



# December

# 2020

**18111 - 57 Avenue**

**Edmonton, AB**

**T6M 1W1**

**Phone: 780 444 4299**

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**Website:**

[www.goodshepherd.ecsd.net](http://www.goodshepherd.ecsd.net)

Our mission is to engage all learners by implementing best practices for improving student achievement. Through collaboration, respect, love, and faith, we strive to create an inclusive community where students will be inspired to take risks as lifelong learners, problem solvers, and Catholic citizens.

**Principal:** Boyan Yarovenko

Email: 8061web@ecsd.net

**Assistant Principal:** Heather Pawliuk

**Secretary:** Bonnie Gosche

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Christmas season ... a season of giving, of loving, of joy and peace. The staff of Good Shepherd School would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents for all you do, for all you have done, for your care and your commitment. The parents of Good Shepherd School are dedicated to helping provide quality education and experiences for the children which will enrich their school life.

Parents of Good Shepherd-

The staff sends you this Christmas wish ...

May the Lord bless you and take care of you.

May the Lord be kind and generous to you.

May the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Have a joyous and peaceful Christmas!

The staff of Good Shepherd School send out our wishes for a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Yours in Catholic Education

Boyan Yarovenko



Principal

Heather Pawliuk



Assistant Principal



# December 2020

| Sun                  | Mon   | Tue                      | Wed                                | Thu                                   | Fri   | Sat |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1st Sunday of Advent | November 30<br>Advent Celebration<br>1:00 p.m. on Teams   | 1                        | 2                                  | 3                                     | 4   | 5   |
| 6                    | 7 <br>Foodbank Donation<br>Project Begins:<br><b>Macaroni<br/>Monday</b> | 8<br><b>Tuna Tuesday</b> | 9<br><b>Wheaties<br/>Wednesday</b> | 10<br><b>Tin of Soup<br/>Thursday</b> | 11<br><b>Fruit and<br/>Veggie Friday</b><br>School Spirit<br>Day  | 12  |
| 13                   | 14  | 15                       | 16                                 | 17<br>Full day of<br>classes          | 18<br>Early dismissal   | 19  |
| 20                   | 21  | 22                       | 23                                 | 24                                    | 25  | 26  |
| C                    | H   | R                        | I                                  | ST                                    | MA  | S   |
| 27                   | 28  | 29                       | 30                                 | 31                                    | Jan 1   | 2   |
| B                    | R   | E                        | A                                  | K                                     |   |     |
|                      |   |                          |                                    |                                       |   |     |

# January 2021

| Sun  | Mon | Tue | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
|  |     |     |   |     | 1   | 2   |
| <i>Holidays</i>  |     |     |   |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |   |     |     |     |
| 3  | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| <i>Learning On Line</i>  |     |     |   |     |     |     |
|  |     |     |   |     |     |     |
| 10   | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17   | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
|  |     |     | <i>SAC Meeting<br/>7:00 p.m. on<br/>TEAMS</i> |     |     |     |
| 24   | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |

Please note that due to Government imposed restrictions, learning at ECSD will be online for all students from January 4 to January 8, 2021.

Please ensure you are able to access your child's Google Classroom.

### **Good Shepherd Foodbank Project**

To help support others in need, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Edmonton Foodbank during the week of December 7 – 11.

Our Good Shepherd Foodbank project will follow a theme each day for donations from different food categories.

We will be having a School Spirit Day on Friday, December 11th. We are encouraging the children to come dressed in Christmas attire, red or green, Christmas sweater, or a Christmas hat or hair piece.

The [AHS.ca/COVIDSchool](https://www.ahs.ca/COVIDSchool) webpage has been updated with resources and information for parents and families.

Under the heading Monthly Newsletters, please look at:

- **December 2020** - 5 easy ways to cultivate wellness at home:

Please be advised that the following Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

### **RADIO STATIONS**

|                   |                       |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 630 CHED          | AM 930 The Light CJCA | CBC              |
| CISN FM 103.9     | SHINE 105.9 FM        | CHFA (CBC Fr.)   |
| THE CHUCK FM 92.5 | TSN 1260              | CFCW 840         |
| INEWS 880 AM      | 95.7 CRUZ FM          | CAPITAL FM 96.3  |
| Kiss FM 91.7      | The Bear 100.3 FM     | K97 97.3         |
| UP! 99.3 FM       | SONIC 102.9 FM        | 102.3 NOW! Radio |
| HOT 107 FM        | 104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM |                  |

### **TV STATIONS**

|        |              |                 |        |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| CITYTV | CTV Edmonton | GLOBAL Edmonton | CBC TV |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|--------|

Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.



## Newsletter (Sept – March) Transportation Information

Transportation Services: Hours: Mon - Fri 7:15 AM – 5:00 PM Thursday 7:15 - 4:00 PM  
Phone: 780 441-6078  
Email: [transportationservices@ecsd.net](mailto:transportationservices@ecsd.net)

### Transportation Applications / Curb Service / Change Forms

Can be found on our website at [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net) in the box that says **School Bus Info**, click on View Transportation, scroll down and you will find both the Transportation application and the Change form.

### Kindergarten & Grade 1 Students

For safety reasons kindergarten and grade 1 students can only ride the bus when their names appear on the Detail report.

They must be met by an adult or they shall be returned to their school where they can be picked up.

