

# Welcome

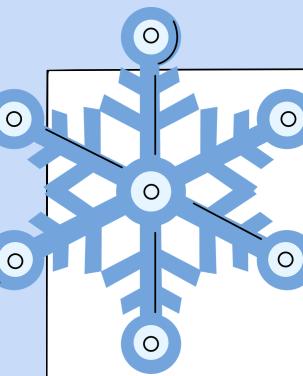
# January!

Our Lady of Peace School

Newsletter

January 2026





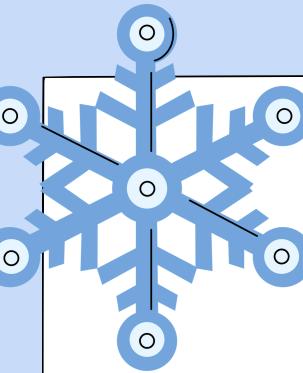
# Message From Administration

Dear Our Lady of Peace Families,

Happy new year! We are coming to you with a new format this month as we have a shorter newsletter. As we begin the month of January, we want to share some important dates. Please mark your calendars:

- **January 23: Our Lady of Peace Student Faith Development Day.** We celebrate Mary on this day and have a wonderful menu of faith-based learning and activities for our students. We are also gathering together for a liturgy at 2:00 pm with ECSD Chaplain Fr. Glenn MacDonald. Please join us if you can!
- **January 27: Summary Report Cards.** In January, students receive a Summary Report of their learning to date. This report will be generated digitally on January 27<sup>th</sup> and will go live at 4 pm in Power School. We are also sending home a printed copy of your child's report. We are so proud to showcase your child and their learning. Please reach out if you have any questions.
- **February 2: Registrations Open for the 2026-27 school year:** Pre-enrollment opens on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and closes on March 13<sup>th</sup>. This process provides families the opportunity to share your registration plans for the upcoming year. Parents can submit your intentions of returning to Our Lady of Peace School. For Kindergarten registrations, children born in 2021 should be registering as they will be turning 5 on or before December 31, 2026.
- **February 12: Pipe Ceremony at 10:00 am.** Our Lady of Peace School is joining together with St. Benedict School to host a pipe ceremony at 10:00 am at our school. As a Nehiyaw Pimatisiwin School we are proud to have this opportunity each year to host such a sacred experience. The pipe ceremony is a spiritual practice of Canada's First Nations people. The pipe ceremony teaches us about the sacred relationship between the people, Creator, the land and all living beings. The pipe teaches balance among the mind, body, heart, and spirit. It brings people together in truth and respect and connects our community to the four directions, each carrying gifts of wisdom, courage, humility and respect. If you wish to join the ceremony, please contact the office.





# Message From Administration

- **February 25-27: NO SCHOOL: ECSD Staff Faith Development Day and Teacher's Convention**
- **March 26: Demonstration of Learning.** This is a family event where your child will showcase and celebrate their learning. Each classroom will set up a series of learning activities to guide students to show their families all of their learning.
- **March 26: Open House (for Kindergarten) at 6:00 pm:** our annual Open House is also scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. It's a great opportunity for new families to explore our school community. Please invite friends and neighbors who are interested in joining our school and family.
- **March 30-April 6: Spring Break and Easter Holiday**
- **May 15-18: NO SCHOOL: Victoria Day Weekend**
- **June 23: Last Day of School**

We invite you to take a moment for a quiet reflection: the word 'January' comes from the Latin word 'janua' which means 'doorway'. It is an old Christian custom to bless doorways at Epiphany. January is the year's doorway, an entrance into a bright new beginning. Jesus is always beginning again the work of salvation in us and among us. It is true that sin is not finished. Hatred and greed are not destroyed. Even winter is not yet over. Yet, we have begun a new year. The hours of darkness are shrinking before the strengthening sun. We see the Savior and our hopes are made new. Like Magi, we bring the gold, frankincense and myrrh of our own talents and gifts to the kingdom. We look at each other with new understanding, generosity, and energy. As we begin the new year, we pray: "Loving God, you give us this new year and good friends with whom to share it. Bless all who pray, work, and learn together. Grant a happy new year to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

On behalf of the staff, we wish you a most blessed New Year filled with success and health of mind, body, and spirit. Stay safe, warm, and healthy! In faith and partnership,

