Caring & Sharing Good Shepherd Elementary School

Newsletter

November 2026

18111 - 57 Avenue | Edmonton, AB T6M 1W1 | P: 780 444-4299 | F: 780 483-1379 | www.goodshepherd.ecsd.net

This month, we take time to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a country where democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are cherished and protected. We enjoy these freedoms thanks to the courage of Canadians who have answered the call to serve and defend the values we hold dear. We will never forget the men and women who, despite great personal risk, made incredible sacrifices to safeguard justice and freedom. Their dedication and bravery deserve our deepest gratitude and respect.

On November 10, Good Shepherd Catholic School will pause to honor and remember the brave soldiers whose sacrifices have ensured the freedoms we enjoy today. We will also extend our appreciation to veterans, current Canadian Forces members, their families, and those who have gone before them, ensuring their legacy is never forgotten.

As we move through November, we also turn our hearts to the spiritual celebrations of All Saints' Day on November 1 and All Souls' Day on November 2. All Saints' Day is a time to honor all saints—those known and unknown—who have lived holy and faithful lives, serving as inspiring examples of virtue and faith. All Souls' Day invites us to remember and pray for all who have passed away, especially our loved ones, asking God to welcome them into eternal life. These observances remind us of the enduring connection between our faith, our community, and the saints who guide us, encouraging us to live lives of kindness, courage, and faithfulness.

As a school community, these important days invite us to reflect on sacrifice, service, and the power of faith—both in the lives of those who have protected our freedoms and in the lives of those who have gone before us in faith.

Edmonton Catholic Schools



Jennifer Dimas
Principal



Beth Pecson
Assistant Principal



Sonia Schultz
Assistant Principal

Good Shepherd Parent Information and Engagement Session Regarding Enrolment Growth

November 4 at 6:30 pm

Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School continues to experience significant enrolment growth and is currently serving more students than the school was designed to accommodate.

To help address these space pressures, Edmonton Catholic Schools has requested eight additional modular classrooms from the Government of Alberta. If approved, we plan to have these modulars installed by Fall 2027.

While we are hopeful the request will be approved, we are also planning for all possible outcomes.

As part of that planning, Edmonton Catholic Schools is exploring temporary attendance options that could be considered if the request for all 8 modulars is not approved. No decisions have been made.

We invite families to attend an information and engagement session to learn more about the enrolment pressures affecting Good Shepherd, the modular classroom request, and the temporary attendance options being considered.

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School (18111 57 Ave. NW)

Following the presentation, representatives from Student Transportation and other Division departments will be located throughout the room to answer questions or discuss topics of interest in greater detail.

After the session, we will share an online questionnaire with families. You will have an opportunity to share feedback on:

- How each option could affect students and families
- Transportation considerations
- Sibling and child-care considerations
- Transition impacts
- Other information Edmonton Catholic Schools should consider

Community feedback is an important part of the decision-making process and will be carefully reviewed alongside enrolment, transportation, programming, and operational considerations before a final decision is made. While family input will help inform the process, Division administration will make the final decision.

If you are unable to attend, the presentation will be posted online at ecsd.net/haveyoursaygoodshepherd following the session, and families will still have an opportunity to participate through the online questionnaire.

Register in Advance

Please register for the session. Registration helps us plan for attendance and will remain open until the session begins.

Click here to register.

If you have any questions, please contact us at engagement@ecsd.net. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our School Charism:

~ Inspired by our Good Shepherd, Jesus, to Love, Learn and Lead~

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-18

Key Verse 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

"I am the good shepherd" (11-18). Why is Jesus the good shepherd? Look at verse 11. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Jesus is the good shepherd because he is different from a hired hand. When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. The hired hand is a false shepherd. A false shepherd takes the job of caring for the sheep not as a "calling," but as a means of gaining profit or fame. When the time comes to sacrifice for the sake of the sheep, false shepherds run away like 100-meter track runners. We should not be false

shepherds, but good shepherds. When the boy David kept his father's sheep, he fought with lions and bears, risking his own life in order to protect his sheep (1Sa 17:34-36). David also fought against the enemy general Goliath as a shepherd of Israel in order to save his people from the Philistine army (1Sa 17:45-47). So David was known as a good shepherd of his people Israel. In verses 14-18 we can see why Jesus is the good shepherd.

All Hallow's Eve | A Christian Tradition

Halloween, an autumn celebration, reminder God's name is hallowed

Canadian Catholic News (www.cathnews.net/)
ANTIGONISH, Canada (CCN/Atlantic Catholic) – Autumn is a uniquely poetic time of year, when nature becomes melancholic and sweet. It's also the time for celebrating Halloween, of childhood memories of hayrides and bonfires, pumpkins and Jack-O-Lanterns, leaf-covered streets and, yes, tombstones, skeletons, haunted houses, ghosts and monster movies.

Many have a soft spot for Halloween's spooky side, as an essential ingredient of the holiday and as delicious as apple cider and doughnuts. But there is an aura of disapproval to that side of Halloween among many Catholics. Is there nothing of value to the spookiness of Halloween?

It should be noted that Halloween is a Catholic holiday. Pope Gregory IV in 835 made it the universal practice in the Roman Catholic Church to celebrate All Saints' Day on Nov. 1. All Souls' Day follows the next day as the commemoration of all of the faithful who have departed.

"All Hallows' Even" as the evening before All Hallows' Day — All Saints' Day – eventually became shortened to Halloween. Hallow, as in "hallowed be thy name" in the Lord's Prayer, is an older form of the word "holy."

It was the Protestant Reformation that rejected the universal practice of devotion to the dead (Martin Luther dropped any references to praying for the dead from his Bible). This Catholic holiday was attacked, much like the church as a whole, for being pagan and evil.

But Nov. 1st was the day of the Celtic Summer's End feast of Samhain, the day when the dead returned to the earth. We have retained some of these pagan elements to Halloween, as is true of Christmas and Easter.

Why would a pope put the Catholic celebration of the dead on top of the pagans' celebrations of the dead? Because the Catholic feasts are in continuity and fulfil the meaning of the pagan ones. This is why C.S. Lewis said that Christianity was the fulfilment of paganism.

