



St. Mary Catholic Elementary School

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MARCH, 2026

Message from the Admin

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Another busy month has come to a close at St. Mary with our school hosting our Open House for new incoming students, celebrating Black History Month, continuing with the celebration of Lunar New Year, our School Council hosting the “Discglo” themed Family Dance, children celebrating Random Acts of Kindness week, Valentine’s Day classroom celebrations, the Puppet Lady visiting Kindergarten, students having fun during the Alien In-line Skating residency, our School Council serving Shrove Tuesday pancake snack to students, the observation of Ash Wednesday in classrooms as we entered into the Lenten season, Pink Shirt day being celebrated in support of anti-bullying, along with students keeping busy with Recess Club, table top hockey, GLOW TEAM and other clubs at St. Mary. The month of February ends with NO CLASSES on February 25 for a Staff Faith Formation Day and Teacher’s Convention on February 26 and 27.

Pre-enrollment and new registration for the 2026-2027 school year also opened on February 2. We encourage all families to complete the Pre-enrollment for their children in Powerschool informing the school of your intention for the upcoming year, with Pre-enrollment closing on March 13.

As March begins, we continue on our Lenten journey. We are reminded to love one another and live our lives with kindness. We are thankful for the many kindnesses we experience in our daily lives, at home and at school. We are thankful for our School Council and parent volunteers for serving a pancake snack for lunch to all students on Shrove Tuesday, February 17. During the season of Lent we prepare ourselves to celebrate that Jesus died and rose for us. The word Lent means “spring” or “change”. It is a time when we take a look at ourselves and at our lives to see if we have lived up to our Baptismal promises to live in the Spirit of God. It is a time to look within and go to the “wilderness”, just as Jesus did and to draw closer to God. As a school we will be engaging in a number of Lenten activities which will help our staff and students reflect on the beauty of this season.

Thursday, March 19, is our Demonstration of Learning, where we will come together as a Catholic School Community to celebrate our students’ successes and set goals with students for the final term of this school year. A Scholastic Book fair will run during the Demonstration of Learning. Please be sure to visit. We will close the month of March with Spring Break beginning on March 30 with classes resuming on April 7.

The staff would like to wish all of our St. Mary families a restful Spring Break and a Blessed Lenten Journey!

Important Dates

February 25 PD Day - NO CLASSES - Staff Faith Formation Day

February 26 and 27 Teacher's Convention - NO CLASSES

March 3 Glow Team Meeting 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins - Turn your clock ahead one hour
International Women's Day



March 9 School Council Subway lunch - order deadline Wednesday, March 4 at 11:59 p.m.

March 11 Grade 5A students to Hockey Hooky
Alien In-line Skating (last make up day)

March 13 **Pre-enrollment in Powerschool closes for existing students**

March 16 Grade 3A - In School fieldtrip - Soapstone Carving



March 17 St. Patrick's Day wear your **GREEN or Rainbow**

Glow Team Meeting 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

March 19 **Demonstration of Learning - drop in between - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Scholastic Book Fair during Demo - 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

March 20 Book Fair 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. for students wanting to make purchases

March 23-27 St. Thomas More Food Pantry drive

March 26 **Thursday Full Day of Classes** Switch Day before Spring Break
Dismissal at 3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten students come to school today (Friday Schedule)

March 27 **Friday Early Dismissal** Switch Day before Spring Break

Dismissal at 11:59 am

Friday - **No Kindergarten Classes (Thursday Schedule)**

March 29 Palm Sunday

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

April 3 **Good Friday - NO CLASSES**

April 5 **Easter Sunday**

April 6 **Easter Monday - NO CLASSES**

April 7 Classes resume at 8:15 am

April 8 Whole School attends Easter Mass at St. Thomas More Parish @ 9:30 am. All are welcome
Kindergarten Full Day of Classes

April 13 Hot Lunch - Subway - order deadline Wednesday, April 8 at 11:59 pm

April 15 Grade 5 to Alberta Aviation Museum

April 22 Earth Day - Wear your **Blue or Green**

April 26 ECSD Art Show at Lumen Christi

April 27 Hot Lunch - Pizza - order deadline Wednesday April 22 at 11:59 p.m.

