



SEPTEMBER 2020

18111 - 57 Avenue

Edmonton, AB

T6M 1W1

Phone: 780 444 4299

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Website:

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

School Times:

Early Learning:

Morning - 8:50 AM - 11:52 AM

Afternoon - 12:30 PM - 3:20 PM

No Thursdays

Grades 1-3

8:50 AM - 12:15 PM

12:50 PM - 3:20 PM

Thursdays

8:50 AM - 11:33 PM

Grades 4-6

9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

12:50 PM - 3:30 PM

Thursdays

9:00 AM - 11:43 PM

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The staff of Good Shepherd School welcomes all parents and students to another exciting school year. Whether you will be seeing us at school each day or working online, we are glad you're here! Although the upcoming school year will be different than in the past due to COVID 19 protocols, we will do our best to foster a sense of community and connection with one another while maintaining physical distance and limiting movement within the school.

150 of our students will be taking part in online instruction for the first quarter and 229 are at school. We are also very pleased to let you know that the Division has provided each school with a dedicated replacement teacher who will be able to step in should a staff member have to self-isolate if they display any symptoms that could be COVID related. This limits the number of additional people within our building.

Families that opted for online learning are still considered to be part of Good Shepherd School and will continue to receive information and newsletters from us. Indeed, the main difference between at-school and online learning at our school is that the "classroom" for our online students is their home.

At Good Shepherd School, we are committed to providing a positive academic atmosphere in a caring, safe and Christ centered learning environment in order to maximize the educational opportunities for all students.

Sincerely,

Boyan Yarovenko

Principal

Heather Pawliuk

Assistant Principal

Welcome to our new school year!

SCHOOL ENTRANCES Your child's safety is of the highest priority. To ensure security within the building, all entrance doors are locked. In order to reduce the number of students in the hallways at any one time while we are implementing COVID protocols, entry and dismissal times at the beginning and end of the school day and prior to recess breaks will be staggered. Students are to enter and leave the building through their designated entrances.

There will be a 10 minute delay in the arrival of most of our buses since they need to be cleaned after dropping off students from a neighbouring school. At the end of the day, students who take the bus will gather in the gym and line up according to the bus they take home and wait for their buses to arrive.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS

AM: You may drop off your children using the drive-thru lane in the morning; however, you may not leave your vehicle unattended. Please have your children ready to exit your vehicle quickly on the passenger side to ensure a constant flow of the drive-thru lane.

PM: After school, the drive-thru is reserved for our yellow buses. We now have four buses at our school. We therefore request that you not use the drive-thru lane at this time of the day. Thank you!

PARKING AT THE SCHOOL

There is parking available for parents on the street in front of the school, on the nearby side streets, and on Dechene Road. Please allow room for our daycare vans to park along the street in the a.m. and p.m. Use the crosswalks and do not run out between parked cars. You are an example for your children and a few minutes of your time to walk to the crosswalk may save a life.

The parking lot is for staff parking only. Do not use the staff parking lot for dropping off or picking up your children.

NUT ALLERGIES!

A number of students at our school have life-threatening allergies to nuts/peanuts. Please refrain from sending peanut/nut products to school for lunch or snacks for your child.

Office Hours

Our school office is open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Parents who call the school after these hours are asked to leave a clear message and we will return your call as soon as we are able to. Please remember that we will be happy to give your child a message at the end of the day or at breaks during non-instructional time, such as recess or lunch. We thank you for your understanding of our desire to protect learning time for all students by not interrupting classes for messages.

ABSENCES AND LATES

If your child will be absent (illness, appointments, special occasions or holidays) or late for school, we ask that you please call our school office at 780-444-4299 or leave a message on our answering machine.

If we are not advised of an absence or late arrival, directly following classroom attendance, SWIFT (our automated system), will phone home to verify the whereabouts of children who have not yet arrived at school. This is for safety purposes.

All students arriving late (AM after 9:00 a.m. and PM after 12:50 p.m.) **must report to the school office to get a late slip.**

If you are picking your child up before the end of the school day, please contact the school so we can have your child ready at the front of the school.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

The school office must be informed of any students with medical concerns who require some form of medication during school hours whether it be a prescribed medication, EpiPens, inhalers, etc. or an over-the-counter medication (headache, insect bites, seasonal allergies). It is imperative that the appropriate forms be completed in full and submitted to the school office, together with the medication. When it is a prescription medication, the child's doctor will need to complete and sign the form. Medication will be administered by the office staff.