### When to catch my bus?

Please be out 5 minutes prior to your scheduled pick up time.

### What to do if my bus does not arrive?

Please wait 10 minutes after your pick-up / drop off time. If the bus has not arrived please call our office at 780 441 6078.

### Route Change Dates (Regular Yellow & Curb Service)

Changes only occur on Wednesdays.

Changes take 2 – 3 weeks.

### Bus Notifications

If our office is advised that a bus is running late, we shall send out a swift call to the families as well as posting it on our Delay Board which we try to keep updated in real time which can be found on our website at [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net)

Please ensure we have your current phone number(s) and email address.

### How will I be notified about transportation changes?

An automated email will go out on a Friday night around 6:00 pm regarding **possible** changes to your child's bus route.

Go to your parent portal to see your child's transportation information showing the effective date.

Please contact your school to obtain your login and password to your Parent Portal.

### How will I be notified if I am not eligible for transportation?

Your school shall contact you.

# God Calls Us



## EACH BY NAME

December 2020

When the darkness closes in, Come, Lord Jesus!

Courage fails and hopes grow dim, Lord Jesus, come!

Clear the shadows from our sight; set our troubled world aright

Fill our eyes with radiant light. Lord Jesus come!  
(M.D. Ridge, *Come, Lord Jesus*)

The lyrics of this Advent hymn are, perhaps, even more poignant this year as we prepare our hearts and our homes for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. Our world seems to be lonely and dark, and we are all overwhelmed by the seemingly unending pall of Covid-19 in our lives. As we turn our eyes towards Bethlehem in these upcoming weeks, let's take the time to reflect upon the promise to be found in the baby Jesus. God loves us, and that love is triumphant. Advent is a time of hope, and we need to let that hope permeate all aspects of our lives.

Edmonton Catholic Schools' Fine Arts team is a very creative group, and they have designed a beautiful online Advent experience for all to enjoy. Starting on November 29, you will be able to "open a door" on our virtual arts Advent calendar each day. You will experience weekly celebrations, art, performances, and Advent themed activities. Visit [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net) and click on the Art of Advent graphic to learn more.

Did you know that the Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ religion resource for grades 1-7 has various resources to support your family's Advent journey towards Christmas? Click on the [Pearson Advent Bulletin For Parents](#) to find out exactly what those resources are. You can continue learning about Advent and Christmas at home by logging into the [Student-Home Website](#) and finding these specific resources listed in the bulletin above. The username is `ecsd99` and the password is `Student99`.

The new Covid-19 measures that were announced on November 24 were a possibility that we have been preparing for. We have known right from re-entry at the beginning of this school year that we needed to be able to pivot quickly between scenarios and we have plans in place to do so. Unlike our experience in the spring, our junior and senior high students who are now moving online will be following their existing schedules and will participate in learning following regular school hours. You will receive more comprehensive communication on this pivot in the upcoming days. Elementary families will receive information about the one-week pivot to online learning (January 4-8, 2021) before Christmas Break.

On November 25 at our Public Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved our [2019 – 2020 Audited Financial Statements](#) and our [Annual Education Results Report \(AERR\)](#). Historically, the AERR has been combined with our 3 Year Education Plan, however, we shared that plan, the [Division Plan for Continuous Growth 2020-2023](#) in May. As we join the rest of the province in shifting to an Assurance Framework, we will continue communicating these two documents separately. We will share more with you about the shift to an Assurance Framework in the upcoming months.

In his Midnight Mass homily last Christmas Eve, Pope Francis shared a beautiful piece of wisdom that I will leave you with: "Dear brother, dear sister, if your hands seem empty, if you think your heart is poor in love, this night is for you. *The grace of God has appeared*, to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you."

Have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Robert Martin  
Chief Superintendent



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 2020

Dear friends,

Advent, which comes from the Latin word meaning *coming*, is intended to be a season of preparation for the arrival of Christ, but often, this underrated liturgical season is set aside in favour of the more popular pre-Christmas rush. Yet, Advent is a time worth making. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. This year, the season of Advent is observed from the first Sunday of Advent on November the 29<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, December the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Given our unique circumstances this year, preparing for the coming of Christ will be different. Yet, even in the midst of the Pandemic, the season of Advent is important. How do we journey to Christmas? Consider taking some quiet time for you and your family, reading, and reflecting on a short daily devotion and listening to Advent music. Decorate for the season with an Advent wreath and as a family, light a candle every week. Assemble a Nativity scene in your home and talk about the Christmas story. Support a social justice initiative and donate to a local charity in your community. As Christmas approaches, discern which activities to dismiss on the side of dedicating more time to your family.

There is no doubt that Christmas is a beautiful time of the year as we anticipate the birth of Christ. He is the reason for the season, and we need to celebrate his birth appropriately and with great reverence. Yet the Christmas season also brings with it the hustle and bustle of sales and deadlines that veer us away from its true meaning. For us Christians, Advent is that distraction; that opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for his coming.

As we journey to Christmas, let us remember to pause and consider what God is asking of us in this season of Advent. Take time to appreciate the people around you, pray, read scripture, attend Mass - in person or remotely, and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While we cannot erase the challenges of the past nine months, we can still rejoice in knowing that Christ is coming amid shouts of joy.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Richard W. Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton