



St. Mary Catholic Elementary School

Principal: Ms. Vince

Christine.Vince@ecsd.net

Assistant Principal: Ms. Francois

Julie.Francois@ecsd.net

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Ward

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September 2026

ADMIN TEAM MESSAGE

Welcome back to the 2026-2027 school year! Following is a our mini newsletter keeping families up to date on activities throughout the month.

SEPTEMBER - IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

September 2	First Day of Classes Staggered Entry Kindergarten - letter sent at end of June
September 4	Staggered Entry Kindergarten - letter sent at end of June GIST regular programming begins
September 7	Labour Day - NO CLASSES Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day
September 8	Classes Resume at 8:15 am
September 9	Staggered Entry Kindergarten - letter sent at end of June School Council Meeting 6:00 PM - All are Welcome!
September 11	Kindergarten regular programing begins
September 15	School Fees go live. Please pay by September 30 Bus fees applied by Transportation Services on September 2. Questions, call Transportation at 780-441-6078
September 16	Curriculum Information Night: - 5 - 6 p.m. Back to School BBQ in the back field - School Council Annual General Meeting - 6:00 P.M. in the gymnasium - Curriculum Information Night 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in your child's classroom
September 18	Terry Fox Marathon of Hope run at St. Mary 9:00 am - 10:12 am. Parents are welcome to join. Donations can be made online @ https://schools.terryfox.ca/136802
September 21	ECSD Cross Country Run - Rundle Park. Interested children in Grades 4-6 only are bringing home permission forms. Bus transportation from school to Rundle Park
September 23	Grade 6 Immunizations in the a.m.
September 29	Truth and Reconciliation Day recognition - Wear your Orange Shirts
September 30	NO CLASSES - Truth and Reconciliation Day

STAY CONNECTED and follow us on:

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

Instagram: @st_mary_elementary

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

TERRY FOX RUN - Cancer Fundraiser - Friday, September 18

St. Mary is again excited to take part in the 46th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Terry's marathon was intended to raise money to fight against cancer.

The St. Mary Terry Fox Run will be in the school yard on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 9:00 am to 10:12 am (recess) with all grades, Kindergarten to Grade 6 participating on assigned routes. Parents are welcome to join their children in the run.

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

Donations to the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope can be made online directly to the Terry Fox Foundation on behalf of St. Mary School through the following link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/136802>

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

SCHOOL FEES

Government approved school fees charged are used in student programming and/or services throughout the school year. Your child's school fees will be **available for payment on September 15, 2026** in the parent Powerschool Portal <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>.

Please make your fee payment by the end of September, 2026. Bus fees are available for payment now and are applied directly by Transportation Services. There are no busses passes being issued this school year. Questions on bus fees and/or routing can be directed to Transportation at 780-441-6078.

RECESS BEFORE EATING LUNCH

Lunch times will remain the same at last school year. Students will have outdoor recess from 11:54 am - 12:14 pm and will eat their lunch from 12:14 pm to 12:34 pm.

We encourage children to bring their lunch with them as they arrive to school in the morning as to limit disruption to learning and work flow. **Noon drop offs of fast food items are discouraged. All essentials for eating their lunch should be packed as the school does not provide disposable supplies - cutlery etc. for student use.** Healthy lunches are encouraged together with reducing disposable waste.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE SCHOOL

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

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

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

BIRTHDAYS & Healthy Food Choices at School

Edmonton Catholic Schools is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's well-being, and the ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Any food and beverages served at school for special celebrations will be from the "Choose Most Often" or "Choose Sometime" categories as outlined in the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth (2008). Along with this, parents will be notified in advance so they may inform the teacher if they would not like their child to consume the food provided. To respect and support parents in their role as providers for their children and in consideration of severe allergies, we ask that **NO food be sent to school for birthdays or to be shared with other students at any time.** The office and teachers will acknowledge birthdays in their own way and we will leave the birthday parties for home. Thank you for your support with this.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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

GETTING TO and FROM SCHOOL SAFELY

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

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

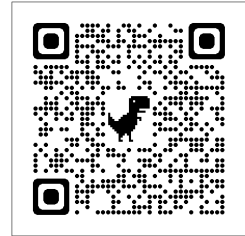
Drop Off & Pick Up

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

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

You are welcome to use the DROP & GO lane if you are stopping to let out students only – **this is not for parents who wish to get out of their vehicle.**