Sonja Willier, Principal

Erin Hart, Assistant Principal



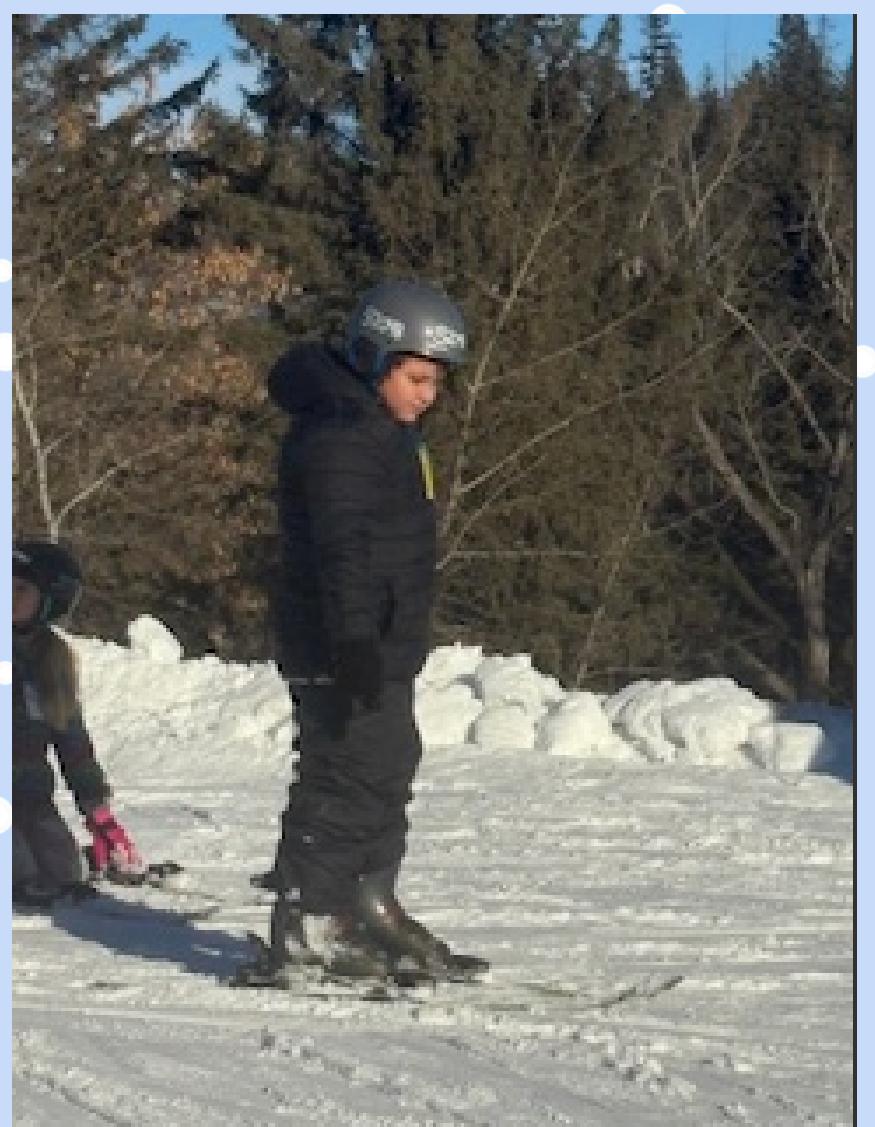
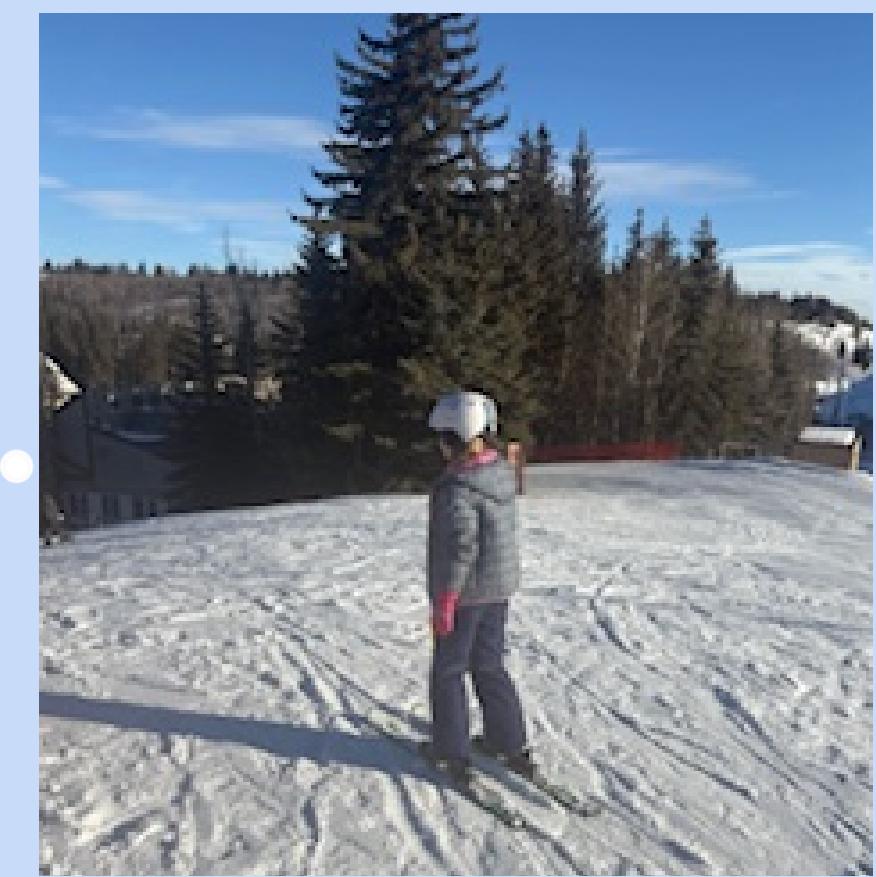
# Falling Snowflakes

