February 7, 2025

Parent Week At A Glance

February 9 -February 15, 2025

St. Charles Catholic Elementary School

Message from the Administration

Dear Families and Students,

This week our pre-enrollment opened for all students. This is a critical time for our school, as your intentions will help us in planning for next year. In addition, if you know of families looking for an excellent kindergarten program and awesome school community, please spread the word! We have started our advertising campaign and soon you will see road signs and social media posts.We also have a few lawn signs left. If you would like to place one in your front yard, please call our office to pick one up. Our Open House will be on March 13, from 6:00 pm-7:30pm.

We also want to share an update to our mission statement. In collaboration with our Division and school staff, we wish to share the final version of our new mission statement:

The mission of St. Charles Catholic School is to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to grow in faith, knowledge, and respect, following Jesus' example, to live with kindness and in service to others.

We are so proud of this statement as it truly reflects the work that happens each day in our school, and the dedication of our staff to bringing this mission to life for our students.

Finally, as we approach Valentine's Day and begin this week of Random Acts of Kindness, let's be mindful of all the little things we can do to share love, hope and joy with those around us.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Ms. Laurie Bonanni-McGee & Mr. Zydek

Principal Assistant Principal

Chief Superintendent Message

February is upon us, and with this month that is focused on love and kindness, Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson continues to reflect on the themes of goodness, truth, and beauty in her Chief Superintendent's Message. Read about how to explore your school's student achievement and survey results, an upcoming evening of learning for parents and guardians, and our Division's Top Employer Award. You can read the full message here.

Pre-Enrollment Opens February 3 for 2025-2026 School Year!

We need your help! Pre-enrolment for current students is now open. Sign into your PowerSchool account and click on "Pre-Enrolment for Next Year" to let us know if you will be returning to our school or where you will be attending as you move into Kindergarten or Junior High. The pre-enrolment process lets us know how many students to expect in September 2025 and helps us plan for staffing, class sizes, and programming. To learn more, visit ecsd.net/pre-enrolment.

ECSD Embracing Diversity Surveys came home last week with your child. The survey period runs from January 27- Feb. 14. Please complete this very important survey and **return it to the school before Feb. 14**, and we will ensure it reaches the Division office by the due date. Your voice matters!

Parents Evening

Parent Evening Presentation February 10, 2025 6:30-7:30

PRESENTATION SYNOPSIS:

Thinking about Inclusion:

What does it mean to have inclusive classrooms in our school? Santwana will share her story from both sides of the table - as a mom looking for a place for her child to belong and as an occupational therapist confronting the day-to-day challenges of building schools where everyone is welcome.

BIO:

Santwana has worked as an occupational therapist in a variety of clinical and community settings over many years. For most of her career she has worked with autistic children in schools and homes. She is also the mother of an autistic son, and her parenting journey challenged her to find innovative solutions to support autistic children in school. She recently began a Masters in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Alberta. For her thesis project, she is working with the staff and students at St. Charles Elementary school to learn more about how the SPACE program is changing the school experience for autistic students at the school.

Spotlight on Learning and Fun

Congratulations to all our amazing students who were honored at our Assembly for living the value of Patience in January. Our focus for February is Love.

Upcoming Events:

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens on Monday, February 3, 2025. This is also when current ECSD students can complete the pre-enrolment process to select their school for the upcoming school year. Please visit our registration page for more information.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help us with a few upcoming events:

March 4- Shrove Tuesday- Come and help cook, and serve pancakes to our students.

March 11 & 12- Book Fair shifts

Please call or email our office if you can help.

We All Belong Here!

As a Catholic school, we strive to instill in our students the values of love and respect as children of God. To support this understanding, ECSD Specialist, Shireen Mohammed, will be speaking with students about the power of language and how to respond to harmful words, including racial slurs and discriminatory language.
Ms. Mohammed will equip students with strategies to be "interrupters" of negativity and encourage them to seek help when needed, promoting a school environment that reflects Christ's love and respect for all.

