September 29, 2026

Dear Families,

September has been a beautiful month of building relationships, reconnecting as a community, and beginning our journey Rooted in Joy. Thank you to our families for attending our first Student Assembly and our School Opening Liturgy. Our Grade 4 students were so excited to receive their own bibles and we hope they will always remember that guidance and inspiration is found in God's Word.

September was also filled with meaningful learning. Students explored the legacy of Terry Fox, learning about courage, determination and the difference one person can make. We also spent time learning about Truth and Reconciliation and the significance of Orange Shirt Day, growing in understanding, respect and compassion.

Our new monthly Wellness focus on Welcoming and Belonging encouraged students to ensure that everyone feels seen, valued and included. This connects beautifully with our Catholic faith and our mission to live with kindness and in service to others.

Finally, through our Fruit of the Spirit Challenge, we have been discovering ways to **l**ive in joy through kindness, and friendship. We look forward to recognizing our students who were leaders of Joy at our October Assembly.

A special congratulations and thank you to our newly elected Parent Council Executive. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and for the important role our Parent Council plays in strengthening our school community. We are still looking for volunteers to fill our Society Chair, Society Vice Chair and Treasurer positions. If you have been considering getting involved, we warmly invite you to reach out. You do not need to have previous Council experience, just a willingness to share your time and ideas in support of our school community. There is a place for everyone at St. Charles, and every contribution makes a difference. Please email our Chair at stcharleselementaryschool1980@gmail.com

We look forward to all that October will bring as we continue to grow together, strengthen our relationships and remain *Rooted in Joy*.

With gratitude,

Laurie Bonanni-McGee — Principal

Erin Pruski — Assistant Principal

OCTOBER

Rooted in Joy

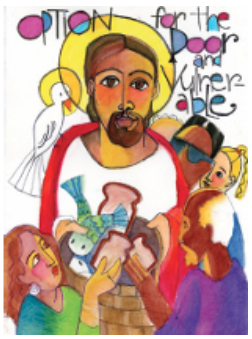
Wellness Focus: Gratitude

Assembly Focus: Generosity

Catholic Education / Rosary / Autism Awareness / Canadian Hispanic Heritage Month

Thursday, October 1	School PD Day – No School
Friday, October 2	Kindergarten FULL DAY – afternoon parent picnic Custodian Staff Appreciation Day **World Day of the Poor Collections**
October 5	World Teacher's Day
October 5 – 9	Read In Week
Tuesday, October 6	October Assembly – Generosity at 10:30
Wednesday, October 7	Picture Retakes in the morning Eric Reinhart Concert Empowering Students to Overcome Anxiety with Courage Grades 4-6 (1 pm) SAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Friday, Oct 9th	Eye See… I Learn Kindergarten Optometrist visit **Thanksgiving Liturgy @ 12:30 pm**
October 10, 2026	World Mental Health Day
Monday, October 12	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes
Oct 13 – 16 (exclude 15), **20 – 23, Oct. 26**	Writing Residency for all Grades with Karen Filewych
October 17 – 23	Catholic Education Week (Oct 18 - Catholic Education Sunday)
October 19	**NO SCHOOL** – Referendum Vote
October 27	K-6 Green Thumb Theatre Performance : 500 Words Fire Safety Presentation
October 30	Halloween Activities
Saturday, October 31	Halloween

Grateful Hearts ♥ Generous Hands
A Stronger Community



ROOTED IN JOY THROUGH ACTS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

We Are Called to Care! ❤️ ***"The Lord is the refuge of the poor."***

Beginning on October 2nd, our St. Charles community is coming together to collect items in support of ***World Day of the Poor*** *and live out Jesus' call to care for others.*

St. Charles

ROOTED IN JOY

We Are Called to CARE!

"The Lord is the refuge of the poor."
– Psalm 9:9

World Day of the Poor

On **Sunday, November 15,** Catholics around the world will celebrate the **10th annual World Day of the Poor.**

As Cardinals, we can help spread kindness beyond our school and live out **Jesus' call to care for others.**

Our St. Charles community is coming together to support Sacred Heart Parish in their efforts to organize a World Day of the Poor outreach event, reaching approximately **350–500** of our city's most vulnerable and unhoused men and women.

Every small act of kindness can make a big difference!

We are collecting items!

Please send donations to school so we can organize and prepare them for **November 2nd.**

Kinder Grade 1 & 2	Adult size Gloves/Mittens
Grade 3 & 4	Adult size Toques
Grade 5 & 6	Adult size Scarves

All students bring in leftover Halloween Candy to make care packages.

Together, we can be Cardinals who care, serve and bring hope to others.

Celebrating our newest members of Parent Council!

