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## May 2026

### *Administration Message*

Dear Families,

May is a very special month...it is the month of Our Lady. It is a special time when we are asked to be aware of our Blessed Mother in our lives and to renew our dedication to her through prayer and reflection. The month of May is dedicated to our school namesake, St. Mary.

On May 8, St. Mary students will be celebrating St. Mary Feast Day, honouring our mother, Mary. Students are invited to wear blue or their St. Mary wear on this day.

During the month of May we celebrate Catholic Education Sunday on Mother's Day, May 10. The feast of Ascension is celebrated on Thursday, May 14, 40 days after Easter Sunday to mark Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. World Catholic Education Day is celebrated on May 28, which is a time for reflection and prayer, celebrating the gift of Catholic education. We are again invited to wear blue on this day. During the month of May we also celebrate Mental Health Week from May 4 to 10 and Asian Heritage month where contributions of Asian Canadians to Canadian Society are recognized and honoured.

#### **Prayer:**

O God, Creator and ruler of all things, whose only begotten son,  
as he hung upon the cross,  
chose the blessed virgin Mary, his mother, to be our Mother also, grant, we pray,  
that with her loving help your Church may be more fruitful day by day and,  
exulting in the holiness of her children, may draw to her embrace all the families of the people.

#### **STAY CONNECTED and follow us on:**

Website: <https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8237> or <https://stmary.ecsd.net/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/st\\_mary\\_elementary/](https://www.instagram.com/st_mary_elementary/)

REMINDER - Please visit the St. Mary Website calendar often for updated calendar dates [stmary.ecsd.net/calendar](https://stmary.ecsd.net/calendar)

# Important Dates

## MAY 2026

- April 30** Leadership Appreciation Day
- April 30** **2026-2027** Kindergarten Orientation Day
- May** Asian Heritage Month
- May 2-3** Enoch Cree Nation Spring Powwow—The Venue at River Cree  
Contact: [powwow@enochnation.ca](mailto:powwow@enochnation.ca)
- May 4-10** Mental Health Week
- May 4** Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 4-June 6** Redeem Hanging Basket Vouchers at Creekside Home and Garden
- May 6** **Kindergarten Full Day of Classes**  
**Spring Concert and Art Auction**  
- 1:30 Dress Rehearsal  
- 6:30 Concert (doors open at 6:00 pm)
- May 8** St. Mary Feast Day - wear blue  
**(Change of Date) Hats on for Mental Health Day - Wear a Hat Today!**
- May 9-15** Catholic Education Week (moved from October 18-24)
- May 9** Ben Calf robe traditional Powwow 1 pm Commonwealth Community Rec Center
- May 10** Mother's Day  
Catholic Education Sunday (moved from October 19)
- May 11** Subway Hot Lunch - Order deadline Wednesday, May 6 @ 11:59 pm  
Grade 4-6 Words that Hurt Presentation by Shelley Yu
- May 11-22** School Council Read-a-thon
- May 13** Kindergarten Full Day of Classes - Visit Valley Zoo  
Grades 1A, 1/2A and 2A In-school Fieldtrip - Creative Caravan
- May 14** Ascension Day- 40 days after Easter - Feast of Ascension Celebrated on Sunday, May 17
- May 15-18** **NO CLASSES - Victoria Day Long Weekend**
- May 19** Tuesday, May 19, Classes Resume at 8:15 am
- May 19-27** Rhythm, Rhythm, Rhythm Drumming residency
- May 22** **Grade 6 PAT English Language Arts Part A**
- May 24** Pentecost Sunday
- May 25** Pizza Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, May 20 @ 11:59 pm
- May 27** Read-a-thon logs and pledges due back at school  
**Rhythm, Rhythm, Rhythm Finale - Parents Invited to Participate!**
- May 28** World Catholic Education Day - Wear blue in support of Catholic Education
- May 29** **Multicultural Day** - Children are invited to share aspects of their identity in ways that feel meaningful to them. This may include sharing stories, bringing items important to their culture, or choosing to wear traditional clothing, if they wish.



