



# St. Mary Catholic Elementary School

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## *FEBRUARY 2026*

### *NEWSLETTER*

#### *Message from the Administration*

The month of January has come and gone quickly at St. Mary following the beautiful Christmas season. January was filled with much activity: Grade 5A attending Oilers Ice School at Rogers Place, Grade 6 visiting the Alberta Legislature, Grades 4/5A and 5A visiting the Royal Alberta Museum, Grade 3 having fun at FitSet Ninja, Grade 4 visiting the Edmonton Waste Management facility and Grades 4-6 skiing at Snow Valley, along with the Recess Club and Glow teams providing leadership throughout the school. Many clubs including tabletop hockey are getting underway as the school year progresses.



Registrations for New students and Pre-Enrollment for exiting students opens on Monday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m. Our St. Mary Open House is on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m., welcoming prospective new students to St. Mary. Please pass this information along to friends, family and neighbors.

As we enter into the month of February we celebrate Black history month by remembering and honouring the contributions Black people have made and continue to make in various sectors and regions across Canada. Our students are busy with fieldtrips - Grade 4-6 will go to Snow Valley for their second ski day, and the Puppet Lady will visit Kindergarten. We look forward to fun and excitement at our School Council sponsored Family Dance on Friday, February 6.

The month of February reminds us to love one another and live our lives with kindness. During the week of Random Act of Kindness, children look forward to showing and receiving appreciation as Valentine's day is celebrated. We are thankful for the many kindnesses we experience in our daily lives, at home and at school as Shrove Tuesday is observed and we enter into the Lenten Season.

**"we are reminded that 'goodness, together with love, justice, and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day'." Pope Francis**

# Important Dates

- January 27** On line Summary Reports (Report Cards) go live at 4:00 p.m. in the Powerschool portal
- January 29** Professional Development Day for Staff - **NO CLASSES**
- February** **Black History Month**
- February 2** **New Student Registrations open for 2026-2027 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Register at [stmary.ecsd.net](http://stmary.ecsd.net)**  
**2026-2027 Pre-enrollment for existing students goes live in the Parent Portal and remains open until March 13, 2026**
- February 2** Subway Hot Lunch, order deadline Wednesday, January 28 at 11:59 pm
- February 3** Glow Team Meeting 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- February 6** Whole School Hoop Dance Presentation at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!  
School Council Family Dance - Parents **MUST** accompany their child at the event
- February 10** Grades 4-6 second ski day at Snow Valley Ski Hill
- February 11** **St. Mary Open House 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**  
Grade 5A to Rogers Place Skate Day as part of Oilers Ice School
- February 13** Kindergarten - Puppet Tree House In-school fieldtrip - Morning & Afternoon classes  
Valentine's Day Activities - Wear **Red** and **Pink** Day 
- February 14** Valentine's Day
- February 14-20** Random Acts of Kindness Week
- February 16** **Family Day - NO CLASSES**
- February 17** Shrove Tuesday  
School Council Pancake Breakfast - more information to follow  
Lunar New Year  
Glow Team Meeting
- February 17-24** Alien In-line Skating for all students Kindergarten to Grade 6
- February 18** Ash Wednesday Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - In Classrooms
- February 23** School Council Pizza Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday February 18 at 11:59 p.m.
- February 24** Pink Shirt Day - Anti Bullying Awareness - as no classes on February 25 
- February 25** **Faith Formation Day/PD for staff - NO CLASSES**
- February 26 - 27** **Teacher's Convention - NO CLASSES**

# Important Dates

## MARCH 2026

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>March 8</b>          | Daylight Saving Time Begins   |
| <b>March 9</b>          | Subway Hot Lunch - order deadline Wednesday March 4 at 11:59 pm                 |
| <b>March 10</b>         | Grade 5 to Alberta Aviation Museum  |
| <b>March 11</b>         | Grade 5A to Hockey Hooky<br>Alien In-line Skating - last day                    |
| <b>March 13</b>         | <b>Pre-registration for 2025/2026 closes for exiting students</b>               |
| <b>March 17</b>         | <b>Wear Your Green! for St. Patrick's Day</b>                                   |
| <b>March 19</b>         | Demonstration of Learning<br>Scholastic Book Fair                               |
| <b>March 20</b>         | Book Fair closes at noon  |
| <b>March 23-27</b>      | St. Thomas More Food Pantry Food Drive  |
| <b>March 26</b>         | <b>Full Day of Classes</b> - Thursday Switch Day - Dismissal at 3:00 p.m.       |
| <b>March 27</b>         | <b>Early Dismissal for Spring Break</b> - Friday Switch Day - dismissal at NOON |
| <b>March 30-April 2</b> | <b>Spring Break - NO CLASSES</b>  |
| <b>April 3</b>          | <b>Good Friday</b>  |
| <b>April 5</b>          | <b>Easter Sunday</b>  |
| <b>April 6</b>          | <b>Easter Monday - NO CLASSES</b>   |
| <b>April 7</b>          | Classes Resume at 8:15 a.m.   |

