She inspires peers as a role model of Gospel values amid high academic excellence. Her commitment fosters a faith-filled school climate, and she has participated in various social justice initiatives. Laura enhances the Catholic identity of our school community and is fully deserving of this award.

Laura was honoured at the Lumen Christi Award Presentation on April 9.

Congratulations Laura!

# Chief Superintendent's Award of Excellence

Each year, one student from each junior high school is selected to receive the Chief Superintendent's Award of Excellence, recognizing those who demonstrate excellence through their actions and daily life. This year, we are proud to recognize Elliana Sagert.

From a young age, Elliana has played a significant role in the leadership community at Bishop David Motiuk School. Beginning as a Mental Health Champion in elementary school and continuing as a valued member of our Junior High Leadership Team, Elliana has consistently demonstrated an exceptional work ethic, strong organizational skills, and a willingness to take initiative.

Last year, as a Grade 7 student, she impressed the team with her speech to join the executive committee and went above and beyond in her role, particularly in her thoughtful and thorough approach to recording meeting notes. Now, as a Grade 8 student and President of the Leadership Team, Elliana leads with remarkable drive and passion. She is a strong and inspiring voice for our student body, and we are grateful for her leadership.

Elliana will receive her award at a special ceremony on May 13.

Congratulations, Elliana

# Enrolment Projections

Thank you to all families who completed the Pre-enrolment Screen in PowerSchool. Our current numbers for next year are:

PYP	Projected Enrolment	Projected Classes	MYP	Projected Enrolment	Projected Classes
Kindergarten	80*	4	Grade 6	99	3
Grade 1	88	4	Grade 7	126	4
Grade 2	65	3	Grade 8	95	3
Grade 3	88	4	Grade 9	103	3
Grade 4	93	3	<b>Total MYP:</b>	<b>423</b>	
Grade 5	107	4			
<b>Total PYP:</b>	<b>521</b>		<b>Total Enrolment:</b>	<b>944</b>	
* Still processing new registrations					

# Staffing Updates

The ECSD Staffing Cycle will begin in May. We do not anticipate many changes at BDM for the upcoming year. We will share teacher class assignments with families in June, once the staffing cycle is concluded. At this point, we do know that the following teachers will be on leave from BDM in 2026-2027:

- Ms. Rebkowich
- Mrs. Manji
- Mrs. Boyd
- Mr. Block
- Ms. Perri



# Class Lists for Next Year

Soon, we will begin developing class lists for next year. We ask for your support in allowing our teachers to establish class placements. We will also be working closely with teachers from Annunciation School to determine appropriate placements for students who will be joining us from there.

Our goal is to create an environment that supports your child's success and well-being. Many factors are taken into consideration when designing class lists, including a balance of gender, learning styles and needs, work ethic, academic achievement, social relationships, and the overall composition of the group.

A great deal of time and care is given to the placement process and these important educational decisions. The well-being of each individual student is at the heart of all decisions.

If you have specific learning concerns regarding your child, we would be happy to share them with teachers as they begin creating class lists for the upcoming year. Please note that while all input is considered, the needs of the class as a whole take precedence over individual requests—particularly those related to placement with friends. We also ask that any requests be made only for your own child, and not on behalf of other students.

**Please communicate any relevant concerns in writing to [Ms. Volk](#) by May 7 at 12:00 PM.**

Class assignments will be emailed and posted to PowerSchool on or before September 2.



# Hours of Operation 2026-2027

<b>Kindergarten (No instruction on Thursdays)</b>	
Half Day AM	8:38 AM – 11:41 AM
Half Day PM	12:17 – 3:20 PM

## **Kindergarten Additional Instruction**

In order to ensure that kindergarten students receive the required 475 instructional hours over the course of the year, they will have full day field trips or full days at school on designated days throughout the school year:

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| October 2, 2026 | June 4, 2027  |
| March 5, 2026   | June 18, 2027 |
| April 9, 2027   | June 25, 2027 |
| May 7, 2027     |               |

Unfortunately, noon hour transportation is not available on field trip/full days, so morning students will have to be picked up at the end of the school day and afternoon students will have to be dropped off in the morning.