# Important Dates

## JUNE 2026

June	National Indigenous Heritage Month
June 1	<b>Transportation Deadline for 2026-2027 for all NEW bus applications (K-6)</b> Wild North Virtual Fieldtrip - Grade 4/5A and 5A 10:30-11:30 am
June 3	Read-a-thon Draw
June 4	<b>Grade 6 PAT Language Arts Part B</b>
June 5	Patrollers Picnic at Rundle Park
June 8	Grade 6 to Birch Bay Ranch SWP - all day Subway Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, June 3 @ 11:59 p.m.
June 11	<b>Grade 6 Social Studies PAT</b>
June 12	<b>Grade 6 Science PAT</b> Grade 1A, 1/2A and 2A to Telus World of Science
June 15	<b>Grade 6 PAT Mathematics Part A - AM</b> Grade 6 Immunizations in afternoon, HepB and HPV - PM
June 18	<b>Grade 6 PAT Mathematics Part B</b>
June 19	<b>Grade 6 Farewell - 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the school gym</b>
June 21	Father's Day National Indigenous Day
June 22	Kindergarten Full Day of Classes Year end Mass 9:30 am at St. Thomas More - Students walk - Parent welcome! Kindergarten - Grade 3 Afternoon Fun Day
June 23	<b>Last Day of Classes - FULL DAY of Classes - Dismissal at 3:00 p.m.</b> Final report cards live in Powerschool at 4:00 p.m.

### **GRADE 6 PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT EXAM SCHEDULE 2026**

**Please note a change of dates for the Provincial Achievement Exams**

It is expected that all Grade 6 students write the Provincial Achievement Exams.

If you need to request an exemption or excusal, please contact the Principal as soon as possible.

May 22	Grade 6 Language Arts & Literature Part A	9 AM - 11 AM
June 4	Grade 6 Language Arts & Literature Part B	9 AM - 10 AM
June 11	Grade 6 Social Studies	9 AM - 10 AM
June 12	Grade 6 Science	9 AM - 10 AM
June 15	Grade 6 Mathematics Part A	9 AM - 9:30 AM
June 18	Grade 6 Mathematics Part B	9 AM - 10:15 AM

## MAY is ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Asian Heritage Month happens every year in May. During school announcements in the month of May, students will be learning about the contributions Canadians of Asian descent have made, and continue to make to Canada's growth and prosperity. Throughout the year, teachers encourage all students to share and celebrate their heritage and culture.

## UPCOMING INDIGENOUS EVENTS in May

### Upcoming Events:

#### ENOCH CREE NATION SPRING POWWOW: May 2-3, 2026

Location: The Venue at River Cree

Contact: [powwow@enochnation.ca](mailto:powwow@enochnation.ca)

#### BEN CALF ROBE TRADITIONAL POWWOW: MAY 9, 2026

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 features Indigenous culture and history, with performances by diverse dancers and drummers. Attendees can also explore a variety of artisan, craft, and food vendors. Everyone is welcome! For more details, visit [ecsd.net/powwow](http://ecsd.net/powwow).

### Pow Wow Protocol for Spectators:

Pow Wows in Treaty 6 Territory are important cultural gatherings that celebrate Indigenous identity and community. Spectators are welcome and are asked to respect the following protocols:

- Visitors should always follow the guidance of the MC, as they will announce protocols throughout the event.
- Certain moments, such as Grand Entry, honour songs, memorial songs, flag songs, or prayers, require everyone to stand as a sign of respect. During these times, hats should be removed, movement should be kept to a minimum and photography is restricted.
- Dancers' regalia are sacred and should never be touched without permission.

Spectators are asked to remain outside the dance area unless invited to participate, such as during intertribal dances.

**BEN CALF ROBE TRADITIONAL POW WOW**  
Saturday, May 9, 2026

**Prayers FOR Peace**  
NITOTAMĀTĀN PĒYĀHTAKĒYIMOWĪN

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE — INDOOR FIELD HOUSE  
11000 STADIUM ROAD NW  
TIME: 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM • GRAND ENTRY: 1:00 PM

## **SPRING CONCERT May 6**

Parents and extended family are invited to the St. Mary Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. The concert is based on the book "*The Day the Crayons Quit*" by Drew Daywalt. Due to our gymnasium's capacity limit, **each family will receive two guest tickets** each. If you have a small child that does not require a seat, they may attend and sit on your lap or in their car seat. Please contact the school if you require an additional ticket for a special circumstance or younger siblings that cannot sit on your lap. Prior to the concert, tickets will be sent home with the youngest/only child in each family.