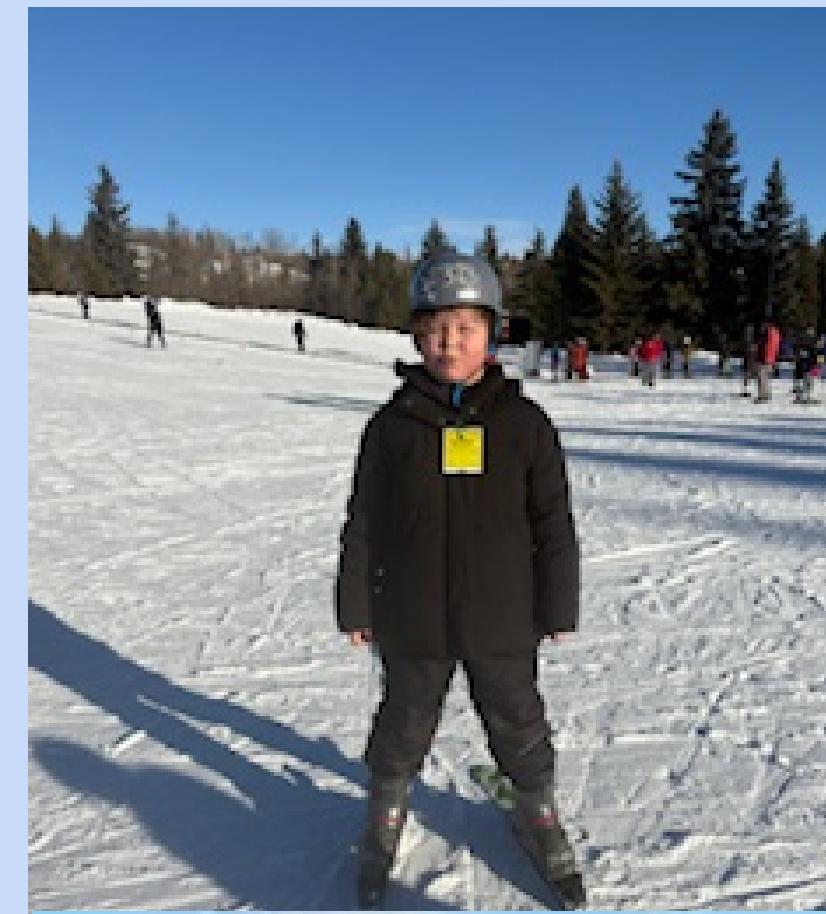
One of the most magical things about winter is the falling snowflakes. Snow covers the ground in a blanket of white, making everything look clean and beautiful. No two snowflakes are alike!

# Ski Day at Snow Valley!

Our grades 4-6 students enjoyed a fantastic day of skiing and snowboarding on January 14<sup>th</sup>. We were blessed with incredible weather and a full day outdoors with friends! Thank you to our School Council for sponsoring the costs of 2 ski days this winter, and the costs of bussing!







oh what fun it is to  
learn to ski!

# Let's Talk Literacy

The new year is often a time for setting goals. Consider this question:  
*what are your goals for your children?*

- To build self-confidence
- To get along well with others
- To develop literacy skills
- To improve communication skills
- To discover a meaningful, engaging career path
- To live with purpose and happiness

As you strive to reach your goals as a family, remember that your daily habits within your home will help you (and your children) reach their goals.

Technology is very much embedded in our daily lives. In fact, our children have never known a life without technology. Along with the benefits, there are also cautions about its negative influence in their lives. The new year is the perfect opportunity to set some realistic limits and develop healthy habits for our daily use of technology.

- Does our family have tech-free talk time?
- Are there limits to screen time within your home?
- How might you balance the use of technology in your home?