# Hours of Operation 2026-2027

## Grades 1 – 5 Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

Registration	8:43 AM
Instruction	8:43 – 10:15 AM
Recess	10:15 – 10:28 AM
Instruction	10:28 AM – 12:00 PM
Lunch Recess	12:00 – 12:20 PM
Lunch	12:20 – 12:40 PM
Instruction	12:40 – 3:20 PM
Note: PM instruction includes a 5 minute health break	

## Grades 1 – 5 Thursday

Registration	8:43 AM
Instruction	8:43 – 10:15 AM
Recess	10:15 – 10:28 AM
Instruction	10:28 AM – 12:12 PM



# Hours of Operation 2026-2027

## Grades 6 – 9 Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

Registration	8:43 AM
Instruction	8:43 – 10:29 AM
Locker Break	10:29 – 10:32 AM
Instruction	10:32 AM – 12:12 PM
Lunch	12:12 – 12:32 PM
Lunch Recess	12:32 – 12:52 PM
Instruction	12:52 – 3:20 PM

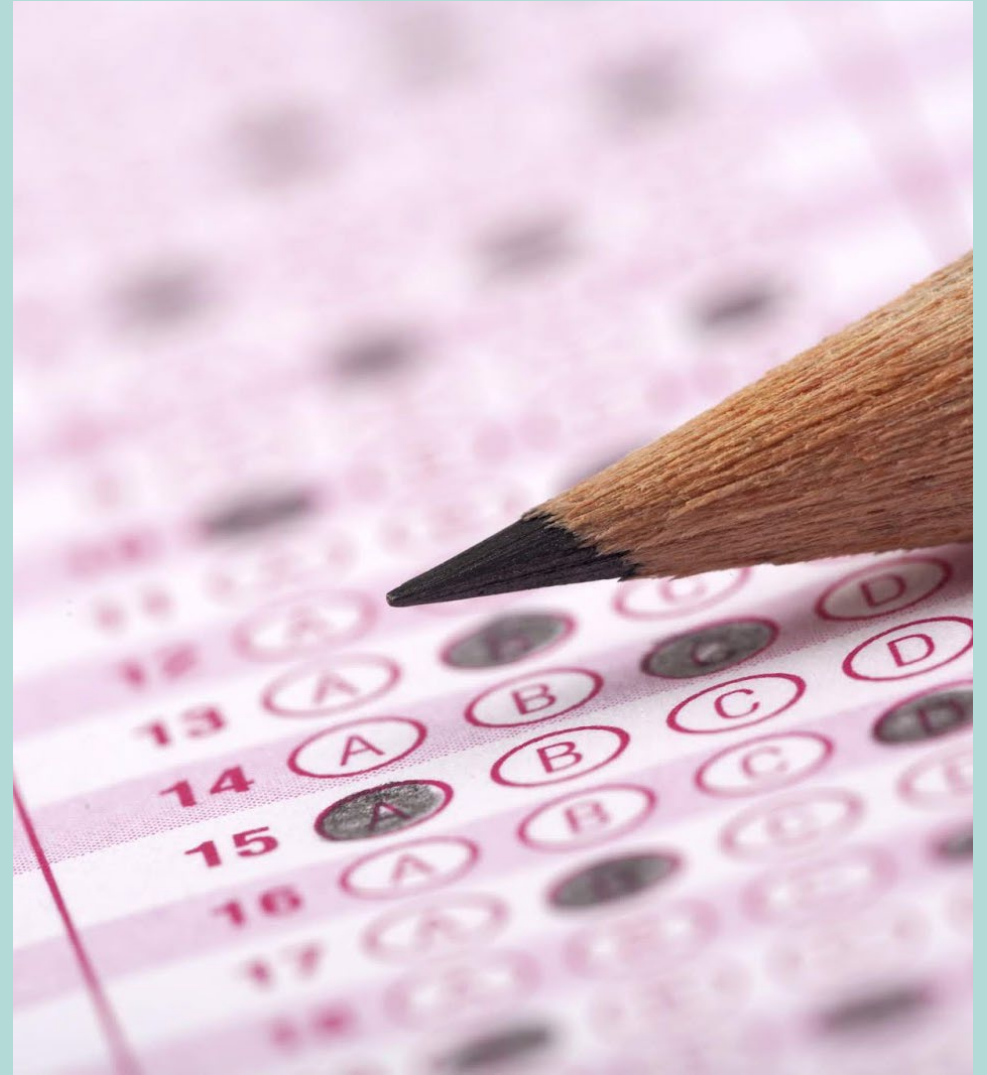
## Grades 6-9 Thursday

Registration	8:43 AM
Instruction	8:43 – 10:32 AM
Locker Break	10:32 – 10:29 AM
Instruction	10:29 AM – 12:12 PM

