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St. Charles Catholic
Elementary School

May 14, 2026

Dear St. Charles Families,

This past week, our school community joyfully celebrated Catholic Education Week. Guided by this year's theme, "**Beacons of Hope**," we reflected on the important role each of us plays in sharing the light of Christ with others.

Throughout the week, students and staff participated in prayer, learning, and acts of kindness that highlighted how Catholic education nurtures both the mind and the spirit. In our classrooms, students explored what it means to be a beacon of hope by showing compassion, offering encouragement, and serving others with love.

Catholic Education Week also provided an opportunity to recognize and thank our dedicated teachers and staff, who model Christ's love each day. Through their commitment, care, and faith-filled leadership, they help our students grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

As we head into the Victoria Day long weekend, please note that there will be **no school on Friday, May 15, and Monday, May 18**. We hope this extra time offers your family an opportunity to rest, reconnect, and enjoy time together.

We also invite families to support our **Grade 6 Bottle Drive on May 20th**, which is raising funds to help offset the cost of their year-end camp experience. Donations of empty bottles and cans are greatly appreciated and will help make this memorable opportunity possible for our students.

With gratitude,

Laurie Bonanni-McGee

Principal

Erin Pruski

Assistant Principal



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Chief Superintendent Message

Join Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson as she reflects on our Division Patron, Mary, Mother of God, and celebrates the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta in her [May Chief Superintendent Message](#).

Upcoming Events:

Please continue to check our website regularly for news and events,

[St. Charles Catholic Elementary School](#) you can download the calendar to your devices or print it out! [Calendar of Events](#)



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](#)

[ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026](#) Subject to Change

Focus: COMPASSION		MAY 2026- Asian Heritage Month	
Saturday May 9		Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow- all are invited.	
Sunday May 10		Happy Mother's Day	
May 10-15		Catholic Education Week/ Teacher Appreciation Week	
May 11		Liturgy of the Word for Catholic Education at 8:45- All are welcome	
May 13		Winspear Grades 1-3 at 10:00AM	
May 14		Make sure to wear blue for Catholic Education	
May 19		Grade 4/5B Wild North Education Virtual Fieldtrip	
May 15-18		Victoria Day Weekend	
May 20		Bottle Drive for Grade 6 Farewell & Camp	
May 22		Grade 6 ELA Part A Provincial Achievement Test	
May 25		Living Rosary @ 10:30 AM	
May 28		Fr. Marc Parish Visit	
May 29		Talent Show (time TBA in the afternoon)	

Focus: FAITHFULNESS		JUNE 2026 – National Indigenous History	
June 1, 2026		Grades 4/5 & 5A away at Fort Edmonton (morning only)	
June 2		School Spirit Day/ Assembly at 10:15 am	
June 3		Last SAC Meeting @ 6:30pm Grade 2 Jurassic Forest All Day	
June 4		ELA Part B Provincial Achievement Test	
June 5		St. Charles Multicultural Day	
June 8		Grade 6 Immunization	
June 10		Riverhawks Game at 11:00 for Grades 1-5	
June 11		Social Studies PAT Fr. Marc Parish Visit	
June 12		Science PAT Kindergarten Full Day Zoo Field Trip Hot Lunch- Boston Pizza	



June 15	Math Part A PAT
June 16	Games Day- Fitset Ninjas Booked for the day Hot dog lunch provided by SAC
June 17	Year End/ Grade 6 Farewell 10:00 AM Liturgy
June 18	Math Part B PAT
June 19	Grade 6 to Camp Nakamun Kindergarten Family Picnic Day Grade 2 Bronx Bowling 11:00AM-1:00 PM
June 21	Happy Father's Day National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 22	Grade 4-6 to Millenium Place Grade 1 Bowling at St. Albert Bowling Center
Tuesday June 23	Last Day of Instruction
Wednesday June 24	Report Cards go Live at 12:00 noon

ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027- Updated Final

Edmonton Catholic Schools has updated the 2026–2027 Division school year calendar. While the total number of instructional and operational days remains the same, a few dates have changed.

