

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

Message From Administration

Dear Families,

As we enter the season of Advent, our school community embraces this special time of waiting, hope, and joyful preparation. Advent invites us to slow down and make room in our hearts for Christ's light. In our busy lives, this can be a welcome reminder to pause, reflect, and notice the small moments of grace that surround us each day.

Throughout the coming weeks, students will be engaging in prayer, acts of kindness, and classroom activities that deepen their understanding of hope, peace, joy, and love—the four candles of the Advent wreath. These themes guide us not only in our faith, but also in how we care for one another as a school community.

We encourage families to join us in simple Advent practices at home—sharing a moment of prayer together, lighting a candle, or talking about ways to bring hope and kindness to others. Even the smallest gesture can make a meaningful difference.

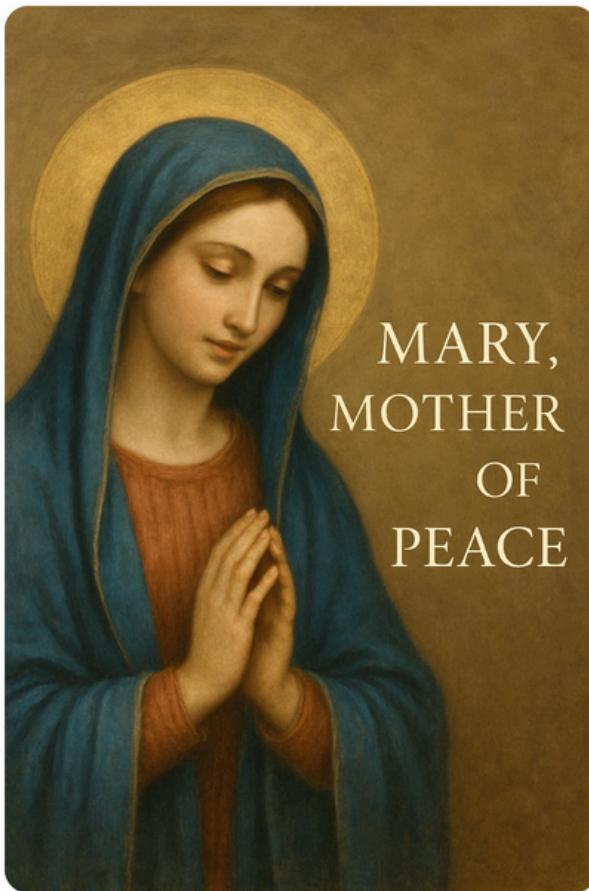
As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, may this season bring you peace, connection, and a renewed sense of hope. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and for the many ways you support your children and our school.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Advent season.

Sonja Willier, Principal

Erin Hart Basualdo, Assistant Principal

Mary, Mother of Peace



As we journey through Advent, we turn to Mary, Mother of Peace, whose gentle “yes” opened the way for Christ’s light in our world. We invite families to join us in this simple prayer at home or in quiet moments with your children:

Mary, Mother of Peace, guide our hearts toward kindness and understanding. Help us to bring calm where there is worry, friendship where there is hurt, and hope where there is struggle. Stay close to our families and our school community as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

May this season inspire us all to be peacemakers in our daily lives.

Advent - A Time of Waiting



Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. As a Christ-centered Catholic community, we are eagerly awaiting the blessed birth of Jesus. On November 29th we welcomed Fr. Dean and Sophie from St. John the Evangelist Church. Fr. Dean blessed our Advent wreaths, which we will light in our classrooms each week during Advent. Each week we are also gathering over Morning Broadcast for a weekly Advent message, focusing on HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE.

In this season of waiting, breathe in life. Life of the One who created all things, and whose image we bear. In this season of waiting, breathe in love. Love of the One who gave a precious Son to live as one of us. In this season of waiting, breathe in peace. Peace of the One who calms the sea and quiets the tumult of our souls. In this season of waiting, breathe in hope. Hope of the One for whom we wait, who is indeed making all things whole. Amen.



Advent Mass



Thank you to Ms. Baer and her Grade 2-3 students for hosting our beautiful Advent Mass.



Father Dean and Sophie love when everyone participates in Mass.