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

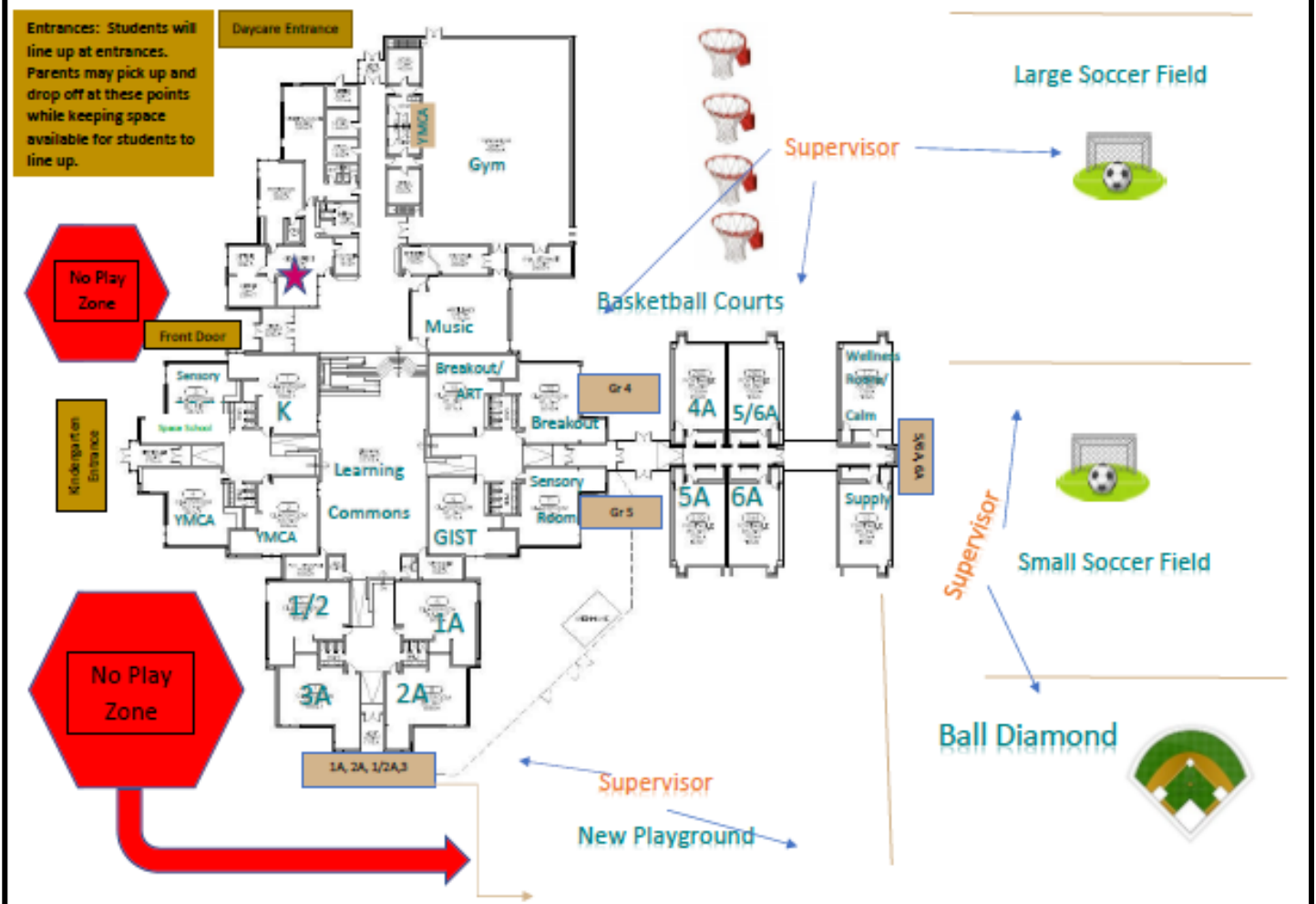


DROP OFF and PICK UP

Outside supervision begins at 8:00 a.m. Students entry is through their grade doors (indicated on the map below) at 8:15, except for inclement weather. Students exit at the end of the day through their grade doors as well. Parents are asked to meet their children outside their grade doors at the end of the day.

Students arriving late to school come to the front entry door, ring the doorbell and check in at the office.

St. Mary Elementary Entry Zones 2026-2027



GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATIONS

Grade 6 students are scheduled to receive their HPV and HepB immunizations on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 23 (morning)
- Wednesday March 24 (morning)

St. Mary is serviced through the Rutherford Community Health Center. Our school nurse is as follows:

[Leslie Semashkewich, RN, BN](#)

Public Health Nurse – School Health Program
Edmonton Public Health, Primary Care Alberta

Rutherford Community Health Center
#201, 11153 Ellerslie Rd, SW
Edmonton, AB T6W 0E9
p: 780-342-6804

Leslie.Semashkewich@primarycarealberta.ca

ECSD CROSS COUNTRY RUN - September 21 - Rundle Park

Division 2 (Grade 4-6) students only, are invited to take part in the ECSD Cross Country Run in the afternoon of Monday, September 21 at Rundle Park. Students will be bussed to Rundle Park. Cross country running practice will run through the month of September leading up to September 21. Please watch for 2 separate permission forms, one for your child to take part in Running Club at the school and a second fieldtrip permission form for them to take part in the ECSD Cross Country Run.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING @ 6:00 PM - All are Welcome!



School Library Card Program

Students can get new Edmonton Public Library cards sent directly to their class! Register for library cards via PowerSchool. Follow this link for instructions to apply:

<https://www.epl.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2022/12/ECSD-Accessing-EPL-Library-Card-Application-through-PowerSchool-12-22.pdf>

ALBERTA EDUCATION PARENT TOOLKIT

Alberta Education has provided a toolkit for parent with supplementary resources to support their child's learning.

Follow this link to view the video explaining how to use the Curated Parent Toolkit and Additional Supplementary Resources.

<https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/cdn/toolkits/videos/parent-toolkit-information/parent-toolkit-information.mp4>