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St. Charles Catholic  
Elementary School

December 12, 2025

Dear Families,

As we enter the **Third Week of Advent**, we turn our hearts toward the **Candle of Joy**—a reminder of the deep and lasting joy that comes from welcoming Christ into our lives. In this busy season, may this light inspire us to pause, give thanks, and open our hearts to God's presence in our homes, our school, and our community.



We would like to extend our heartfelt **thank you to all our families** who joined us for our Christmas concerts this week. Your presence brings such warmth and encouragement to our students, and we are blessed to celebrate the beauty of the season together as a school community.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support of our **ECSD Trustee, Sandra Palazzo**, and to the **St. Charles Parish team** for their hospitality as they welcomed us into the parish to host our concerts.

Finally, thank you for your generous support of our **charity initiatives** throughout Advent. Your kindness reflects the true spirit of the season and helps us bring joy and hope to those in need.

As we light the **Candle of Joy** this week, may we carry its message with us and share God's love with all we meet.

**Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Advent,**

Peace and Blessings,

Laurie Bonanni-McGee

Principal

Erin Pruski

Assistant Principal



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### Chief Superintendent Message

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



### With Gratitude from All of Us



A **HUGE thank you** to all our families who supported the School Council Poinsettia Fundraiser. A total of 134 plants were sold which brought in a profit of **\$1038.17 towards supporting student experiences.**



We wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Froman, and all our staff for their enthusiasm, support and talents that went into making two evenings of concerts so memorable for all of us. A special thank you to our St.Charles Parish team for providing us the beautiful space to honor our Lord in song.



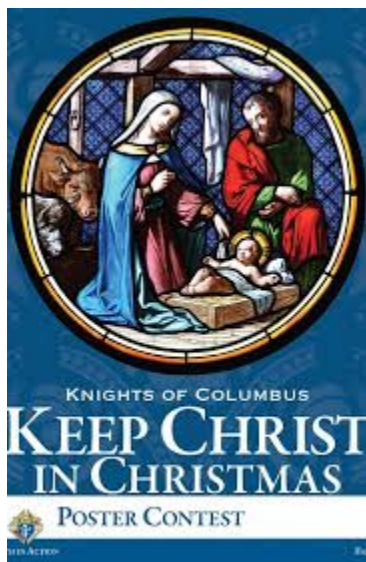
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Thank you to our families for their generous donations to the **Sign of Hope Campaign** during our Christmas Concerts. We will have a total in the upcoming newsletter.



We will continue to accept donations in support of our student initiated school-wide fundraising project for the **Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation** until December 19. The class with the highest collection will win a special treat!



We are thrilled to announce that **23 students** from across all our grades participated in the **Knights of Columbus Poster contest**. We wish all our students the best of luck with their entries !



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## 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: CHARITY DECEMBER 2025 Advent	
December 15-19	Christmas Spirit Week: 15- Christmas Door Decorating 16- Dress Like An Elf 17- Wear Advent Colors/ Red & Green Theme Day 18- Christmas Sweater/ Polar Express 19- PJ Day/ Festive Wear
Thursday December 18	Full Day (Early Dismissal Cancelled) Regular Kindergarten class
December 19	No Kindergarten- Early Dismissal – Christmas Break begins
December 22-Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation

Focus: COURAGE JANUARY 2026	
January 5	Welcome Back to All
January 5-23	ECSD Annual Survey Grades 4-6
Jan. 6	Epiphany Celebration 11:00 with Father Glen MacDonald Division Chaplain Jubilee Year of Hope ends
Jan. 7	SAC Meeting @ 6:30pm- Welcome Trustee Palazzo
<b>Thursday Jan. 8</b>	<b>Fr. Marc Parish Visit</b>
Friday January 9	School Spirit Day- Hot Lunch Subway
January 19-21	Grade 4A to ICE school (includes Feb.9 and 10)
<b>January 26</b>	Grade 1 In school Field trip Cardinal Leger Presentation to interested Grade 6 students
January 27	<a href="#">Family Literacy Day 2026: Make mealtime family learning time</a>
January 28	Bell Let's Talk Day <a href="#">Tools to help everyone with mental health   Bell Let's Talk</a>
<b>Thursday January 29</b>	<b>School PD Day- No Classes</b>
January 28	Kindergarten Puppet Treehouse Presentation- Library closed
Friday January 30	<a href="#">School Visit with Gary Gagnon (ILS) Medicines and Prayer Grade 4-6</a>



## Important Reminders

### 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](#)



**Hot Lunch is January 9- Subway**

**All orders MUST be placed 5 days prior to the lunch date.** In most cases, this will be a Sunday.



### School Advisory Council

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

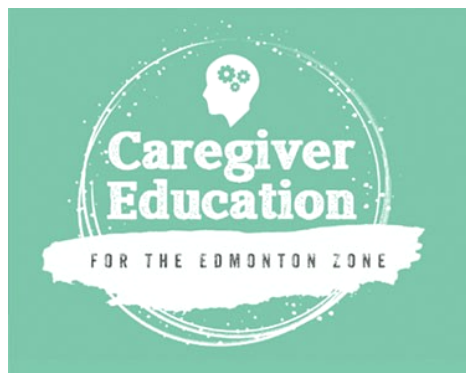
**Our Next Meeting is January 7 @ 6:30 in the library- Welcome Trustee Palazzo**



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## 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](http://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.

### Parish News



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

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



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## School News