April 28 National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured on the Job
Celebration of the Arts - Jubilee Auditorium

April 30 New Kindergarten Orientation - Students starting in September 2026

May 6 **Save the Date - St. Mary's Spring Concert - evening performance**

LENT 2026

Our Lenten journey began with classroom Ash Wednesday liturgy on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Thank you to the School Council and volunteer parents who made and served the pancake snack to all students on Shrove Tuesday.

During Lent and Easter students will be busy learning about the Lenten Liturgical season through our Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ Religious Education program. Parents can share this experience with their child by accessing the Student-Home website at: www.pearsoncanada.ca/school/growinginfaith/student-home

Enter the Username and Password as shown below:

Username: ecsd99

Password: Student99

14	13	12	WALK THE LENTEN PATH...			
15	 Lent	11	2 nd Sunday of Lent	10	9	8
16	Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving					7
		34	33	32	31	6
3 rd Sunday of Lent					30	5
17					29	5 th Sunday of Lent
18	35	Happy Easter! He is Risen!!			28	3
19	36				27	3
20	37	39 Good Friday	40 Holy Saturday	26	2	
21		38 Holy Thursday			1	
22		4 th Sunday of Lent	23	24	25	 Lent

EASTER - 2026
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.



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.

Edmonton Outdoor Way of the Cross: This ecumenical prayer event is scheduled for Good Friday, April 3, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Participants are invited to meet at the start location 10821 96 St. NW to start the procession.

FAITH FORMATION DAY

for Staff

WEDNESDAY,

February 25, 2026

NO CLASSES for STUDENTS

**Teachers'
Convention
February 26
& February 27
NO CLASSES**



Daylight Savings

**Time Begins
March 8**

**Remember to set
your clocks forward
one hour.**

TEACHERS' CONVENTION

The Greater Edmonton 2026 Teachers' Convention

Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27

NO CLASSES

These two days have been set-aside for the Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention (GETCA). During this time, leading educators throughout the province and beyond, gather to share their knowledge, current research and strategies for effective teaching and learning. The purpose is to continually develop their professional skills so they can provide the best possible educational programs and learning experiences for our students.

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.

PRE-ENROLLMENT for 2026-2027



Is your child returning to St. Mary for 2026-2027?

As noted in our February 2026 newsletter, student Pre-enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now open and will be **closing on March 13, 2026**. The pre-enrollment gives families the opportunity to let the school know their registration plans for the next school year. Is your child returning to St. Mary for next year?

If you have not yet completed your child's enrollment intention in Powerschool for the next school year, please refer to the following instructions to assist in the completion of your intention.

Please note the closing date of March 13, 2026 at which time you will not longer be able to complete your intention online and will have to contact the school directly to complete.

The purpose of pre-enrolment is to give families the opportunity to let us know what their registration plans are for the upcoming school year.

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

Pre-enrolment forms are available and submitted through the PowerSchool Parent Portal from February 2 – March 13, 2026.

Parent Portal Pre-Enrolment Screen:

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

2. Take note of the **“Expected School for 2026-2027”** and complete the following questions:

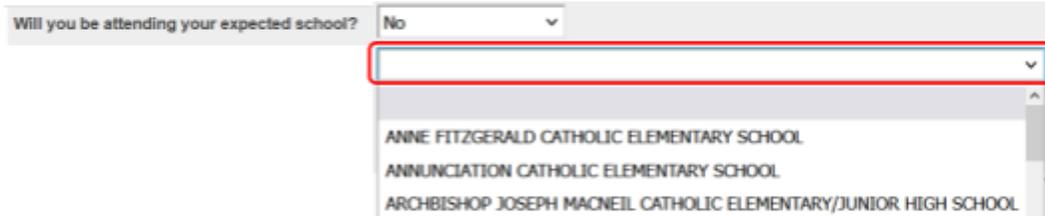
Will you be attending your expected school?

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 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 ECSD or the 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 populated by default.
- If an answer of **No** was selected, choose your preferred school from the available dropdown menu.

