

Jan Pawel II Polish Bilingual Program



The Polish bilingual program known as the Jan Pawel II program was formally established in 1984 at St. Alphonsus School in Edmonton Catholic. The program began as the result of two years of very hard work by the program founders and eventually began with a kindergarten, grade one and grade two classes. By 1986 it was a K-6 program with six teachers and administrative support.

It must be noted and celebrated that this is the only publicly funded Polish Bilingual Program in North America and we consider it a precious gift within our school district.

In 1991 the program was moved to its present location in St. Basil School (10210-115ave) and we proudly serve 280 children in grades K-9. Our program offers a very safe, caring learning environment for children from all over the city of Edmonton and bussing is provided as it is considered a district program with strong support by trustees and administration alike.

The school has a day care and out of school care that provides care and attention to children who require before and after school support and it is a service greatly appreciated by parents.

Our school has wonderful facilities including two gyms, science, computer, and CTS labs along with a great music and art program. In junior high the regular sports of soccer, basketball, volleyball and track are offered and we have the unique program of uni hockey (European Floorball) for both elementary and junior high. This latter sport is gaining momentum in Edmonton schools and our team has just won the Lions invitational trophy for 2007. In addition two of our present grade nine students and two of our alumni are going to Montreal in June as members of our provincial uni hockey team. It should be noted that this past year the Polish team won a gold medal in the world games and the Polish women's team is currently playing in a world tournament in

Finland. This sport offers a great future to our children who excel in the skills of the game.

Our grade nine students take high school language credits with them into high school as they write the high school exam in Polish in grade nine. This gives them a head start in their high school career and we hope that many if not all choose to continue their Polish studies.

Throughout the school we celebrate as many Polish traditional feasts as possible and we take great pride in our namesake by celebrating him in every way we can. As we near his birthday we dedicate a week of remembrance and prayer in his memory.

Since 1984 this program has become firmly established and continues to grow as the news spreads throughout the community. Each year we attract new families as they become aware of the quality of education and the safety offered here at Jan Pawel II. Each year we enjoy visits from dignitaries from our consulate in Vancouver and from Poland who never cease to be amazed at how much the Polish community has accomplished here in the city!

This school has a great relationship with our many Polish groups and we interact and support each other on many occasions. We along with our Polish Saturday schools keep the language alive for children and the future is very bright.

Our Polish dance groups and our Polish scouts offer night and weekend events for many children and young adults here at school and information on either can be had by calling the school at any time. 477-3584.

In closing please accept an open invitation to visit at your leisure and experience the warmth of an awesome school staffed by an outstanding teaching staff and supported by the greatest parents you will ever meet.