### ***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.

## ***JANUARY SUMMARY REPORTS - Live January 27 @ 4:00 p.m.***

It is important that teachers, parents, and students are partners in education. Teachers share assessment information to communicate student progress. Assessment is the process of gathering information about what a student knows, understands, and can do in relation to learning outcomes established by Alberta Education.

All schools in ECSD provide ongoing assessment as a variety of classroom assessments guide teachers with what they need to do next. Formal reporting to parents occurs at the Demonstration of Learning in later Fall and in the Spring. In addition, through PowerTeacherPro, there is a formal snapshot of learning in January with the Summary Report, and an end of year Report Card in June. In between these events, teachers may send work and projects home, send messages in agendas, coach students with how to talk about their learning, connect with parents, and review the IPP (if applicable). Each school leverages a variety of ways to share student achievement, and some of these strategies may vary from one school to another as there are many ways to share the ongoing learning throughout the year. As always, if you are concerned regarding your child's progress, it is important that you connect with your child's teacher as soon as you are able.

Edmonton Catholic Schools has a [Parent Guide to Assessment and Reporting](https://www.ecsd.net/assessment) <https://www.ecsd.net/assessment> available on our public website to explain grading and reporting in Elementary. Please see following instructions for viewing your child's summary report. Step by step instructions can also be viewed at [January Summary Report webpage](#).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's learning. Parents play an important role in their child's education; when parents, students and educators work together, students are successful! Please be sure to attend the upcoming **Demonstration of Learning at your child's school on March 19, 2026**. More information on the Demonstration of Learning will follow.

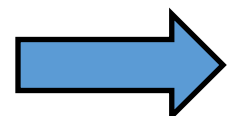
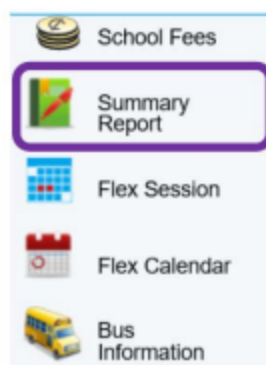


## **PowerSchool**

### ***Viewing the Summary Report in Parent Portal***

Parents can now access Summary Reports for marks from Parent Portal. These reports will be available twice each year for the current school year, at the end of each Semester. Semester 1 will be available on January 29 and Semester 2 will be available at the end of June. Previous year Summary Reports are also available. Please use the following instructions to access the Summary Report for your child(ren).

1. Log into PowerSchool – Parent Portal.
2. Click on **Summary Report** in the left menu.



- The Summary Report page will open. There are two options. **Current Year Summary Report** or **Previous Year Summary Report** (Previous Years are available anytime).

#### Summary Report

#### Issues launching your Summary Report?

Please first try to restart your internet browser. If the problem persists then check that your username does not contain any spaces or any special characters #!%&. If it does then go to Account Preferences on the left hand menu and edit/change your username. If the issue persists then please call our Service Desk at 780-441-6111 between 8:00AM and 4:00PM, Monday – Friday and someone will assist.

- Click on the **Launch Summary Report** in the **Current Year Summary Report**. The Current Year will automatically open the January Summary Report until the end of June. At the end of June, there will be an option to choose S1 (marks from the beginning of the school year until the end of January) or S2 (marks from February until the end of June).

#### Summary Report

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Clicking on the **Launch Previous Year Summary Report** will open another page that will allow you to choose the Summary Reports from each of the reporting periods from previous years. Click on **View** beside the **School Year** and **Reporting Period** desired.

