



January 17, 2026

Dear Families,

This past week, principals from across ECSD participated in a two-day Leadership Academy focused on optimal teaching and learning, and what this looks like in our schools. Guided by Dr. Santiago Rincón-Gallardo, we explored the conditions necessary to ensure every child can reach their full potential. Through a series of reflective activities and meaningful conversations, one of my key takeaways was the importance of balancing both rigour and joy to achieve the highest levels of learning. I look forward to sharing and exploring these ideas with our staff during our upcoming Professional Development Day on Thursday, January 29.

One learning condition of critical importance is student mental health. I am proud of the work we have begun at our school through our Student Wellness Team, as well as the support provided to students by our Emotional Behaviour Specialist and Family School Liaison Worker. Together with our parents, our school team truly represents the “village” that supports our children as they grow, learn, and thrive.

This week we celebrate our new Archbishop-designate Stephan Hero. Born and raised in Edmonton, he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Edmonton, taught at Newman Theological College, and served as rector of St. Joseph Seminary. In 2021, he was appointed Bishop of Prince Albert. He now returns home and will be installed as Archbishop of Edmonton on Friday, January 23, 2026 at St. Joseph's Basilica. The Installation Mass will be [livestreamed](#) at 7PM.

With gratitude,

Laurie Bonanni-McGee

Principal

Erin Pruski

Assistant Principal



Chief Superintendent Message

You can read Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's January reflection on Truth, Beauty and Goodness as we begin our Advent journey by [clicking here](#) or by visiting ecsd.net/chief-superintendents-message.



Upcoming Events:

Please continue to check our website calendar regularly for news and events, <https://stcharles.ecsd.net/> you can download the calendar to your devices.

St. Charles is on Instagram! This is where you will find a snapshot of the upcoming week and some great photos of what is happening. Follow us at: [stcharles_ecsd](#)

We have also included the link to the Division Calendar for next year. [ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026](#)

Focus: COURAGE JANUARY 2026	
January 5-23	ECSD Annual Survey Grades 4-6
January 19-21	Grade 4A to ICE school (includes Feb.9 and 10)
January 21	Bell Let's Talk Day Tools to help everyone with mental health Bell Let's Talk
January 22	Running Room Games- Go Cardinals!
January 26	Grade 4-6- First FLEX Sessions 8:45-9:45 (Every Monday) Grade 1 In school Field trip - Art Workshop- Clay & Glass Fusion Cardinal Leger Presentation to interested Grade 6 students
January 27	Family Literacy Day 2026: Make mealtime family learning time January Summary Reports available online at 4:00PM Kindergarten Puppet Treehouse Presentation
Thursday January 29	School PD Day- No Classes
Friday January 30	School Visit with Gary Gagnon (ILS) Medicines and Prayer Grade 4-6

Focus: LOVE FEBRUARY 2026 – Black History Month	
Feb. 2	Pre-enrollment and new registrations open
Feb 2-13	Alien In Line
Feb. 3	Snow Valley Skiing for Grades 4-6
Thursday Feb 5	Grade 6 Feeder School Visit to St. Edmunds
Friday February 6	School Spirit Day/ Assembly Hot Lunch- Little Caesar



February 9 & 10	Grade 4A to ICE School
February 13	Family Winter Carnival Evening- 5:00-8:00 pm (see invitation below)
Feb. 14	Valentines Day
Feb. 14-20	Random Acts of Kindness Week The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation
February 16	Family Day- no school
Feb. 17	Chinese Lunar New Year- Year of the Horse Shrove Tuesday
Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday School Liturgy and Distribution of Ashes (time TBA)
Thursday Feb. 19	Fr. Marc Parish Visit
Feb. 24	Pink Shirt Day Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 25	Faith Development Day/PD- No School
Thursday February 26-27	Teacher's Convention

Important Reminders

Drop Off Zones/Designated Handicapped Parking

We continue to have issues with our drop off and pick up of students. To ensure safety and speedy drop off and pick up we ask parents to please be mindful of the wait times in these zones as traffic becomes backed up very quickly.

One solution is to turn right after you have dropped off your child. Trying to turn left past the drop off is slowing everyone down and creates a backlog of vehicles especially during peak times.

A reminder to not enter the parking lot for end of day pick up as only the Baturyn Playschool parents with valid passes are permitted. Individuals who hold a valid handicapped pass are the only ones who should be accessing the dedicated space. Finally, please avoid parking by the fire hydrant to avoid getting ticketed.

Please be patient and try to help by following these simple rules. If you notice an issue, please call into the office- 780 456-5222 immediately and we will try to get a staff member outside to help direct traffic especially after school. We all must be responsible for our students' safety.

Snow Clearing

The city has shared that school zone clearing is scheduled for weekends starting January 23, 2026. Work will run from Friday 7 PM to Monday 7 AM. Expected to take 3 to 4 weekends. "No parking" signs will be posted before clearing begins.



BusPlanner Delays App

We encourage our families who have children who take the bus to download the BusPlanner Delays App on their mobile phones to receive late bus notifications. Instructions are located on [Yellow Bus Delays - Edmonton Catholic Schools](#)

Survey Time- Please use a pencil only when filling in your answers

ECSD Annual Survey



1. Complete the paper survey
2. Fill out a survey for each child registered
3. Return by January 23, 2026

Visit ecsd.net/annualsurvey for more information



School Advisory Council

Our **School Advisory Council (SAC)** plays an important role in building a strong school community, and we need your help.

Our Next Meeting is March 4 @ 6:30 in the library

For information on SAC, volunteering opportunities please email:

stcharleselementaryschool1980@gmail.com



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Family Winter Carnival 2026/ Silent Auction

We are excited to host our first Family Winter Carnival Event on February 13! What a great way to kick off the Family Day Long Weekend with sleigh rides, a photobooth, dance, crafts and treats. All activities are free with your one time Family Ticket purchase of \$ 25.00. Ticket sales will be posted on PowerSchool this week.