# Provincial Achievement Tests & MYP Final Exams

All exams will begin at 9:00 AM

If families will be away for any exams, please contact BOTH the subject area teacher and Mr. Estephan.



# Provincial Achievement Tests & MYP Final Exams

Grade 6		Grade 7 - 9	
Part A		Part A	
Fri, May 22	Grade 6 English Language Arts PAT Part A (written)	Thurs, May 21	Grade 9 English Language Arts PAT Part A (written)
Mon, June 15	Gr 6 Mathematics PAT Part A (no calculator)	Tues June 16	Gr 9 Mathematics PAT Part A (no calculator)
Part B		Part B	
Thurs June 4	Gr 6 English Language Arts and Literature Part B	Tues June 9	Gr 9 English Language Arts Part B Gr 7 & 8 English Language Arts Final Exams
Thurs June 11	Gr 6 Social Studies	Fri June 19	Gr 9 Mathematics Part(ie) B Gr 7 & 8 Mathematics Final Exams
Fri June 12	Gr 6 Science	Mon June 22	Gr 9 Social Studies Gr 7 & 8 Social Studies Final Exams
Thurs June 18	Gr 6 Mathematics Part B	Tues June 23	Gr 9 Science Gr 7 & 8 Science Final Exams

# No Parent Parking

We are noticing that several parents are entering the staff parking lot at the end of the day. This creates an unsafe situation in that students are crossing the area when parent vehicles are exiting. It has also prevented our busses from leaving the school on time. Parents often enter the parking area by going through the exit at the south end of the staff parking area, even though a "No Entry" sign is clearly posted.

Some parents enter the bus lane, either after busses have left in the morning or after school, where they get trapped by busses. This creates a dangerous situation in that busses cannot park appropriately. We also have three crosswalks that go across the bus lanes, so vehicular traffic there compounds the danger, particularly at morning drop off and afternoon pick up times.

As you know, parent vehicles are NOT PERMITTED to enter the school parking areas until after all of our busses have left. **Please do not be "that person."** Instead, please consider the safety of our students rather than your personal convenience. If you wish to use these areas to park, please WAIT until all of the busses have left before entering the parking area. Again, please be mindful of safety, since there may be students in the area.



# Moving? Please let us know

Spring really seems to be a time when families move to new homes. If you are moving out of our school community, please let us know so that we can have an accurate registration count for the fall and can staff our classes accordingly.

As well, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information in the school office, so if you have a change of address or telephone number, please let us know. Thank you!



# Supply Lists 2026-2027

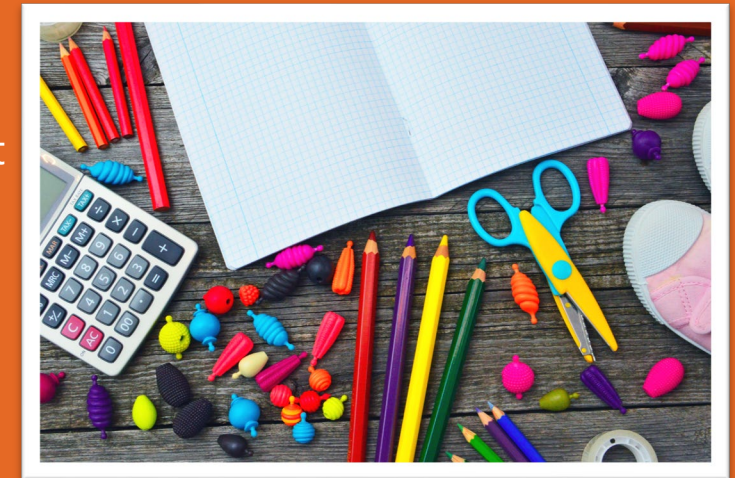
Supply lists for the 2026-2027 school year have been posted to our website:

<https://bishopdavidmotiuk.ecsd.net/supply-lists>

Since most work for students in grades four - nine is done with Chromebooks and through the Google classroom, we make an effort to limit what we ask students to supply. It is not necessary to purchase additional supplies if you already have items at home.

