

OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

A Message From Administration

Dear Families,

As the vibrant colors of autumn paint the landscape, we welcome you to the month of October. We are in a season of change, growth, and reflection – much like the experiences our students encounter each day. At the heart of our mission is the holistic development of our students – mind, body and spirit. As we delve into the second month of the school year, we are delighted to see our students embrace new challenges and opportunities with enthusiasm. They continue to grow academically, embrace their faith, and demonstrate the values that define our Catholic identity.

This October we focus on the theme of gratitude. We encourage our students to count their blessings and express thanks for the many gifts they have received. A spirit of gratitude not only deepens our faith but also fosters a sense of contentment and compassion. We have so much to be grateful for at Our Lady of Peace School.

We are sharing this month's newsletter, which includes details about school news. Please note that, due to the possibility of a province-wide teachers' strike beginning on Monday, October 6, regular school operations may be disrupted. Any school events on this calendar will not take place during a strike.

If an agreement is not reached, classes will be cancelled, and students will not attend school in person or online. Families are encouraged to arrange child care and ensure personal items are brought home. We remain hopeful for a resolution and will resume regular communication once the strike ends.

For updates and FAQs, visit ecsd.net/labourupdate.

In faith and service,

Sonja Willier, Principal
Erin Hart, Assistant Principal

During the Strike

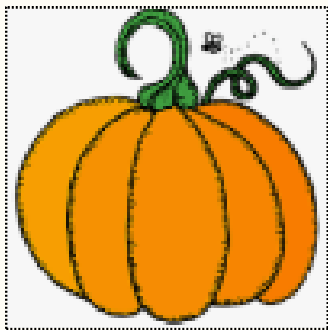
School Contact

Support Staff continue to work during the Teacher's strike.

Mrs. Lamontagne is in the office during school hours. She can be reached at 780-489-1222 for any questions or need support.

Counsellor Therapist Support

Mr. Valacco will continue to provide support to students he has supported this year. He will reach out to parents with further details.



October Events

- Oct. 2: Custodian Appreciation Day
- Oct. 4: World Teachers Day
- Oct. 6-10: Read In Week
- Oct. 10: Thanksgiving Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, 9:30 am
- Oct. 13: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Oct. 17: Staff PD Day - No School
- Oct. 20: Municipal Election, OLO
Peace School is a voting station
- Oct. 27 and 28: Gr. 2-3 and 3 classes
enjoy skating lessons sponsored by
the Edmonton Oilers Community
Foundation
- Oct. 30: Tipi Teachings Assembly
8:45 am
- Oct. 31: Halloween

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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 Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Saint 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.



Thanksgiving Blessing

Thanksgiving Prayer of Blessing

Loving God, we thank you this day for our many blessings, and we ask for the grace to be thankful even when times are hard.

When we have plenty, help us to serve those who go without.

When we are healthy, help us to care for those who are sick.

When we have comfort, help us to comfort those who suffer.

Thank you, God, for what we have, and please move us to compassion, prayer, and action to help those who are in need.

Please bless all our loved ones who cannot be with us today, and bless us and the food we are about to receive.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



We acknowledge that we live, learn, work and play on traditional Treaty 6 land, which has been a gathering place to a diversity of First Nations for thousands of years. Today, this territory is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people from across Turtle Island and we are honored to also be welcomed here.

Fall Fun in Kindergarten

Going on a Leaf Hunt

This week Kindergarten has been exploring leaves. Reading the book Going on a Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger, Kindergarten went "over a hill, through a forest, around a waterfall and over a lake" to collect a large basket of leaves to use in class. Leaves were glued to trees and counted. Leftover leaves were cut up to practice scissor skills. Leaves were used to make patterns and sorted by colour. We painted fall trees! It's been a busy week in Kindergarten! More fall fun to come!



Every Child Matters



On September 26th we recognized the importance of Orange Shirt Day, in memory of all Indigenous children who attended residential schools across Canada. As part of our work in Truth and Reconciliation we:

- held an assembly where we listened, we learned, we prayed, and we remembered
- shared the "Lord's Prayer" in Cree
- listened to a story "When We Were Alone"
- held a moment of silence to remember the thousands of Indigenous children who died at residential school, and remembered the thousands of children and families who suffered and continue to suffer because of residential schools
- participated in an Orange Shirt Day Memorial Walk
- took part in a symbolic experience: each student dipped their hand in orange paint and added their hand print to a large black t-shirt
- thank you Mrs. Phillion and Ms. Laurensse who prepared for and lead this day of remembrance

Every Child Matters

What are residential schools?



The residential school system was made to assimilate Indigenous children into Canadian culture. Assimilate means becoming like the rest of the group because the things about you that are special are taken away. For Indigenous Peoples, this included things like languages, special ceremonies, and even their families.

What happened at residential schools?

When children were at residential school, they were not allowed to speak their own language, and they were not allowed to talk to their brothers and sisters. The people who controlled the schools were often very mean to the students and hurt them in many different ways.



What happened to the kids who went to residential school?

There were over 130 residential schools in Canada, and more than 150 000 Indigenous children were forced to attend. We don't know exactly how many children died, but we do know that the number is at least 4000 and probably much higher. For many of the children that did survive, it was very hard to try to go back home and it made the rest of their lives very sad. If they had their own kids, it often made their kids sad too.



