

PRESS RELEASE

Prince Albert Catholic School Division Celebrates Catholic Education Week and Announces Recipients of the Catholic Education Service Award for the 2025 School Year!

Prince Albert – May 25, 2025- The Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division Board of Education proudly announces the 2025 Catholic Education Week and the Catholic Education Service Award recipients!

Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division is celebrating Catholic Education Week from May 25- June 1, 2025, to remember, promote, and share the gift of Catholic Education. This year's theme is "*Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope/ L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance*". This theme celebrates our Jubilee Year as we endeavor to be Pilgrims of Hope.



There are five sub-themes, one for each day of Catholic Education Week, and they are aimed at helping staff and students to reflect more fully on what being Pilgrims of Hope means to them. The five sub-themes are:

- Monday- By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine
- Tuesday- By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création
- Wednesday- By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés
- Thursday- By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité
- Friday- By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix

Catholic Education Week is marked by special activities such as prayer, celebrations, and classroom activities. World Catholic Education Day is on Thursday, May 29, and Catholic Schools in the province will mark the day with Liturgy of the Word.

Catholic Education Week serves as an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions made by students, parents, teachers, and staff to the Catholic education system. It emphasizes the values, teachings, and traditions that shape students' academic, spiritual, and personal development.

Catholic Education Week is an occasion to celebrate the achievements and successes within the Catholic education system and an opportunity to reflect on its essential role in shaping students' lives. It is also time to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of educators and staff who are dedicated and passionate about Catholic Education.

The Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division Board of Education proudly announces the recipients of the 2024-2025 Catholic Education Service Award!

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Colette Matheson and Mrs. Vel Thompson!

The Board of Education established the Catholic Education Service Award in 1998 to recognize individuals who have significantly contributed to Catholic education in Prince Albert. Both recipients have been nominated for their significant contributions to Catholic Education and their faith community. The Board is confident that you will agree that these faithful and dedicated individuals have positively impacted our Catholic Educational Community, our school division, and the schools they have worked in.



Colette Matheson began her teaching career in Saskatoon. In 1987, she joined her husband Fred in Prince Albert and started her journey with the Prince Albert Catholic School Division. Over the years, she taught students from Grade 1 to Grade 12, with most of her career dedicated to Middle Years French Immersion at École Holy Cross School. Colette served as a vice-principal for seven years, offering guidance and leadership to staff and students. Colette is known as a faith-filled Catholic educator with a deep appreciation for the students and families she encountered. Colette will always admit that she continues to be inspired by former students she sees regularly and is grateful for the enduring relationships she has built. Teaching in a faith-based environment allowed her to live out her faith openly

through prayer, shared celebrations, and daily interactions, which she believes helped foster meaningful, lasting connections.

Outside the classroom, Colette was actively involved in her parish community at St. Joseph Parish, serving as a reader, supporting children's liturgy, and participating in hospitality ministries. She and Fred are proud parents to Emilie (Brett Wells) and Jordan (Taylor Stelzer).

For Colette, Catholic education was not just a career—it was a calling. We have been fortunate to have Colette serve as a teacher and administrator in the Prince Albert Catholic School Division, where she willingly shared and fully embraced her faith and values.



Vel Thompson is a 37 year employee of the school division as an Administrative Assistant. She has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to her Catholic faith, beginning with her education in Catholic schools (Grades 1–8) and regular Sunday Mass attendance as a young girl. Her family's deep-rooted tradition of centering holidays around the Church further nurtured her spiritual foundation. Over the years, she has been actively involved in various parishes, including St. Joseph, Sacred Heart Cathedral, St. James in Albertville, and currently, St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Her contributions have been both spiritual and service-oriented. She served as a lector at St. James Church and has participated extensively in liturgical ministries, including over 20 years in the Bread and Cup Ministry. She was also secretary for Parish Council meetings for five

years and later took on leadership responsibilities on the St. James Parish Council, focusing on liturgy.

Her engagement extends to faith formation and community building. She was involved in RCIA both as a participant and supporter and has attended numerous Bible studies, book clubs, and parish missions. In 2016, she co-founded a Ladies Prayer Group, which continues today through daily messages of encouragement and prayer. For over four decades, she has maintained a daily discipline of prayer and meditation, reflecting a deep personal devotion.

Her journey reflects not only consistent church attendance and participation but also a heartfelt commitment to fostering faith in her family and parish communities.

Board Chair Suzanne Stubbs notes, "Our Board is truly grateful to this year's recipients of the Prince Albert Catholic Service Awards. We are proud that Colette and Vel call our school division and Catholic education community home. Their involvement in our schools, parishes, and greater Catholic community is exemplary, and we are blessed to have these individuals working with our staff and students."

Join us in celebrating World Catholic Education Week as we strive to provide a supportive atmosphere that makes Catholic schools a nurturing environment for students to thrive academically, spiritually, and socially. The Board of Education would like to thank everyone for the submissions received.

For more information, please contact:

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