




# OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



March 2026

## A Message From Administration



As we enter the month of March, we find ourselves in a season of transition. The days are growing longer, the light lingers a little more each afternoon, and we begin to see signs of new life all around us. In our Catholic tradition, March often leads us into the sacred season of Lent – a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal.

Lent invites us to pause and consider how we are growing not only academically, but spiritually and socially as well. At school, we continue to nurture the whole child – heart, mind, body, and spirit – helping our students become compassionate leaders and thoughtful learners. During this season, classrooms will focus on prayer, acts of kindness, almsgiving, and meaningful conversations about how we can care for one another and for God's creation.

March is also a busy and joyful month in our school community. On Thursday, March 26 we are holding a **Demonstration of Learning from 4:00–7:00 pm**. We welcome all Our Lady of Peace Families to join their child(ren) as they showcase their learning. What a celebration! We are also holding a **Kindergarten Open House** the same evening, March 26th at 6 pm. We welcome all new Kindergarten Families to learn about our Full Day of Kindergarten programming for the 2026–27 school year.

We also look forward to Spring Break at the end of March. A reminder:

Thursday March 26 is a **FULL DAY** of instruction

Friday March 27 is **EARLY DISMISSAL** at 12:10 pm.

**Students will return to school on April 7th.**

As we prepare for spring break, we encourage families to take time to rest, reconnect, and enjoy one another. Even simple moments together – sharing a meal, going for a walk, or praying as a family – strengthen the bonds that help our children thrive. Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and trust. Together, we are building a community rooted in faith, hope, and love. May this month bring renewal and peace to your homes.

Blessings,

Sonja Willier, Principal

Erin Hart, Assistant Principal



## A Lenten Prayer



Loving God,  
As we begin this season of Lent,  
help us to grow closer to You each day.  
Teach us to be kind in our words,  
gentle in our actions,  
and generous in our hearts.  
When we make mistakes,  
give us the courage to say sorry  
and the strength to try again.  
Help us to pray with open hearts,  
to share with those in need,  
and to make good choices  
that show Your love to everyone we meet.  
May this Lenten season be a time of  
renewal, hope, and joy  
for our school and our families.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## Welcome New FSLW Staff



### **Family School Liaison Chisom Igwe**

We are proud to welcome Family School Liaison Worker (FSLW) Chisom Igwe to Our Lady of Peace School. Chisom works part-time at our school on Tuesdays and Fridays. Chisom's role is to help connect the home, school, and community so that everyone works together to help our students to learn and grow. Welcome Chisom!

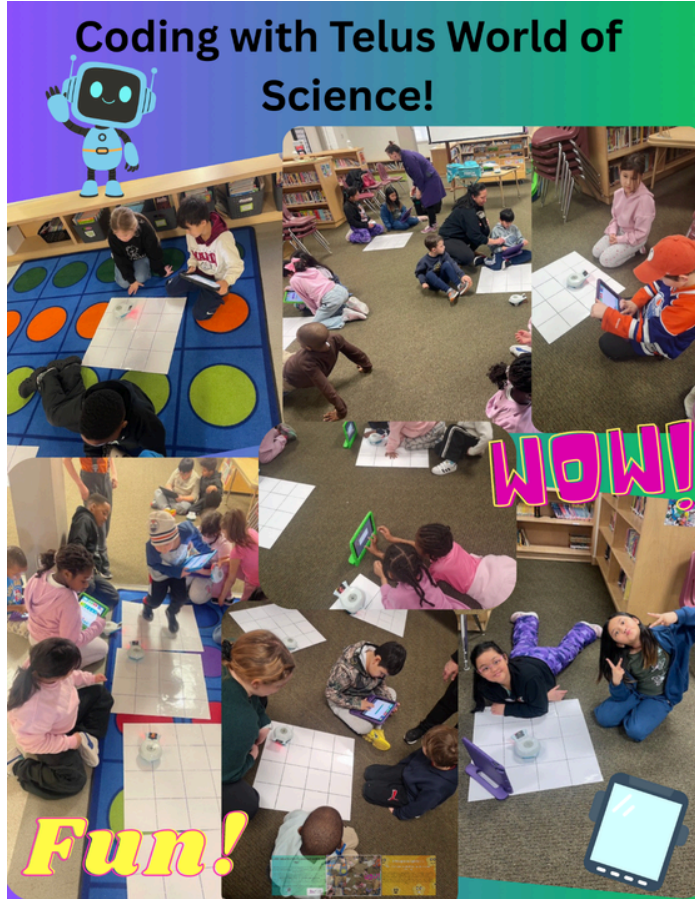
#### How I Help Students

- I listen when you have worries
- I help when school feels hard
- I support big feelings
- I make sure everyone feels welcome and included

#### How I Help Families

- I talk with parents and caregivers
- I visit families at home when needed
- I help families find support in the community

## Spotlight on Learning: Gr. 2-3 and 3



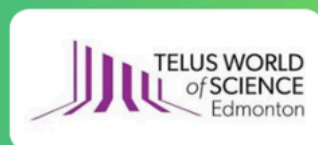
## Coding with Telus World of Science, in School Field Trip!

