

OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL

APRIL NEWSLETTER

HELLO
SPRING

April 2026



Message from Administration

Dear Our Lady of Peace Families,

As we enter the month of April, we continue our journey through the season of Lent—a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal. In our school, students have been learning about the importance of kindness, forgiveness, and caring for others, following the example of Jesus in their daily actions.

April brings signs of new life and growth all around us. As the days grow longer and the weather begins to warm, we are reminded of the hope that comes with this season. This sense of renewal is also present in our classrooms, where students continue to grow in their learning, friendships, and faith.

We are blessed with a vibrant school community that fosters faith, knowledge, and compassion. Our dedicated teachers and staff continuously strive to provide a nurturing environment where students flourish academically, spiritually, and socially. Thank you for joining us for our **Demonstration of Learning** on March 26th.. Our staff and students were excited to welcome you and to celebrate the amazing learning that is taking place. We also welcomed new parents and families to our **Kindergarten Open House** on March 26th. Our new families were happy to see our school come alive with all of you, and were able to tour our lovely school and meet the staff. We also held our second **Scholastic Book Fair** of the year - thank you for your support - we garnered over \$3200 in sales!

We look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter together—a time that reminds us of God’s great love and the promise of new life. Through prayer, acts of service, and community, we help our students understand the meaning of this important season in age-appropriate and meaningful ways.

We are grateful for the continued partnership between home and school. Your support helps create a nurturing and faith-filled environment where every child can thrive. As we move into the final months of the school year, we remain committed to supporting each student’s growth—academically, socially, and spiritually.

Wishing all of our families a blessed and joyful Easter season.

With gratitude, Sonja Willier, Principal

Erin Hart, Asst. Principal

STUDENT PRAYERS



Lynnelle's Morning prayer

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Dear God,
Thank you for my friends and family.
I pray for my sister to learn a lot.
I pray for people who are sick to get better.
Lord help me to get better at writing.

Amen



JESUS LOVES ME
and
JESUS LOVES YOU

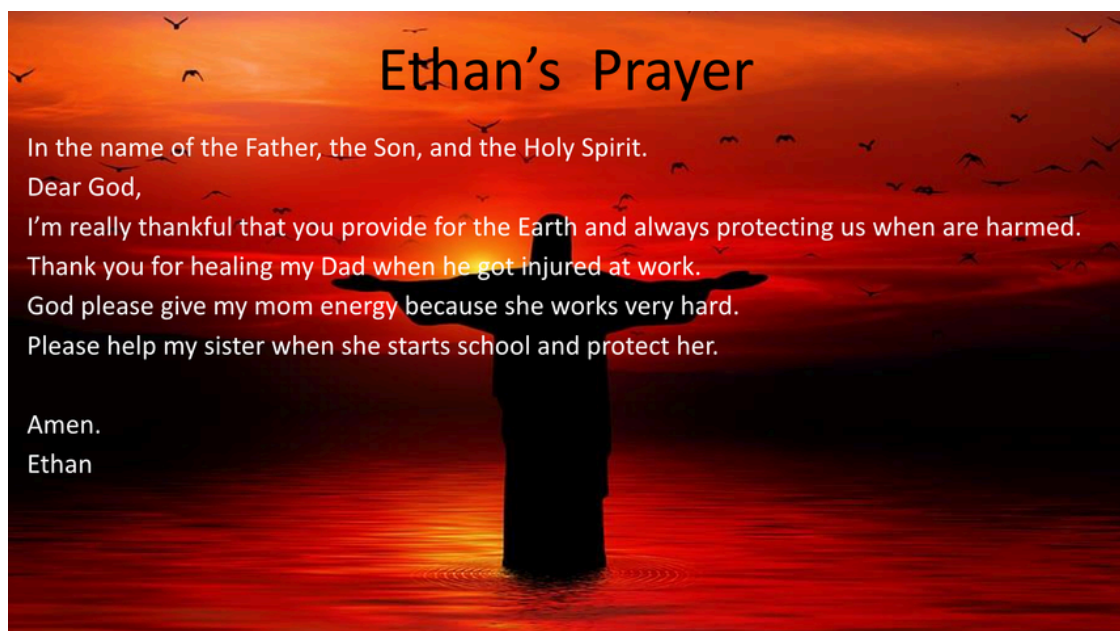


Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Dear God,
I pray for mommy.
I pray for Mrs. Robinson
I pray for my daddy, brother,
and Baby.
Thank you for family.

