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September 2025

ADMIN TEAM MESSAGE

Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year! Following is a our mini newsletter keeping families up to date on activities throughout the month.

SEPTEMBER - IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

- September 12** Terry Fox Marathon of Hope run at St. Mary 9:00 am - 10:12 am. Parents are welcome to join. Donations can be made online @ <https://schools.terryfox.ca/98235>
- September 17** Curriculum Information Night:
- 5 - 6 p.m. Back to School BBQ in the back field
 - School Council Annual General Meeting - 6:00 P.M. in the gymnasium
 - Curriculum Information Night 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in your child's classroom
- September 15** School Fees go live. Please pay by September 30
- Bus fees applied by Transportation Services on September 2. Questions, call Transportation at 780-441-6078
- September 22** ECSD Cross Country Run - Rundle Park. Interested children are bringing home permission forms. Bus transportation from school to Rundle Park
- September 29** Truth and Reconciliation Day recognition - Wear your Orange Shirts
- September 30** **NO CLASSES** - Truth and Reconciliation Day
- October 14-15** SAC Casino at Grand Villa Casino - Volunteers needed! Sign up at volunteersignup.org/F89RT See letter attached to newsletter

STAY CONNECTED and follow us on:

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

Instagram: @st_mary_elementary

https://www.instagram.com/st_mary_elementary/?hl=en

TERRY FOX RUN - Cancer Fundraiser - Friday, September 8

St. Mary is again excited to take part in the 45th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Terry's marathon was intended to raise money to fight against cancer.

The St. Mary Terry Fox Run will be in the school yard on Friday, September 12, 2025, from 9:00 am to 10:12 am (recess) with all grades, Kindergarten to Grade 6 participating on assigned routes. Parents are welcome to join their children in the run.

Following the run, children will receive orange slices. Thank you to our parent council for supplying the oranges and to Beth Pede and her staff from the YMCA daycare for slicing the oranges.

Donations to the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope can be made online directly to the Terry Fox Foundation on behalf of St. Mary School through the following link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/98235>

Cash or cheque donations (payable to The Terry Fox Foundation) can also be collected by the school. If a receipt is required, please make your donation online.

SCHOOL FEES

Government approved school fees charged are used in student programming and/or services throughout the school year. Your child's school fees will be **available for payment on September 15, 2025** in the parent Powerschool Portal <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>.

Please make your fee payment by the end of September, 2025. Bus fees are available for payment now and are applied directly by Transportation Services. There are no busses passes being issued this school year. Questions on bus fees and/or routing can be directed to Transportation at 780-441-6078.

RECESS BEFORE EATING LUNCH

Lunch times will remain the same at last school year. Students will have outdoor recess from 11:54 am - 12:14 pm and will eat their lunch from 12:14 pm to 12:32 pm.

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.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE SCHOOL

Edmonton Catholic Schools appreciates the services of all its volunteers. In order to ensure your safety and the safety of all our students, all volunteers must complete a Volunteer registration form. Forms were sent home with your child in the first days of school and are also available in the office.

Along with completion of the registration form, **all visitors to the school MUST identify themselves before entry into the building, sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge while in the building.**

We appreciate this may be an inconvenience, however it is required to ensure the safety of all students, staff, visitors and volunteers.

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.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

While we are a dog loving community, there are some safety considerations during drop off and pick up at school. If you are bringing your dog during these times, please ensure that you are in control of the dog and maintaining a safe distance from the students. Please [click here](#) to see the Edmonton City Bylaw regarding No dogs allowed on school grounds and some other public locations. Consider determining a meeting spot with your child/children if you will be bringing your dog to pick up or drop off. Although we know you may have a friendly dog, sometimes a situation can cause an unpredictable response from the pet. Please pass this message along to anyone who may be picking up students. You may at times see our Wellness dog, Olive, at the school. She is approved and certified to be on school property.

GETTING TO and FROM SCHOOL SAFELY

Please review this resource form Alberta Health on getting to and from school safely.

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Alberta/Pages/getting-to-and-from-school-safely.aspx>