Tickets are needed for entry and will be collected at the door into the gymnasium. Please stay for the whole concert, which is expected to run for 60 minutes, as all the children are in the finale.

On Wednesday, May 6th at 1:30 pm, there will be an open Dress Rehearsal for any extended family or people unable to attend the evening performance.

Please note the schedule below or a smooth day.

**1:30 PM:** Dress rehearsal - Extended families are invited to attend.

**6:00 PM:** Front doors of the school open, students head to their classroom.

**6:15 PM:** All students **must** be in their classrooms

**6:30 PM:** Concert Begins.

**Approx 7:30 PM:** Pick up and sign our your children from the classroom teacher.

### **Attire for the Concert:**

Each class is representing one or two crayon colours from the book. For concert attire, students are being asked to wear dark coloured pants and a solid coloured top/dress in their class colour. If you only have shirts with logos on it, feel free to turn the shirt inside out. We are not expecting parents to have to make an extra purchase for the concert, so if you do not have the specific colour, just try to choose something close. While choosing footwear, please keep in mind that students might be dancing/moving around the gym.

**Kinder:** Green tops

**Grade 1A, 1/2A, 2A:** Pink or Red tops

**Grade 3A, 4A:** Blue tops

**Grade 4/5A, 5A:** Purple or Black tops

**Grade 6A, 6B:** Yellow or Orange tops

We look forward to a wonderful evening with you!



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026**

## **ST. MARY SPRING ART AUCTION - Start Bidding Now!**

The St. Mary Catholic Elementary School Fundraising Association is excited to share that our first-ever Spring Art Auction is now live!

Each class has created a special collaborative 24 inch by 26 inch art piece with the help of Mrs. Miller, and we can't wait for you to see them in person at the Spring Concert.

In the meantime, please click the link below to view the artwork and kindly start the bidding now — your support goes directly toward enhancing our school and creating meaningful opportunities for our students. The Auction closes the night of the Spring Concert, May 6, 2026.

Thank you so much for being part of this!

<https://www.32auctions.com/stmaryspringauction>

St. Mary Catholic Elementary School Fundraising Association





**May 8 (Date Change)**

**Hats on! for Mental Health**

Wear a special hat to school **TODAY!**  
to raise awareness of the importance of good  
mental health!

**Hats On! for Mental Health**

***ST. MARY FEAST DAY - May 8***

During the month of May, St. Mary students will be celebrating St. Mary Faith Day on Friday May 8, honouring our mother, Mary. Students are encouraged to wear **blue** and will be involved in various schoolwide activities throughout the day with a Patron Feast Liturgy at 1 pm.

***School Council READ-A-THON Fundraiser - May 11-22***

Watch for Read-a-thon pledge sheets coming home with your child during the week of May 11. The read-a-thon will run from May 11-22 with **Pledges and Funds raised from sponsors due at the school on Wednesday, May 27.**

Thank you for your support of our School Council fundraising initiatives!

***VICTORIA DAY LONG WEEKEND***

The division Victoria Day long weekend is from Friday, May 15 through Monday, May 18.

**There are NO CLASSES on May Friday, May 15 and Monday, May 18.**

Classes resume Tuesday, May 19 at 8:15 a.m.

***CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK - May 9-15, 2026***

In a spirit of unity and mission, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon have issued a pastoral letter for **Catholic Education Week.**

**“Anchored in Christ, Beacon of Hope” (Hebrews 6:19)** is more than this year’s theme—it is a call to renew our commitment to forming disciples, strengthening Catholic identity, and sharing the hope we have in Christ.

The Bishops’ Letter—produced in partnership between **GrACE** and the **Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA)**—offers a unified pastoral voice that inspires, guides, and strengthens our shared mission. It affirms the constitutional and spiritual foundations of Catholic education, calls for bold witness in challenging times, and expresses deep gratitude to all who serve in this mission.



The **Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories** Les évêques catholiques de l'Alberta, Yukon, et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8401 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 Tel. (780) 469-1010 Fax. (780) 465-3003

Catholic Education Week – October 18 – 24, 2025

*“Anchored in Christ, Beacon of Hope”*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

From the heart of God’s loving providence flows the great gift of Catholic education—a gift entrusted to the Church and cherished across our communities in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. At the very center of this gift stands the person of Jesus Christ, our hope and our anchor, who draws near to each student, calling them into a personal and transforming relationship with Himself.