So we don't reject the use of trees at Christmas time because they were pagan, we continue to use them, because as symbols of life they now point to Christ. That is another great thing about Catholic feasts. The arrangement of the liturgical calendar was made with a spiritual sensitivity to the cosmos that linked our celebrations with the language of creation.

When the trees put on their most beautiful funeral dress, nature herself is inviting us to meditate on the last things. We celebrate the coming of the true light of the world and hope of man when nature's light is at its weakest, and we celebrate the resurrection together with her rebirth in the spring.

So what about the indulgence in the spooky and scary? Skeletons are spooky, but they are also very Catholic. In fact, one couldn't find a better haunted house for a Halloween pilgrimage than the various "chapel of bones" that can be found across Europe.

In Portugal, there is a Franciscan chapel, the walls and pillars of which are made from more than 5,000 human skulls and bones. The threshold of the chapel bears the inscription "We bones here are waiting for yours." Another chapel is made of 40,000 bones arranged into decorations and furnishings, including a huge bone chandelier — even the macabre has a place in the church!

And what are we to make of Gothic cathedrals and the gargoyles that adorn its pillars and corners? If you read to your children the prophets' visions of the cherubim and seraphim who dwell closest to God, with lion heads and Eagle's talons, covered in wings and eyeballs, would the child not hesitate to call it a monster?

And if those creatures bathed in God's light are terrible to behold, what of God himself? Isn't it interesting that we used to refer to the third person of the Trinity with the combination of the words "holy" and "ghost"? Or that whenever the Bible describes men's encounters with God through an angel, the reaction is to fall down as though dead in fear? Could it be that horror is just another aspect of holy?

Like the sense of vertigo that is inseparable from the feeling of awe as a person reaches the top of a great height and looks out or how heat and cold seem to be opposites but become indistinguishable from each other in the extreme, so might majesty and dread, spooky and wonderful be inseparable in the Lord God.

Halloween is not just a time to think about mortality, or pray for the dead. It is a time to learn again what it means that the Lord's name is hallowed. Halloween is the feast of the holy, and we learn why the angels surrounding God's throne cover their eyes with their wings, and what it means to pray with them: "Holy, holy, holy — Lord God of hosts."

And to learn the fear of the Lord before, in the dead of winter, we celebrate his coming to us with a human face.

All Saints Day ~ November 1

November 1 is All Saints Day, the day commemorating every saint, known and unknown, as per the Catholic tradition.

Although many of the known saints have their own feast day during the year, on November 1 the Catholic Church remembers them all through the Solemnity of All Saints. For the saints that

we do not have as much information about, or for those whose feats are still relatively unsung, the day offers an opportunity to commemorate their accomplishments and to pray to them, asking for their intercession.

All Saints Day was formally established in 609 AD by Pope Boniface IV. Pope Boniface the IV also created All Souls Day which is now held one day after the feast of all saints on November 2.

All Saints Day is the modern name attributed to the day, but it was once known in Old English as “All Hallow’s Day” or “Hallowmas,” making the previous day “All Hallows Eve” or Halloween as it is now more commonly known. “Hallows” is thought to have referred to the saints as they were the “hallowed ones.”

All Souls Day ~ November 2

What is All Souls Day?

November 2 is the Commemoration of All of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls. On this day, we pray that all those who have died— our loved ones, and also those people around the world who we will never meet— through the mercy of God, will rest in peace.

All Souls’ Day, in Roman Catholicism, a day for commemoration of all the faithful departed, those baptized Christians who are believed to be in purgatory because they died with the guilt of lesser sins on their souls. It is observed on November 2. Roman Catholic doctrine holds that the prayers of the faithful on earth will help cleanse these souls in order to fit them for the vision of God in heaven, and the day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance. Requiem masses are commonly held, and many people visit and sometimes decorate the graves of loved ones.

November 11 to 13 – Fall Break - No Classes

November 11 - 13 is our Fall Break. Therefore, there are no classes for students on November 11, 12 or 13.

The Anniversary of the Holodomor ~ November 28

The Fourth Saturday in November (November 28) is the official Holodomor Memorial Day as proclaimed by the Province of Alberta in November of 2008. **Our site and the division will commemorate this tragic event on Wednesday, November 25**, through various whole school and classroom-based student engagements.

Why do we remember?

The Holodomor is one of the most devastating events of the 20th century. From 1932-1933 the government of the USSR, led by Joseph Stalin, carried out a genocide by starvation (*Holodomor)*. At the height of the genocide, as many as 25,000 people were dying everyday with **one third of them being children.**

The Soviet government did their best to hide this atrocity from the world and because of this, many statistics are hard to find; however, the total death toll of the *Holodomor* totals between 6 and 10 million people.

Holodomor remains as the greatest mass murder of civilians undertaken during peace time. Despite this infamy, Holodomor is still a little known and little understood event.

Holodomor is a Ukrainian word with two parts: Holod, which means hunger, and moryty, which means a slow, cruel death. Adding to this tragedy is that outside of Ukraine, little was known about Holodomor, and even inside Ukraine, to speak of this event was forbidden.

The plan behind Holodomor was calculated and deliberate: for collectivization to be successful in Ukraine, the breadbasket of Europe, independent farmers had to be eliminated. Beginning in 1932, all food was removed by Soviet police and soldiers from targeted areas of Ukraine, and Ukraine's borders were sealed, denying people the opportunity to search for food. At the height of the genocide, 25,000 people per day were dying from starvation. Once the campaign of engineered famine was completed, Ukraine's religious, artistic, intellectual and political leaders were arrested, deported or executed. The russification of Ukraine followed.

For decades the Soviet government tried to conceal the atrocities it committed from the rest of the world. In Ukraine under the Soviets, any mention of the Holodomor was considered a crime against the state and subject to imprisonment, exile or execution. However, after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the once highly classified documents of the Soviet government and communist party were opened up to researchers. Holodomor has been documented in detail by many historians and eyewitness accounts have been gathered, revealing the magnitude and the deliberate intentions of the genocide. Some of the eyewitness accounts have been gathered from survivors currently living in Edmonton.