For most ECSD students, the first day of school will be Wednesday, September 2, 2026. There will be no classes for all ECSD students on Monday, October 19, 2026, as the province conducts a scheduled referendum and Elections Alberta has requested that schools not be in session that day.

View and download the calendars at ecsd.net/calendar.

Updated Calendar
for the 2026–2027 School Year

ecsd.net/calendar



Please return all library books for June 1st. Mrs. Melynk will be organizing and reshelving titles in preparation for the fall. Any students who have not returned their books by June 1st will receive a friendly reminder. Thank you for helping us with our year end wrap up.



Parish News

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



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



Registration for our
2026 summer camping
season is now **OPEN!**

For young people from grades 4 to 12.
Experience faith, fun, and community at
camp! Celebrate the Sacraments, make
friends, and learn new skills like archery.
Owned and operated by the Catholic
Archdiocese of Edmonton.

www.OLVC.ca



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Faith in May - The Month of Mary

Honouring Mary in the Month of May:

In Catholic tradition, May is a special time to celebrate Mary, the mother of Jesus. This custom is rooted deeply within Church tradition and is connected with the beauty and new life of spring. This parallels Mary's role in bringing Jesus into the world. Far from a distant figure, Mary is a living witness to faith, courage, and discipleship. She shows us how to say "yes" to God even when the path ahead is uncertain. Devoting time to Mary this month isn't just about ritual -- it is also about forming a deeper spiritual connection and growing in our relationship with Christ through her. Mary is not only a mother to Jesus but a spiritual mother to all of us.



How can you celebrate Mary this May?

- Pray the Rosary or Magnificat as you invite Mary to walk with you on your faith journey this month.
- Reflect on Mary's life by reading Scripture passages like Luke 1-2 or John 2. How did Mary respond to God's call with strength and trust?
- Look for ways to quietly perform acts of service for your friends, family, or community, embodying Mary's quiet and humble life of service to the Lord and to others.
- Join us for our Living Rosary celebration on May 25th at 10:00AM in our gym.

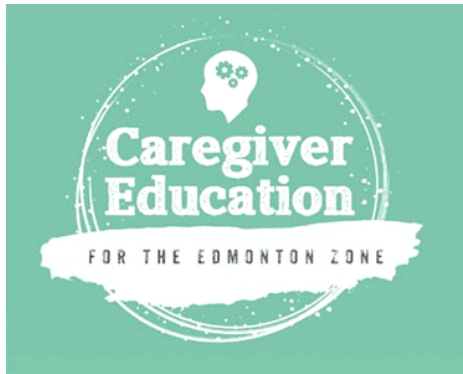
To learn more about why Catholics call Mary "Mother," watch the [video from Fr. Mike Schmitz here](#).

Social Justice Report for 2025-2026

Every year schools are required to provide the Division with a report on the work they do in Social Justice. Please read our submission for this year. We are so proud of our school community. [Social Justice Report 2025-2026](#)



Important Phone Numbers- Promoting Health & Wellness for Families



- 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

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

Addiction and Mental Health Edmonton Zone Resources



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Intake – Call 825-402-6799

- Provides a single intake service for child & adolescent community mental health clinics across the Edmonton Zone and can provide support to determine the services that best fit the needs of a child or youth.

Child and Adolescent Single Session Walk-In Clinics

- This service offers a 50-minute, solution-focused, single therapy session on a first-come, first-serve basis with a focus on exploring specific issues and possible solutions. A guardian must accompany the child/youth for consent purposes.
- Please call ahead; phone appointments are also available.
 - Northgate Centre 780-342-2700 (Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:00 pm)
 - Rutherford Health Centre 780-342-6850 (Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:00 pm)
 - St. Albert 780-342-1410 (Wednesday, 12:30-4:00 pm)
 - Leduc Central Hope Building 780-986-2660 (Wednesday, 12:30-4:00 pm)

Mobile Addiction Services, Youth – Call 780-408-8783 (8:00 am – 4:30 pm)

- This service offers a continuum of programs and services for children/adolescents (aged 12 - 18), families, and professionals concerned about alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and gambling. Phone appointments are available.