Grades 4-6 presentations will be February 18, 2025
Grades 1-3 presentations will be March 3, 2025

Upcoming Hot Lunch Dates: Orders for Hot Lunch are due the Sunday prior, before midnight!

- February 21, Edo
- March 7, DQ
- March 19, Pizza Hut

Important Reminders:

A reminder to all parents that school fees are now due. Please log into your parental portal to make payment. If you need assistance, please contact our office.

EPCOR and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services have asked us to remind students and their families to think twice and stay off the ice at stormwater management ponds, which are unsafe for any on-ice recreation - even walking. To see a map of stormwater ponds in Edmonton and resources to talk about at home, visit epcor.com/wintersafety.

School Start Times/ Lates/ Illness- PLEASE Communicate with our office

Kindergarten Program- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 AM-11:00AM *(Additional Days- January 30, February 13, March 21, April 17, May 15)*

Grades 1-6- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
8:03 AM- 2:39 PM
Morning recess 9:45 AM-10:00 AM,
Lunch 11:45- 12:20 (recess 12:05-12:20)

Thursday 8:03 AM- 11:29
Morning recess 9:45 AM-10:00 AM

Inclement Weather

Environment Canada's weather for Edmonton is the site that is consulted at https://weather.gc.ca/city/pages/ab-50_metric_e.html.

The **suggested guideline** is that students do not go outside if the temperature is -20° C or colder, or if the temperature and wind chill factor are -20° C or colder.

What to do when your yellow school bus is running late? We want all families prepared in the event of bus delays. While bus drivers will complete their route, no matter how late they may be running, we recommend that families make alternate arrangements if a bus does not arrive within 20 minutes of its scheduled time.

To help prepare for a delayed bus, families are reminded to:

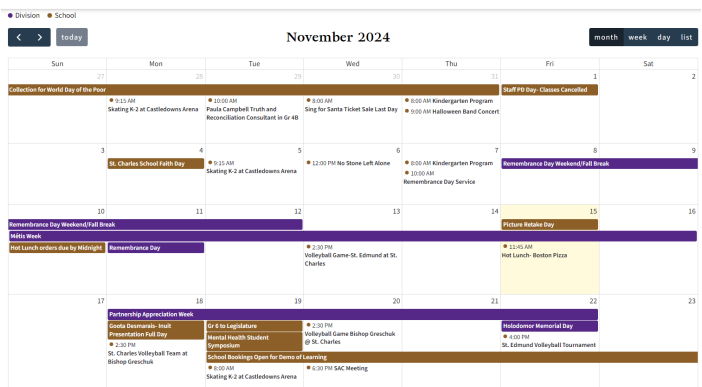
- Check for delays before you head out the door via the BusPlanner Delays App or the **ECSD bus delays website**.
- We recommend children wait with a friend or trusted adult at the bus stop.
- Have a plan in case the bus does not arrive. For example, return home or go to a neighbour's house.
- Make alternate arrangements for getting their child to school if needed.
- Dress children appropriately for the weather to withstand any delays or wait times .

Stay Notified

Our Transportation Services team uses several methods to keep families informed about bus delays:

- BusPlanner Delays App: Download the free app on Android or iPhone to receive notifications
- Division Website: Delayed routes are posted at https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/Alerts.
- Call Transportation Services at 780-441-6078.

Did you know...



If you visit our website https://stcharles.ecsd.net/ you can download the calendar to your devices? This is the most up to date calendar of events.

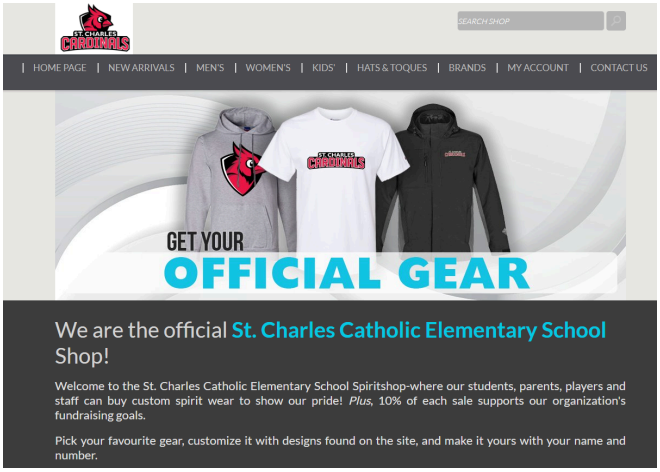
Follow us on Instagram stcharles_ecsd for updates and announcements, and do not hesitate to reach out to us at (780) 456-5222 or email us at

