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*APRIL 2026*

## **Message from the Admin**

Dear St. Mary Families,

Through the month of March and into April, our journey through Lent continues as we strive to deepen and reconnect with our Faith, and draw closer to God as we prepare for the joy of Christ's Resurrection at Easter.

Our shortened month of March was filled with many activities within the school. Children shared their school achievements with their parents at the student-led Demonstration of Learning and shopped the Scholastic book fair. International Women's Day was celebrated with classes researching women of distinction and creating images of women whom they admire and inspire them. St. Patrick's Day saw a sea of green and rainbow color as children came to school to find the "Leprechaun's messy visit". World Down Syndrome Awareness day was celebrated through morning announcement presentations, with many colorful and/or mismatched socks to be seen. Student activity throughout the month included Grade 5A attending Hockey Hooky at Roger's Place, Alien In-line skating concluding, Grade 3A doing Soap Stone Carving, Creative Caravan working with Grades 1 and 2, a Food Drive for the St. Thomas More Parish Pantry, and students and staff spreading kindness through the Art From Our Hearts project on March 20.

The staff of St. Mary wish all students and families a restful spring break and joyful Easter weekend. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 .

### Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
You have given the human race  
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.  
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man  
And giving His life on the Cross.  
Help us to bear witness to You  
By following His example of suffering  
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.  
Amen.

# Important Dates

- March 26** Thursday - Full Day of Classes - dismissal at 3:00 p.m. - Kindergarten attends
- March 27** Friday - Early Dismissal at 11:59 a.m. - NO Kindergarten
- March 30-April 6** Spring Break - NO CLASSES
- March 29** Palm Sunday
- April 2** Holy Thursday
- April 3** Good Friday
- April 5** Easter Sunday
- April 6** **Easter Monday - NO CLASSES**
- April 7** Classes Resume @ 8:15 am
- April 8** **Kindergarten Full Day of Classes**  
St. Mary attends St. Thomas More Easter Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Families are Welcome!  
Grade 1-6 student will walk. Bussing for Kinders and students who require transportation
- April 13** Subway Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, April 8 @ 11:59 p.m.
- April 15** Grade 5's to Alberta Aviation Museum
- April 20 - 24** Support Staff Appreciation Week
- April 20** Grade 1A, 1/2A, and 2A Teachers Pet In-school Coding Fieldtrip
- April 22** Earth Day - School Yard Clean Up - Wear your Green or Blue  
Administrative Support Appreciation Day
- April 23** **NO CLASSES - Staff Professional Development Day**
- April 26** ECSD Art Show at Lumen Christi 1:00-4:00 pm
- April 27** Pizza Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, April 22 at 11:59 pm  
School Council Meeting 6:00 pm - Virtual link on school webpage if you are unable to attend
- April 28-May 2** Volunteer Appreciation Week
- April 28** National Day of Mourning Remembering Workers Injured on the Job  
Celebration of the Arts
- April 30** **Kindergarten for 2026-2027 Orientation Day**



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

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

## **SPRING BREAK**

**Thursday, March 26**, is a switch day prior to Spring Break. It is a full day with **dismissal at 3:00 p.m.**

**Kindergarten students ATTEND today as we follow the Friday schedule.**

**Friday, March 27**, is also a switch day prior to Spring Break. It is a half day with **dismissal at 11:59 a.m.**

**Kindergarten students DO NOT attend as we follow the Thursday schedule.**

**Spring Break - March 30 - April 6 - NO CLASSES**

**Classed resume Tuesday, April 7 @ 8:15 a.m.**

# LOOKING AHEAD

# Important Dates

- May** Asian Heritage Month
- May 1** Leadership Appreciation Day
- May 4** Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 6** Kindergarten Full Day of Classes  
Hats on for Mental Health  
**Spring Concert - Save the Date** - 1:30 pm Dress Rehearsal, 6:30 pm Concert with tickets
- May 8** St. Mary Patron Feast
- May 9-15** Catholic Education Week
- May 10** Catholic Education Sunday  
Mother's Day
- May 11** Grade 4-6 Words That Hurt Presentation
- May 11-22** Read-a-thon Happy Reading!
- May 11** Subway Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, May 6 at 11:59 p.m.
- May 13** Kindergarten Full Day - Edmonton Valley Zoo fieldtrip 8:30-3:00 p.m.  
Grade 1A, 1/2A and 2A Creative Caravan In School fieldtrip
- May 15** **NO CLASSES - Victoria Day Long Weekend**
- May 18** **NO CLASSES - Victoria Day Long Weekend**
- May 19-27** Rhythm, Rhythm, Rhythm Drumming Residency
- May 22** **Grade 6 PAT Language Arts Part A**
- May 25** Pizza Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, May 20 @ 11:59 p.m.
- May 27** Read-a-thon Pledges due back at the school  
Drum Circle Finale 10:00 a.m. Parents invited to attend!
- May 28** World Catholic Education Day

<b>GRADE 6 PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT EXAM SCHEDULE 2026</b>
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**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 be away, please contact the Principal.