The passage from the Letter to the Hebrews invites us to anchor our lives in Christ, who alone offers a hope that is "sure and steadfast"—a hope that reaches beyond our limitations and draws us into the very presence of God. This year’s Catholic Education Week theme, *“Anchored in Christ, Beacon of Hope,”* reflects the vocation of Catholic schools to be places where students not only encounter this hope but are formed to share it as radiant witnesses in the world.

Hope in Christ takes root in the home, where children first learn the Faith through the witness of their parents. It is nurtured in the life of the parish, where families gather around the altar and are sustained by Word and Sacrament. And it is cultivated in Catholic schools, where educators, clergy, trustees, and families form a sacred partnership in shaping minds and hearts in the truth and love of Christ.

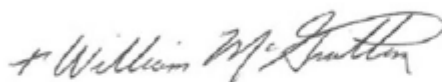
In these times of uncertainty and rapid cultural change, our young people need more than optimism—they need hope founded in Christ. Catholic education offers more than academic excellence; it offers formation in discipleship. In every classroom, library, playground, and staff room, we are called to bear witness to Christ, to teach as He taught, and to lead others to the deep peace that only He can give.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon, offer our prayers and profound thanks to all who serve the mission of Catholic education: students, parents, teachers, educational assistants, support staff, school leaders, trustees, and parish clergy. Your fidelity, courage, and love make it possible for our schools to remain steadfast in identity and luminous in hope.

Let us go forward together, anchored in Christ and radiant with hope. May our words and actions always reflect the faith we profess, and may our schools continue to be places where Christ is known, loved, and proclaimed with joy.

Yours in Christ,

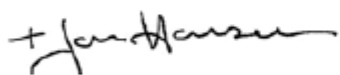
Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon



Most Reverend William McGrattan  
Alberta Liaison Bishop for Catholic Education  
Bishop of Calgary



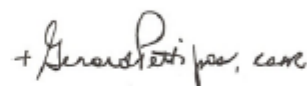
Most Reverend David Motiuk  
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



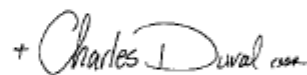
Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR  
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith



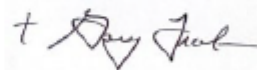
Most Reverend Hector Vila  
Bishop of Whitehorse



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas, CSsR  
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend Charles Duval, CSsR  
Coadjutor Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend Gary Franken  
Bishop of St. Paul



Reverend Paul Kavanagh  
Archdiocesan Administrator  
Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

## **RHYTHM RHYTHM RHYTHM Drumming Residency May 19-27**

From May 19 through 27, students at St. Mary will take part in a 7 day Drumming Residency as part of their music program. The residency focus includes connecting with music, creating music - collaborating and contributing to music creation. Each class will have four drumming sessions that will build towards an inclusive **drum circle finale on the last day, May 27**. Parents and families are invited to attend as students, teachers, staff, parents and guests will connect, create, collaborate and contribute to our community ensemble! This is a participatory celebration, everyone who attends will have an instrument! See the flyer below to join in the Finale!

\*Any students/families in the Kindergarten PM class are welcome to come join in the morning for the drum circle finale at 9:00 AM. Kindergarten PM students who are at the YMCA daycare will be attending.



**MAY** **2026**

**St Mary School** **AND** **RHYTHM**  
Rhythm Rhythm

**PRESENT**

**Rhythm Residency Finales!**

**WED 27**

★ **Finale 1 - 9:00-9:45**  
Kinder AM & PM - Amendola,  
Gr 1 - Ngu, Gr 1/2 - Kruse

★ **Finale 2 - 10:45-11:30**  
Gr 2 - Southwood,  
Gr 3 - Beaudry/Barnfather, Gr 4 - Cook

★ **Finale 3 - 1:15-2:00**  
Gr 4/5 - Korbeek, Gr 5 - Eistetter,  
Gr 6A - Byker & 6B - Grey

**WEAR SCHOOL COLOURS!!!**

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL HOT LUNCHES in May**

### **May 11 - Subway**

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, May 6 at 11:59 pm

### **May 25 - Pizza**

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, May 20 at 11:59 pm

Thank you to our School Council and parent volunteers for organizing and serving our hot lunches!