Parents will once again have the option of either purchasing supplies at local stores or ordering supply packages online through [SchoolStart.ca](http://www.schoolstart.ca). Online ordering of supplies is convenient, so we are happy to offer this service to our parents. Orders placed through School Start are delivered directly to your home and are clearly labeled with your child's name. Information about School Start, including a short video, is available online at <http://www.schoolstart.ca>.

Please note: Kindergarten teachers will be ordering supplies to be used by all students this year. The cost for these supplies will be approximately \$25 per student and includes items such as glue, paint, crayons, etc. The cost of buying kindergarten supplies individually would be over \$75, so this is a significant saving for parents.



# Junior High Complementary Courses

It is time for students currently in grades six – eight to begin choosing complementary courses for next year. Most students have already completed their forms. Students who have not yet done so are asked to complete the form as soon as possible.

The information is found on our website: [School Registration Information](#). You may also access the form directly: [JH Complementary Course Form](#). Information about specific courses is listed in the [Registration Handbook](#). Homeroom teachers will also post links in their Google classrooms.

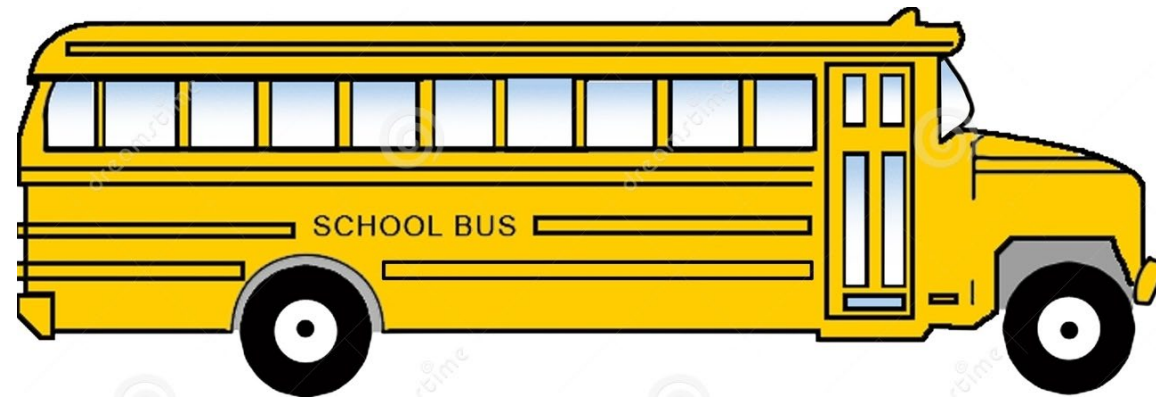
# Transportation

Applications for regular yellow bus service are made online:

[2026-2027 Transportation Application](#)

The deadline for applications for school start-up (September 2, 2025) is June 1, 2025.

Please see the division [Transportation](#) page for more information.





# Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada. Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian descent who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the amazing country we share today. Throughout the month, students will create visual representations of their learning through art, poetry and other mediums. We will showcase throughout the school as the month progresses.

# May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You

A disturbance in the Force has been detected... and it's coming to our school on May 4th!

To celebrate Star Wars Day, all students are invited to wear their favourite Star Wars-themed clothing — anything from a cool t-shirt to a full-on Stormtrooper suit (or anything in between)!

Whether you choose to come as a Jedi, Sith, Wookiee, droid, bounty hunter, or your favourite character, we can't wait to see your galactic style.

So mark your calendars for May 4th and remember...