#### Summary Report

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| Student                | Grade | School     | School Year | Reporting Period | View |
|------------------------|-------|------------|-------------|------------------|------|
| Student (000-000-0000) | 3     | 0000000000 | 2020        | Term 1           | View |
| Student (000-000-0000) | 3     | 0000000000 | 2020        | Term 2           | View |

## ***REGISTRATIONS FOR 2026-2027 - Opens February 2, 2026***

**New Students:** On **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**, families new to Edmonton Catholic Schools can register for the 2026-2027 school year for **Pre-k through to returning grade 12's**. 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](mailto:stmary.ecsd.net) to register.

**Transportation Application:** The **2026-2027** Transportation Application is available at:

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

The application deadline for School Start-Up in September is usually the end of May. (Please watch for the deadline date in upcoming newsletters). 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 email [transportationservices@ecsd.net](mailto:transportationservices@ecsd.net) or call 780-441-6078.

### **BUSSING CHANGES for 2026-2027**

#### **Yellow Bus Eligibility Changes effective September 2025 - PLEASE REVIEW - from Transportation**

In March 2023, the Alberta Education Minister announced a change in eligibility for bussing to be implemented in September 2023.

Students that are eligible for yellow bus service will be determined by where a student lives (or from the address that families are requesting bussing from).

**Eligibility Update:** Please be advised that the Government of Alberta has revised the eligibility criteria for yellow bus service for elementary students. **Effective September 1, 2025, the distance criteria for Grades 1 to 6 students will be 1.6 kilometres instead of 1 kilometre from their designated school.** The criteria for Grades 7 to 12 students will remain unchanged at 2 kilometres.

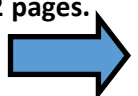
In fairness to families, allowing parents time to make alternate arrangements, the Division made the decision to **postpone the removal of service until September 2025**. Transportation Services has been accommodating families that are now eligible for bussing under the new regulation, the removal of service began for school start-up, September 2025. **Currently adding the notes on stop descriptions is an additional way of advising families of the changes coming.**

**The Division will not be making exceptions for stops to remain in place as adequate notice has been served to schools and families.**

## ***PRE-ENOLMENT (Returning) STUDENTS for 2026-2027***

**Current ECSD Students:** As of **February 2, 2026**, pre-enrolment for returning students is **OPEN** in the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). **Please click on School Engage, "Pre-Enrolment for the Next Year" and follow the prompts to indicate your child's registrations intentions for the 2026-2027 school year.** Pre-enrolment is key to helping us understand how many students to expect in September 2026 and helps us plan for staffing, class sizes and programming. Families are needed to share their plans for next September regardless of if they are staying with their current school or transitioning into kindergarten, junior high, or high school. To learn more, visit [ecsd.net/pre-enrolment](https://ecsd.net/pre-enrolment). **This pre-enrolment process will remain open until March 14, 2025. Detailed instructions are also on the next 2 pages.**

The instructions refer to the 2024-2025 school year however are the same for this school year.





The purpose of Pre-enrolment is to give families the opportunity to let us know what their registration plans are for the next school term.

All students currently in our Division need to complete the pre-enrolment form, regardless of whether they are remaining at their current school or transitioning to another ECSD school. This process needs to be completed for each child in the family.

**Pre-enrolment submissions can be made through the PowerSchool Parent Portal from February 3 – March 14, 2025.**

### Parent Portal Pre-Enrolment Screen:

1. Log-in to your Parent Portal account to view the “**Pre-enrolment for Next Year**” screen

Navigation

- SchoolEngage
- Grades and Attendance
- Grade History
- Attendance Request
- Pre-enrolment for Next Year**
- Report Card
- Attendance History
- School Bulletin

Current School: Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Catholic Elementary/J.H.

Expected School for (Multiples are due to overlapping boundaries): ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH MACNEIL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/J.H.

Will you be attending your expected school?

What school do you wish to apply for

Program

Any information that might be useful to the next school if applicable?

[Submit Request](#)

2. Take note of the “Expected School for 2025-2026” and complete the following questions:

#### Will you be attending your expected school?

|                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Yes                 | → | to attend the expected school   |
| No                  | → | to select an alternate ECSD school choice   |
| No-Selecting Online | → | to attend an Online program   |
| Other               | → | if none of the above apply. (Example: moving out of the District or province). It is recommended that you include a comment or explanation in the text box. |

### What school do you wish to apply for?

Requirements for this question are dependent on how the previous question was answered.