That Holodomor was genocide is supported by incontrovertible facts established through examination of archival documents, eyewitness accounts and demographic analysis:

• Farmers' seed grain was taken from them and then all food was removed from Ukraine's villages.

• Villages that did not cooperate were blacklisted, that is, these villages were surrounded by secret police, all food was removed, and anyone who tried to flee was executed.

• Ukraine was the only Soviet republic where borders were sealed, denying starving people the opportunity to search for food.

• The Famine Genocide targeted Ukraine as well as the Kuban region in Russia, which was predominantly settled by ethnic Ukrainians.

• Ukraine experienced a sizeable loss in population while the rest of the Soviet Union showed population growth in the 1930's. Demographic studies have shown a disproportionate loss of life in Ukraine during the 1930s compared to other parts of the Soviet Union.

Following the mass-famine was a very deliberate campaign of "russification". The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, predominant in eastern Ukraine where Holodomor was most widespread, was destroyed, priests were exiled or executed and overnight, Ukrainian Orthodox churches were reduced to rubble. Ukrainian intellectuals and artists were exiled or executed and the Ukrainian language and culture were suppressed.

Edmonton Catholic Schools joins the governments of Canada, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec in establishing a Holodomor Memorial Day as a way of paying tribute to the millions who died. Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba also include Holodomor as a mandatory topic to be taught in their curriculum.

School Council

Parents are always welcome to join us for our School Council meetings. Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 pm.** Minutes from previous meetings can be found on our school website: www.goodshepherd.ecsd.net.

Walk-a-thon Thank you! Record Breaking Totals!

We have some incredible news to share! Together, our school community raised a record-breaking $28,092.30! What an amazing accomplishment!

The Good Shepherd School Council and Parent Advisory Association extend a massive thank-you to our amazing families for showing up in such an incredible way! These funds will go a long way toward supporting opportunities, experiences, and resources at our school. We are so grateful and excited about what this will make possible for our students.

Congratulations to Our Top Classes for Participation!

A special shout-out to the three classes with the highest participation rates:

1. Kindergarten A – 79%
2. Kindergarten B – 71%
3. Grade 4B – 70%

Congratulations to Our Top Classes for Total Funds Raised!

These classes raised the highest total amounts in pledges:

1. Grade 1B – $2,384.00
2. Grade 1C – $1,547.00
3. Grade 5A – $1,501.00

A Special Shout-Out to Our Top Fundraisers!

Congratulations to the top three students in the school for the total amount raised in pledges:

1. Mateo (1C) – $705.00
2. Theo (1B) – $565.00
3. Rafael (2C) – $410.00

Once again, thank you, Good Shepherd families, for making this fundraiser such an incredible success! Your generosity and school spirit make a real difference, and we are so fortunate to have such a supportive school community.

With gratitude,

~Your Good Shepherd School Council and Parent Advisory Association



Remembrance Day Ceremony ~ November 10

November 11 is a day on which the poppy is proudly worn over our hearts. On this day, as Canadians, we honor our duty to remember and pay tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country.

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 10 at 9:30 a.m. Poppies will be distributed to students that morning. Donations to the poppy fund are gratefully accepted, and all proceeds go to support our veterans.

Students who are members of Cadets, Girl Guides, Scouts, or similar organizations are welcome to wear their uniforms on this day as a way to show pride and respect.

Student-Led Conferences

Bookings for our November Student-led Conferences opens on Monday, November 2!

Student-led Conferences will take place on Tuesday, November 24 (Mrs. Mazer's Kindergarten A and B homerooms), Wednesday, November 25 (Mrs. Mazer's Kindergarten A and B homerooms) and Thursday, November 26 (Kindergarten to Grade 6).

Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to share in the learning that has taken place via their child's portfolio and have the opportunity to celebrate successes, set goals and touch base with the homeroom teacher.

Due to the number of Kindergarten students that are in Mrs. Mazer's Kindergarten A and B homerooms, Mrs. Mazer's Student-led Conferences will be held over three days:

- Tuesday, November 24
- Wednesday, November 25
- Thursday, November 26.

We are pleased to once again be using the online program *Conference Manager* to schedule Student-led Conferences this year. The *Booking Steps* below will give you step by step instructions to assist you with booking your conference time.

Step 1 (Only necessary if you did not register last year)

Pre-Register at

https://gsc-ecsd.schoolsoft.com

- Click the REGISTER NOW button and complete the registration form. Your login credentials (email and password) will remain in the system to make it easy to access *Conference Manager* in the future.
- If you are using an older browser, *Conference Manager* will automatically prompt you to update your browser and provide you with a link. This is a one-time process and only takes a couple of minutes.
- In order to ensure that your email program does not block emails sent from the *Conference Manager* , we suggest adding appointments@schoolsoft.com to your contacts.

Step 2 – *Conference Manager* Opens to Parents/Guardians on Monday, November 2 @ 6:00 am

- You can access the Parent Login Page using the link in the Confirmation Email. If you do not receive a Confirmation Email, you can login by going directly to https://gsc-ecsd.schoolsoft.com .

Step 3 – Book your Student-led Conference

- Select the conference session that corresponds with your child's homeroom.
- Select the teachers with whom you would like to schedule conferences. You will be able to view each teacher's available time slots.
- Once you have booked your appointments, you can print your schedule for reference. You will also receive an email confirmation containing each teacher's name, time, and location of the conference.

- You can log into the system at any time to view, print, cancel, or reschedule your appointments.

Please be sure to arrive at your booked time to respect other families' schedules. Only a limited number of families are scheduled for each time slot to allow for meaningful discussion with the teacher.

In addition, all children must remain with their parents at all times; they cannot be left unsupervised at the Book Fair or in other areas of the school.

As always, if you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you at our November Student-led Conferences!

Health and Allergy Advisory

Food allergies have become more and more prevalent in our society. For some children and adults, the allergy to a food is so severe that it does not take ingesting it to trigger the reaction. Simply being around the food or making contact unintentionally can trigger a life-threatening reaction. This is the case for several children and staff at Good Shepherd School. **Please ensure that no nut products are sent in school lunches. Please read the ingredients of all snacks, such as granola bars, as many contain traces of peanuts, tree nuts or other nuts.** For the safety of these individuals, we ask for your cooperation in not sending to school snacks or lunches containing nuts or peanuts. We also ask that you refrain from having your children use highly-perfumed products. Your respect for students and staff with asthma, allergies and other lung conditions is appreciated. THANK YOU!



