



# News Release

## **St. Teresa of Avila School celebrates 40 years of excellence in Catholic education**

***For immediate release – October 16, 2024***

St. Teresa of Avila School, located in the vibrant Glendale community of northwest Red Deer, is proud to celebrate its 40th anniversary this year.

Officially opening its doors in September 1984, the school has remained a cornerstone of academic and spiritual growth for its students, serving children from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5. With a current student population of approximately 370 and a dedicated staff of 68, St. Teresa continues to provide a nurturing environment grounded in faith-based education.

Over the years, St. Teresa of Avila School has expanded its offerings to meet the evolving needs of students and families. Special programs such as Early Literacy Intervention, Speech Services, and a Foundations Program provide targeted support, while the Before and After School Care service helps families balance their daily routines. These programs underscore the school's commitment to creating a holistic educational experience that addresses both academic and personal development.

As part of the celebrations, the school will be reflecting on its rich history and looking forward to continued growth and success.

"For 40 years, St. Teresa of Avila School has been a place where students can develop their full potential in a caring and faith-filled environment. This milestone is a testament to the incredible community of educators, students, and families who have helped shape the school into the special place it is today. We are excited to celebrate this anniversary and look forward to many

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more years of serving the Glendale community," said St. Teresa of Avila School Principal Dana Pikkert.

The school takes inspiration from its patron saint, St. Teresa of Avila, a revered figure in the Catholic tradition. Born in Avila, Spain, in 1515, St. Teresa became known for her deep devotion to prayer and her reform of the Carmelite order. Despite facing significant challenges in her life, including illness, she remained steadfast in her faith and left a lasting legacy of spiritual wisdom. Her teachings on the importance of a virtuous life and the presence of God in every aspect of our lives continue to inspire the school community. St. Teresa's feast day celebrated on October 15, is a reminder of her enduring impact.

As the school commemorates this special anniversary, it invites past and present students, staff, and community members to join in the celebrations. Together, they will honour the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a bright future.

The school also continues to raise funds to build a new inclusive playground that will remove barriers, allowing students the opportunity to enjoy a playground that is accessible to all. To make a donation, please visit <https://varietyalberta.ca/give> and select "St. Teresa of Avila Inclusive Playground" from the drop down menu.

*St. Teresa of Avila School opened in 1984 and is located in the Glendale community of Red Deer, Alberta. The school provides a supportive learning environment for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5 and is committed to fostering academic excellence, faith development, and community engagement.*

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