Amen

Averyh



Ethan's Prayer

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Dear God,
I'm really thankful that you provide for the Earth and always protecting us when are harmed.
Thank you for healing my Dad when he got injured at work.
God please give my mom energy because she works very hard.
Please help my sister when she starts school and protect her.

Amen.
Ethan

EASTER BLESSINGS

BY HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US A NEW BIRTH INTO A

LIVING HOPE

THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

— 1 Peter 1:3

May the joy of the risen Christ
fill your hearts with hope, peace,
and new life this Easter season.



As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we are reminded of the hope, renewal, and new life that this sacred season brings. The resurrection of Jesus fills our hearts with light and calls us to live with compassion, kindness, and love each day.

In our school community, we see these signs of new life in our students—through their curiosity, their friendships, and the ways they care for one another. Easter invites all of us to continue nurturing these gifts, encouraging one another to grow in faith and in love.

May this Easter season bring peace to your homes, joy to your hearts, and a renewed sense of hope for the days ahead. Thank you for the many ways you support our school and partner with us in creating a caring, faith-filled community.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyful Easter.

ECSD Community of School Councils Report

Community of School Councils: What We Heard Report

In November, families and administrators from 89 ECSD school communities, including ours, gathered for this school year's Community of School Councils engagement. The discussion focused on 4 areas of work that will guide the next 3-year growth plan:

- Catholic Identity
- Optimal Learning
- Student Well-being
- Classroom Complexity

The report was compiled and school administrators were asked to share the results with their school councils. Here are the results:

Catholic Identity

Families and school teams emphasized the importance of belonging, visible and lived faith, and strong parish connections. Communities highlighted that students thrive in welcoming learning environments rooted in Catholic values, where prayer, liturgy, and service are part of daily life. Parents voiced the importance of schools that support their children's spiritual development while remaining open and accepting of all families.

Community of School Councils: What We Heard Report

Optimal Learning

Participants reinforced the need for consistent teaching practices across the Division and personalized learning that meets students where they are. Many families expressed that clear communication, hands-on learning, and strong alignment from year to year help children stay engaged and confident. Staff noted that building teacher capacity and ensuring flexibility in instruction remain key to supporting student growth.

Student Well-Being

Accessible mental health supports emerged as a top priority for both parents and staff. Families want their children to have trusted adults at school and easy access to counselling and wellness resources. Schools also stressed the importance of fostering safe, caring relationships and reducing stigma around asking for help. Healthy routines, including sleep and managing technology use, were also raised as areas that benefit students' overall well-being.

Community of School Councils: What We Heard Report

Classroom Complexity

School teams and parents shared that today's classrooms require strong supports for diverse learning needs. Families highlighted the importance of early screening and intervention. They told us that teacher support and professional learning were acknowledged as critical.



The [COSC "What We Heard" report](#) was presented to the Board of Trustees at the Public Board Meeting on January 28, 2026. The themes gathered through COSC will help inform the development of ECSD's 2026–2029 Division Plan for Continuous Growth. This feedback ensures that future planning reflects the voices of families and schools across the Division and aligns with our mission to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another.

Parent Evening

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



On March 10th we held a Parent Evening “Empowering Parents to Support Your Child’s Well-being at Home”. The parent interest for this session was so great that we will hold a second session for K-Gr. 3 parents in April. We thank ECSD consultants Justin Duvall and Jackie Koval - Mental Health and Wellness - for joining us, along with Mr. Vallacco, OLO Peace Mental Health Therapist. Discussions included establishing sleep routines, healthy technology use and supervision, and simple relationship-building habits. We look forward to seeing another group of parents and families in the next session.

Thank you to Ms. Hart and Ms. Willier who joined the discussions, and to Mrs. Heller and Ms. Lindsay who took the children down to the gym for some fun after enjoying pizza together with their families.