"Edmonton Catholic School Division Annual Dream Builders Challenge" in Support of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation and its Dreams for Kids Campaign

As a school, we will have a series of events that the students/families can participate in to raise money for the ECSD Annual Dream Builders Challenge in support of the ECS Foundation and its Dreams for Kids campaign. Dreams for Kids supports lunch and snack programs, support for students with mental health needs, resources for families in emergency crisis, financial subsidies for students to participate in school activities,

opportunities for students to participate in social justice activities, and funds disadvantaged children who would benefit from early childhood education. The events that will occur at Good Shepherd are:

Movie Day - The students can bring in a $5 donation towards a healthy snack. All students will watch a movie on **Friday, November 27, 2026**.

Bend-the-Rules Day - Students can bring in a donation to bend rules that have been determined by their classroom teacher on **Thursday, January 28, 2027**.

We thank you in advance for participating in the Annual Dream Builders Challenge and understanding the value of this campaign has for many students in the Edmonton Catholic School Division.

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line

Health Canada has announced the launch of the ***First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310 (Toll free)***
Callers can access the Help Line 24/7 effective immediately.

The Hope for Wellness Help Line is to provide immediate ***culturally competent*** telephone-based ***crisis intervention counselling*** to ***First Nations and Inuit young people and adults*** experiencing distress. Help Line calls will be answered by experienced crisis intervention counsellors, and service will be available in English and French. Callers may also ask about the availability of service in Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut.

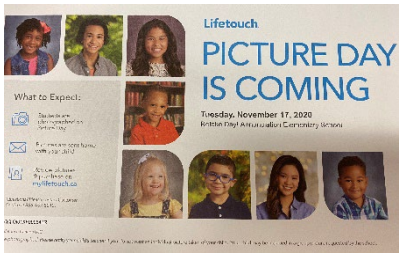


Regular Bedtime is Important

One topic that we hear mentioned frequently by parents is bedtime. At school we see what happens when students do not get enough sleep. Students have a hard time keeping up when they are tired. Children need a regular bedtime and a regular bedtime routine. The bedtime should be based on the child's need for sleep and sleeping patterns.

It is good to have a planned routine for getting ready for bed and getting into bed. This may include bathing, brushing teeth, drinking a glass of water, saying good night, reading, or listening to music. Soothing, quiet activities may make the transition to sleeping easier. If your child has a difficult time falling asleep or has nightmares, your involvement in the "soothing" activities may need to be more extensive. Reading with your child may provide additional assurance to your child at bedtime. For younger children, a favorite toy or a night-light may be comforting too. Bedtime is a special time to be with a child.

A good night's sleep helps everyone have a better day! We hope these ideas are helpful to you and your children.



Picture Retakes ~ November 3

Picture retakes will be taking place early in the morning on Tuesday, November 3. Please let the homeroom teacher know if you would like your child to have retakes done.

BusPlanner Delays App



Parents can access the BusPlanner Delays App which will provide them with updates on the status of a particular yellow bus route. The App just needs to be downloaded onto your smartphone. It's very easy!

Severe Weather Conditions and Yellow Bus Service

Given the possible extremes of Edmonton weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming. Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location. Parents must then make alternate arrangements to get their child to school. Parents should also ensure that:

- children are supervised at the bus stop
- children have a place to go in the event the bus does not arrive
- children have alternate arrangements for getting to school should the bus not arrive
- children are suitably clothed to withstand weather extremes.

Transportation Services normal operational procedures for delayed transportation also apply in severe weather conditions.

The carrier is responsible for notifying the school and the Transportation Services office when a route is running late.

Good Shepherd Reading Superstars Program



Our monthly draw for our Good Shepherd Reading Superstars was held on October 30, and we are excited to congratulate our lucky winners! Our Grade 1–6 winners will enjoy a special lunch with Mrs. Dimas, Mrs. Schultz, and Mrs. Pecson on Friday, November 6, while our Kindergarten winners will get to “shop” for a brand-new book of their choice!

Congratulations to our October Reading Superstars:

- **Kindergarten:** Noah, Emma, Layton and Juliana
- **Grade One:** Harry, Karo, Levi and Thomas
- **Grade Two:** Henry, Kassandra and Davyd
- **Grade Three:** Sochima, Halle and Shairyh
- **Grade Four:** Joseph, Adrian, Liam and Lochlin W.
- **Grade Five:** Elijah, Aadia and Rilian
- **Grade Six:** Isa, Siera and Valerie

🏆 **And now for our top classes!**

A huge congratulations to **4C**, who collected a whopping **185 reading strips** this month! **2A** came in second with **117 strips**, followed by **5A** in third place with **104 strips**. Way to go, everyone!

A special thank you to our Saints Reading Superstars Leadership Committee—Angel, Alexa, Sabella and Renee—for their help counting all those reading strips!

And, of course, thank you to our families for continuing to encourage reading at home and supporting your children’s participation. Every reading strip represents time spent building a love of reading!

Keep reading, Saints! 🌟

Good Shepherd House News



We will be starting our school house activities in November. Our houses are based on the 7 Grandfather Teachings - Humility (Wolf), Courage (Bear), Honesty (Raven), Wisdom (Beaver), Truth (Turtle), Respect (Buffalo) and Love (Eagle). It is a great way for the children to learn more about the Grandfather Teachings as each month we will focus on one of the teachings. Children can earn rocks as rewards for house challenges/behavior/activities, and earned rocks are placed in house jars situated in all classrooms. At the end of the month the rocks are counted, and rock totals are announced.

All children will remain in the same houses they were in last year (they stay in the same house until they leave our school site). The children were given bookmarks during Read-In Week identifying their house.

For November we will follow the trait of Bear House (Courage). Children can earn rocks for showing acts of courage. The character traits for each house have been posted in common areas of the school. Homeroom teachers will also be focusing on the trait of being courageous (making connections through literature and learning engagements) during the month of November.

Thank you for supporting the development of the 7 Sacred Grandfather teachings at home.

Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!

Get Ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). What a wonderful way to continue your child's reading journey by finding favourite books or characters or even discovering new ones! Did you know...

- 94% of students say their favourite books

  are the ones they picked out themselves

- 92% believe they're more likely to finish

  reading a book they've chosen.

Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them to become bolder, prouder, and stronger readers.

For parents, family, or friends, you can join us at our book fair on November 26 during our Student-led Conferences. You will find us set up in the school library. The book fair will also be open to students during school hours from Monday, November 23 to the morning of November 27.

All purchases benefit our school and earn scholastic dollars that can be redeemed for books or educational resources for our classrooms and school library.

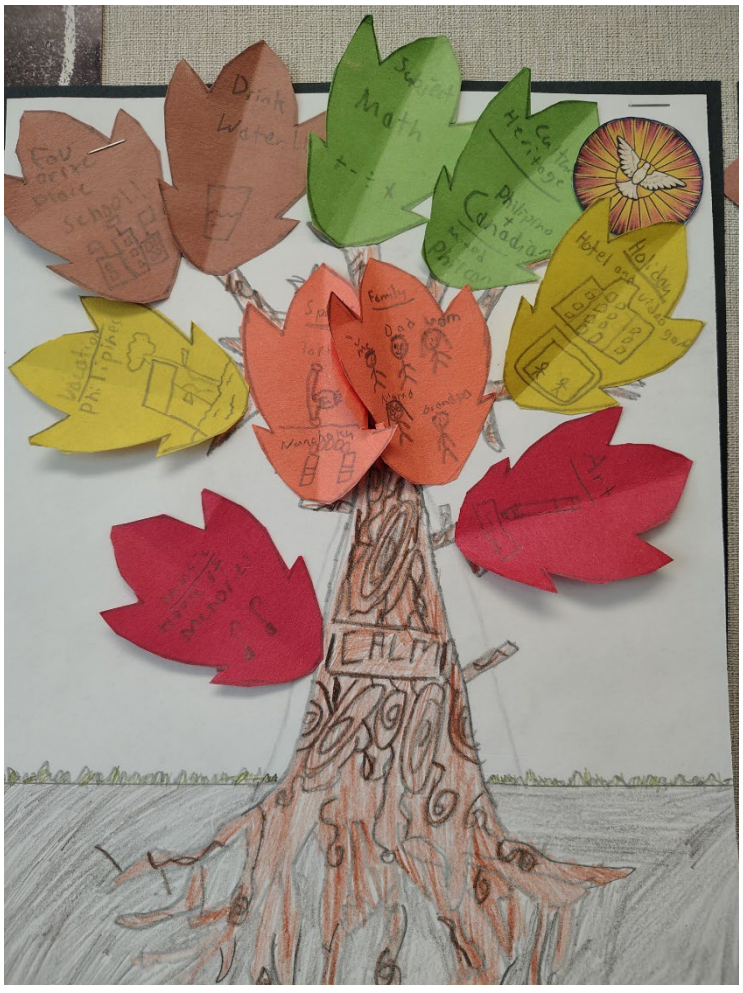
The countdown to more book joy is on!

Catch you at the fair!

~Erin Strelkov, Media Resources

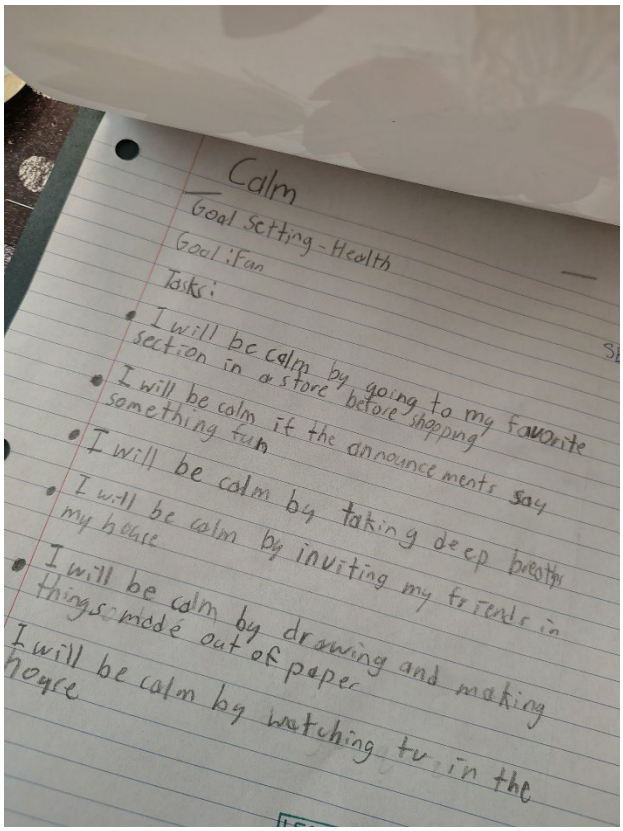
Mrs. Casebeer's 4C: Dream Big, Set Goals, Grow with Joy!

