

September 2025

OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL

A Message From Administration

Dear Our Lady of Peace Families,

As we begin this school year together, we are reminded of the beautiful gift of Catholic education. Our mission is to nurture the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—so that each student may grow in faith, learning, and well-being. Every September brings with it a sense of renewal and possibility, and this year we embrace our theme of hope through the Circle of Hope.

A circle reminds us that we are all connected. Each of us—staff, students, and families—has an essential place in creating a school where faith, learning, and care for one another flourish. The Circle of Hope surrounds us with encouragement, strength, and God's promise that we are never alone. Hope is what allows us to look ahead with confidence, even in uncertain times. It is the spark that motivates us to nurture the gifts of our students, to walk with them in their challenges, and to celebrate their growth. Together, as a staff, we create a circle where every child feels seen, supported, and inspired to thrive. Our Division theme this year is "Rejoice in Hope" and we are guided by scripture in our work, to remind us of the importance of hope, compassion, and prayer:

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer"
– Romans 12:12

At the heart of the Circle of Hope are 4 pillars: living our faith, community and belonging, learner excellence, and wellness and safety. At our school, we strive to **live our faith** each day by following the example of Jesus Christ. Through prayer, liturgy, service, and daily encounters with one another, we encourage students to see God's presence in their lives and in our world.

We are deeply committed to fostering a strong sense of **community and belonging**. Every child is a cherished member of our school family, and we work together—staff, parents, parish, and students—to create a welcoming environment where all feel valued and supported.

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We also pursue **learner excellence** by engaging students in rich, meaningful learning experiences that challenge them to grow as thinkers, problem solvers, and creators. We celebrate the gifts and talents of each learner while guiding them to reach their fullest potential.

Finally, we hold **wellness and safety** at the heart of our work. By caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our students, and by ensuring a safe, respectful environment, we allow children to flourish in their learning and relationships.

We are grateful for your partnership as parents and guardians in this shared mission. This year, let us continue to draw on one another's strengths and support, remembering that in a circle, no one stands apart. United in our faith and mission, we will keep hope alive in our classrooms, hallways, and hearts. We are excited for the journey ahead and deeply grateful to walk it with such a dedicated and compassionate team. May this year be filled with joy, collaboration, and the abiding presence of Christ's hope in all we do.

With blessings and gratitude,

Sonja Willier, Principal
Erin Hart, Assistant Principal

Contact Info

Phone: 780-489-1222

Email: OurLadyofPeace@ecsd.net

OUR MISSION



WE ARE COMMITTED TO



WHAT WE BELIEVE IN... WE NURTURE AND GROW

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING



At Our Lady of Peace School the loving bonds between staff and students are grounded in faith, compassion and a shared commitment to nurturing the whole child.

Our staff view their role as not only educators but also as mentors and faith-filled witnesses. We take the time to truly know each child: celebrating their strengths, supporting them in their challenges, and helping them to grow into who God calls them to be.

Nurturing them towards the sun, towards God - and truth, beauty, and goodness.

LIVING OUR FAITH

- ✚ rooted in Christ's message of love and hope.
- ✚ our students and staff grow in mind, body, and spirit
- ✚ prayer, scripture, and faith traditions nurture a sense of belonging and purpose
- ✚ our students see themselves as children of God with dignity and worth.
- ✚ Social Justice projects connect our students to the wider world, teaching them they can make a difference



WHAT WE BELIEVE IN... WE NURTURE AND GROW

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

...

- our students and staff recognize and celebrate the unique gifts and talents of every member of our community
- our students thrive when they know they are part of a larger caring community
- celebrations of culture, talents, and faith remind our students that their gifts matter



LEARNING EXCELLENCE

...

- High expectations and encouragement inspire our students to reach their potential.
- Diverse learning needs are supported so every child feels included.
- Curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking are fostered through engaging teaching.



"I am grateful for
the lessons that
I've learned and
the person I am
becoming."



WHAT WE BELIEVE IN... WE NURTURE AND GROW

WELLNESS AND SAFETY

- The circle provides emotional and physical safety so our students feel secure.
- Social-emotional learning teaches resilience, empathy, and self-regulation
- Mental health supports are accessible when students struggle.