## **MAY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

Please watch for an email notification of the next School Council meeting in May. Meeting links, agendas and minutes can be viewed on the St. Mary School Council link <https://stmary.ecsd.net/school-council> on the St. Mary webpage. All are welcome to attend!

## **EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY Information Night May 9**

EPL is hosting a free community information fair and symposium event on May 9th that is designed to support parents and caregivers of kids of any age in better understanding children's social emotional development and mental health and wellness.

Link to the event listing on epl.ca: [Helping Kids When Things Feel Hard: Community Information Fair & Symposium | Events | Edmonton Public Library](#)

## **GRADE 6 FAREWELL - June 19, 2026 - SAVE THE DATE!**

### **Afternoon of Friday, June 19, 2026**

Our Grade Six Farewell will take place on **Friday, June 19 from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary School in the school gym**. Parents will be invited to attend. More information will be coming home in the next few weeks. We look forward celebrating with the Grade 6's as they journey into Junior High School.

## **Plan Ahead for the 2026-2027 School Year - 2026-2027 CALENDAR - Updated**

Families can now view, download, and print the updated 2026–2027 school year calendar. Please note, the division updated the next school year calendar in April 2026. While the total number of instructional and operational days remains the same, a few dates have changed. **The first day of school is now Wednesday, September 2, 2026.** October 19 has been designated by the Alberta Government as a NO CLASS day as it is the Referendum Day. The Remembrance Day Weekend/Fall Break has been extended and will run from November 11 to November 13, 2026. Students will return to classes on Monday, November 16, 2026. Visit [ecsd.net/calendar](https://ecsd.net/calendar) for full 2026-2027 details.

In addition, please note St. Mary Staff Professional Development Dates for the 2026-27 school year are October 1, 2026 and January 28, 2027.

## SACRAMENT NEWS

**First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**: Several children from St. Mary have been preparing for and will celebrate two special sacraments at St. Thomas More church in May and June. We ask students to share with their teacher if they have celebrated any sacraments at the church this school year. The school would like to celebrate with the children as they grow in their faith. If they can bring in a photo of their big day, we will create a sacrament bulletin board.

Blessings upon these children and their families as they continue their faith journey.

## SCHOOL FEES - Have you paid your child's School Fees?

Please review your child's fee account in the Powerschool Parent Portal. If you have **NOT** yet paid your child's school fees, or any outstanding fieldtrip fees, please make your online payment today. All fees collected are Alberta Government approved and are used for programming for your child's education. Please call the school office if you have any question on fees charged.

## REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

Edmonton Catholic Schools utilizes the School Messenger Safe Arrival system to simplify reporting absences for families. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and you can report your child's absence in advance using any of these options:

- **SchoolMessenger App** (iOS or Android)
- **PowerSchool** (click on the SchoolMessenger icon in the left hand menu)

**Website:** [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

**Phone:** 1-833-788-7662

Instructions on how to report an absence through SchoolMessenger can be found at

[ecsd.net/reporting-absences](https://ecsd.net/reporting-absences).

## REGISTRATIONS FOR 2026-2027 - Now Being Accepted

**New Students**: On February 2, 2026 registration opened for families new to Edmonton Catholic Schools to register for the 2026-2027 school year for ***Pre-k through to returning grade 12's***.

- Registrations are completed on-line. In order to register, they will need to know what school they are hoping to attend (<https://www.ecsd.net/step-1-find-your-school>) and create a School Engage account and complete their on-line registration (<https://www.ecsd.net/register>).
- Children eligible to register for Kindergarten must **turn 5 on or before December 31** of the year they start Kindergarten. Please refer friends, families or neighbors to [stmary.ecsd.net](https://stmary.ecsd.net) to register.

## ***BUSSING INFORMATION FOR 2026-2027***

**Transportation Applications:** The **2026-2027** Transportation Application is now available through

<https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/>

- All **NEW** applications, **changes** to bussing addresses, **cancellations must** be completed online through the following link- <https://www.ecsd.net/apply-for-transportation> by **June 1, 2026** to ensure bus service is ready for the first day of school.
- If your child currently accesses yellow bussing, they will be automatically rolled over for bussing for first day of school in September and a new application is not needed. If you have any questions about transportation for the upcoming school year, Please contact Transportation Services at [transportation-service@ecsd.net](mailto:transportation-service@ecsd.net) or call 780-441-6078.
- The Government of Alberta revised the eligibility criteria for yellow bus service for Elementary Students effective September 1, 2025 to 1.6 kilometers from their designated school. The Grade 7 to 12 students remain unchanged at 2 kilometers.
- The “CAN I RIDE A BUS?” tool can be used by schools and families to check address eligibility:

<https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/TransportationEligibility>

Please note that parents can now search for eligibility in two databases 2025-2026 or 2026-2027.