Addiction and Mental Health Crisis Team for Children and Youth – Call 780-644-4591

- This service offers immediate crisis support to children and adolescents and their care providers; it also provides support to professionals in the community in the child serving sector. Available 7 days a week, 8:00 am – 11:30 pm.





[Free to Play After-School Program in Edmonton](#)

We had many students express interest in being part of our St. Charles Soccer Team. Unfortunately we had to limit the number of players on the 4 teams. Thank you to all who tried out and our coaches for giving of their time and talents.

Please check out the [Free to Play](#) programs, offered by the city.

[Families Helping Families](#)

We invite families to drop off any extra non-perishables to help stock our shelf for our families in need. In particular, we need some gluten free items, granola bars, fruit snacks or other healthy snacks. Our pantry is located in our conference room, just across from the office. This is a more discrete location to ensure the dignity of those who may need a helping hand. Donations may be dropped off at the office. If you require support in any way, please reach out to Mrs. Moniz, our FSLW. Her email is laura.moniz@escd.net or simply call the school. She is onsite on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning.



[Safety Reminder:](#)

We've noticed more students using the playground before and after school. Please remember that there is **no playground supervision at these times**. On the rare occasion that you cannot arrange for a ride at dismissal time, we will be asking your child to wait inside the school for their safety. Thank you for supporting us in keeping our students safe and accounted for!



Practice Fire Drills and Lock Downs

As we move towards the end of the school year and into warmer weather, we will be continuing our required lockdown, severe weather and fire drills. These drills are an important part of ensuring the safety of our children in the event of an emergency.

Messaging will be sent home following any dynamic drill (not announced to students). The safety and security of our students and staff is of the utmost importance to us, and we will continue to refine our practice with the custom of these drills.

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](#)



Standard of Student Dress Reminder

With the warmer weather upon us. We encourage all families to speak with their children about appropriate dress for school. This also includes graphics on t-shirts and sweaters that may be offensive to younger students. Please review the [Standard of Student Dress Policy](#)



Last SAC Meeting is June 3 @ 6:30 in the library

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





Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

Are you a proud parent with a new baby?
Will your baby be 2 – 4 months old in October?

You and your baby can make a lasting
difference in children's lives in your community!



The charity **Roots of Empathy** provides an award-winning program for elementary school children that independent research shows increases empathy, reduces aggression and bullying, and increases caring, kindness and inclusiveness.

"Change the world, child by child" by becoming a Volunteer Family

The Program is centred around you and your baby's loving relationship, with a Roots of Empathy Instructor guiding a discussion with children, encouraging them to read your baby's emotional cues and take your baby's perspective. Your baby is the "Tiny Teacher". The children learn to identify and name your baby's feelings, reflect on and understand their own feelings, then bridge to understand the feelings of others. The development of emotional literacy helps children understand how their behaviour or words can hurt others, and enables children to make friends and build positive relationships.

I would strongly recommend this program for your baby and for your community. What a way to make a difference for students by bringing the pure joy of a baby into their world.

Volunteer Roots of Empathy Parent



What's involved in being a Roots of Empathy Family:

- Nine times over the school year, you and your baby will visit a classroom with the Roots of Empathy Instructor and join the children around the "Green Blanket".
- You will help the children learn all about your baby and in turn they will learn about themselves, their feelings, and their temperament traits.
- The children will celebrate your baby's milestones such as rolling over, clapping, sitting and more, which are captured in a photo book for you and your baby. The children show their love of the baby at the end of the program with wishes for the baby's future.
- For more information on what is involved and to apply, please see below
***Babies must be between 2 and 4 months old in October**



Laura Moniz, FSLW cell: 587-921-7985

laura.moniz@ecsd.net

We are hoping to continue offering the Roots of Empathy Program to students here at St. Charles for next year. If you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer family for us, please ask them to reach out to laura.moniz@ecsd.net



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Bottle Drive Fundraiser



When: Wednesday, May 20th

*Where: Bring your bottles to the
school between*

7:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

*All proceeds from this bottle
drive will go towards the Gr. 6
Camp Day and Farewell*



St. Charles Shines at “Be An Upstander” Presentations at Lumen Christi