Drop Off & Pick Up

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

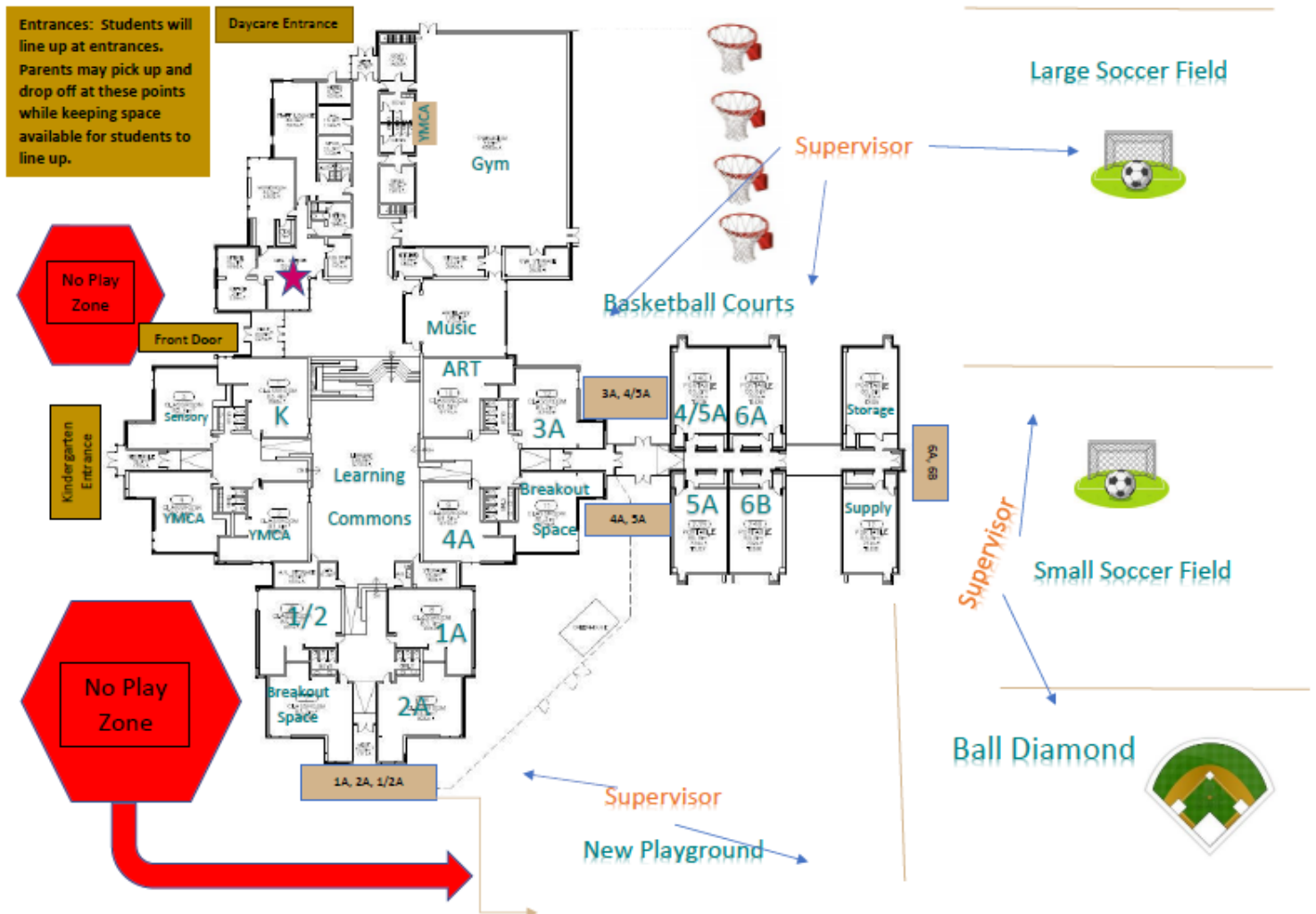
The church across the street allows parents to use their lot before and after school.

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.

Please follow the link <https://arcg.is/1H4ieS1> or use the QR code to view the map explaining which zones are for parking and which are for driving through only. Parking is available in the church lot during pick up and drop off.



St. Mary Elementary Entry Zones 2025-2026



FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is casino time again! We are looking for many volunteers which will help us raise approximately \$75,000! **To volunteer please sign up here: volunteersignup.org/F89RT**

If you have never worked at a casino...

About every 2 years, schools and other charitable/non-profit organizations are given a two-day time slot to provide volunteers to work at one of the Edmonton-area casinos in exchange for a portion of the profits. We generally earn between \$75,000 and \$85,000, so our volunteers for this event are crucial. This is by far the School Advisory Council's largest fundraiser. The money we receive pays for things like playground equipment, PE equipment, musical instruments, and library books. There are several different jobs that you can sign up for and there is a professional advisor who will train the volunteers and is present to help out throughout the event. **No prior experience or knowledge of casino games is expected.** This is a great opportunity to meet other parents from the school and is a fun day/night out. A meal and snacks are provided free of charge for every shift.

If you have worked at casinos before...

Great! Please sign up and put that knowledge to use for our children.

For Everybody...

- We have been assigned **Tuesday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at Grand Villa Casino.**
- No experience is needed or expected. You will be trained for any job that you choose.
- We need **44** volunteers to make this successful, so please consider volunteering!
- **To sign up:** volunteersignup.org/F89RT Click the link and sign up. It's first come, first served so be quick to get the times or position you really want.
- Job descriptions are below. (NEXT PAGE)
- You may sign up for more than one shift. Your second shift must be in the same role as your first.
- Anyone 18+ may volunteer. Volunteers do not need to be parents/guardians at St Mary's.

Casino Volunteer Positions

There is a professional casino advisor who will provide training and support. No experience or specific knowledge is expected.

General Manager:

- Works in the cash cage with the banker and cashiers.
- Supervises all volunteers – checks in volunteers, orders snacks, deals with schedule, problem solves.
- General Manager must be in the casino at all times.
- Controls drop box keys.
- Does not actually manage the casino, just the volunteers!

Banker:

- Controls the main cash cage chip and cash floats.
- Responsible for documentation of all cash/chip transfers from the main float. This information is recorded on the computer, therefore computer skills are an asset.
- Some administrative experience and/or math skills are helpful in this position.

Cashier:

- This position requires concentration and accuracy.
- Players bring you their chips and you count the chips and give them cash.
- You have your own float and do not share your cash/chip float with anyone.
- Cash-handling skills and being a bit streetwise are definite assets.
- Not a job for colour-blind volunteers.

Chip Runner:

- You carry chips from the cash cage to the table games, accompanied by security.
- You must be able to move around the gaming floor and carry chips in their delivery racks.
- This position is busy at the opening and closing times of the casino, and much of the rest of the shift you will be in the lounge. Bring something to do.

Count Room:

- You sort and count cash from the table games drop boxes.
- Assisted by the Count Room Advisor you will keep records of the cash and chip counts.
- Bring something to do as you will be in the lounge between counting sessions.
- Volunteers should be good working with their hands.