CIRCLE OF HOPE

At its heart, the Circle of Hope means:
"You are not alone. You are loved. You
have a future filled with possibility."

WE LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING TOGETHER ON OUR JOURNEY!

OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL

To Notice

School Fees

School Fees will be active on Parent Power School for payment on **Sept. 15th**.

- Kindergarten: \$15.00
- Grades 1-6: \$20.00

See more detail in upcoming pages.

Bus Fees

Bus Fees have increased in cost this year and are the same cost as Edmonton Public Schools. A student bus pass is \$50/month. There are no longer cost reductions for Family Packs.

Lunch Menu

Our lunch menu is available for you to view on our School Website. Go to:

- Student Life → Lunch Menu
- It is hyperlinked [here](#) and you may wish to add it to your bookmarks
- If your child does not like the food choice on any given day, please consider sending a lunch with your child. Thank you.

Pick Ups

If you are picking up your child during the school day, please sign them out at the office. If your child takes the bus and you pick them up, please call the office to let us know or let the staff at your child's bus know. We don't let the bus go until all are accounted for.

Upcoming Events

SEPT

12

Picture Day

SEPT

18

School Opening
Celebration 11:30 AM

SEPT

23

Meet the Staff BBQ
5 PM

SEPT

25

Tipi Teachings Assembly
8:45 AM

SEPT

29

Orange Shirt Day
Assembly 1:30 PM

SEPT

30

National Truth and
Reconciliation Day -
No School

OCT

17

Staff PD Day - No
School

OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL

Blessed Mother Mary, Pray For Us!



Hail, Mother Mary, mother of all. Thank you for your nurturing love and comfort. Lift up my heart and grant me peace. Open my heart. Help me to be more kind and compassionate – to myself and every living thing I encounter. Mother Mary, lift up my heart and grant me peace.

Amen

Prayer to St. Kateri Tekakwitha



St. Kateri Tekakwitha, our elder sister in the Lord, discreetly, you watch over us. May your love for Jesus and Mary inspire in us words of friendship, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Pray that God will give us the courage, the boldness and the strength to build a world of justice and peace among ourselves and among all nations.

Help us, as you did, to encounter the Creator God present in the very depths of nature, and so become witnesses of life. With you, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Amen.

OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

I pray for my family to live a good life. I pray for Ms. Lamontagne, Ms. Hart, and Ms. Willier as they lead our school. I hope the members of Parliament make Canada a better place to live. I pray that the homeless have food, clean water, and a safe home to sleep in. I pray for a good school year.

Amen

Mateo - 6A

Prayer by Mateo, Grade 6



Meet Our Amazing Staff

Principal

Sonja Willier

Assistant Principal /Instructional Coach

Erin Hart

Administrative Assistant

Laura Lamontagne

Instructional Coach / Classroom Support.

Lisa Graves

Kindergarten Teacher

Monika Schaub-Cisse

Kindergarten Extensions Educator

Whitney Ogilvie

Grade 1 Teacher

Patricia Cej

Grade 1-2 Teacher

Sarah Palmieri Charles

Grade 2-3 Teacher

Vanessa Baer Robinson

Grade 3 Teacher

Sadie Robinson

Grade 4 Teacher

Salena Laurensse

Grade 4 -5 Teacher

Jenna Shultz

Grade 6 Teacher

Deloris Poliakiwski

Cree/Music Teacher

Sandra Phillion

Classroom Supports Teacher

Lisa Burnson

Media Resource / Library

Teresa Skinner



Meet Our Amazing Staff

Education Assistant

Debbie Heller

Education Assistant

Teresa Skinner

Education Assistant

Hadjer Kenancha

Education Assistant

Liudmyla Repenko

Education Assistant

Rahat Luna

Education Assistant

Jane Wiredu

Education Assistant

Mehrin Huq

Education Assistant

TBD

Emotional Behavior Specialist

Cem DeMirtel

Behavior Therapist

Cassandra Lindsey

Behavior Therapist

Abby Winnington-Ingram

Therapeutic Asst Occupational Therapy

Swapna Bright

Therapeutic Asst Speech and Language

Sophie Lee

Mental Health Counsellor Therapist

Marco Valacco

Lunch Supervisor

Leilani Naces

Head Custodian

My Nguyen

Light Duty Custodian

Hadas Tesfalidet



About Our School

Communication

We value strong home-school communication. Monthly newsletters, our website, and [social media/teacher apps] will keep you updated. Please don't hesitate to reach out—we believe in an open-door policy and welcome your questions and input.