We will also be running a Silent Auction for some incredible city wide family fun events to make your weekend awesome! Stay tuned for details from all our sponsors. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to the ECSD Foundation.



St. Charles School

*Family Winter
Carnival*

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, February 13th, from 5:00–8:00 pm
Join us for an evening of fun for the whole family!

Activities: Horse-drawn sleigh rides, crafts, live music, glow dance, hot chocolate, photo booth, outdoor fun, and more!

Cost: \$25 per family



Supporting Wellness in our Schools and Families

Important Phone Numbers



- Recovery Alberta Children Youth & Families
Centralized Intake Services: 1-780-342-4415
- Recovery Alberta Crisis and Stabilization
Team: 780-407-1000
- Canadian Mental Health Association Distress
Line: (780) 482-4357
- Kids Help Phone: Phone 1-800-668-6868 •
Text 686868 • Message online [kidshelpphone.ca](https://www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Additional tips for supporting mental health at this time of year

- AHS: Navigating the Holidays with Care:
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/Page18687.aspx>
- CMHA Edmonton: Winter Mental Health - a Guide for Good Practices:
<https://edmonton.cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CMHA-Edmonton-Winter-Mental-Health-Guide.pdf>

Visit our website for tip sheets, videos, and more! www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca



Winter Clothing

For families requiring assistance with winter clothing, please contact our office. We have sizes available. Thank you to our Knights of Columbus, and our families for the generous donations.

Food Donations

We want to remind all our families that we are here to support you. We are still collecting food donations for our pantry, and any family in need is asked to contact the office or speak with Mrs. Moniz directly for assistance. Her email is laura.moniz@ecsd.net



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Bell Let's Talk Day January 21, 2026


























For more information visit:

<https://letstalk.bell.ca/>

Self-Care Activity

Practicing self-care means taking the time to participate in activities that bring you enjoyment or a sense of calm and peacefulness. Activities can include things you do on a day-to-day basis or new activities. Self-care can promote positive mental health and well-being, keep us grounded and reduce the effects of stress in our lives.

Challenge yourself to complete as many self-care activities as you can.
For each activity completed, fill in the talk bubble in that square.

Cook a healthy meal 	Head out on a nature walk or hike 	Write a letter/email to an old friend 	Head to bed early 	Practice mindfulness 
Enjoy a quiet moment over a cup of tea or coffee 	Write a positive affirmation and recite it in the mirror 	Connect with your community 	Discover a new author or musician 	Stretch or practice yoga 
Discover a new podcast 	Talk to a loved one about your feelings 	 Have a good laugh	Put on your dancing shoes 	Make a vision or mood board 
Paint or draw 	Set a goal 	Have a good laugh 	Write in a journal 	Create a gratitude list 
Do a crossword or jigsaw puzzle 	Take a warm bath or shower 	Practice deep breathing 	Make a to-do list 	Cuddle a pet or look at a cute photo of one online 

Learn more at bell.ca/letstalk



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Parish News

Please visit [St. Charles Parish](#) for more on happening in our Parish.

Please let us know when your child celebrates their Sacraments and send along a photo for our display!



ST. CHARLES PARISH
17511 – 112 ST. EDMONTON, AB T5X 5Z2

**First Reconciliation (Confession)
&
First Communion**



Classes for SPRING 2026



CLASSES ARE FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLICS ONLY

How Do I Register?

- **In person: Thursdays:** At the parish office on **January 8th and 15th** between 10am and 6pm
- **In person: Saturdays:** At the parish office on **January 10th and 17th** between 10am and 1pm.
- **Or by appointment.**

➔ No on-line registrations ➔

➔ Space is limited ➔

NO Registrations will be accepted when classes are full.

When Is a Child Ready to Celebrate These Sacraments?

Children must be a minimum age of 7 years and in Grade 2 or higher.

What Do I Need in Order to Register?

1. A copy of your child's Baptism certificate (unless your child was baptized at St. Charles).
2. A registration fee of \$50 for materials is requested (cheque, cash, or e-transfer to office@saint-charles.com).

Parental Involvement:

It is mandatory for all children to be present at each class along with a parent (or another adult). Children will have homework each week to be completed with the help of a parent or another adult.

2026 SPRING Class Schedule:

Classes: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

1. Tues. Jan. 20 – 1st class for 1st Reconciliation
2. Tues. Jan. 27 – 2nd class for 1st Reconciliation
3. Tues. Feb. 3 – 3rd class for Reconciliation
4. **Wed.** Feb. 4 – **Celebration of First Reconciliation**
5. Tues. Feb. 17 – 1st class for 1st Communion
(Tues. Feb. 24 – NO CLASS – Spring Break)
6. Tues. Mar. 3 – 2nd class for 1st Communion
7. Tues. Mar. 10 – 3rd class for 1st Communion
(Tues. Mar. 17th – NO CLASS – Parish Mission)
8. Tues. Mar. 24 – 4th class for 1st Communion

First Communion will be celebrated at the Saturday evening & Sunday masses during the Easter Season. Parents will be able to sign up for the date they wish.

The first three classes will prepare the children for the celebration of First Reconciliation; the remaining four classes will prepare the children for First Communion.

Because there are so few classes for each sacrament, it is necessary that your child attend ALL the classes.

It is mandatory that the children attend Saturday evening or Sunday mass.

Classes for these sacraments will be offered again in the Fall of 2026.

For more information, please call Linda at St. Charles Parish, 780-456-5399 or email: Linda.Boire@caedm.ca



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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