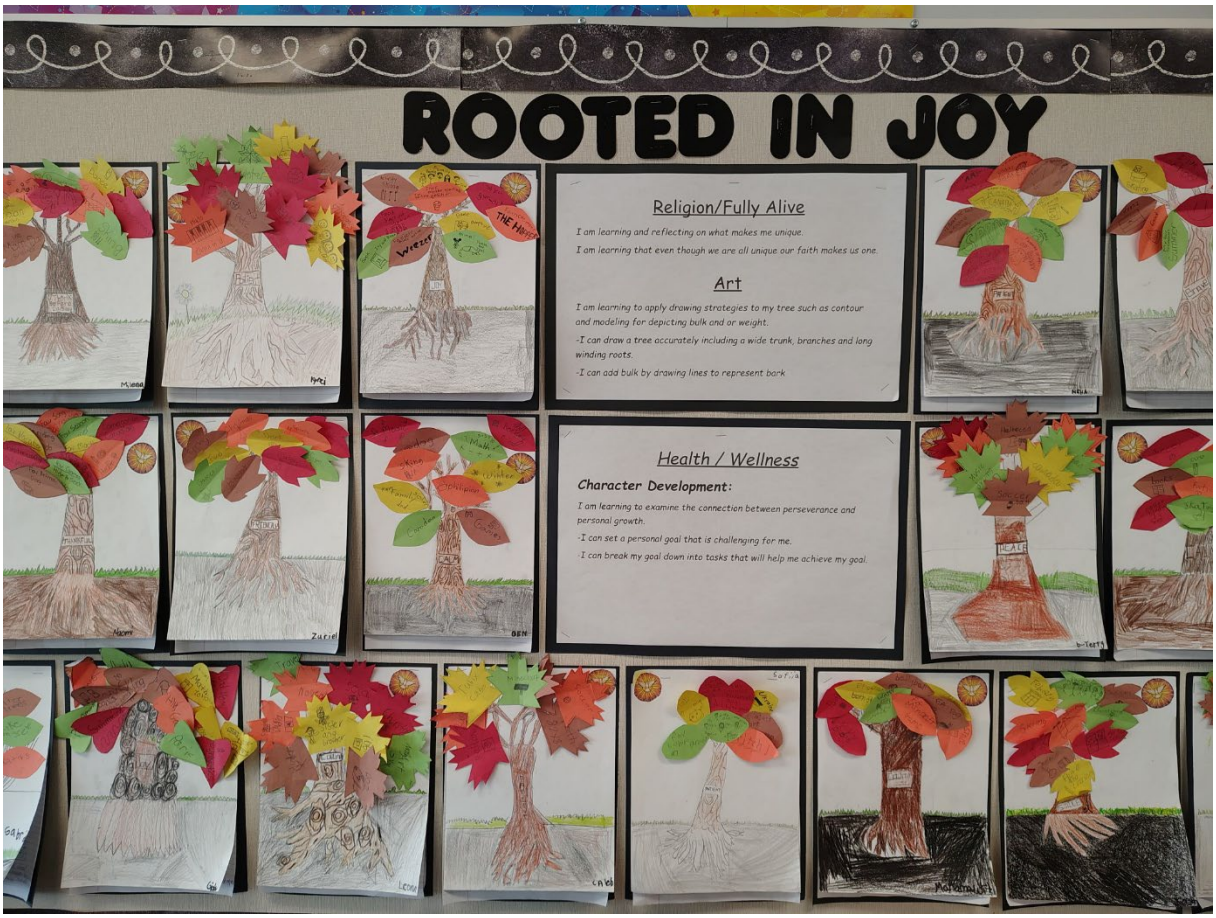
In 4C, students explored this year's district theme, Rooted in Joy, by reflecting on their strengths, interests, and personal aspirations. Using drawing strategies, each student created a tree that represented who they are and what makes them unique.

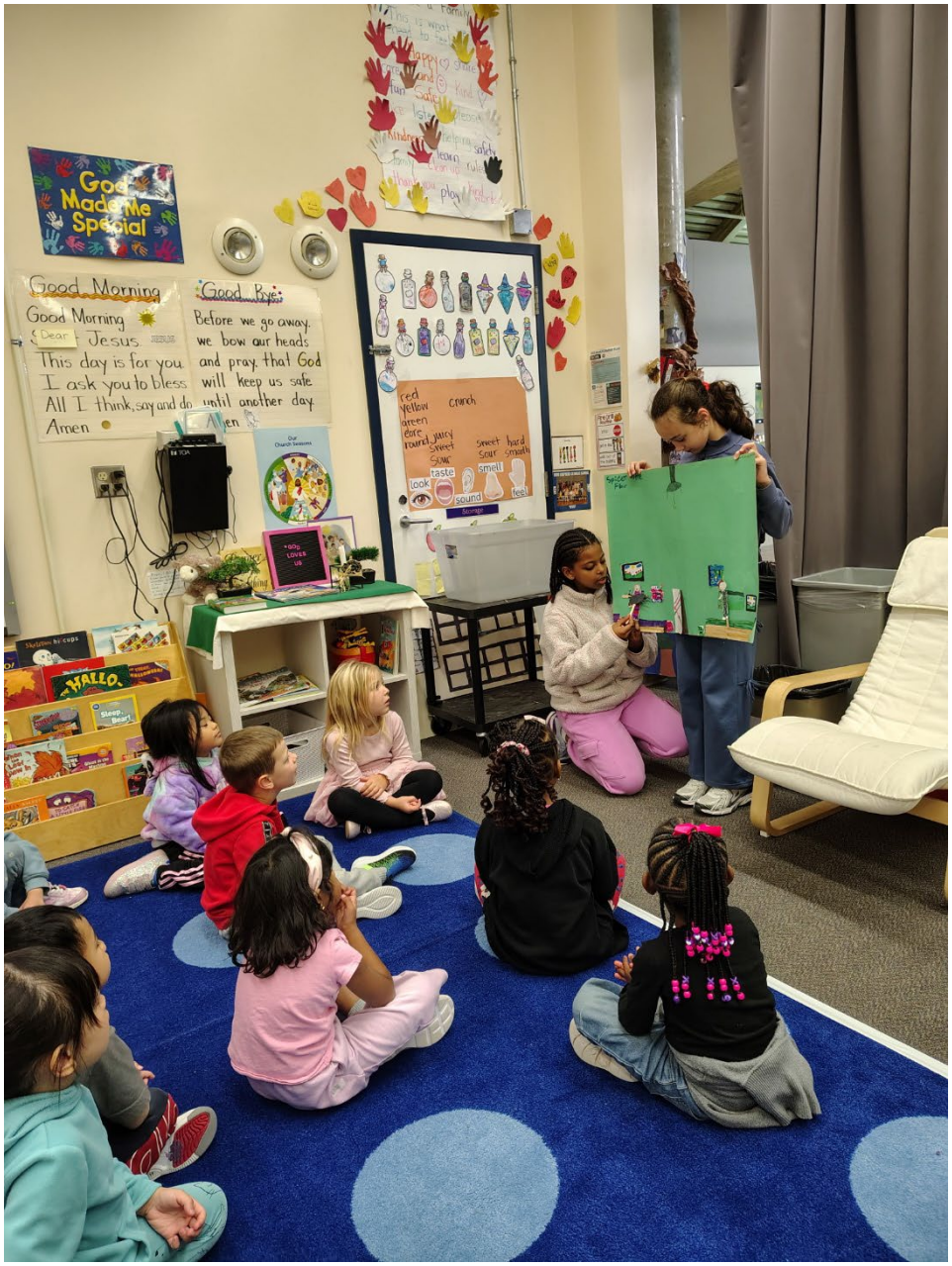


Students then selected a meaningful one-word goal for the school year and creatively incorporated it into their tree artwork. To support their success, they practiced breaking their goal down into smaller, achievable steps and discussed how these actions can help them grow throughout the year.