Living Our Faith

Our Catholic identity shines through daily prayer, liturgies, and opportunities for service. This fall, we look forward to celebrating our opening school liturgy together and beginning our journey of faith-filled learning.

Parent Involvement

Parents are an essential part of our community. We invite you to join School Council, volunteer for classroom or school events, and share your gifts of time and talent with us. Together, we create a vibrant and supportive environment for all students.

Staff & Students

We warmly welcome our new staff members and we thank all our teachers and support staff for their dedication in preparing a wonderful start for our students. To our students—may this year be filled with curiosity, joy, and growth.

New to our staff this year:

- Ms. Laurensse
- Ms. Shultz
- Ms. Palmieri-Charles
- Mrs. Schaub-Cisse
- Ms. Lee
- Ms. Luna
- Mrs. Huq

Welcome to Our Lady of Peace School!

Hours of operation

GRADES 1-6	Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri	Thursday
Morning Bell Morning Instruction	8:25 am 8:30 am	8:25 am 8:30 am
Morning Recess	10:30-10:45 am	10:30-10:45 am
Lunch Break	12:15-12:55 pm	n/a
Dismissal	3:10 pm	12:05 pm

KINDERGARTEN	Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri	Thursday
Kindergarten Instruction	8:30-11:30 am	8:30-11:30 am
Kindergarten Extensions	11:30 am-12:15 pm 1:00-3:10 pm	Dismissal 11:30 am
Lunch and Lunch Recess	12:15-12:55 pm	n/a
Dismissal	3:10 pm	11:30 am

Shared Playground: we share a playground with Mayfield school. Recess and lunch is scheduled according to these shared times.

Staggered Lunch: we have one lunch server to serve our student population daily. Thank you to the Federal Government who sponsors our lunch program!

School Fees

KINDERGARTEN: \$15.00

Fee Name	Fee Per Student
Communication Pouch	3.00
Mother's Day/Father's Day Activity	7.00
Whole School Activity	5.00

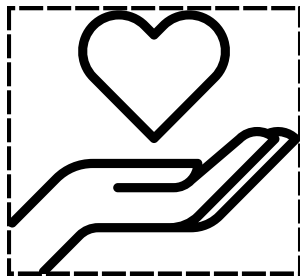
GRADES 1-6: \$20.00

Fee Name	Fee Per Student
Agenda	8.00
Electronic Device User Fee	7.00
Whole School Activity	5.00

SCHOOL BUS FEES

Bus Fees have increased in costs this year and are the same cost as Edmonton Public Schools. Fees are \$50 per student/month. There are no longer cost reductions for Family Packs.

Student Roles and Responsibilities



Welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments.

Students are entitled to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self.

Section 31 of the Alberta Education Act outlines the responsibilities of students, including complying with the school's code of conduct and other rules, attending school regularly, and cooperating with school staff.

Section 31 of the Education Act states: A student, has the responsibility to:

- attend school regularly and punctually
- be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education
- ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcome, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- respect the rights of others in the school
- refrain from, report, and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others in school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day, or by electronic means
- comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board
- co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services
- be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct
- positively contribute to the student's school and community

Student Roles and Responsibilities



Responsible Use of Technology Agreement

Responsible and Safe Use Agreement - Students



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- I will follow my teacher's instructions when using devices in class.
- I will only use the division Wi-Fi when using my personal device(s) at school.
- I will stay on task and use the device for schoolwork or approved activities.
- I will ask permission to take pictures or videos in class and will not share without permission.
- I will stay safe online. I will visit trusted websites and use approved apps.
- I will keep my work and private information safe! I will use a strong password and log out of the device when I'm finished.
- I will only share my password with a trusted adult, including my teacher.
- I will be kind and respectful when I am online or using apps, and will protect my digital footprint!
- I will stand up to cyberbullying and will tell a trusted adult, including my teacher.
- I will respect my classmates' work (when working with others). I will not change or delete their work without permission. I will give positive, helpful feedback.



