



# Our Lady of Peace School Newsletter

November 2025

## Message from Administration

Dear Families,

School life has been busy and full of excitement upon Return to School on October 29<sup>th</sup>. On October 30<sup>th</sup> we held a Tipi Teachings Assembly to recognize students who have practiced the teaching of Humility. Thank you parents who joined us for the celebration. On October 31<sup>st</sup> students and staff were excited to join together for Halloween celebrations. We held a parade in the gym of all Halloween costumes, and held an impromptu dance at the end. It was so fun to see our students enjoying each other's company and enjoying the spirit of Halloween! Thank you parents for sending in Halloween treats to help with our celebrations.

Our November is shaping up to be a busy month! A calendar was sent out earlier this month. There have been some adjustments, however, and a new calendar is included in this newsletter. We originally had our Gr. 4 Bible Ceremony confirmed at 9:30 am on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>; however, due to a conflict with the church, the ceremony will be a little earlier at 9:00 am. This means that our Tipi Teachings Assembly needed to be moved to Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am. Thank you for your understanding.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> we held a Remembrance Day Ceremony, honoring those who fought in wars to provide Canadians with our freedoms and peace. We honored cadets Rowan and Ronan Villeman through their leadership, as they took part in the ceremony. Thank you to all Canadian soldiers, past and present, who have worked hard to protect our country and our rights and freedoms.

November school events include:

- Nov. 13: Picture Retakes
- Nov. 14-21: Alien Inline Skating Residency K-Gr. 6 (sponsored by School Council, thank you!)
- Nov. 17-21: Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
- Nov. 18: Edmonton Catholic Community of School Council Evening - School Council Executives will gather with Principals at ECSD's Lumen Christi Centre to engage in the Division's upcoming 3 year ECSD Division Growth Plan. Thank you Chair Shauna Mclean and Treasurer Breanne Check for representing our school at this meeting!



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## Message from Administration

Due to the 3 week school closure, **our school will not be holding a Christmas Concert this year**. There simply is not enough time to prepare for a concert in this time frame. Fall Break also impacted this decision (meaning less school time available to prepare). Please also note that our **Demonstration of Learning/Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on December 11<sup>th</sup>**. This later date provides more time for student learning, assessment and reporting. During this school event, we have plans to bring Christmas spirit to the evening, and are currently planning activities for this event. More info to come.

A reminder:

- **December 18 is a FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION** - please remember to bring a lunch if your child does not take part in our lunch program
- **December 19 is an EARLY DISMISSAL DAY** and we are dismissed at noon.
- **January 5** - school returns.

It is a long-standing tradition with ECSD to switch the last two days before a break, and have an early dismissal on the Friday.

Thank you for your continued support of Our Lady of Peace School!

God bless you and your family.

Sonja Willier, Principal  
Erin Hart, Assistant Principal

# Nov. 11

## NOVEMBER 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3 Fire Drill #2 1:15 pm	4 Lockdown Drill #1 9:30 am  Reading Rockstars After School Prog Gr. 4-5	5  Gr. 6 immunizations AM	6  Tipi Teachings Assembly 8:45 am	7  Remembrance Day Ceremony 11:00 am	8	9
10  Remembrance Day Fall Break Nov. 10-12	11  Remembrance Day Fall Break Nov. 10-12	12  Remembrance Day Fall Break Nov. 10-12	13  Picture Re-Takes AM	14  Alien Inline Skating Nov. 14-21	15	16
17  Alien Inline Skating Nov. 14-21  Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	18 Alien Inline Skating Nov. 14-21 Reading Rockstars After School Prog Gr. 4-5  ECSD Community of School Councils Mtg 6:45 pm OLOP SC Exec attending	19  Alien Inline Skating Nov. 14-21	20 Alien Inline Skating Nov. 14-21 Gr. 2-3 In-school field trip "Making Paper" - Science Fundamentals - Foundation of AB	21  Alien Inline Skating Nov. 14-21	22	23
24  First Week of Advent	25  Reading Rockstars After School Prog Gr. 4-5	26	27  Gr. 4 Bible Ceremony 9:00 am	28  Tipi Teachings Assembly 8:45 am	29	30

### DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 2: Advent Mass with Fr. Dean - 1:00 pm

Dec. 8-12: Gr .3 Recreation Residency at Kinsmen

Dec. 8-12: Scholastic Book Fair

Dec. 10: Snow Valley Ski Day - Gr. 4-6

Dec. 11: Demo of Learning 1-4 pm; 5-7 pm

### DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 15: Gr. 2-3 and 3 - skating - Ever Active Schools

Dec. 18: Full Day of Instruction

Dec. 19: Early Dismissal Day; Gr. 2-3 and 3 skating

**Dec. 20-Jan. 4: Christmas Break**

**Jan. 5: Welcome back to school**

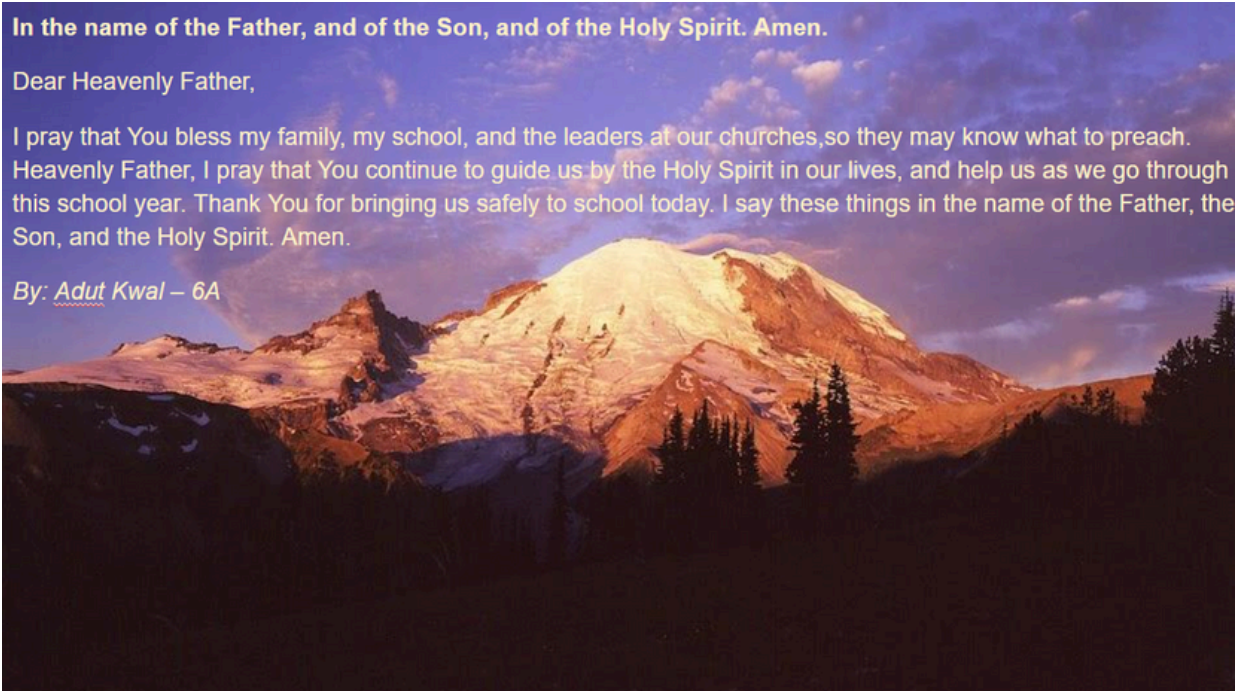
# Prayers

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

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray that You bless my family, my school, and the leaders at our churches, so they may know what to preach. Heavenly Father, I pray that You continue to guide us by the Holy Spirit in our lives, and help us as we go through this school year. Thank You for bringing us safely to school today. I say these things in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

By: Adut Kwal – 6A



# Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement

## TREATY SIX TERRITORY

*has been a gathering place to a diversity  
of First Nations for thousands of years.*

Our school community honours the  
ancestral footsteps of those who have  
walked before us and celebrate in the rich  
histories and cultures of the Indigenous People  
from across Turtle Island who now  
call this territory home.