Staffing Updates



In March we welcomed back Mrs. Megan Franczak to Kindergarten. Mrs. Franczak returned from a maternity leave and has been so excited to be back at school. Mrs. Franczak is an excellent teacher who brings a wealth of knowledge in early learning. We said good-bye to Mrs. Cisse, whom we celebrated in her role as an amazing Kindergarten teacher this year. Mrs. Cisse has gone on to another ECSD school for the remainder of the year.

We welcome Ms. Yolanda Villa, a new Education Assistant in Grade 3. Ms. Villa brings great smiles and energy to the Gr. 3 classroom. The current EA has been on a medical leave this year and we wish her well.

Alberta Education Complexity Grant

In November 2025, Alberta Education asked schools to provide data and feedback on the classroom complexities we face in today's classrooms. On February 12, Alberta Education announced targeted funding to address classroom complexity and support teaching and learning. Classroom complexity teams will be established to support K-6 schools identified through provincial data analysis as high in complexity. The province identified 42 Edmonton Catholic Schools sites to receive a classroom complexity team based on data collected in November. The announcement formally recognizes the increasing instructional, behavioral, social, emotional and mental health demands present in classrooms across the province. Our Lady of Peace School is one of 42 schools with ECSD that qualify for this grant.

With this grant we welcome Mrs. Sadie Robinson as Complexity Teacher and Ms. Isabella Onyango in the role of Education Assistant. We will also welcome an additional Behavior Therapist upon staffing.

Mrs. Robinson is a welcome addition to this complex teaching role. She previously held the Instructional Coach role earlier this year during a staff leave. Mrs. Robinson is an excellent teacher and brings a wealth of knowledge in supporting diverse student needs successfully. Congratulations Mrs. Robinson!

We welcome Ms. Kristy Ballantyne in her new role as Gr. 3 teacher. Ms. Ballentyne brings new energy, a great smile, and a wealth of Indigenous learning to her position. Ms Ballentyne met several parents at our recent Demo of Learning.

Welcome all to our beautiful family at Our Lady of Peace School! We are blessed to continue to welcome amazing staff to our school community!

Wellness Day



On March 12th we held a Physical Wellness Day (Flex Day). Students joined together in multi-age groupings to enjoy the day's activities. As an Apple School we love celebrating our health and learning new ways to move. Thank you Mrs. Robinson for organizing this special day for us!



Wellness Day



Wellness Day




**learning new ways to move our
bodies and to be healthy**

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING - GRADE 4

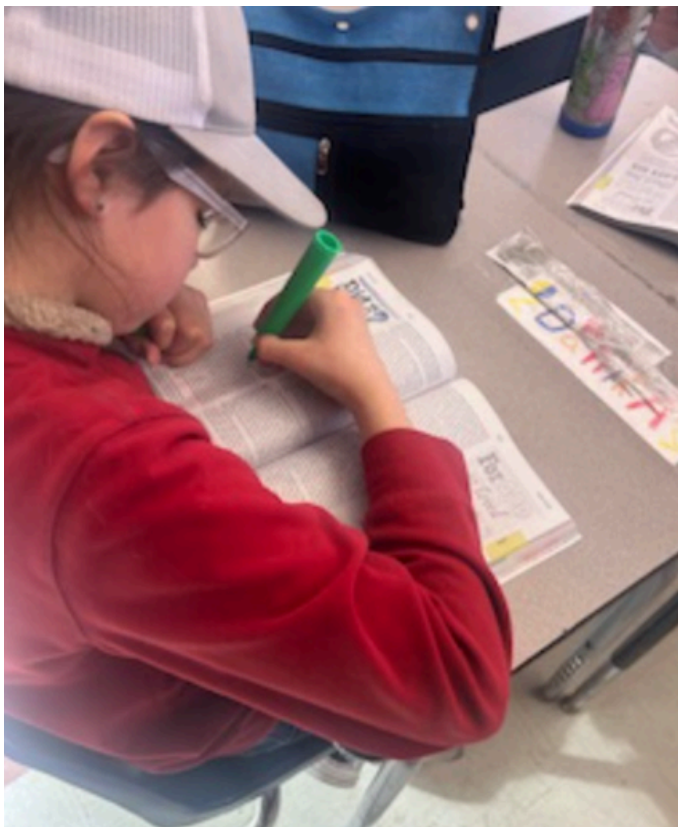
Learning Goal:

Today we are learning to examine Scripture to understand God's promise of eternal life and what Jesus teaches us about the Kingdom of Heaven.