Allison Correia / Chair of Council

Eman Sousa/ Vice-Chair of Council

Anna Christensen / Secretary

It's not too late to get involved—we are still seeking volunteers for the important roles of **Society Chair**, **Vice-Chair of Society**, and **Treasurer**. These positions have a meaningful impact on our school community by directing parent-led fundraising efforts.

Our next meeting is **October 7th at 6:30 pm**. Please email **stcharleselementaryschool1980@gmail.com** if you are interested.

We are so grateful for our amazing parent community.
We look forward to a terrific year ahead!

Wondering how we are meeting our School Education Plan Goals?

Goal 2: Students are nurtured with a whole-child approach, shaped by our Catholic identity, that fosters emotional, physical, spiritual, and moral development.

ROOTED IN JOY

Rooted in Joy:
A Faith & Wellness Journey

September: Welcoming & Belonging
October: Gratitude
November: Kindness & Compassion
December: Giving & Generosity
January: New Beginnings & Hope
February: Friendship & Connection
March: Courage & Resilience
April: Acceptance & Celebrating God's Creation
May: Mindfulness Peace & Finding Joy
June: Reflection, Celebration & Joy

Our year-long faith and wellness program helps us build a common language around well-being. Each month we introduce a new focus through stories, conversations and activities. These lessons are guided by our belief that "We are created by God, known and loved by Him, and called to grow in faith, relationship, and purpose. When we care for our minds, bodies, hearts, and spirits, we are better able to experience and share God's joy."

OPTIMAL LEARNING





Optimal Learning is happening in our school!

It's been amazing to see all of the student artwork and writing that celebrates belonging and what makes each of us unique.





ROOTED IN JOY



October is an opportunity for Edmonton Catholic Schools and Canada to recognize the many contributions Canadians of Hispanic origin have made and continue to make in this country. Hispanic Canadian Heritage Month also serves as an opportunity for people of Hispanic origin to come together and celebrate their shared culture.

Statement on Latin American Heritage Month - Government of Canada

In 2018, the Parliament of Canada proclaimed October Latin American Heritage Month in recognition of the Latin American community's tremendous contribution to Canadian society.

Hailing from all 20 Latin American countries, Canadians of Latin American origin make up a large and growing community in Canada. They enrich our national fabric with their diverse and vibrant cultures, cuisine, music, dance, and more. Also, members of the Latin American community play an important role in Canada's growth and prosperity, thanks to their entrepreneurial spirit.

We invite all Canadians to learn more about Latin American heritage and to honour the rich cultural and artistic traditions of our fellow Canadians of Latin American origin.

Connections with our Faith

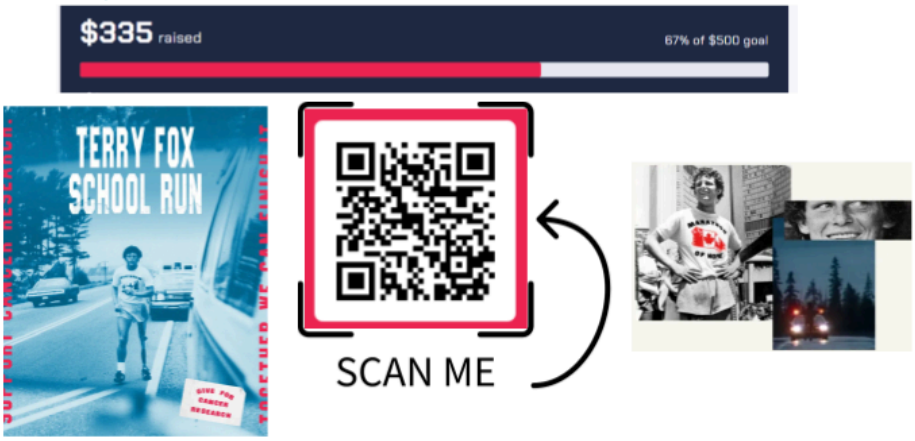
Pope Francis -The first Pope of the Americas, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, hails from Argentina and was elected the 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church in March 2013. Prior to his election as Pope, Bergoglio served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires from 1998 to 2013, as Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church of Argentina from 2001 to 2013, and as President of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina from 2005 to 2011. He was also named Person of the Year by *Time* magazine in 2013.

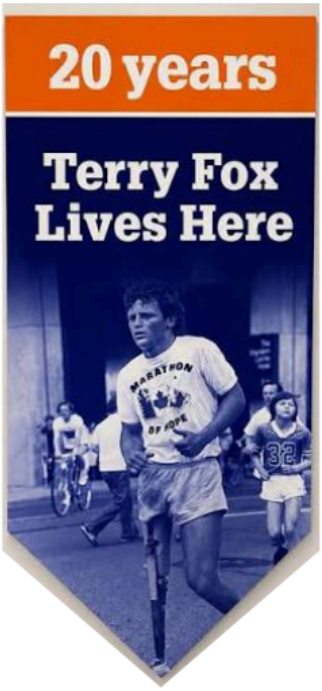
Reminders

St.Charles Celebrating...