Every Child Matters

Orange Shirt Day

Today we wear orange to remember the thousands of Indigenous children who died at residential school, and the thousands more who continue to suffer. We wear orange because we want to say that Every Child Matters!



ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPTEMBER 30



TAPWEWIN | CV·Δ·P | TRUTH



Every Child Matters



Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters



Every Child
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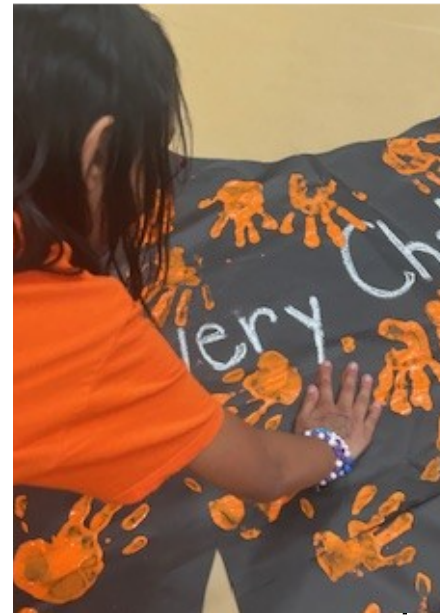
Every Child Matters



Every
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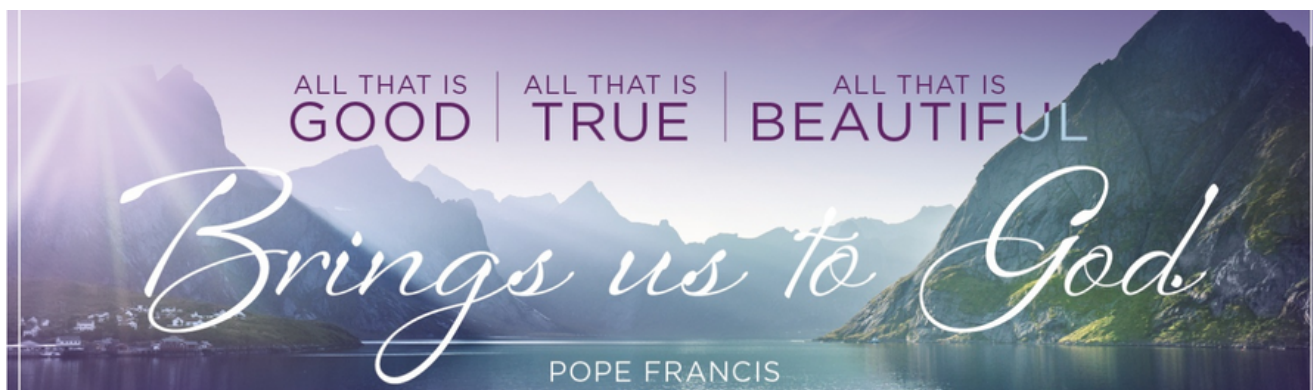


Every Child Matters



Our hearts
and hands
remember





Message from the Chief Superintendent

As our ECSD community settles in for another productive school year, I would like to share some reflections according to my usual themes of truth, beauty, and goodness.

TRUTH. As I write this message, there is still no resolution between Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA). As People of Hope, we hope and pray that a strike will be averted before the October 6 deadline. ECSD deeply values the contributions of teachers and staff in providing an excellent Catholic education for our students. The current uncertainty is emotionally challenging for the entire ECSD community. Let us remember during these difficult times that we are called by God as a community of faith to support each other with care and love.

We will continue to share updates through our website at ecsd.net/labourupdate. Please check this website frequently for information and updates, especially the morning of Monday, October 6. We strongly encourage families to have childcare arrangements in place for October 6 should an agreement not be reached. If a resolution is reached over the weekend, we will send a message to families who subscribed to receive school and Division messages through SchoolMessenger. If you have unsubscribed from this service, you can resubscribe by contacting your school. If the strike happens, it will be communicated on our website, social media, and by SchoolMessenger message on Monday morning.

BEAUTY. Catholic Education Week which takes place from October 18 to 24, is a wonderful time to celebrate the beauty of our Catholic faith. It also reminds us to be thankful for the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in our province. This year's Catholic Education Week theme—Anchored in Christ, A Beacon of Hope—is a call for schools to boldly live their mission by placing trust in Jesus and leading with clarity, courage, and joy. You can learn more about this special week by visiting ecsd.net/catholic-education-week.



GOODNESS. ECSD students learn the value of serving others. Many of our alumni go on to serve the public through careers in government. One such alumnus was **Prime Minister Mark Carney**, who recently returned to **St. Rose Catholic Junior High School** where he was a student from Grades 1 to 9. I was thrilled to accompany him through the school and hear stories about his time there. It was empowering for our students to connect with the Prime Minister in their hallways and gymnasium—he even took part in a Grade 9 social studies class. Students witnessed that an ECSD education puts them on a path towards any career imaginable, and staff saw the impact their dedication to Catholic education can have on students. It was a great day!





As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us be especially thankful for the truth, beauty, and goodness we experience within our amazing ECSD community. One way you can further support ECSD is by voting for your Catholic School Trustee in the municipal election on Monday, October 20. To help you make an informed choice, all candidates have been invited to provide video responses to a list of questions. You can watch these candidate videos and learn more about the election [by visiting our Elections page.](#)

Yours in Catholic education,
Lynnette Anderson, Chief Superintendent