31 Days of Conversation Ideas for December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30		1 The first feel-good memory of the past year you can think of.	2 One way you're different from your younger self and one way you're the same.	3 Where you'd go if you could time-travel for 5 minutes only.	4 An unexpected lesson from the year.	5 The most thought-provoking thing you read or listened to this year.
7	A gift that isn't an object and doesn't exist physically.	8 A place that is more enjoyable in the winter than in the summer.	9 The most adventurous place you'd love to stay for one night.	10 Someplace you want to visit next year.	11 The year's biggest surprise.	12 Your dream December destination.
14	Something you accomplished this year, big or small.	15 An unexpected adventure you went on this year.	16 An object that best represents the year and why.	17 A funny moment you still laugh about from the year.	18 How you'd convince everyone you were the 'real you', not your clone.	19 Something that's beautiful but not visible, and why.
21	Something wonderful you often overlook.	22 The most spontaneous thing you've done this year.	23 Describe your idea of a 'Winter Wonderland'.	24 An ordinary yet special memory from a past holiday.	25 Something that brought you joy this year.	20 A song that's in your head right now.
28	A super-power you'd want for one day.	29 Holiday traditions you'd love to bring back.	30 What makes you hopeful for next year.	31 What you're looking forward to next year.	1	2
					3	

Advent



SMALL ACTS OF LOVE MAKES THE SEASON BRIGHT.
LET THE LIGHT OF ADVENT GUIDE US.
PREPARE YOUR HEART WITH HOPE AND KINDNESS.



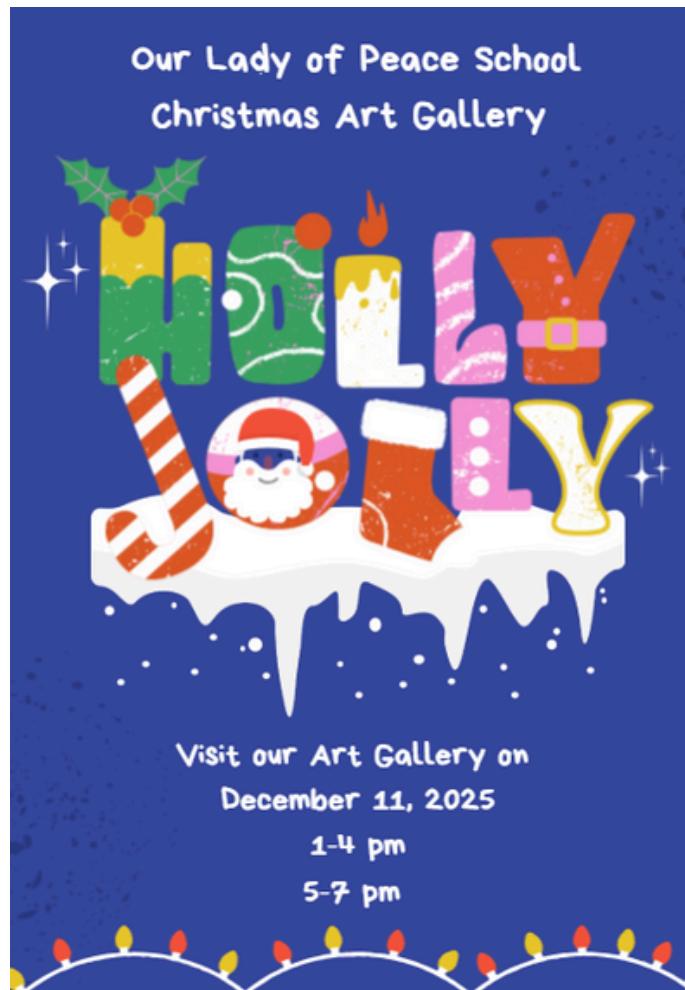
THIS ART WORK WAS CREATED BY HARLOW, GR. 6, AND CLASSMATES.
HARLOW INITIATED THE IDEA TO MAKE THIS ADVENT PIECE.

Learning Conferences - Scholastic Book Fair Christmas Art Gallery

We will be holding Parent-Student-Teacher Learning Conferences on Thursday, Dec. 11th from 1-4 pm and 5-7 pm. Dinner hour for staff will be 5-6 pm. Mrs. Lamontagne has sent out the link to sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher - either in person or by phone. We are here to answer any questions and discuss with you how your child is doing in their school year. We look forward to meeting with you!

We are also hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from Dec. 8-12. Parents and family are welcome to visit the Book Fair before or after your teacher conference on Dec. 11th. We love to bring in the book fair - our students are always so excited to look at and purchase books! Thank you for your support with this fundraiser (which goes towards more books in our school library).

Also on December 11th, we are hosting a Christmas Art Gallery. Our students are showcasing their talents through the Christmas Arts. Join us for an immersive Christmas experience of art for the senses. The gallery will be open during Demonstration of Learning.



School Patrollers and Traffic Safety



Grade 6 student patrollers are working hard to keep our school community safe!



Safety Patrollers - Drive With Caution

Thank you to our Grade 6 students who volunteer after school to bring safety measures to our crosswalks. Our student volunteers have been taught by AMA (Alberta Motor Association), with an instructor coming out to the school to teach this new skill. Students work in groups of 3 to patrol 2 crosswalks on 110 avenue in front of our school. Students learn to POINT, DOUBLE-CHECK, and PROCEED in safely guiding students and families across the crosswalks.

Thank you families who are modelling safe traffic behavior in and around our school. We can all work together to keep our school pick ups and drops offs safe!