Through this activity, students are developing important lifelong skills, including goal setting, resilience, perseverance, and self-reflection. We look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and work toward their goals while staying rooted in joy all year long! 🌳 ✨


Calm
Goal Setting - Health
Goal: I can
Tasks:
I will be calm by going to my favorite section in a store before shopping
I will be calm if the announcements say something fun
I will be calm by taking deep breaths
I will be calm by inviting my friends in my house
I will be calm by drawing and making things made out of paper
I will be calm by watching tv in the house


ROOTED IN JOY
Religion/Fully Alive
I am learning and reflecting on what makes me unique.
I am learning that even though we are all unique our faith makes us one.
Art
I am learning to apply drawing strategies to my tree such as contour and modeling for depicting bulk and or weight.
-I can draw a tree accurately including a wide trunk, branches and long winding roots.
-I can add bulk by drawing lines to represent bark
Health / Wellness
Character Development:
I am learning to examine the connection between perseverance and personal growth.
-I can set a personal goal that is challenging for me.
-I can break my goal down into tasks that will help me achieve my goal.



Spooktacular Poetry in 4C

Mrs. Casebeer's Halloween Showcase!

The students in 4C had a wonderful time bringing Halloween poetry to life! Working in pairs, students memorized a Halloween poem and collaborated to create engaging backgrounds and puppets to enhance their performance.

After plenty of practice, students shared their presentations with several Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes. Their goal was to create a specific mood for their audience, whether spooky, funny, or cheerful. Through this experience, students strengthened their oral presentation skills by using appropriate volume, expression, pacing, and intonation to communicate their poem effectively.

Students also learned how visual aids can enhance communication and engage an audience. We were so proud of the creativity, teamwork, and confidence our students demonstrated as they entertained and inspired our younger learners!


Good Bye
before we go away.
we bow our heads
and pray. that God
will keep us safe
until another day.
Our
Church Seasons
*GOD
LOVES
US
red
yellow
green
core
round
Juicy
Sweet
Sour
Crunch
Sweet
Sour
hard
smooth
taste
smell
look
sound
feel
Storage
Five
Little
Pumpkins



Mrs. Schmidt's Kindergarten D Students Become Apple Scientists!

KD became scientists during the month of October as they investigated different types of apples, including red, green, and yellow varieties, using their five senses. Students carefully observed how the apples looked, felt, smelled, sounded when they were bitten, and tasted.

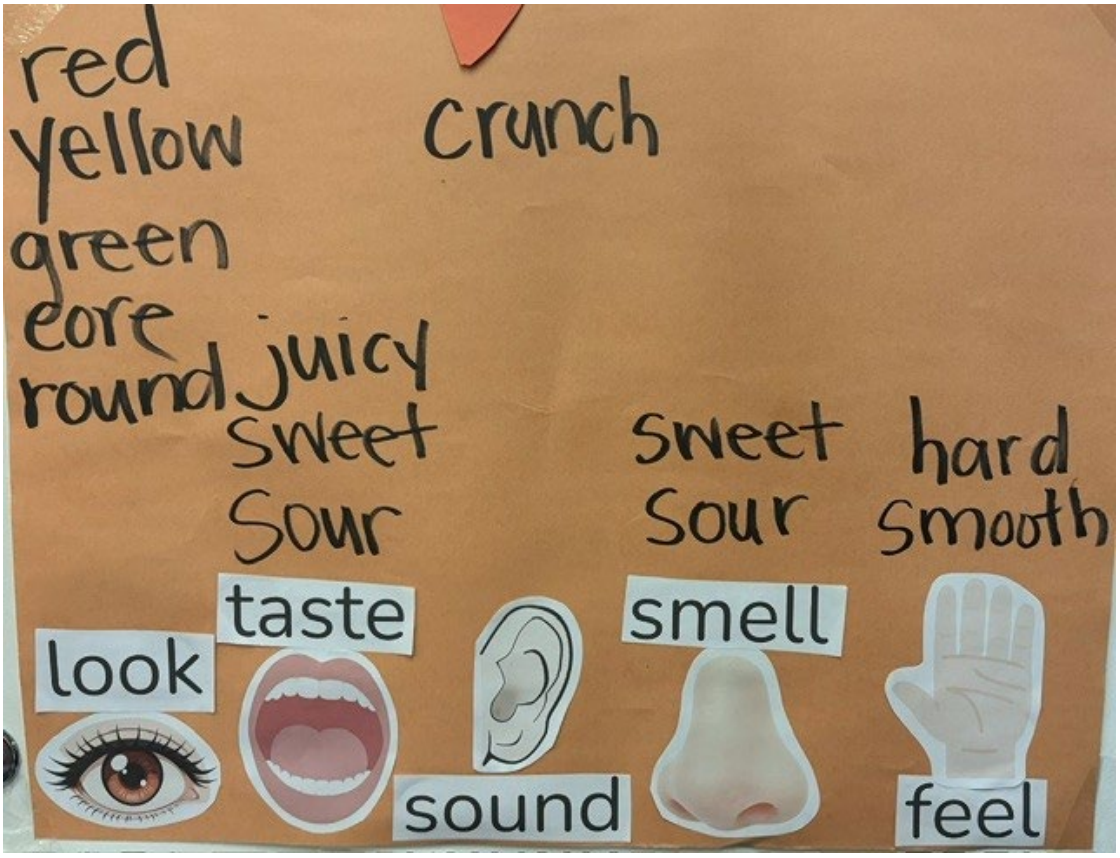
As they explored, the children worked together to build their vocabulary by thinking of descriptive words for their sensory experiences. They used words such as *sweet, sour, crunchy, juicy, smooth,* and *delicious* to describe the different apples.

