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June 2026 End of Year Newsletter

Dear Parents and Students,

Our school journey for this year is now complete and we look forward to new summer adventures! Thank you parents for sharing your most precious gift with us your children. We are truly blessed with an amazing and supporting school community! We say a heart-felt good bye to staff and students who are moving on to new adventures. We wish everyone a safe and restful summer break! St. Mary Staff

End of Term Report Cards go live in Powerschool on June 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

For viewing instructions - view: <https://www.ecsd.net/news/report-cards-1718727796074>

STAY CONNECTED and follow us on:

Website: <https://stmary.ecsd.net/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-Mary-Catholic-Elementary-School-Edmonton-441083555938395/posts/?ref=page_internal

Instagram: @st_mary_elementary

2026-2027 INFORMATION

As we end this school year and look forward to the next, we share important information for the start of the 2026-2027 school year. The new school year begins on **Wednesday, September 2 at 8:15 AM**. Please see the attached calendar for 2026-2027. The Calendar is also available on our school webpage <https://stmary.ecsd.net/>

School Hours of Operation – 2026/2027

Please see our school website for updated hours: <https://stmary.ecsd.net/hours> . **Please note our recess/ lunchtime configuration will remain the same for 2026-2027** where students will have outdoor recess first at 11:54 a.m. - 12:14 p.m. and eat lunch from 12:14 p.m. to 12:34 p.m.

- September 2** First day of School for 2026-2027 School Term.
Classes resume 8:15 am. - **FULL DAY OF CLASS**
Small group day for Kindergarten - letter sent to Kindergarten parents
GIST Gradual Entry Day - letter sent to parents
- September 3** GIST Gradual Entry Day - Letter sent to parents
- September 4** Small group day for Kindergarten - letter sent to Kindergarten parents
- September 8** Small group day for Kindergarten - letter sent to Kindergarten parents
- September 9** Small group day for Kindergarten - letter sent to Kindergarten parents
- September 11** Kindergarten Classes Begin
- September 16** Curriculum Information Night and Meet the Teacher
School Council Welcome Back BBQ at 5:00 P.M.
School Council Annual General Meeting - 6:30 P.M.

- Supervision for students starts at **8:00 a.m.** For the safety of the children, please do not bring your child to school before 8:00 a.m.
- Student entry into the school, from the first day on, is **through their grade doors.** Teachers will meet students at their grade door on the first day of school to welcome them back to school and to help them with their school supplies.

A grade door map will be posted in the end of August start-up newsletter and will also be posted on the front doors and entry doors to the school. Please watch for our School Start-up Newsletter at the end of August which will provide school start-up information.

Class Configurations and Staffing 2026/2027

Grade	Teacher	Grade	Teacher
EC AM	Joane Amendola	5A	Kathleen Eistetter
EC PM	Joane Amendola	5/6A	Kimberly Byker
1A	Diane Ngu	6A	Sarah Grey
1/2A	Jessica Kruse	Music	Kailee Hauger
2A	Danielle Southwood	Instructional Coach	Carla Barnfather
3A	TBD	Gr 3 & 4	ELA and Math and Small Group Support Kodishia Loepky
4A	Dana Alty/Temporary (TBD)	GIST	Amy Cook
		GIST EBS	Katie Wilkes
Admin Team		Support Staff	
Christine Vince Principal	Julie Francois Assistant Principal	Judy Ward - Administrative Assistant Cathy Cartmell - Educational Assistant Divya Dhand - Educational Assistant Mikaela Fabroa - Educational Assistant Anupama Menon - Education Assistant Catalina Olaru- Education Assistant Kimmi Goyal - Education Assistant- on mat leave Maureen Erinaugha - Education Assistant Myrna Courtney - Education Assistant Allison Dietz - TAOT Hifsa Fida- TABT	
Custodial			
GIST			
Armando Marquicias Yemson Fernandez	TABT Norma Barahona TABT Jamie Covington TABT Kade Gartner TABT Lisa Paul Mellors		

During the last week in August, before school starts, your child's teacher will be sending an email welcoming your child back to school. Please watch for this email. **Class placements will not be released prior to the sending of the teacher's email.**

NEW STUDENTS to ST. MARY SCHOOL TOUR - August 31

For those students joining us new to St. Mary in Grade 1-6, you are invited to have a tour of the school with the Principal on August 31 at 3:00 PM. Please ring the bell at the front entrance and meet in the foyer of the school.

GRADE ONE BRING SUPPLIES TO SCHOOL - August 31

On August 31, from 3 - 4:00 P.M. Grade 1 students are invited to bring their school supplies to school and meet their teacher. This will enable a smooth transition into school for their first day of Grade 1, Wednesday, September 2.

CLASS CONFIGURATIONS for 2026-2027

St. Mary will have combined grades next year at some levels. Since this is very common, Edmonton Catholic School Division has developed excellent resources for teachers of combined grades. Here is some information that you should be aware of as it is likely that throughout your child's school years they will be placed in a combined environment at some point.

Research has shown that a combined grade classroom, where students from multiple grade levels learn together, can offer several benefits:

1. Individualized Learning: Students in a combined grade classroom often receive more personalized attention and instruction tailored to their specific needs. Teachers can address the unique learning styles, abilities, and pace of each student, fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

2. Peer Tutoring: Older students can serve as mentors and role models for younger students, helping them grasp concepts and develop skills. This peer tutoring dynamic promotes collaboration, empathy, and the development of leadership qualities among the older students.

3. Enhanced Social Skills: Being in a mixed-grade classroom encourages interaction and cooperation among students of different ages. This setting promotes socialization, empathy, and the development of strong communication and teamwork skills.

4. Flexible Grouping: Combined grade classrooms allow for flexible grouping strategies, enabling students to work in small groups or individually based on their abilities and interests. This approach supports differentiation and encourages students to take ownership of their learning.

5. Continuous Progression: Students in combined grade classrooms often benefit from continuity in their education. They have the opportunity to build on previous knowledge and skills over multiple years, which can contribute to a more thorough understanding of concepts and better long-term retention.

As in single-grade classrooms, teachers use a variety of strategies to ensure that the appropriate grade curriculum expectations are covered. As in every classroom, single-grade or combined, teachers are supporting learners at varying levels. For example, if you take any subject, you may have some students who are working at grade level, others who are working towards grade level, and some who are working above grade level.

Combined classrooms look like any other classroom. You'll see flexible seating, work stations and activity centers. There are conference areas, reading spaces and group gathering areas. Teachers create engaging learning spaces that work best for the students. In terms of everyday lessons, as in any classroom, the teacher may have the whole class participate in a common activity, and then begin working individually or in a small group on grade-specific curriculum expectations. Teachers of both single and combined grades assess the skills, abilities, knowledge, and interests of their students. Using differentiated instruction, teachers design whole and small group activities to address varying student strengths, needs, and interests. Teachers work to meet each student where they are on their learning journey and help move them along in the way they learn best, regardless of their grade level.

Many teachers have observed that older students in a combined class often make good decisions knowing they are role models for younger students – and as a result, the older students naturally develop leadership skills. Some teachers often find that the younger students tend to develop greater confidence simply by working with older students on a regular basis. All of this builds a strong sense of community.

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.

NEW PROGRAM at St. Mary for 2026-2027

Beginning next school year, St. Mary School will be proud to host a **GIST Classroom (Guided Intervention Supported Transition)** as part of Edmonton Catholic Schools' continuum of inclusive supports.

The GIST program is designed to provide short-term, skills-based support for a small group of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who benefit from targeted intervention to strengthen learning and self-regulation skills. The goal of the program is to help students build the skills they need to be successful in their learning environments and, when ready, transition back to their home community schools.

At St. Mary, the GIST classroom will serve up to eight students and will be staffed by a highly trained team, including a classroom teacher, an Emotional Behavioural Specialist, and a Therapeutic Assistant for each student attending from their community school. Students are also supported by a multi-disciplinary team, ensuring programming is intentional, well-supported, and responsive.

The GIST program is carefully planned and structured to support both the students in the program and the wider school community. Transitions into and out of the program are gradual and guided, with a strong focus on student success, safety, and belonging.

We look forward to welcoming this program to St. Mary and continuing our shared commitment to inclusive, compassionate, and well-supported learning environments for all students.

To learn more about the GIST program within Edmonton Catholic Schools, please visit [Learn more about the GIST program \[ecsd.net\]](https://www.ecsd.net)

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 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>

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 increased to \$70.00 for Yellow bus** and remain at \$60 for ETS, with no additional family plan discount. The increase in fee is due to student demand, increased routes and higher carrier costs.
- **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> to register and for more details and times.

SCHOOL START SCHOOL SUPPLIES - 2026-2027

This year again parents have the option of pre-ordering school supplies on-line through School Start at <https://schoolstart.ca/> and having them delivered to their homes. All grade supply lists are available on the St. Mary website through the following link <https://stmary.ecsd.net/school-supplies>.

Ordering through School Start is optional, however all items on the St. Mary supply list are required and you are welcome to purchase the supplies in any brand and from a store of your choosing. The generic and School Start supply lists are also attached to this newsletter.

REGISTRATIONS FOR 2026-2027 - Still 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 to register.

MEDICAL UPDATES for 2026-2027

Medical information is updated for students on a yearly basis to ensure safety of all children.

If your child is identified with a medical condition that requires a care plan being in place at school, the completion of the Edmonton Catholic School Division Medical Alert and Permission to Post Student Medical Information forms is required.

Completion of the forms is necessary if your child is in need of an inhaler, epi-pen or other medication that may need to be administered in a medical situation. If your child self-administers their own medication, the completion of the forms is still required so staff can be updated on the necessary procedures to assist your child in case of an emergency.

Attached to this newsletter are the medical forms that must be completed fully (including doctor completion) - front and back, with a picture attached, giving families the opportunity for completion over the summer months.

Please return the completed forms to the school office at the start of school in September.