8057PublicEmail@ecsd.net if you have any questions or need assistance.

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

SPIRIT WEAR IS HERE! Our official shop is open! All orders give back a portion of the sales to our school. Check out the selection and options available. The link is now available on our website.
https://stcharlescatholicelementaryschool.entripyshops.com/



PARKING REMINDER-

Please do not use the shared parking lot as a drop off zone for your children. We had a few close calls with children running through our lot to get to parked cars.

Parents must use the drop and go areas or wait until buses have left. Safety is all our responsibility and we must be courteous neighbors to our community league. Please practice patience!

Celebrating the Sacraments

Congratulations to all our students who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion! May you always know how much He loves YOU! **Please remember to send us a picture.**

Parish News

Please visit St. Charles Parish for more on what is happening in our Parish.

Weekday Mass Times

- Tue: 6:30pm
- Wed: 9am
- Thu: 6:30pm
- Fri: 9am
- Sat: 9am

Weekend Mass Times

- Sat: 4:30pm
- Sun: 9am, 11am, 7pm

More Parish News

Supporting Wellness in our Schools and Families

Meet Our School Support Team

Karla Blimke, our **Family School Liaison Worker (FSLW),** offers support to our students and families here at St.Charles School. Mrs. Blimke will be at our school on **Mondays and Fridays**.
Her email is karla.blimke@ecsd.net

Ms Fenisha, our Emotional Behavioural Specialist works alongside our teachers to provide support for our students. She will also be working directly with students to help support their development. Ms. Fenisha will be here Monday to Friday all day.
Her email is fenisha.francis@ecsd.net

Families Helping Families at St. Charles-Please reach out to our office if you are experiencing challenges. Our school team is here to support all our families.

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.

Alberta Health Services is proud to offer FREE online programming for parents and caregivers who support children and youth, as well as sessions for adults looking to support their own wellness. Sessions are live and interactive. Our aim is to increase awareness and reduce the stigma around addiction and mental health challenges, provide participants with evidence-based information, and offer strategies that promote health and resilience. Click to learn more.

Download our latest newsletter:
https://mailchi.mp/ymcanab.ca/frn-newsletter-jan2025?e=26cf8cf2a0

North Central Edmonton Family Resource Network
Newsletter

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

Community Board Baturyn Community League

Visit https://www.baturyn.ca/ to learn more about events and to sign up for their newsletter

Child Care Available at St. Charles

Focus: Love	FEBRUARY 2025 – Black History Month
February 1	Classroom Newsletters sent to parents
February 3	Pre-enrollment Opens Flex sessions Gr 4-6 (11:00-11:45) Assembly LOVE - 1:45-2:15 p.m.
February 4	Kinder Puppet Program in class and in SPACE in the PM
February 5	Winter Walk Day SAC Meeting 6:30-7:30 in the library
February 6	Early Dismissal
February 7	School Spirit Day & Hot Lunch- Boston Pizza
February 10	Parent Evening with Santwana and Inclusion for All-6:30-7:30
February 13	Early Dismissal Kindergarten Program Fr. Cramer Visits
February 14	St. Valentine's Day
February 17	Family Day – Classes cancelled
February 18	Shireem Mohammed (EDIAR) visiting all grade 4-6 classes
February 20	Early Dismissal
February 21	Running Room Games p.m.
February 26	Faith Development Day – Classes cancelled Pink Shirt Day
February 27 and 28	Teachers' Convention – Classes cancelled