Gr. 4 Bible Ceremony

On Thursday, November 27th the Grade 4 students gathered for a meaningful and joyous Bible Celebration, led by Father Dean of St. John's the Evangelist Church.. The celebration included students actively participating in the liturgy, with some reading the Responsorial Psalms, the First Reading, and the Prayers of the Faithful. Father Dean delivered an inspiring homily on the theme of LISTENING, LEARNING, and LIVING, encouraging the students to use the Bible as a guide in their faith journey. Following the homily, he blessed the bibles and presented each Grade 4 student with their own copy, marking a special milestone in their spiritual growth.

These bibles will serve as valuable tools for Religion class in Grades 4, 5, and 6, and will remain with the students as a keepsake of their faith journey when they graduate. Father Dean also shared his own bible, which he has treasured since his own Grade 4 year, emphasizing the enduring importance of God's word in our lives. We thank Father Dean, Sophie Ogle, the parents who joined us, and especially the students. Thank you all for joining us in creating a moment that will be cherished for years to come.



You are a Child of Light pursuing goodness,
righteousness and truth.

Ephesians 5:8-9

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has been very, very busy!

We played in the snow!

Physical Education and Wellness (PEW) & Science



We measured how many interlocking blocks fit in our mittens!

Math



We baked, decorated and ate sugar cookies!

Religion, Science & PEW



And we inline skated!

PEW



We've also been counting, writing letters and much more! Snow much fun and so little time!

Inline Skating Residency

From November 17-21 students in K-Grade 6 had an incredible opportunity to learn inline skating skills with an instructor from Alien Inline Skating. Students practiced balancing, pushing off to build momentum, and stopping safely, along with freedom to move in a fun, new way! The sessions were filled with energy and fun, as students skated to music and played games like freeze tag. The smiles and laughter were infectious! A big thank-you to our **School Council** for sponsoring this fantastic program that got everyone moving and having a blast.



Alien Inline Skating Residency



Learning new things is fun!



Alien Inline Skating Residency



Best days at school
having fun with my friends!



ALL THAT IS
GOOD | ALL THAT IS
TRUE | ALL THAT IS
BEAUTIFUL

Brings us to God

POPE FRANCIS

Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's December 2025 Message

The season of Advent is upon us, when our amazing ECSD community celebrates that "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). There are far too many events between now and Christmas for me to share them all in this brief December Message, so I will only highlight a few reflections according to my usual themes of truth, beauty, and goodness.

TRUTH. In response to the instructional time lost to the labour dispute, there has been much discussion about potential changes to the school calendar. The cancellation of the January Diploma Exams and the ensuing cancellation of exam week have allowed high schools to add seven instructional days to the end of the first semester. This modification in high schools will be the only change to the 2025-2026 school calendar. At the elementary and junior high levels, our Learning Services consultants and staff have implemented new cross-curricular plans and realigned the pacing guides for the remainder of the school year. These modifications will ensure learning outcomes are met without the need to change the school calendar for elementary and junior high schools.



GOODNESS. One of the best things about being a superintendent is observing the goodness within Edmonton Catholic Schools. Each superintendent is assigned a group of schools, called their Stewardship Group, for which they support the school-based administrative teams and gather feedback. Stewardship Groups meet monthly to celebrate successes and collaborate on strategies for continuous improvement. In addition to these meetings, over the coming weeks, superintendents will visit each school in their Stewardship Group to review progress on School Plans for Continuous Growth, and to learn more about each community's unique successes and challenges. This process has been in place for years, and we are grateful to the school communities for hosting these visits.

Communication and collaboration within the ECSD community are vital for continuous improvement. On November 18, 2025 the Board of Trustees, School Council executives, principals, and Division leaders gathered to discuss priorities for the upcoming Division Plan for Continuous Growth 2026-2029. Thank you to all who contributed to this important work.

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Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's December 2025 Message

BEAUTY. Advent is a beautiful time of year, filled with music, prayer, and the lighting of the Advent wreath. Students and staff at Edmonton Catholic Schools prepare their hearts to welcome the baby Jesus, as a sign of God's love for us. As we journey together through this Advent season, let us reflect on how the Incarnation set into motion God's plan for our salvation, which was fulfilled by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Christmas is a joyous time of faith, family, and food. For this year's celebrations, I recommend that you and your family prepare something together from Father Glenn's Take and Eat: Family Activities [video series](#). Father Glenn's latest episode features a dessert he calls St. Scholastica Apple Crisp, a name he chose because its inviting aroma brings people together, just as St. Scholastica and her brother, St. Benedict, were brought together by a miraculous storm to share faith and conversation. Indeed, there is nothing quite like baked apples and cinnamon to bring us together and warm our hearts during a December snowstorm.

I wish you all a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas season!

Sincerely,
Lynnette Anderson
Chief Superintendent