We are honoured to also be welcomed here  
and we respectfully acknowledge we are  
all beneficiaries of Treaty Six.

*"as long as the sun shines,  
the grass grows, and the rivers flow..."*

CREE      NAKOTA SIOUX      DENE





# Prayers

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, to others, and to every living being I encounter. Mother Mary, lift up my heart and grant me peace.  
Amen.



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 who is present in the very depths of nature, and so becomes witnesses of life. With you, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.  
Amen.

# We Need Your Child At School!

Monitoring student attendance is essential to early identification of chronic or increasing absenteeism. We monitor daily attendance and have reached out to parents/guardians with concerns. We are currently contacting families of children with chronic absenteeism and are devising a plan for successful attendance.

We know that school attendance leads to success. This means that students need to attend school regularly. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly. If you require attendance support, please contact the school at 780-489-1222.



See you  
at school...

#### Did you know...

students who frequently miss school, even as early as kindergarten, are more likely to have difficulty in school.

We're counting on you...

Please contact your school for attendance support!

**Every Student Counts**



**Make the attendance connection**



# Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 7th we held a Remembrance Day Ceremony to honor the sacrifice and courage of those who went to war. We are grateful for their sacrifices that bring freedom and rights to all Canadians. Thanks to Ms Schulz and her Grade 4-5 class who led the ceremony.

## Why do we observe Remembrance Day?

We observe Remembrance Day to honour the sacrifice and courage of those people who went to war in a far off place so that they could bring freedom to others.

We honour those Canadians who gave up their lives so that they could bring freedom to other people and so that others would not need to do the same.



## Wreaths



We lay wreaths to honour and recognize the sacrifices that soldiers and those who supported soldiers made.

Every year, people lay wreaths at a Cenotaph, which is a large statue that names the soldiers who died in war from the city.

They lay wreaths to show respect and thanks for the sacrifices that soldiers made fighting in war.





# Remembrance Day

## Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture

Edith Monture was a Mohawk First World War Veteran who served as a nurse in the war. She was one of the brave women who went overseas to support the war effort.

Edith was also one of the first Indigenous women to become a registered nurse in Canada. She was also one of the first Indigenous women to gain the right to vote in Canadian federal elections.



## Henry Norwest



Henry Norwest was a Cree soldier from the Edmonton area. After the war started, he joined the war effort under the name of Henry Louie and was quickly sent off to Europe.

Norwest came to be the greatest marksman among Canadian troops and was one of the most successful snipers in the entire First World War.

Norwest was among thousands of brave First Nations, Métis, and Indigenous peoples to join and fight in the First World War.



# Remembrance Day

## John McCrae

John McCrae was a Canadian poet, physician, and soldier during the First World War.

He was responsible for running many hospitals which treated the wounded soldiers and helped many people recover from their injuries.

He wrote the now famous poem *In Flanders Fields* to remember his friends and fellow soldiers who had died.

The day before he wrote his famous poem, one of McCrae's closest friends was killed in the fighting and buried in a makeshift grave with a simple wooden cross. Wild poppies were already beginning to bloom between the crosses marking the many graves.



## In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.







# Remembrance Day



# Spotlight on Learning - Kinder Extensions

Thank you Mrs. Ogilvie for preparing this excerpt from your class newsletter.

## Hello November

We're so happy to be back in the Studio after a break! The children have settled in beautifully and have been busy exploring, creating, and connecting with one another. Halloween brought a burst of excitement and imagination to our space — we celebrated by diving into the vibrant colors of the season like orange, black, green, and purple. The children danced to skeleton songs, joined in a joyful school-wide parade, sculpted pumpkins and silly faces with playdough, and discovered spiders and bugs in the water table. A heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us for the parade and generously contributed sweet treats for the children to enjoy and take home. Your support helps make our Studio feel even more like a community!