- If answered with **YES** or **No-Selecting Online**, this question will be completed by default.
- If an answer of **No** was selected, choose your preferred school from the available dropdown menu.

Will you be attending your expected school? No

ANNE FITZGERALD CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH MACNEIL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- If an answer of **Other** was selected, this information is not required.

### Program?

Choose a preferred focus or alternative program offered at the school selected, if applicable. Note: This list will vary by school choice.

Program

French Immersion  
Spanish Bilingual  
Kindergarten with Full-Day Programming (Spanish)  
Kindergarten with Full-Day Programming (French Immersion)  
Regular

3. Add any additional information that might be useful to the next school if applicable?
4. Click to [Submit Request](#)

Once submitted, no changes can be made to this page, however you can return to this page to view the status of your request. In the event a change is necessary, please contact your child's current school.



## **ST. MARY SCHOOL COUNCIL FAMILY DANCE - February 6 - 6:30-8:30 pm**

St. Mary's SAC is excited to invite you to our upcoming 70's Discglo Family Dance, a fun night for the whole family!

### **70's Discglo Dance**

Friday, February 6th

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

St. Mary's Gymnasium

Featuring DJ Kwake

**Parents MUST accompany their children to the event!**

Come dressed in your best 70's, disco, or glow-inspired outfits and get ready to dance the night away. There will be prizes for Best Dressed, great music, and lots of fun for kids and parents alike.

Free entrance - donations are encouraged, with all proceeds supporting our school community.

We hope you'll join us for an evening of music, laughter, and memorable family fun.

See you on the dance floor!



**ST. MARY OPEN HOUSE - February 11, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

As we begin preparations for the upcoming new school year, our **Open House will be on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.** We invite all parents and prospective new students to visit our school. Please pass our Open House information along to anyone who may be interested for Kindergarten through Grade 6.

**WE WILL BE ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR**

**KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 6**

**as of FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

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



# OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday,  
February 11  
at 6:30 PM**

**OFFERING:**

- Leadership opportunities
- Learning commons with skylights
- Focus on 21st century skills
- Social justice projects
- Outdoor environmental classroom
- Greenhouse
- YMCA child care



**stmary.ecsd.net**  
780-988-6577  
490 Rhatigan Rd. NW



## ***SNOW VALLEY SKIING - February 10***

Students in grades 4A, 4/5A, 5A, 6A and 6B will be again going skiing at Snow Valley Ski Club on **Wednesday, February 10.**

- A reminder that all students skiing with the school **MUST** ride the bus **to** and **from** the ski hill unless a parent expressly signs out their child to the teacher at the end of the day. **They will not be allowed to stay and ski on their own.**
- Students bringing their own equipment can bring it into the school the morning of skiing and can take the equipment on the bus to the ski hill. Ski equipment must be brought to and picked up from school by parents as it is not allowed on the regular yellow bus in the morning or afternoon.
- All students are required to take the ski lesson as part of the Snow Valley ski trip, regardless of their ability.
- If a child does not take part in the school ski fieldtrip and comes to the hill on their own to ski, they are the responsibility of the parent for the day and not under the supervision of the school.

## ***OILERS ICE SCHOOL - Skate Day - February 11***

The Grade 5A class will be attending a Skate Day at Rogers Place as the final day of Oilers Ice School. What a wonderful experience!

## ***THE PUPPET LADY VISITS KINDERGARTEN - February 13***

The Puppet Lady will be at St. Mary on February 13 to visit both the morning and afternoon Kindergarten classes. We look forward to her fun and entertainment!

## ***VALENTINE'S DAY Activities - February 13***



Valentine's Day is a special day for all children with fun classroom activities. As Valentine's Day falls on Saturday this year, Valentine classroom activities will take place on Friday, February 13. Due to allergies, dietary restrictions and respecting parent decision making with respect to candy, we ask parents **refrain from sending candy and/or food** for their classmates. Students are welcome to distribute Valentine's to their classmates, however we request being mindful to ensure all students are included.

## ***RANDOM ACTS OF KINDESS WEEK - February 14-20 - Be Kind***

## ***FAMILY DAY - February 16***

Family Day, a Provincial holiday, is on Monday, February 16.