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

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Important Dates

- June 1**      **New Rider Transportation Application deadline for first day service for 2026-2027**
- June 3**      Read-a-thon Draw
- June 4**      **Grade 6 PAT Language Arts Part B**
- June 8**      Grade 6 to Birch Bay Ranch SWP  
Subway Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday, June 3 @ 11:59 p.m.
- June 11**     **Grade 6 Social Studies PAT**
- June 12**     **Grade 6 Science PAT**
- June 15**     **Grade 6 PAT Mathematics Part A**  
Grade 6 Immunizations in afternoon, HepB and HPV
- June 18**     **Grade 6 PAT Mathematics Part B**
- June 19**     **Grade 6 Farewell - 1 p.m. in the school gym**
- June 21**     Father's Day
- June 21**     National Indigenous Day
- June 22**     Kindergarten Full Day of Classes  
Year end Mass 9:30 am at St. Thomas More - Students walk - Parent welcome!
- June 23**     **Last Day of Classes - FULL DAY of Classes - Dismissal at 3:00 p.m.**  
Final report cards live in Powerschool at 4:00 p.m.

### ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH - Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2026

## HOLY WEEK

**Palm (Passion) Sunday** - Sat. March 28 - 4:30 pm  
Sun. March 29 - 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

**Mon. March 30** - no mass (Chrim Mass at St. Joseph Basilica)

**Tues. March 31** - Mass 8:30 am

**Wed. April 1** - Mass 8:30 am

**Holy Thursday** - April 2: 7 pm\* \*with incense

**Good Friday** - April 3: 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm

**Holy Saturday** - April 4: 1 pm Blessing of Easter Baskets

**Easter Vigil** - April 4: 8 pm\*

**Easter Sunday** - April 5: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm\*

*Regularly scheduled confessions are suspended during Holy Week and through the Octave of Easter, resuming Saturday April 11.*

## EASTER OCTAVE

**Mon. April 6** - no mass

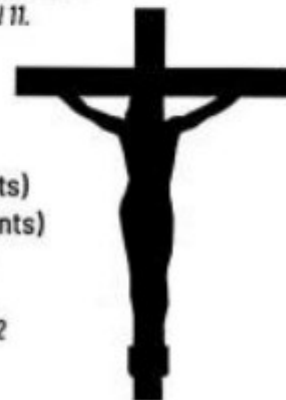
**Tues. April 7** - Mass at 5 pm

**Wed. April 8** - Mass at 9:30 am (with school students)

**Thurs. April 9** - Mass at 9:30 am (with school students)

**Fri. April 10** - Mass at 10 am (with school students)

*The regular weekend mass schedule resumes on April 11/12*



## ***EASTER SCHOOL MASS at STM Parish - April 8 @ 9:30 a.m.***

The staff and students of St. Mary will be joining other schools from the surrounding area to celebrate Easter Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at St. Thomas More Church. Staff and Grade 1 - 6 students will walk to church. Bussing will be provided for Kindergarten students and those who require assistance. The parent community is welcome to attend.

## ***ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM Fieldtrip - Grade 5 – April 15, 2026***

On April 15, Grades 5A and 4/5A students will be attending the Alberta Aviation Museum. Please watch for fieldtrip forms coming home with your child. Fieldtrip fees will be payable online through Powerschool.

## ***SCHOOL COUNCIL HOT LUNCHES in April***

**April 13** - Subway

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, April 8 at 11:59 pm

**April 27** - Pizza

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, April 22 at 11:59 pm

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

## ***EARTH DAY - School Yard Clean up***

Earth Day is celebrated internationally on April 22. It is an annual opportunity to celebrate our planet and environment and work together to build a more sustainable future. Throughout the week, students at St. Mary will take part in a school yard/community cleanup. Students are encouraged to wear **GREEN** or **BLUE** on April 22 - Earth Day.

## ***NO CLASSES - Thursday, April 23 - Staff Professional Development Day***

## ***APRIL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, April 27 - 6:00 pm***

Mark your calendars! The next school council meeting will take place on Monday, April 27 at 6:00 pm at St. Mary School or you can join virtually on Microsoft Teams. All are welcome. **Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Join:** <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25886579905918?p=hWlynoCMfEcS7kNhxz>

Passcode: Hi9dZ73p Meeting ID: 258 865 799 059 18

## ***NEW KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION DAY - April 30***

On Thursday, April 30, St. Mary will hold an Orientation Day for children that will be starting Kindergarten in September 2026. Parents will be asked to bring their children according to the following times.