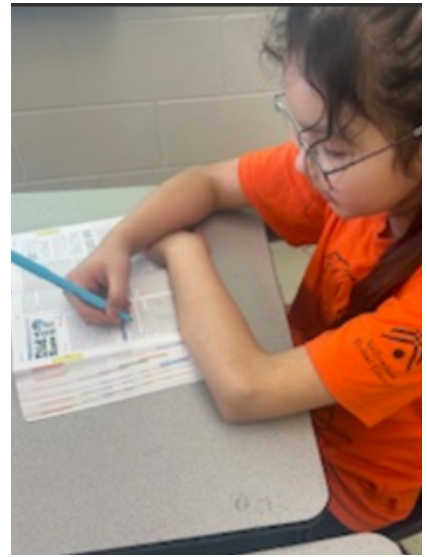
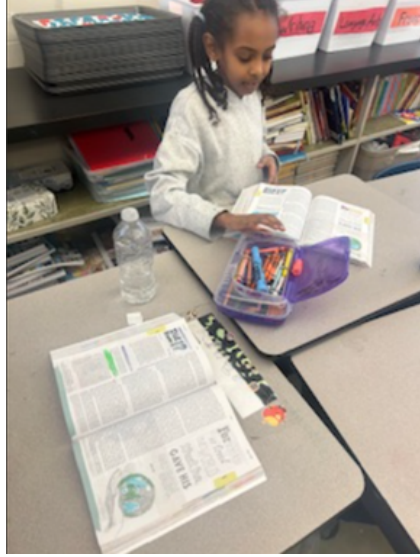
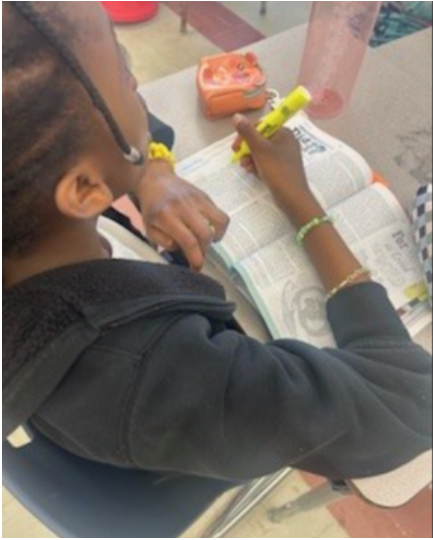


The graphic features a light purple background with decorative elements like leaves and dots. It includes several icons: a magnifying glass over an open book, a handshake, an infinity symbol, a person with arms raised, a classroom scene, a church, and a gate to heaven.

Students in Gr. 4 are learning about God's Lenten Promise in Religion. Having received bibles in a ceremony earlier this year, they are excited to learn how to look up scripture passages and to engage in conversations about God and scripture. Students are so reverent with their bibles, excited to learn the passages, and reflect on God's promise.



SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING - GRADE 4



“I Can”

• Success Criteria (co-created language):



✓ I can read or listen to Scripture with focus.



✓ I can identify what Jesus is promising or teaching in the passage.



✓ I can talk about what the promise of eternal life means.



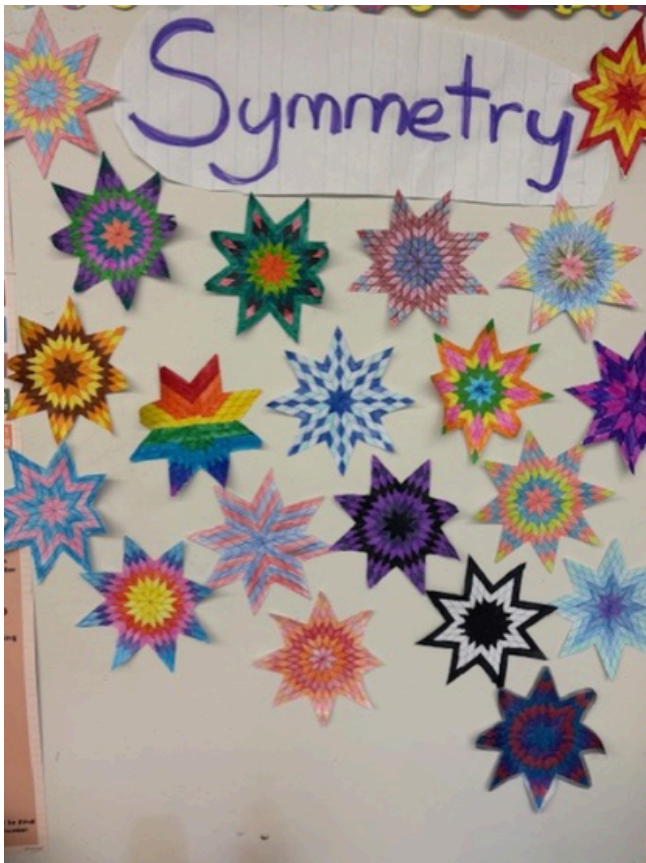
✓ I can describe what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.