SCHOOL COUNCIL and FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Sept.16, 2026

The School Council and Fundraising Association Annual General Meeting will be held on September 16, 2026. We are always looking for new executive members for the School Council and Fundraising Association. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Amanda at ashuya@hotmail.com. Specifically we are needing 2 auditors for our 2025/2026 financial statements. If this is something you would be willing to help with, please let Amanda know.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church Sacramental Preparation

Baptism for Children Aged 0-6

For infants and children under 7 years old, baptisms are typically held once or twice monthly.

We encourage you to review the [Baptism Requirements](#).

To register, please contact Tracy Lam at 780-434-6313 ext 233, or email Baptism.STM@caedm.ca

Baptism for Children Aged 7-15

For older children, we offer "Later Baptism" followed by other age-appropriate sacraments 2-3 times per school year.

The next accommodated baptisms date available during the next school year will be posted on our website at the end of June. We encourage you to review the [Baptism Requirements](#).

To register, please contact Tracy Lam at (780-434-6313 ext 233, or email Baptism.STM@caedm.ca

First Eucharist and First Reconciliation for Children Aged 7-11

[Registration for 2025-2026 Summer Intensive 1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Eucharist is OPEN.](#)

July 7: Parent Orientation (6:15pm -7:30pm)

Catechism Class Schedule

July 13 to July 17: 10am – 11:30am – Catechetical Classes

July 14: 11am – 1pm: *Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation*

July 19: 4:30pm Mass: *Sacrament of 1st Eucharist*

If you experience any difficulty completing the online form, please contact the parish office at 780-434-6313. Please provide a copy of your child's baptism certificate and a registration fee of \$30 (cash) or e-transfer to stm.etransfer@caedm.ca and include in the message field – 1st Communion of (Child's Name – 2026 Summer).

For Children Aged 12-16 (must be 12 yrs before August 11th)

[Registration for 2025 – 2026 Summer Intensive Program is OPEN. Click here to register your child.](#)

Sacramental Requirement: All registrants must have received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist prior to the start of the Summer Intensive. No sacramental accommodations will be available during the summer program.

Catechism Class Schedule

Aug 11 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Child and Parent Orientation

Aug 17 – Aug 21: Catechetical classes from Monday – Friday 10 am – 2:30 pm

(Monday – Thursday – Children to bring bagged lunch and drink;

Friday – Lunch provided by St. Thomas More)

Aug 21: Confessions from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Aug 23: Confirmation Mass at 3:00 pm

Please submit a **\$50 registration fee** cash to the parish office or by e-transfer to stm.etransfer@caedm.ca. Please include the following in the message field: "Confirmation of (Candidate's Name) – 2026 Summer Intensive".

Special Note:

Parent Participation: While parent attendance at preparation sessions is not mandatory for the Summer Program only, parents are warmly encouraged and always welcome to attend if their schedule allows.

Register for Camp.



Camp Registration is done online, via the CampBrain registration system. Click the button below to register for camp this summer!

[Click Here to Register for Camp](#)

If you cannot see the above button to register, paste this link into your browser: <https://olvc.campbrainregistration.com/>
Please note: The grades indicated are for September 2026. For example, if your child is currently in grade 3 and will be in grade 4 during the 2026-2027 school year, then they are eligible to register for the Elementary or All Ages week.

Summer, 2026

High School Week

Sunday, July 12th - Thursday, July 16th

For young people entering grades 10-12 in September, 2026. Many who attend this week volunteer in later weeks as Junior Counsellors, and are an essential part of the OLVC experience.

Elementary Week

Sunday, July 19th - Thursday, July 23rd

For young people entering grades 4-6 in September.

Faith Week (All Ages)

Sunday, July 26th - Thursday, July 30th

For young people entering grades 4-9 in September.

Jr. High Week

Sunday, August 9th - Thursday, August 13th

For young people entering grades 7-9 in September.

Hope Week (All Ages)

Sunday, August 16th - Thursday, August 20th

For young people entering grades 4-9 in September.

The registration fees for each week are \$350.00 per camper.

CITY OF EDMONTON LOW COST YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAMS

The City of Edmonton is helping children and youth stay active this summer with the MoveLearnPlay program at recreation centres and outdoor pools. [The Child and Youth Summer Pass](#) is available from June 10 to August 31, 2026. It can be purchased online at movelearnplay.ca or at any City of Edmonton recreation centre.

The pass costs \$25 for ages 2 to 12 or \$35 for ages 13 to 17 and provides unlimited access to recreation centres and outdoor pools for 30 days from the date of activation. This is more than 50% off regular admission rates. Some amenities have age restrictions. For details, [please review the City's age access guidelines](#).

GET YOUR **Child & Youth Summer PASS**

Child (2-12 years)
\$25 /month

Youth (13-17 years)
\$35 /month

Valid June 10 - August 31, 2026

Recreation Centres **Edmonton**

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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e: Beth.Pede@northernalberta.ymca.ca | northernalberta.ymca.ca



Charitable Registration: 11930 7122 RR0001

***Wishing all a
Safe and Restful Summer!***