**There are NO CLASSES for students.**

## ***SCHOOL COUNCIL HOT LUNCHES in FEBRUARY***

**February 2** - Subway

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, January 28 at 11:59 pm

**February 23** - Pizza

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, February 18 at 11:59 pm

Please have your child bring their own plate and cutlery to minimize the amount of garbage.

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

## ***PINK SHIRT DAY - February 25 Observed on February 24***

Pink Shirt Day falls on the last Wednesday of February every year. The mission of Pink Shirt Day is to create a more kind and inclusive world by raising awareness and promoting anti-bullying strategies. Pink shirts are worn to recognize those who are bullied and to stand up for them.

Pink Shirt Day will be observed on Tuesday, February 24 as there are NO CLASSES on February 25 as staff are participating in division wide PD Faith Development Day.

We encourage the wearing of pink if possible on this Pink Shirt Day. Please do not shop for a pink shirt if one is not already available. Wear a pink button, barrette, ribbon, socks etc. instead.

## ***FAITH DEVELOPMENT DAY/PD for Staff - February 25 - NO CLASSES***

## ***TEACHERS CONVENTION - February 26 & 27- NO CLASSES***

Teachers Convention - Thursday, **February 26** & Friday, **February 27** - NO CLASSES



St. Mary's  
**Community Connections**  
February 2026  
<https://familyfutures.ca/>  
If you have questions or need help accessing other community supports, please contact [allyson.kothari@ecsd.net](mailto:allyson.kothari@ecsd.net)

Family Futures Resource Network



Family Futures Resource Network is an amazing local resource that offers free programs and community support! Classes for babies, toddlers, school aged children, as well as parenting classes, free counselling services and home visitation options for families. Locations close to Snow Valley, as well as Ellerslie.





## **NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - March 2026 - [watch for details](#)**

### **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.

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

**Spring Break - March 30–April 3 - NO CLASSES**

### **EASTER - 2026**

February 17 - Shrove Tuesday

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

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 at 8:15 a.m.

April 8 - Entire school attends Easter Celebration Mass at St. Thomas More Parish at 9:30 a.m.

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

| May 21  | 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 - 12 AM    |
| June 15 | Grade 6 Mathematics Part A                | 9 AM - 9:20 AM  |
| June 18 | Grade 6 Math Part B                       | 9 AM - 10:10 AM |
|         |   |                 |

### **DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE AN EPL LIBRARY CARD?**

Does your child have an Edmonton Public Library library card? The Edmonton Public Library provides many resources students can access. An application for a library card can be made through the Powerschool portal. Please follow [these instructions](#) to apply. The library cards will be sent to the school for distribution to your child.

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

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

# GLOW TEAM UPDATE

**GLOW Team will meet Tuesday,  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and March  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. 3pm-4pm.**

## **JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH UPDATE!**

**We are excited to sell Kindness Grams again this year, to celebrate Kindness Month!**

**GLOW Team members will sell the Kindness Grams February 2nd-6th at recess. They are \$1, and include a message and either a pencil, bookmark or a bracelet. They will be delivered to classes on February 9<sup>th</sup> by GLOW Team. Different classes will be called down each day to ensure everyone gets an opportunity to go, and to lessen crowds!**

**Proceeds from the Grams will go towards GLOW Team social justice projects that have been voted for! (Bissell Centre and Zebra Centre).**

*Our Team members have also voted to spread cheer and bring joy to others in our neighborhood. We will be creating and delivering Valentine Cards to our friends at community retirement communities, and also beautifying our playground fences with some art! This will roll out at our February meetings! Stay tuned for details and photos!*

GLOW Team has also voted on a student marketplace, which will be held in March (Date TBD). GLOW Team members will sell items they have made (no food items due to allergies, think jewelry, crafts, bookmarks, etc). Proceeds from this market will go to our social justice projects, as well a small portion will be given back to makers to cover costs of supplies! Stay tuned for details!