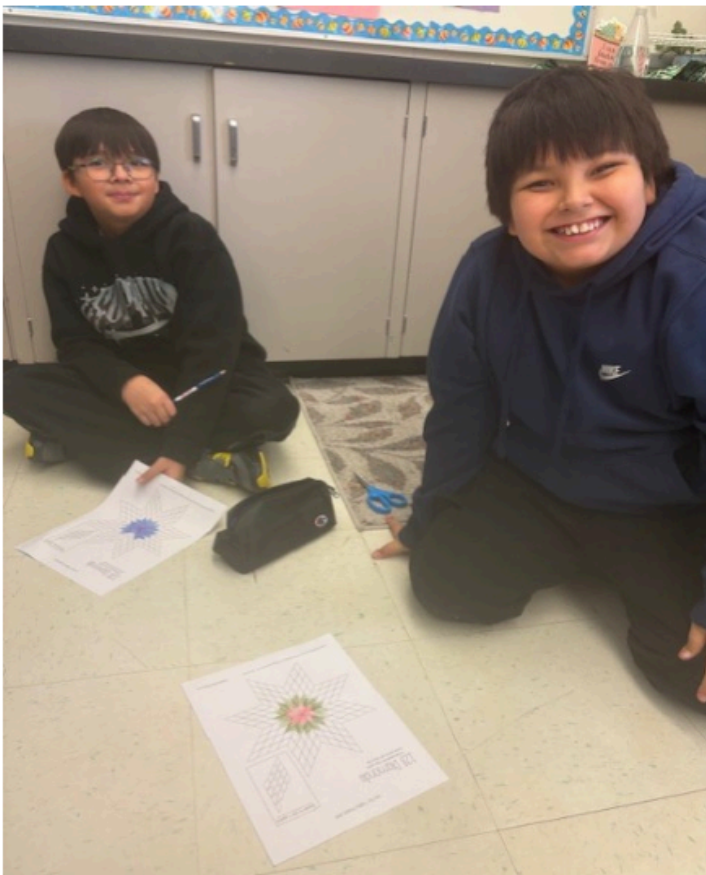
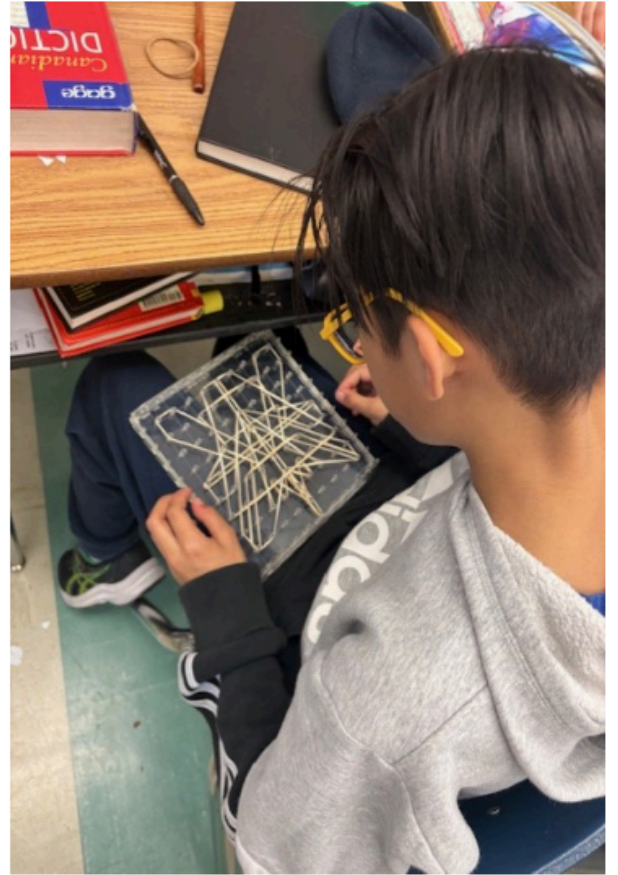
SPOTLIGHT ON SYMMETRY - GRADE 4/5