Parent Role and Responsibilities



Section 32 of the Alberta Education Act: Right to Choose Education; Responsibilities of the Parent

Section 32 of the Alberta Education Act emphasizes the parental right to choose the kind of education for their children and their role as primary decision-makers in their child's education. It also highlights the responsibility of parents to be active partners in their child's education, ensuring their child attends school regularly and contributes to a positive learning environment.

- **Parental Choice:** choose the kind of education that shall be provided to the parent's child
- **Partner in Education:** Parents are considered partners in their child's education, with responsibilities that extend beyond simply enrolling their child in school.
- **Active Role:** Parents are responsible for taking an active role in their child's educational success.
- **Regular Attendance:** Ensuring regular school attendance is a key parent responsibility.
- **Positive Learning Environment:** Parents are expected to ensure their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment.
- **Collaboration:** Parents are encouraged to cooperate and collaborate with school staff.

Alberta Provincial Cell Phone Policy



Cell Phone/Smart Watch/Tablet Usage

This policy will assist our school's compliance with Alberta Education's direction on the use of personal mobile devices and access to social media sites while on school networks. This policy defines our roles and responsibilities as staff, students, and parents, and other members of our school community.

- **No Cell Phone Use:** students may not use cell phones/smart watches and tablets during instructional time
- **If Brought To School:** These devices must be on silent mode and secured in lockers during instructional time. If there is no locker assigned to a student, these devices must be powered off and stored in the student's backpack
- **Not permitted in these areas:** These devices are not to be used in settings such as change rooms, washrooms, or private counselling rooms that have the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

Medical Alert Information



On occasion parents ask school staff to administer medication to their child. In order to administer medication to a student, we require the following form to be completed and kept on file in the office:

- **Request for Administration of Medication/Medical Treatment Form**

Please contact the Office for further details 780-489-1222. It is the parents' responsibility to keep the School informed of medical conditions and to provide correct information regarding treatment and emergency contact information.

Snack and Lunch Program



Snack Program

Each morning students are provided with a healthy snack. We provide students with positive food experiences that support physical and mental health. As a result, students are able to engage in learning experiences.

All students are encouraged to bring a water bottle. Students are also encouraged to bring additional snacks.

Lunch Program

Each day all students have the opportunity to enjoy a nutritious lunch. The lunch menu is posted on the school website. Families are welcome to provide a lunch for their child. Parents/Guardians are asked to review the lunch menu and provide lunch/snacks if their child does not wish to eat the menu choice of the day.

Thank you to our sponsors



Parent Parking and Bus Safety



Parent Parking

Parent Parking is available:

- along the fence on 159 st
- along the fence on 110 ave.

Please be aware of the pylons in front of the school which is our Yellow Bus zone for drop off and pick up.

School Bus Zone

We have 4 SCHOOL BUSES that drop off and pick up our students daily at the front of the school. We also have one SMALL BUZS that drops off students on 159 st. to accommodate 2 students in wheelchairs. These buses park in the Handicapped Zone. Reminders to refrain from parking in this zone.

Safety Drills



All Edmonton Catholic Schools practice safety drills at numerous times throughout the year. This is part of our Crisis Management Plan. These drills are valuable in practicing our safety measures in a safe way should one of these events occur. We will practice this year:

- 6 Fire Drills
- 3 Lockdown Drills
- 1 Severe Weather Drill

School Council

Volunteer Opportunity

Our incredible School Council works in partnership with Our Lady of Peace School Staff to cultivate a rich, vibrant school community.



What activities/events has our School Council Sponsored?

- Skiing
- Swimming
- Inline Skating Residency (whole school)
- Fieldtrips and Bussing costs K-Gr. 6
- Chromebooks Gr. 1-6

What is it?

- a group of parents/guardians and school staff who collaborate to support the school and community
- in collaboration with School Staff, the Council identifies activities and events to sponsor through fundraising dollars
- every 2 years, our school and parent community work shifts at a 2-day casino with the proceeds going towards our school. Casinos generally raise \$70-75,000 dollars.