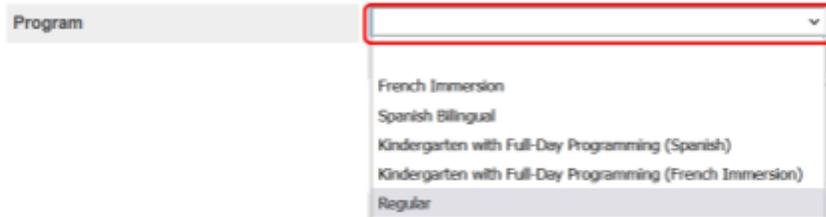


A screenshot of a web form. The question is "Will you be attending your expected school?". The selected option is "No". Below this, a dropdown menu is open, showing a list of schools: ANNE FITZGERALD CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, and ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH MACNEIL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. The dropdown menu is highlighted with a red border.

- 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.



A screenshot of a web form. The question is "Program". A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of programs: French Immersion, Spanish Bilingual, Kindergarten with Full-Day Programming (Spanish), Kindergarten with Full-Day Programming (French Immersion), and Regular. The dropdown menu is highlighted with a red border.

3. Add any additional information that might be useful to the next school.
4. Click to **Submit Request**

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

MARCH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - 6 PM on March 9

The next School Council and Fundraising Meeting will be at 6 PM on March 9, 2026 at St. Mary School. If you would like to join the meeting virtually, the link to join is in the website at <https://stmary.ecsd.net/school-council> on the St. Mary webpage. Agendas and minutes can also be viewed at this site.

A big "Thank You" to the School Council for the Family Dance. Fun was had by all!!

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING - March 19, 2026 - 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Please join us at our Demonstration of Learning on Thursday, March 19, at the school. This is an important time for you to support your child in their progress at school. The students will be demonstrating their success and challenges so that together with you they can set goals for the future. Please visit your child's classroom at a time convenient to you between 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - March 19, 2026 - 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

The Scholastic Book fair will again be at St. Mary during the Demonstration of Learning on March 19. Students will have an opportunity to preview the book fair the morning of March 19, and can shop the book fair with parents during their Demonstration of Learning between 4:30 pm and 7:30. **The book fair will remain open from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 20, for any late purchases.** Preview flyers will be coming home with your children in early March.

SPRING BREAK - March 30 - April 3

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

Kindergarten students ATTEND on Thursday 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 am.**

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

Spring Break - March 30 - April 3 - NO CLASSES

Easter Sunday - April 5

Easter Monday - April 6 - NO CLASSES

Classed resume Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 8:15 am

SCHOOL COUNCIL HOT LUNCHES in MARCH

March 9 - Subway

- Order deadline through Healthy Hunger - Wednesday, March 4 at 11:59 pm

March 23 - Pizza

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

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

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 to register.

Plan Ahead for the 2026-2027 School Year - 2026-2027 CALENDAR

Families can now view, download, and print the updated 2026–2027 school year calendar. Please note that the Remembrance Day Weekend and Fall Break have been extended and will run from November 10 to November 13, 2026. Students will return to classes on Monday, November 16, 2026. Visit ecsd.net/calendar for full 2026-2027 details.

BUSSING INFORMATION FOR 2026-2027

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

- 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>
- **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.*

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.**

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>.

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	AM 930 The Light CJCA	CBC
CISN FM 103.9	SHINE 105.9 FM	CHFA 90.1 FM (French)
THE CHUCK FM 92.5	TSN 1260	CFCW 840 AM
INEWS 880 AM	95.7 CRUZ FM	The Breeze 96.3
KISS 91.7	The Bear 100.3 FM	K97 97.3
UP! 99.3 FM	SONIC 102.9 FM	02.3 NOW! Radio
PLAY 107	104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM	
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.

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 evening. 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!

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 PM
June 15	Grade 6 Mathematics Part A	9 AM - 9:20 AM
June 18	Grade 6 Mathematics Part B	9 AM - 10:10AM

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



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.

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

stmary.ecsd.net/calendar

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/

FEBRUARY at ST. MARY



Dallas Arcand - World Champion Hoop Dancer



Black History Month



Seasonal Valentine's Tree



Lunar New Year



2026 Olympics - GO CANADA GO!!