Our Grade 4/5 students have been busy this month exploring the mathematical concept of symmetry through hands-on creative learning. Symmetry helps us understand balance, patterns, and design in both math and the world around us. Students began by learning to identify lines of symmetry and recognizing symmetrical shapes. They then applied this knowledge in meaningful and engaging ways. Inspired by Indigenous star quilt designs, students created their own patterned artwork, carefully ensuring their designs were balanced and symmetrical.

We also explored symmetry through art by designing shamrocks using positive and negative space, helping students deepen their understanding of how shapes can mirror each other. In addition, students used geoboards and digital pattern blocks to build and manipulate geometric designs, allowing them to experiment with symmetry in both physical and digital formats. It has been wonderful to see students combine creativity with mathematical thinking while developing a strong understanding of symmetry!



SPOTLIGHT ON SYMMETRY - GRADE 4/5

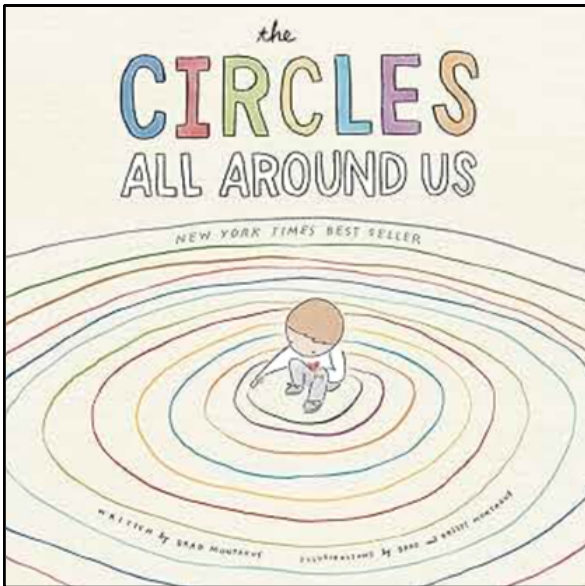


SPOTLIGHT ON SYMMETRY - GRADE 4/5



CIRCLES ALL AROUND US

KINDERGARTEN



Students in Kindergarten are learning about the circles of love all around them. After reading the book “The Circles All Around Us” by Brad Montague students identified their own circle of love. Students learn how they can spread love by making big circles and inviting others in.

The Circles All Around Us

“We begin by drawing a circle on the ground along each shoe. A safe little place for just one person. Nobody in this circle but you. You could keep that circle closed to everyone but yourself, but that would be like a library with just one book on the shelf. So let’s draw a bigger circle for you and your family to share. Now you see what all can happen in a circle full of care.:



CIRCLES ALL AROUND US

The Circles All Around Us

“It becomes a happier circle as more loved ones come to stay. And wouldn't it be even better if all your friends could come and play? So you stretch and draw your circle even bigger than its been, and let a few more people know that they are welcome to come in. In the circles all around us, everywhere that we all go, there's a difference we can make and a love we can all show. Yet there are still so many outside the circle who are different in all that they do. Though it feels slightly uncomfortable...we draw a bigger circle for them too! It doesn't mean the circle is easy. It can get harder the more we share. But wonderful things can happen when love is known and felt everywhere. As time passes, our eyes open. We see others we really care for. And that's when we ask ourselves well, what is the circle really there for? So let us create bigger circles all around us for the rest of our days. Let our caring ripple out in a million little ways. In the circles all around us, everywhere that we all go, there's a difference we can make and a love we can all show. As our circles grow and grow, and we watch them wonder-eyed, remember the first circle started with just the love you hold inside.”