Thank you to TELUS World of Science and the Susan Peacock Student Access Fund for bringing an incredible in-school learning experience to our Grade 2/3 and Grade 3 classes at no cost to the school or families.

Students took part in a hands-on coding workshop where they used a mini robot, a mat, and an iPad to experiment with simple programming. By typing in code and testing their ideas, students watched their robots move, turn, and complete challenges.

The room was filled with excitement as students problem-solved, collaborated, and celebrated each success. They came out of the experience more confident in their coding abilities and eager to learn more.

We are grateful for community partnerships that help bring engaging STEM learning directly into our classrooms!



## Spotlight on Learning: Gr. 6



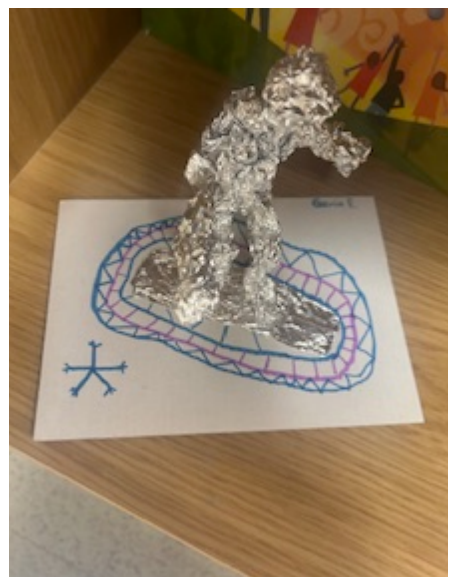
Some of our Grade 6 students' work was featured at the ECSD Science Showcase on February 20. The showcase included STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). ECSD Art Consultant Mrs. Culbertson has been leading our grade 6 students in amazing art expressions, including Olympic athlete figurines, and learning about the solar system. Mrs. Culbertson invited our students to showcase their work and she shared that it as "incredibly well received," with many visitors stopping to admire the projects—and teachers taking photos for ideas. Congratulations to our students for sharing their creativity and hard work with the community!

## Spotlight on Learning: Gr. 6

During the Olympics, students in Gr. 6 learned about our amazing Canadian athletes and their events in competition. They learned about skill set, training, nutrition, preparation, and more about the event. Students were introduced to a very cool art project by ECSD Art Consultant Jenny Culbertson. Here are the results - amazing creativity and expression! The sculptures have proudly been on display for our whole school to admire.



# Spotlight on Learning: Gr. 6



## Spotlight on Learning: Gr. 6



Did you notice these representations:

curling  
skiing  
snowboarding  
luge  
figure skating  
hockey

Go Canada Go!

# Parent Evening - Supporting Student Well-being

## EMPOWERING PARENTS

To Support Your Child's Well-Being at Home

Join us for an evening of pizza, conversation, practical strategies as we explore how families can nurture resilience and well-being at home.

Families will learn and discuss everyday actions that make a big difference, such as sleep routines, healthy technology use, and simple relationship-building habits that help our community make strong, well-rounded kids.

Come connect, learn, and leave with ideas you can use right away!

**OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL  
MARCH 10, 2026 5-6PM**

Pizza and Child Care provided!

Presented by Jackie Koval, Curriculum Consultant,  
Elana Bryks, Inclusive Consultant, and  
Justin DuVal, Asst. Manager Occupational Therapy & Mental Health



## Empowering Parents to Support Your Child's Well-Being at Home

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm

Please join us for an evening of pizza, conversation, and practical strategies as we explore how families can nurture resilience and well-being at home.

Families will learn and discuss every day actions that make a big difference: sleep routines, healthy technology use, and simple relationship-building habits that help our community make strong, well-rounded kids. Come and connect, learn, and leave with ideas you can use right away!

Join ECSD consultants Justin Duval, Elana Bryks, Jackie Koval - all who specialize in health and wellness, as well as Our Lady of Peace Mental Health Specialist Marco Vallacco.

**Pizza and child care provided!**

# A MESSAGE FROM APPLE SCHOOLS

## A Message from Apple Schools

### What's the Commotion about Emotions Challenge and Learning

This month's Apple School implementation is all about students learning about their emotions. They will learn about this through morning announcements and completing a home challenge with your support. Each student will be sent home with a challenge paper that can be returned to school when it is completed to receive a small prize. The purpose of this home challenge is to encourage structured family time to initiate conversations around positive emotions. Family communication builds strong connections and fosters empathy in children. Along with learning about emotions, students will get to participate in a whole school flex mental wellness day on March 12.