Boundaries can vary year by year. Please ensure you select the correct school year when checking eligibility.

- **Parents are asked to monitor their Powerschool Parent portal weekly to obtain their child's route information and check for any changes to the schedule.**
- Bus pass fees for 2026 - 2027 are all \$50.00 for both Yellow bus and ETS, with no additional family plan discount.
- **Kindergarten & Grade 1 Students:** Parents or guardians are to be present at the scheduled time and drop-off location for all Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. *Please note that neighbours or family friends are not considered guardians. If a parent/guardian cannot be at the bus stop for drop-off, only a sibling in **grade 6 or higher** is permitted to take their younger siblings off the bus.*

### **First Riders Event: First Riders: Learn to Ride the Bus**

Our annual [First Riders Event](#) will take place on August 19, 2026 (changed from August 25, 2026) at Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre (9405 50 Street NW). Whether your child is new to riding the yellow school bus, transitioning to [Edmonton Transit Service \(ETS\)](#), or in need of a refresher, this **free event** helps families become familiar with riding the bus before the start of the new school year.

At First Riders, you and your child will have the opportunity to build confidence and gain important safety knowledge through outdoor safety stations, bus navigation tips, and a Q&A opportunity. You will accompany your child throughout the event, which will conclude with an actual ride on a school bus. The entire session will last approximately 45 minutes. Please visit <https://www.ecsd.net/news/first-riders> for more details and times.

## **GRADE 4-6 CHROMEBOOKS for 2026-2027**

All students in grades 4-6 will need to bring a Chromebook or laptop as part of their school supplies. These devices will be used daily to access Google Classroom and other online resources both at school and home.

We are grateful for the support of our Fundraising Association, which has provided Chromebooks over the years. However, they will now focus on other initiatives to enhance the school experience.

If purchasing a Chromebook or laptop for your child is not feasible, please contact the Principal to inquire about an alternative solution.

Please note that students are expected to bring their devices to and from school each day. It is their responsibility to ensure the device is charged and ready for use. We will not have backup devices available, so if a student forgets their device, they will need to complete their work on paper or at home.

Thank you for your partnership in education.

## **MONTHLY REMINDERS**

### **PARKING**

### **Drop Off & Pick Up**

**Please do not park in the bus lane at any time.**

**You are welcome to use the DROP & GO lane if you are stopping to let out students only**

**this is NOT for parents who wish to get out of their vehicle.**

The church across the street allows parents to use their lot before after school.

Please follow the link <https://arcg.is/1H4ieS1> or use the QR code to view the map explaining which zones are

### **LUNCHES**

### ***LUNCH drop offs***

We encourage children to bring their lunch with them as they arrive to school in the morning as to limit disruption to learning and work flow. **Noon drop offs of fast food items are discouraged.** All essentials for eating their lunch should be packed as the school does not provide disposable supplies - cutlery etc. for student use. Healthy lunches are encouraged together with reducing disposable waste.

### **VACATION**

### ***LEARNING WHILE ON VACATION***

St. Mary School recognizes that a child's educational experience is not confined to the school building and that vacation trips can be enlightening and valuable to a child's intellectual growth. Please keep in mind that the learning and teaching that is missed cannot easily be replicated outside the classroom or in a worksheet and your child may miss parts of the curriculum. Teachers structure their classes for both instruction and assessment according to the regulations established by the provincial government. Teachers are not required to provide assignments for vacations but could share topics being covered so you include them in your daily discussions. Google classrooms may allow for completion of assignments but opportunities for interaction and questions will be impacted as well as feedback for assessment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.