**Make sure you check out our  
"Take What You Need" board  
when you are in the school next!**

**Some of our Team members will  
be St. Mary ambassadors at the  
upcoming school Open House on  
February 11th!**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS UNABLE TO MAKE A GLOW  
TEAM MEETING, PLEASE ASK THEM TO LET  
MISS BYKER, MRS. K OR MRS. KATIE KNOW!**





## **ST. THOMAS MORE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST**

**For Children Aged 7-11 [Registration for Spring Cycle 3 – 2025-2026 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Eucharist is OPEN](#)**

February 10: 6:15 – 7:15 pm – Parent Orientation

April 14: 6:15 – 7:30 pm Class 3

February 17: 6:15 – 7:30 pm Class 1

April 21: 6:15 – 7:30 pm Class 4

March 3: 6:15 – 7:30 pm Class 2

April 28: 6:15 – 7:30 pm Class 5

March 7: 11 am – 1:00 pm First Reconciliation

May 3 at 4:30 pm (First Eucharist Celebration)

## **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)**



## 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 for parking and which are for driving through only. Parking is available in the church lot during pick up and drop off.

### 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.

### **Lunches and Allergy Reminders**

Students in our school have severe life-threatening allergy to peanuts and tree nuts. Exposure to even a minute amount of the food substance could cause anaphylactic shock. Even a small trace of peanut butter on a friend's hand could be transferred to the student and can cause emergency treatment that involves an immediate epi-pen injection and an emergency trip to the hospital.

Given the situation, we are requesting that parents refrain from including "peanuts and peanut products" in lunches or snacks. Since this allergy is so very severe, we ask that if a child eats a peanut product in the morning prior to coming to school, to have the child wash their hands and face with soap and water.

While this request may pose an inconvenience for you when packing your child's lunch and snack, we thank you for your support and understanding as we endeavor to facilitate a safe learning environment for all students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school to discuss further.

## ***CANCELLATION of YELLOW BUS SERVICE - Weather***

Please be advised that the following Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

### **RADIO STATIONS**

880 CHED

CISN FM 103.9

THE CHUCK FM 92.5

INEWS 880 AM

KISS 91.7

UP! 99.3 FM

PLAY 107

AM 930 The Light CJCA

SHINE 105.9 FM

TSN 1260

95.7 CRUZ FM

The Bear 100.3 FM

SONIC 102.9 FM

104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM

CBC

CHFA 90.1 FM (French)

CFCW 840 AM

The Breeze 96.3

K97 97.3

02.3 NOW! Radio

### **TV STATIONS**

CITYTV

CTV Edmonton

GLOBAL Edmonton

CBC TV

Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.

## BUSSING 2026-2027



All NEW applications, changes to bussing addresses, cancellations or replacement bus pass requests **must** be completed online through the following link- <https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/>

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 2026-27 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.*

### **Daily bus delays - What to do when your yellow school bus is running late?**

We want all families prepared in the event of bus delays. While bus drivers will complete their route, no matter how late they may be running, we recommend that families make alternate arrangements if a bus does not arrive within **20 minutes** of its scheduled time.

To help prepare for a delayed bus, families are reminded to:

- Check for delays before you head out the door via the BusPlanner Delays App or the [ECSD bus delays website](#).
- We recommend children wait with a friend or trusted adult at the bus stop.
- Have a plan in case the bus does not arrive. For example, return home or go to a neighbour's house.
- Make alternate arrangements for getting their child to school if needed.
- Dress children appropriately for the weather to withstand any delays or wait times.

### **Stay Notified**

Our Transportation Services team uses several methods to keep families informed about bus delays:

- BusPlanner Delays App: Download the free app on Android or iPhone to receive notifications
- Division Website: Delayed routes are posted at <https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/Alerts>.
- Call Transportation Services at 780-441-6078.

Bus delays can happen, but being ready can make all the difference.

## ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH MacNEIL Information for Grade 6 Students

# Important Dates

Grade 6 Visit to AJM is on **MONDAY January 26<sup>th</sup>** all morning!

Open House is **TUESDAY February 3<sup>rd</sup>** @ 7:00 pm

Options Choice Form Opens **TUESDAY February 3<sup>rd</sup>** after our Open House at 8:30 PM

EAP Application Opens **MONDAY February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
--Deadline of **MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>--**





# OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 5 AT 6:30 PM



- ✓ Honours Language Arts and Social Studies
- ✓ Accelerated Math and Science
- ✓ Sports and Athletics
- ✓ Faith and Social Justice



strose.ecsd.net  
8815 145 Street NW | 780-483-2695



JANUARY at St. Mary

Grade 5A  
Oilers Ice School