This month we will be exploring the play topic of **Connections**, with a special focus on **social-emotional development**. Through play, conversations, and shared experiences, the children have been exploring what it means to connect — with themselves, each other, materials, and with their environment.

Guided by five reflective questions, I've been observing how children build relationships, express empathy, and navigate group dynamics.

Guided by five reflective questions, I've been observing how children build relationships, express empathy, and navigate group dynamics.

1. What materials can children use to explore and investigate ideas, thoughts, and questions about Connections?
2. Who in our community can children participate with to learn about Connections?
3. What ways can children imagine, create, and invent worlds that explore Connections?
4. What spaces might invite children to revisit, reshape, and rework theories and ideas connected to Connections?
5. How can we nurture children's caring for community, others and self through exploring Connections?

# Spotlight on Learning - Kinder Extensions

**Gross Motor:** Children explore creating obstacles and how their body can move within the obstacles. Balancing, jumping, one foot, two feet.



**Discovery & Inquiry:** Children created with playdough, making representations of themselves as well as other fictional characters.



**Small World Play:** Children use their imagination to create a play story, involving various loose parts.



**Discovery & Inquiry:** Exploring Halloween Spiders!





# Spotlight on Learning - Kinder Extensions

Manipulatives and Games: Children participate together in games like trouble. This promotes turn taking and problem solving skills.



Sensory Play : Playdough for Halloween. Creating monsters, pumpkins, and more



Halloween Treat Sharing!



Provocation- Provoking interest! Children explore a 3 way mirror!



# Spotlight on Learning - Kinder Extensions

Discovery & Inquiry-Children use magnifying glasses to explore natural materials such as rocks through a different lens.



Classroom Community-Children engaged in discovery and inquiry.



Dramatic Play-Children cooking, caring for themselves and others. Cooperative play!



Special Interest - The children enjoy creating with lego. Building houses, cameras including selfie sticks!





# Spotlight on Learning - Kinder Extensions



## Reading Rockstars After School Program



We are excited to once again partner with the Edmonton Public Library to offer an after school reading program. Our first session on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> was a hit! Thank you to Mrs. Robinson who is our school coordinator for this event.

## Tipi Teachings: Humility



Congratulations to these students who were recognized on November 6<sup>th</sup> at our Tipi Teachings assembly. These students were recognized for practicing the teaching of humility. Well done!



# Learning About Mindfulness



## Unwind Your mind!

This month's campaign, Unwind Your Mind, will teach us how to unwind our minds through mindfulness. Mindfulness means paying attention to things in our lives on purpose and without judgement. Today we're going to introduce the skill of creating a Mindful Moment.

We will practice being mindful each morning this month. Please listen carefully and do what is asked.



In the month of November, students have been taking a daily mindfulness break. Each day, during our school wide Morning Broadcast, a new mindful moment and teaching is introduced. Students are learning to ground themselves in their bodies, quiet their minds, and check in with how they are feeling.

Also new this month, students in Grades 1-3 are taking part in yoga exercises. Students are learning how to be mindful of their body as they stretch, stay centered, and learn new ways to move.

Thank you to Mrs. Robinson, our Apple Schools Coordinator, who has created the Mindful Moment activities for our Morning Broadcast, and for running the Yoga Club for our students. You rock, Mrs. Robinson!



## Day 5: Unwind Your Mind



Let's do a check-in. Ask yourself how you're feeling this morning. You might be feeling happy, tired, nervous, or foggy.

Today's mindful moment can help you get focused and ready to take on the day.



# Practicing Mindfulness at Home

A Message from Apple Schools



## Home Mindfulness Activity

A great strategy to unwind your mind is to breathe. Try out this star breathing strategy with your child to help learn how to take control of your mind!



## A Message from Apple Schools

### A Focus on Mindfulness



This month, students are learning the benefits of being mindful through a campaign called Unwind Your Mind. Here is a summary of the learnings.

#### **What is mindfulness?**

It's about maintaining awareness of our thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and the surrounding environment.