## **SICK**

## **STAY HOME WHEN SICK**



*The health, safety and well-being of all students and staff remains a top priority.*

*Parents are asked to please continue to monitor your child for symptoms daily before coming to school. This is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of illness. **Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of illness, including fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, new or worsening cough, or shortness of breath, should remain at home until their symptoms have improved and they***

***have been free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and they feel well enough to resume normal activities. If your child becomes sick at school, parents/guardians will be called to pick them up. If your child is away from school for any reason, please call the school office to let us know.***

*At our school we are,*

- *Encouraging students to wash and/or sanitize their hands regularly. Hand sanitizer is available at our school.*
- *Prioritizing frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.*
- *Ensuring proper ventilation is extremely important to us. We have installed the ASHRAE-recommended MERV 13 filters in our school, and our HVAC systems are running for extended periods of time. We continue to reference and implement ASHRAE guidance where practicable within the limitations of existing infrastructure across the Division.*
- *Respecting individual choice regarding masks. Our priority is supporting a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment.*
- *Reporting illness to Alberta Health Services when school-wide student absentee rates are over 10% due to illness so they can investigate and advise. This has always been our division practice.*

*The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority.*

## **BIRTHDAYS & Healthy Food Choices at School**

Edmonton Catholic Schools is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's well-being, and the ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Any food and beverages served at school for special celebrations will be from the "Choose Most Often" or "Choose Sometime" categories as outlined in the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth (2008). Along with this, parents will be notified in advance so they may inform the teacher if they would not like their child to consume the food provided. To respect and support parents in their role as providers for their children and in consideration of severe allergies, we ask that **NO food be sent to school for birthdays or to be shared with other students at any time.** The office and teachers will acknowledge birthdays in their own way and we will leave the birthday parties for home. Thank you for your support with this.

## A LOOK BACK at APRIL

April was marked with the celebration of Easter and New Life with students joining in the Easter Mass celebration at St. Thomas More Parish, led by our Grade 6 students.

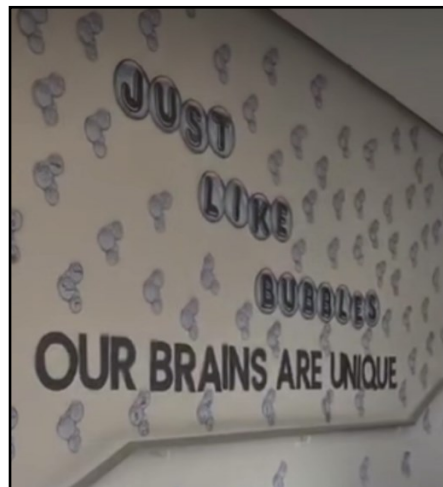


**ALLELUIA - He is Risen!**



**Searching for Signs of Spring and New Life**

**Alberta Aviation Museum**



**Celebrating Neurodiversity**



## ST. MARY YMCA CHILD CARE

There is a YMCA Child Care right on site for students at our school! Children who attend YMCA Child Care are curious about learning, excited about being active and learn how to be leaders in their community.

The research-backed YMCA curriculum is what sets YMCA Child Care apart. Children are guided to build friendships, explore their community and culture and delve into projects that spark their unique curiosity about the world. Each child care space is an extension of your child's family and community, where differences are celebrated. In Kindercare, your child will continue to explore kindergarten topics, practicing their skills while being supported in every aspect of their development. And after sitting in school all day, your child will have lots of opportunity to play outside and participate in active games.

**Exciting and engaging full-day summer programs run throughout July and August for children going into Kindergarten to Grade 7!** Children spend their summer igniting their creativity, exploring their community and staying active at YMCA Child Care summer programs.

Preschool care (ages 3.5+) is also available at this centre.

### Hours:

Monday–Friday | 7am–6pm (before and after school, all day on non-school days including summer break)  
Statutory Holidays & Easter Monday | Closed

**To learn more about the YMCA Child Care experience, including more information on its curriculum, daily routine, fees and more, please [click here](#).**

**If you're ready to register for YMCA Child Care, please [click here](#) to start the process!**

### Beth Pede

Program Director,

St Mary YMCA Child Care

**YMCA of Northern Alberta**

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Charitable Registration: 11930 7122 RR0001

### STAY CONNECTED and follow us on:

Website: <https://www.ecsd.net/schools/8237> or <https://stmary.ecsd.net/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/st\\_mary\\_elementary/](https://www.instagram.com/st_mary_elementary/)

REMINDER - Please visit the St. Mary Website calendar often for updated calendar dates

[stmary.ecsd.net/calendar](https://stmary.ecsd.net/calendar)