Why Join?

- build community and meet an amazing Our Lady of Peace parent community
- share your voice and ideas for the school
- learn more about Our Lady of Peace School

School Life – The First Days of School



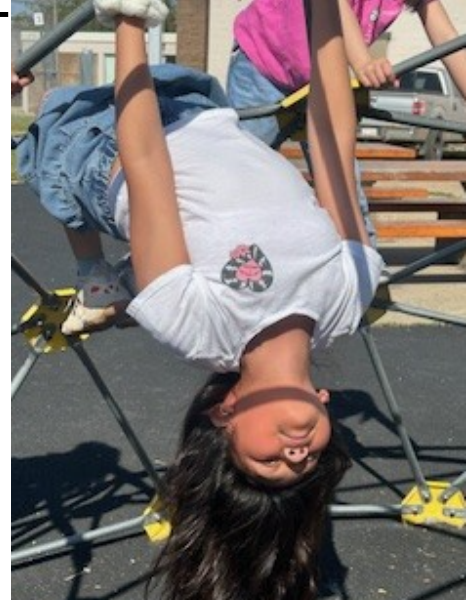
Thank you Graysen and John for helping to keep our school yard clean!
The boys spent time during their lunch break picking up garbage - yay!



School Life – The First Days of School



School Life – The First Days of School



Fun with
friends at
recess!

School Life – The First Days of School



One of our Gr. 6 leaders - Harlowe- writes a new message every day for her class to enjoy.

This message was for the first day of school.

Message from Chief Supt Anderson



Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! A new school year calls us to continue our Catholic educational journey, walking together in truth, goodness, and beauty. You will see me return to these themes often in my messages. They remind us to seek truth in our learning, to live with goodness in our actions, and to recognize the beauty of God's presence in one another and in the world around us.

TRUTH. We are in the final year of our Division Plan for Continuous Growth 2023-2026 (Year 3). At the heart of the plan is our mission to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another. Our priorities, as established by the Board of Trustees, continue to be: Living our Faith, Learning Excellence, Organizational Excellence, and Embracing Diversity. You can learn more about our goals and strategies for the year by reading the Division plan.

In order to bring the Division plan to life, every ECSD school creates an annual School Plan for Continuous Growth. You can explore your school's plan by visiting the Assurance Dashboard on the school website and clicking on School Plan. Here you will find various measures of school success to show your school's progress towards its plan.

GOODNESS. The saints show us how to pursue goodness until we find God. It is therefore exciting for our students that Blessed Carlo Acutis is being canonized on September 7 and will become the first millennial saint. He was chosen as the namesake for our new Catholic high school, which is set to open in the fall of next year, because his life provides an example to young people how to live a life of goodness in this modern age.

BEAUTY. At Edmonton Catholic Schools, we infuse our students with the beauty of the Catholic faith. In doing so, we hope to strengthen the relationship between school, home, and parish. As Father Paul says in his letter, "Together, home, school, parish, and Archdiocese, we unite in prayer for a year filled with learning, joy, and the peace of Christ."

Our "People of Hope" theme continues this year in order to align with the Church's Jubilee Year celebration, for which our late Pope Francis approved the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Catholic education is similar to a pilgrimage, and as part of this journey our students and staff will continue to explore the Jubilee theme of hope through the Church's teachings and events.

Message from Chief Supt Anderson



In closing, many of you are aware of the potential for labour action this fall involving all Alberta teachers. We recognize that the uncertainty surrounding potential labour action can be difficult for families and staff. As a Division, we remain hopeful that a resolution will be reached between the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association and the Alberta Teachers' Association. We will continue to keep families updated through our [Labour Update page](#) and SchoolMessenger, which includes information on the bargaining process and answers to common questions, such as how families can prepare in the event of a strike.

I would like to thank you for choosing Edmonton Catholic Schools. We are honoured that you have entrusted us with providing a Catholic education for your family. It is a privilege to walk with our students on this journey, filling their minds with truth, their hearts with goodness, and their souls with beauty.

Have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Lynnette Anderson, Chief Superintendent