9:00 - 10:00 - A to J last names

10:30 - 11:30 - K to Z last names

If your time does not work, please contact the school office.

## Save the Date - ST. MARY SPRING CONCERT - May 6, 2026

Save the Date - St. Mary's Spring Concert will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 in the school gym.

1:30 pm - Dress Rehearsal performance

Grandparents and extended family and friends are encourage to attend the afternoon performance as the evening performance will be ticketed at 2 per family to comply with fire restrictions. For extenuating circumstances, please contact the school principal.

6:30 pm - Evening performance.

The program will be based on the popular book *The Day the Crayons Quit*.

Please do not purchase anything yet for students to wear for the concert. Classes will be asked to wear a specific coloured shirt based on the crayon colour they are representing. More information to come!

EPL offers FREE registered and drop-in programs for kids, teens, adults and seniors! Linked above is the calendar for the Riverbend location, which is in Riverbend Square.



St. Mary's

Community  
Connections

March 2026

<https://www.epl.ca/locations/EPLRIV/>

If you have questions or need help accessing other community supports, please contact [allyson.kothari@ecsd.net](mailto:allyson.kothari@ecsd.net)

EPL



## **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](http://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>
- **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.*

## 2026-2027 BUS STOP REVIEW

Due to severe road conditions caused by early January 2026 snowfall, many yellow bus routes experienced significant delays, with buses becoming stuck. These delays caused students to miss valuable instructional time. To ensure student learning is not further impacted in the 2026-2027 school year, **ECSD is undertaking a system-wide review of bus stops on regular yellow bus routes** to ensure they operate efficiently and safely. **Bus information will be updated on PowerSchool in August. Families are asked to carefully review the stop locations for the start of the school year.**

## 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, please make your online payment today. All fees collected are Alberta Government approved and are used for programming for your child's education.

## ART FROM OUR HEARTS

Students at St. Mary all took part in a project creating "Art From Our Hearts" to spread love, kindness and joy though out our community and beyond. Various art pieces were created by students and were hung on the school yard fence with an invite to all community members to stop by on Friday, March 20, to view, enjoy and take a piece of art home with them. An overwhelming response was received from the community and beyond. Thank you to our wonderful school full of artists!



## March at St. Mary



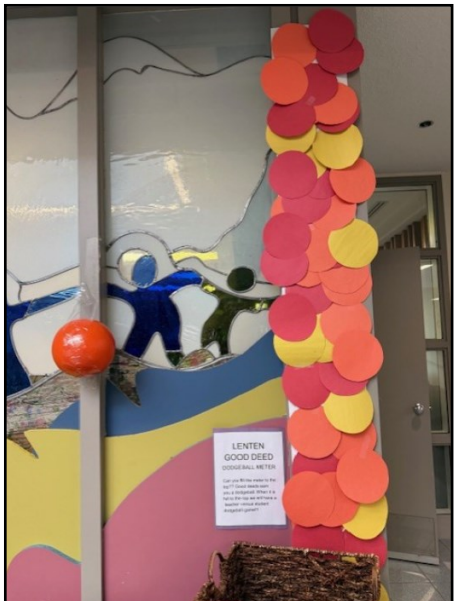
The Grade 5 students made 120 sandwiches as their class **Almsgiving Project**. The tasty sandwiches were delivered to the people in downtown Edmonton that needed some comfort in the shape of a sandwich.

## Women's History Month

### GOOD DEEDS DURING LENT

Students at St. Mary were challenged to perform good deeds during Lent. For each good deed, they were awarded a dodgeball to fill the Dodgeball Good Deed metre. When the metre was filled with good deeds (dodgeballs) the students were awarded a dodgeball game against the teachers on March 25.

Good deeds earn dodgeballs!!



## 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

### SICK

### **STAY HOME WHEN SICK**



*As students and staff return for another exciting school year 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.*

## **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.

## **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.

## ***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.

## ***REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE***

With the update of the POWERSCHOOL student record program, parents are now able to report their child's absence through the School Messenger app. Please follow this link for information on setting up and using the School Messenger app <https://www.ecsd.net/reporting-absences>.

## 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

490 Rhatigan Road East NW, Edmonton, AB T6R 2E2 | Treaty No.6 Territory

**C:587.710.7815**

e: [Beth.Pede@northernalberta.ymca.ca](mailto:Beth.Pede@northernalberta.ymca.ca) | [northernalberta.ymca.ca](http://northernalberta.ymca.ca)



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)