CIRCLES ALL AROUND US



CIRCLES ALL AROUND US



CIRCLES ALL AROUND US

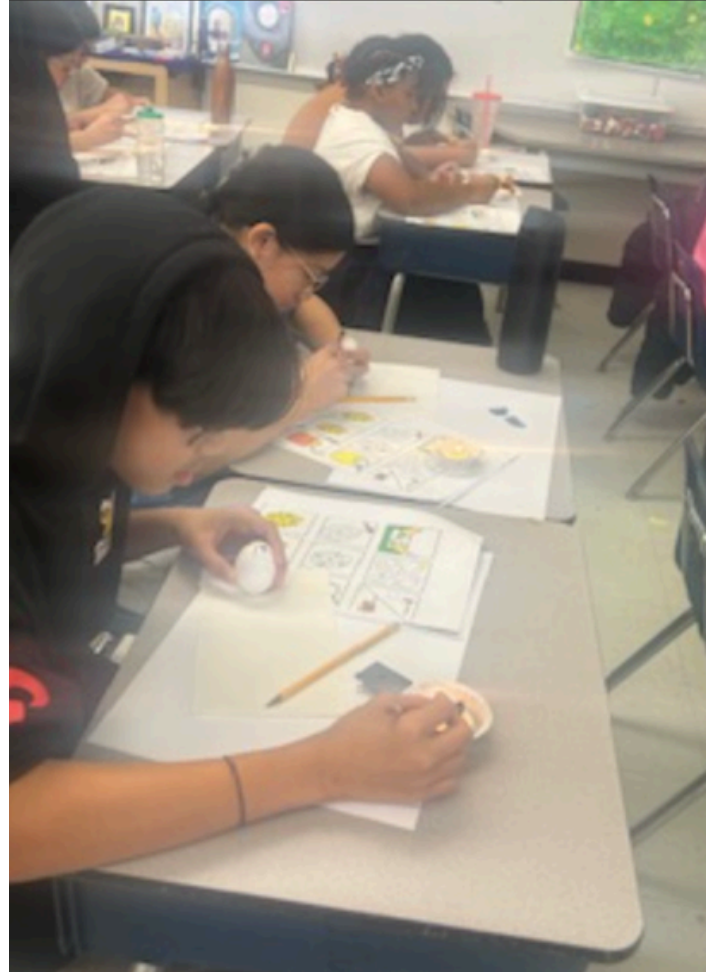


Making Easter Eggs - Grade 6

Students in Grade 6 welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Len and Maru Kachuk to teach them how to decorate Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs). Students learned the importance of color, symbolism, and teachings of Ukrainian traditions at Easter. Students created amazing masterpieces! Thank you to Mrs. Poliakiwski who organized this special learning experience for her class.



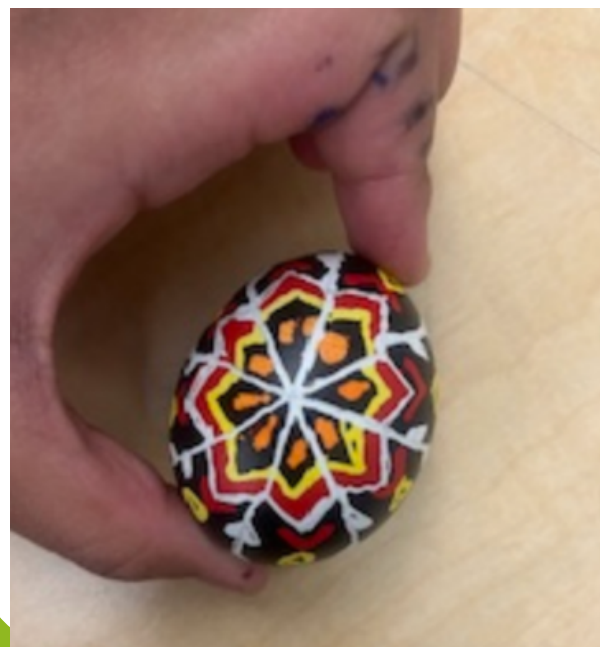
decorating pysanky eggs



decorating pysanky eggs









Ukrainian pysanky are traditional Easter eggs decorated using a wax-resist method (batic) involving a stylus called a kistka and beeswax, dating back centuries. Symbolizing life and protection, they are adorned with intricate folk motifs—often using deep colors like reds, yellows, and black—and are traditionally given to family and friends as protective gifts.