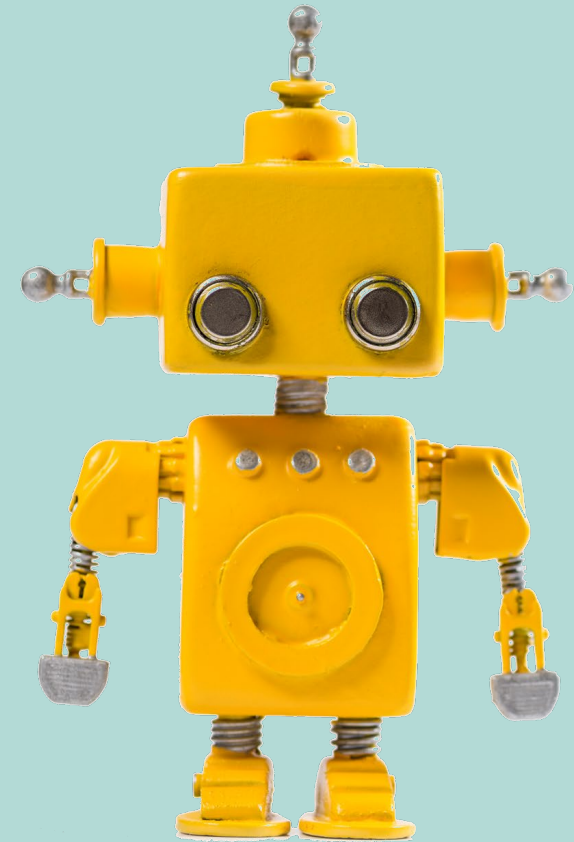
May the 4th be with you!



# AMII School Takeover – May 6

On May 6, our school will take part in the AMII (Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute) School Takeover, a hands-on learning experience designed to build students' understanding of artificial intelligence. Throughout the day, students will rotate through engaging, age-appropriate stations where they will explore topics such as robots, image generation, machine learning, ethical uses of AI, and how computers learn from data.

These interactive sessions are led by AMII graduate-level students and staff, giving learners a unique opportunity to experience real-world applications of AI in a fun and accessible way. We are excited to welcome AMII and support our students as they develop important digital literacy and critical thinking skills for the future.



# Grade 9 Farewell



The Grade Nine Farewell at Bishop David Motiuk is in keeping with Archdiocesan guidelines for graduations and is designed to ensure that each of our grade nine students is able to participate. The mass and Farewell Exercises are on different days from celebrations such as parties or field trips, which is in keeping with Archdiocesan policy (514) on graduation masses, which states:

The Mass for graduates is to be clearly distinct from other graduation events (convocation, prom, etc.) A distinct day for the Mass would help to highlight its unique significance.

# Grade 9 Farewell

The date for the Farewell Mass is Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 PM at St. Charles Parish. The Farewell Mass will be concelebrated by Bishop David and Fr. Marc Cramer. Following the mass, we will have a short program and grade nine students will be presented with their grade nine diplomas and IB certificates. At the conclusion of the Farewell Exercises, students and families will be invited to gather for a stand-up dessert reception in the parish hall. At this time, there will also be opportunities for pictures. In order to accommodate everyone, we ask that guests be limited to parents and siblings of grade nine students. We expect that the formal part of the evening will conclude at approximately 8:00 pm.

Student dress for this occasion should be semi-formal. Students may dress in their Sunday best. It is not necessary for parents to spend a great deal of money on new clothes for this occasion.



# Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow

You're invited to the Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow! Taking place on Saturday, May 9 at Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre Indoor Field House, this free, family-friendly event is open to all. The event celebrates Indigenous culture and history through traditional pow wow dancing and drumming. Attendees can also explore a variety of artisan, craft, and food vendors. Everyone is welcome! For more details, visit [ecsd.net/powwow](https://ecsd.net/powwow).



**Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow**  
Saturday, May 9, 2026



# Calendar of Events

## May 2026

Monday, May 4	Star Wars Theme Day
Wednesday, May 6	Hats on for Mental Health (wear hats)
Wednesday, May 6	AMII AI Literacy Skills
Monday, May 11 – Friday, 15	Catholic Education Week (wear blue)
Tuesday, May 12	MYP Spring Concert 7PM (West Meadows)
Thursday, May 14	World Catholic Education Day
Friday, May 15- Monday, May 18	Victoria Day Weekend (No school)
Friday, May 22	Pentecost Celebration 1PM



# **BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK**

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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