Being mindful helps us pay attention and practice being present in the moment, instead of thinking about the past or the future.

Mindfulness teaches you to be in control of your mind, instead of the other way around.

#### **How do you practice mindfulness?**

Meditation, relaxation, deep breathing, reading, and stretching are all ways to train your mind and body to relax while you take time for yourself.



# Holiday Hamper Program



**How To Get Help This  
Holiday Season**

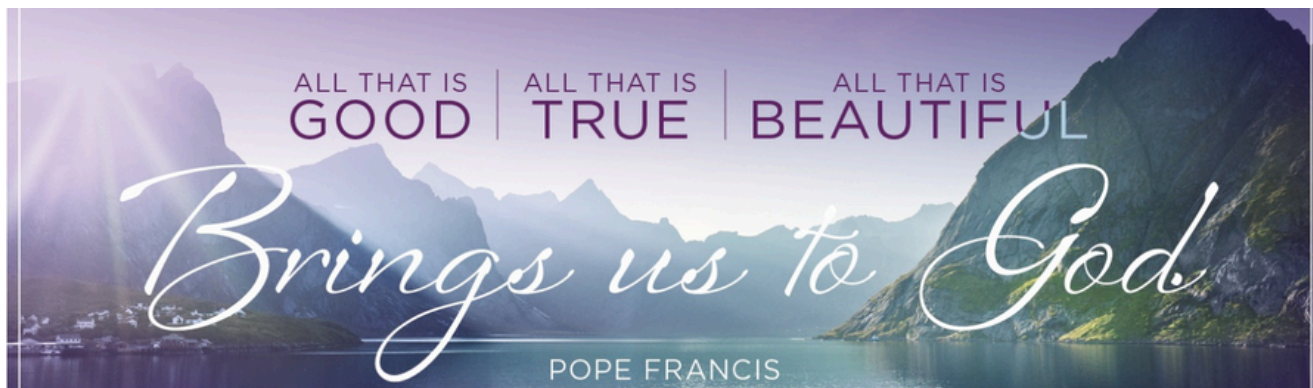
**Click on the [link here](#) to  
apply.**

The Holiday Hamper Program partners with Edmonton Catholic and Public Schools, the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton, and 880 CHED Santa's Anonymous, to support families in need during the holiday season.

If your family is in need of assistance this year, please click on the link above, or click [here](#) to apply. Mrs. Lamontagne sent this link out to all families during the school closure, and we've had several families sign up for a hamper. The program will deliver your hamper to your home, and will contact you about the date and time of delivery. Merry Christmas!







## Message from Chief Superintendent

### Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's November 2025 Message

Updated: November 3, 2025

I am writing this message shortly after students and teachers returned to the classroom on October 29, 2025. These past three weeks have been difficult for everyone, and I am grateful for the care and concern our ECSD community has shown each other. As we look with hope towards the future, I would like to share some reflections according to my usual themes of truth, beauty, and goodness.

**TRUTH.** Given the unique circumstances under which Alberta's teachers were required to return to work, many things remain unknown to school divisions at this time. Rest assured that we will share information from the Government of Alberta as soon as it is made available. In the meantime, ECSD is creating plans for various scenarios to ensure we respond quickly to new information and thereby help students best achieve the learning outcomes for their programs.

**BEAUTY.** Immersing ourselves in the beauty of Catholic tradition can bring joy and peace during difficult times. Some ECSD staff members recently completed their Master of Religious Education degree at Newman Theological College, where they immersed themselves in a deep spiritual experience. Whether through courses at Newman or through other forms of study, I encourage you to learn more deeply about the beauty of our faith.

**GOODNESS.** The focus over the upcoming days will be on reuniting our amazing ECSD community. God is goodness, and we show our love of God by supporting each other with kindness and goodwill. ECSD will continue to provide an excellent Catholic education that inspires our students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another. This is more than a mission, it is who we are at our very core.

Sincerely,  
Lynnette Anderson  
Chief Superintendent