After tasting each variety, students cast their votes for their favourite apple. The class enjoyed comparing results and discussing what made each apple unique. This hands-on investigation

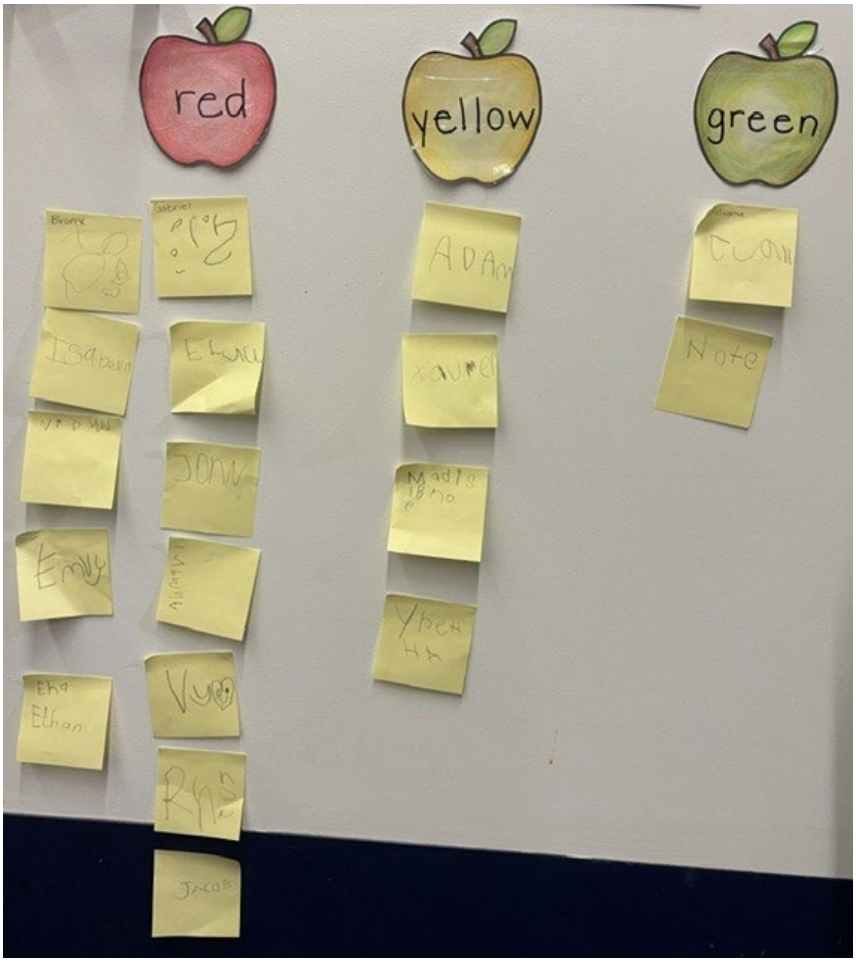
helped develop observation skills, descriptive language, and an appreciation for healthy foods while having fun learning like real scientists!






red
yellow
green
core
round
juicy
sweet
sour
crunch
sweet
sour
hard
smooth
look
taste
sound
smell
feel


Apple Taste Test
Apples taste
Apples sound
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr
Jj Kk Ll Mm





Inspired by our Good Shepherd, Jesus, to Love, Learn and Lead.

Good Shepherd Church Sacramental Preparation Information

Online registrations for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Sacrament of Reconciliation & First Communion 2027 will open on the Church's Website at the end of November.

Little Lifesavers in Action

Mr. Griebel's 5A Takes on Junior First Aid!

Mr. Griebel and his Grade 5A students are learning valuable, potentially life-saving skills through St. John Ambulance's We Can Help Too! Junior First Aid program. In the following pictures, students are practicing CPR to the beat of the Bee Gees' classic song Stayin' Alive , which helps them learn the rhythm of chest compressions. Other topics covered in the program include poison safety, fire safety, bleeding, and bandaging. Students will receive their Junior First Aid certificates in November— congratulations to 5A on learning how to help others in an emergency!





Inspired by our Good Shepherd, Jesus, to Love, Learn and Lead.


adjective
A word that describes or gives more information about a noun or pronoun.
A day without laughter is a day wasted.


Parts of Speech
verb
adverb
NOTICE
DO NOT BLOCK
Science
Blake
Arabhya

Cozy Up, Good Shepherd! November School Spirit Day ~ Friday, November 20

Get ready to get cozy! On Friday, November 20, Good Shepherd will celebrate our November School Spirit Day with a Cozy Pyjama Day! Students and staff are invited to wear their favourite school-appropriate pyjamas and enjoy a little extra comfort as we bring some warmth and fun to our school day.



Our monthly School Spirit Days are initiatives led by our Saints Leadership Team, who do a wonderful job of creating opportunities to build school spirit, strengthen connections, and bring our Good Shepherd community together. We look forward to seeing everyone's cozy creations and celebrating another fun day of school spirit!

apple SCHOOLS

Alberta Project Promoting active Living & healthy Eating

APPLE Core-ner

Unwind Your Mind

This month, students are learning the benefits of being mindful through a campaign called Unwind Your Mind. Here is a summary of the learnings.

What is mindfulness?

It's about maintaining awareness of our thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and the surrounding environment.

Being mindful helps us pay attention and practice being present in the moment, instead of thinking about the past or the future.[2]

Mindfulness teaches you to be in control of your mind, instead of the other way around.[1]

How do you practice mindfulness?

Meditation, relaxation, deep breathing, reading, and stretching are all ways to train your mind and body to relax while you take time for yourself.[1]

Try a breathing exercise.

1. Take a slow breath in through your nose all the way down to your lower belly for about 4 seconds.
2. Hold that breath for 1-2 seconds.
3. Exhale your breath slowly through your mouth for about 4 seconds.
4. Wait 2-3 seconds before taking another breath. Repeat.

Try doing this about 6-8 times per minute for about 5 minutes, twice a day.
Slowing down and taking long, deep breaths can help you get perspective, come up with creative solutions to problems and decrease your anxiety.