## Too Much Tech?

Watch for these signs



Complaints about  
being bored without  
screens



Problems with sleep,  
school, or face-to-face  
interaction



Harsh resistance  
to screen time  
limits

Are you seeing these signs?  
It's time to talk about tech.

[TalkLearn2Learn.org](http://TalkLearn2Learn.org)

**TALK**  
heart2heart



These easy to make garlic cheesy breads are not only yummy but are a great activity for those cold days of winter. You can even add marina sauce to turn them into pizzas!

#### Ingredients:

- 3 English muffins
- 1 clove garlic
- 20g butter
- pinch finely chopped parsley (fresh or dried)
- 60g grated mozzarella
- mini pepperoni/meat of your choice (I used 3 mini Pepperami sausages)
- $\frac{1}{4}$  orange pepper

# Fun & Healthy SNACK IDEA FOR KIDS

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F
2. Split all three English muffins in half.
3. Peel and crush or finely chop the garlic clove, then mix with the butter and parsley until well combined.
4. Spread the garlic butter over the cut side of the muffin halves, splitting it equally between them all.
5. Top with grated mozzarella
6. Slice the mini pepperoni sausages into rounds. Cut 7. triangles from the orange pepper.
8. Arrange the pepperoni and pepper triangles on the top of each muffin to form a snowman face design.
9. Bake in the oven for 5-10 minutes until the cheese is melted and bubbling.

Recipe from: [Eatsamazing.co](http://Eatsamazing.co)

CHILDREN'S VISION & EYE HEALTH

# Strong Eyes. Bright Futures.



[optometrists.ab.ca](http://optometrists.ab.ca)

1.800.272.8843

A healthy, happy child starts with clear vision.  
Add eye exams to their health checklist.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 80% of learning is visual for a child.
- 1 in 4 school-aged children have a vision problem.
- Children with vision problems are often misdiagnosed as having learning or behavioural disabilities.
- Children often assume their vision is normal, even when it's not.
- The earlier an eye health or visual problem is identified, the more likely it can be corrected and the less likely it is to impact learning.
- Parents often miss vision problems—especially if only one eye is affected.

If your child is not seeing properly, it can impact their ability to learn.



## KINDERGARTEN

### Optometrists recommend:

Children should have an eye exam before starting kindergarten—and every year after.

#### *Parent tip!*

- Kindergarten students who need glasses can get them for free through the Eye See...Eye Learn™ program.

Learn more at [optometrists.ab.ca/esel](http://optometrists.ab.ca/esel)

## SCHOOL YEARS

### Optometrists recommend:

Children should have an annual eye exam once they are in school. Vision can change quickly and an eye exam is the only way your optometrist can ensure your child's eyes are ready for the challenge of learning in school.

# A Message From Chief Superintendent Anderson

Happy New Year!

The start of a new year is an excellent time to remind ourselves of important priorities. One way that Edmonton Catholic Schools sets priorities is by analyzing feedback collected from our community through surveys. In this monthly message, I will highlight this year's survey process and other important events through the lens of truth, goodness, and beauty.

**TRUTH.** By now, you should have received instructions on how to complete the [ECSD Annual Survey](#), which this year runs from January 5 to 23. Given ECSD's goal of continuous improvement, we use the information collected from surveys to determine not only areas of strength but also areas for growth. Students in Grades 4-12 will complete the student survey at school. Teachers and parents/guardians are also asked to complete a survey. Elementary and Junior High students will bring the parent/guardian surveys home for completion. Families of High School students should receive a copy of the parent/guardian surveys in the mail. If you require more information about the survey, feel free to contact your school.

# A Message From Chief Superintendent Anderson

**GOODNESS.** January is also an excellent time to think about next steps in our educational journeys. For families with a child who might be transitioning to a new school this fall, there is so much goodness to be found within Edmonton Catholic Schools, and open houses provide excellent opportunities to explore our schools and meet the staff. To help you understand the choices available for your child, we have created an [Open House directory](#) on [ecsd.net](http://ecsd.net). In addition to providing Open House dates, this directory also provides links to individual school websites so you can do some research in advance. **Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens on Monday, February 2, 2026.**

**BEAUTY.** The new year also marked the end of the 2025 Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope. In recognition of our ongoing pilgrimage, Pope Leo recently gave a beautiful [catechesis](#) to guide our journey in the new year. In it, he said, “To hope is to generate. To hope is to see this world become God's world: the world in which God, human beings, and all creatures walk together again, in the garden city, the new Jerusalem.” Although the Jubilee has come to an end, our amazing ECSD community continues to walk together as People of Hope, striving “to see this world become God's world.”

Have a wonderful new year!

Lynnette Anderson, Chief Superintendent