We continue to accept donations online at:

https://schools.terryfox.ca/13674





SPACESEDU PARENT NEWSLETTER

Spaces EDU

STAY CONNECTED WITH SPACESEDU

This year we will be using SpacesEDU to share your child's learning! SpacesEDU is a secure, online platform where students can document their work, reflect on their learning, and share progress with their teachers and families.

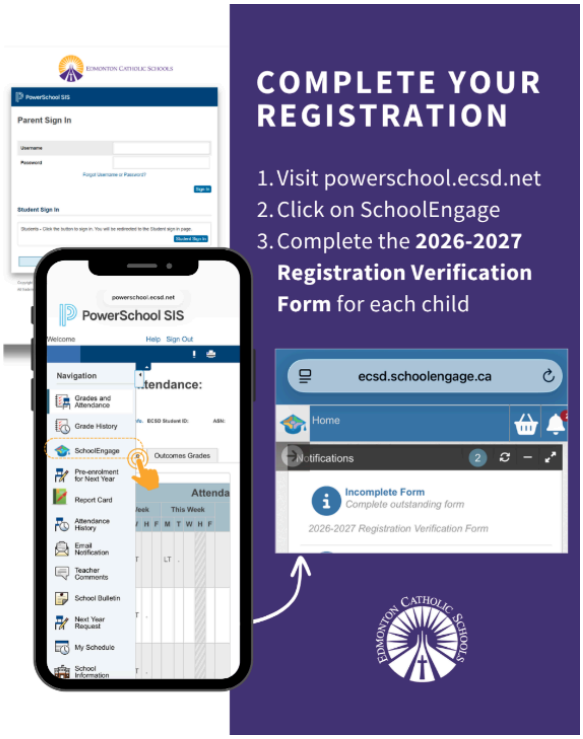
Getting started is easy:

1. Download the SpacesEDU app on your phone or tablet. It is also accessible on any web browser.
2. Watch for an email invitation from your child's teacher(s).
3. Click the link in the email. This will connect you directly to your child's class

GETTING STARTED FAMILY GUIDE

We encourage you to explore the platform and engage with your child's learning throughout the year.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey with you!



The deadline for this important step is Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

Instructions to Complete Your Registration Verification Form

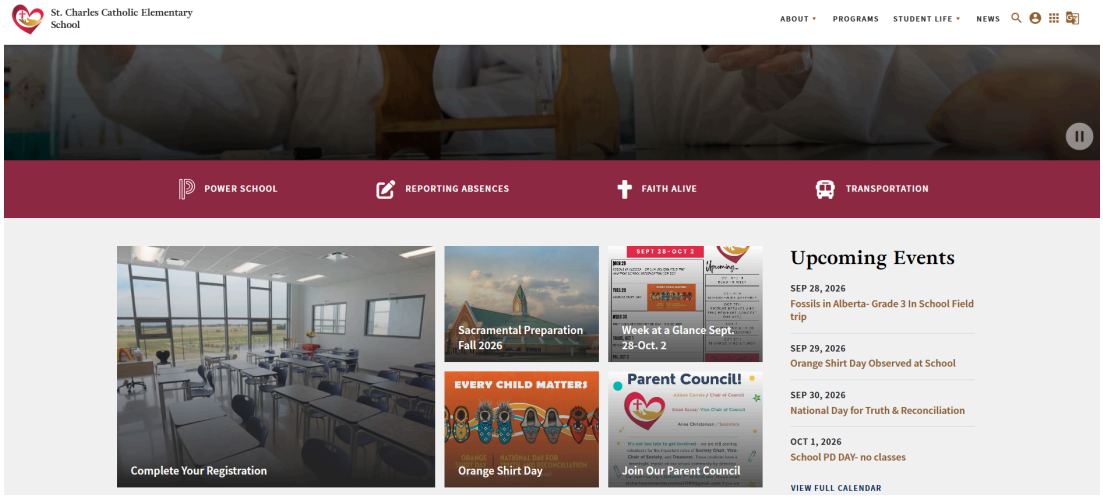
Step 1: Visit https://powerschool.ecsd.net

Step 2: Login using your PowerSchool Parent Portal username and password.

Step 3: Click on SchoolEngage icon in the left-hand menu

Step 4: Once you enter the SchoolEngage site, you will see a notice that you have an Incomplete Form. Click on this form to confirm that the information is correct.

Step 5: Repeat the steps above for each of your children registered with Edmonton Catholic Schools.
Once you submit the form, you will receive a confirmation email.



Please visit our school website **St. Charles Catholic Elementary School** or follow us on Instagram **stcharles_ecsd** for updates and announcements.