**symbols
of new
life!**

ECSD Traditional Pow Wow

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BEN CALF ROBE TRADITIONAL POW WOW



Saturday
May 9, 2026

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ANCESTORS

ᑎᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ MOON

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ RAIN | ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ WIND

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ SUN

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ MOTHER

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ FATHER | ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ CHILDREN

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ STARS

COMMONWEALTH RECREATION CENTRE — INDOOR FIELD HOUSE
11000 STADIUM ROAD
TIME: 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM • GRAND ENTRY: 1:00 PM

Chief Superintendent Message



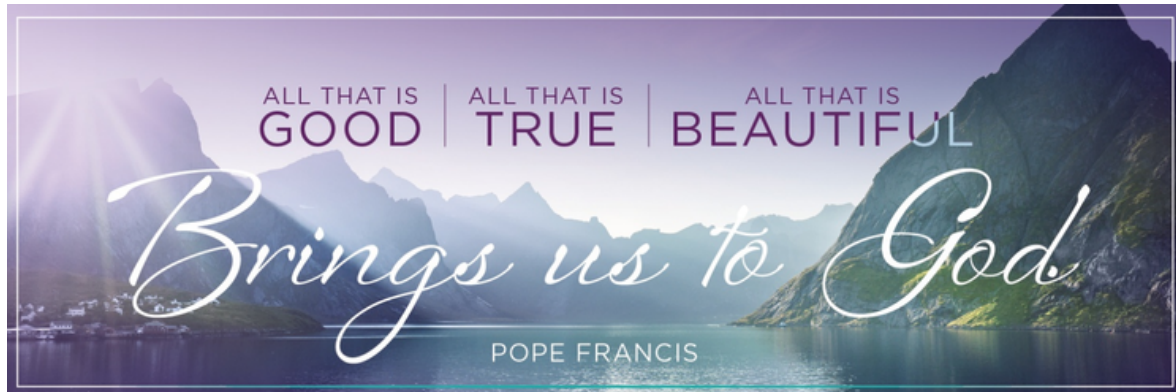
April 2026 Message

Once again, it is my pleasure to share some examples of truth, beauty, and goodness being experienced within Edmonton Catholic Schools this April.

TRUTH. One of the pastoral priorities of our Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton is Formation for Confident Witness. In support of this priority, on April 8 and 9, our Board of Trustees will present a Lumen Christi Student Faith Leadership Award to a student from each of our schools. These students were selected because their confident witness helps spread the truth of the Gospel among their school communities and beyond. The mission of Edmonton Catholic Schools is 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 award winners are a true testament to the importance of Catholic education.

BEAUTY. We emphasize beauty by ensuring our schools and chapels energize and inspire. However, as more and more families choose ECSD, many of our schools are becoming full. Thankfully, our Board of Trustees are tireless advocates for new schools, and as a result of their efforts, we recently received funding to develop plans for three new schools. This funding announcement took place in St. Carlo Acutis Catholic High School – our first new high school to be built in the northside in decades – which will open its doors to students for the 2026-2027 school year. We are thankful to the Government of Alberta for its commitment to increasing the number of student spaces, and we will continue to advocate for the projects listed in ECSD's Three-year Capital Plan.

Chief Superintendent Message



GOODNESS. The ECSD community has enjoyed getting to know our new shepherd, Archbishop Stephen A. Hero. We are grateful that His Grace was appointed to this important position and pray that we might be blessed with his wisdom and goodness for many years to come. In his recent letter, Archbishop Hero states that he is “deeply committed to walking with all of [us] to help our young people to know Christ, serve others, and build a more just and hope-filled world in Christ.” Indeed, the ECSD community is thrilled to walk with His Grace on our current Lenten journey, and upon returning from Spring Break, we will together proclaim “Alleluia” in celebration of the risen Lord.

During this important time of prayer and contemplation, let us thank God for His many blessings. We are truly blessed to journey together as members of our amazing ECSD community.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Anderson
Chief Superintendent