Next attachment

## empowering AFFIRMATIONS

I am surrounded by abundance

I am constantly growing

I am confident

All my emotions are valid

I am safe and at peace

today I choose to be happy

# Apple Schools - March Information

## A Message from Apple Schools



## LESS SCREEN TIME MORE MOVEMENT!

Growing up in the digital age can make it difficult for kids to put their screens down and choose to be active instead. Being physically active allows our brains, muscles, bones, and lungs to grow strong and healthy and allows our brains to function better for learning. This month, we challenge students to spend less time on their screens and replace that time with movement. Students will be sent home with a tracking sheet for themselves or the whole family to participate in for a two week duration. At the end of the two weeks, students can hand in their sheets and can win a prize!



## Fun & Healthy SNACK IDEA FOR KIDS

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Take your cucumber and cut one inch cylinders (approximately). One cylinder will make two hats. Stand your cucumber cylinders straight up and cut down the middle. Lay them flat, cut side down. Those will be the tops of your Leprechaun hats.
2. With the rest of your cucumber cut some cucumber sticks, slightly larger than your cylinders. Those will be the lip of your hats. (cut a cucumber cylinder larger than your top hat cylinders. Cut those in half, and then cut to make cucumber sticks).
4. With your small square cutter cut a few few squares out of yellow bell pepper.
5. With a knife cut some strips of cheese. There really is no need to be precise. If it is too long you can always cut it shorter :)
6. Assemble the hats: You need half a cucumber cylinder, one cucumber stick, one yellow bell pepper square and one piece of cheese. You can use a little bit of honey or agave nectar to "glue" down the cheese and bell pepper, if desired. I used a toothpick and dabbed some honey where the cheese was going to be place.

Leprechaun Hats



St. Patrick's day is approaching! To help celebrate, try out these fun to make leprechaun hats. They are a delicious healthy snack that allows for kids to get creative and help make!

### Ingredients:

- Cucumbers
- Yellow Bell pepper
- White Cheese (I used Provolone)
- Honey (or agave syrup)
- Small square cutter
- A knife



## A Message From Chief Superintendent Anderson

March is an exciting and eventful month for Edmonton Catholic Schools. As is my custom, here are just a few examples of the truth, beauty, and goodness being experienced within our amazing Christ-centred community.

**TRUTH.** Lent is a time to fully open our hearts to the truth of Christ's Death and Resurrection. In his first Lent as Pope, our Holy Father Pope Leo offers a thoughtful Message for Lent, which concludes with the following request:

"Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love."



**BEAUTY.** ECSD holds many events to celebrate the beauty of our Catholic faith. One such event is our annual Father Michael "Catfish" Mireau Youth Faith Day, when Grade 8 students participate in a Eucharistic Mass and are inspired by Jesse Manibusan – the internationally acclaimed speaker, songwriter, humorist, and catechist. Through story and song, Jesse unfolds the beauty of serving others, especially those who suffer. This event is a truly uplifting faith formation experience.



# A Message From Chief Superintendent Anderson

**GOODNESS.** The goodness within Edmonton Catholic Schools flows from the generous and loving contributions of our amazing ECSD community. Each and every staff member plays a role in shaping the lives of our students. As our student population increases, our staff population must also increase. Thankfully, the Government of Alberta recently announced funding for Classroom Complexity Teams as a first step in addressing class size and complexity. Each Classroom Complexity Team will be composed of one teacher and two educational assistants. Teams have already been allocated to specific elementary schools by the Ministry of Education and Childcare based on recently collected classroom complexity data. The ministry's decision to allocate teams to the highest complexity classrooms in the earliest grades reflects its commitment to early intervention.

ECSD is grateful to have received funding for 42 Classroom Complexity Teams. We have notified the elementary schools selected by the ministry to receive teams, and our next step is to staff the teams as efficiently and effectively as possible. Although these teams are a good first step, we are pleased that the province acknowledges that more needs to be done towards addressing class size and complexity. It is our hope that Budget 2026, to be tabled soon, will contain increased funding to support teaching and learning at all grade levels.

I visited a number of schools over the last couple of months, where I had the pleasure of witnessing Catholic education being brought to life. Indeed, every one of ECSD's 95 schools is visited at least once a year by a member of our superintendent team. Each visit involves a thorough review of that particular school's unique School Plan for Continuous Growth, and includes important dialogue about successes and opportunities for growth. This is just one of the many steps we take to provide assurance to our families that student growth and achievement, rooted in faith, is at the centre of Edmonton Catholic Schools.

Finally, I would like to wish our ECSD community a wonderful and much-deserved Spring Break. Please join me in using this time to reflect on the gift of a publicly funded Catholic education system, and to thank God for the opportunity to strengthen and promote Catholic education. Let us return from Spring Break rejuvenated and ready to continue our journey towards, as Pope Leo describes it, "...a civilization of love."

Sincerely,  
Lynnette Anderson  
Chief Superintendent