Students are not allowed to have over-the-counter medication (cream, pills, etc.) on their person or in their backpack. It must be kept in the office area and administered by the office staff.

Medication will only be accepted with fully completed forms.

EpiPens – Capital Health recommends that children who have severe allergies and require an EpiPen carry these EpiPens with them at all times. Many children carry an EpiPen with them in a “fanny pack”. We would like to see all children carry their EpiPens with them; however, some parents prefer that the EpiPens be stored in the office area. If your child will not carry his/her EpiPen, we ask that you provide two EpiPens: one for the office and one for the classroom. If you are only supplying one EpiPen, please submit a letter indicating this.

Students may carry their inhalers in their backpacks or store it in the office.

****Please note that all medication must be received with completed forms before students are allowed on fieldtrips. Forms are available at the office.**

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Please check our website at ecsd.net/8061

We will use a variety of ways to communicate with you:

Monthly newsletter
Powerschool

SWIFT (automatic email or phone messages)

Classroom newsletters

Please ensure that the school office has your most recent contact information: Address, phone numbers, email address, and emergency contacts.

Visitors and Volunteers

At this time, we are strictly limiting visitors to the school. All ECSD staff and those who offer professional services, such as student teachers or psychologists, will continue to have access to our school. Priests and pastoral workers from our parishes will also be welcome in our school.

Additional visitors, such as guest speakers, will not be permitted at this time. Parents are encouraged to make phone or online appointments with school staff rather than visiting in person.

All visitors to the school must follow our required safety protocols: • Use self-screening tool before entering the building (if a visitor answers YES to any questions, he or she will not be permitted to enter) • Wear a mask • Use hand sanitizer • Report to the office • Sign the visitor log • Wear a visitor tag or school division ID. This helps us to maintain a safe and secure environment for our students.

At this time, volunteers will not be allowed in our school. Although we value the contributions and support our volunteer parents provide for us, we do need to maintain the integrity of our cohorts and physical distancing within the school. When provincial restrictions are lifted, then we will once more gladly welcome volunteers into our school.

Updating Registration Information

ECSD is moving to digitized student records. Parents are able to view registration information and update it online. Parents are asked to check this information over carefully and make any necessary changes. We also ask that parents of students who are of First Nations, Metis or Inuit descent identify this on the registration forms. In some cases, this enables us to access additional support for students. It is extremely important that we have accurate information regarding our students in the event of an emergency.

FOOD AT SCHOOL

In keeping with ECSD Re-Entry Protocols and provincial guidelines, for the time being, students are required to bring their own food with them each day. There is no sharing of food. Unfortunately, this means that families will not be able to send treats or food for birthdays or special occasions until further notice. Our hot lunch program will also be suspended until further notice. We recognize that these are difficult measures, but they are necessary in order to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your understanding.

SCHOOL FEES AND PURCHASING INFORMATION

School fees are now due. School fees are directed toward items such as software subscriptions and consumable items for students including supplies. Every effort has been made to keep school fees as reasonable as possible. Should a student move from online to in-school instruction in the second quarter, a pro-rated fee amount would be due. We recognize that payment of fees in September can be difficult, especially for those parents who have a number of children returning to school. We happily accept Visa and Mastercard for payment of school fees. Fees may be paid online through PowerSchool. Parents who are unfamiliar with making payments through PowerSchool are invited to contact our school office for assistance. School fees have been posted on our website: www.ecsd.net/8061/page/3050/school-and-transportation-fees

Report Cards


This year, we will once again concentrate on increased ongoing assessment as well as an emphasis on communicating and understanding key learner outcomes and the criteria for success to support next steps in learning. There will be two report cards – the first in January and the second in June. Student-led conferences will take place in November and March, and discussion will focus on student achievement with evidence of learning from work completed to that point. Due to COVID 19 protocols, November conferences will be held digitally. Information regarding the format for conferences will be sent home in November .

Teachers enter marks and comments for each assessment directly into the PowerSchool gradebook. For parents, this is like having access to a student report card at any point in time. You do not have to wait until November to see your child's progress. Teachers will follow up via email with parents who do not attend student led conferences, as this communication is very important for student success.

Report cards are available online to parents/guardians via the PowerSchool parent portal. Parents who are new to ECSD will be provided with their own PowerSchool passcode which will allow them to view the report card online. PowerSchool not only gives parents access to their child's report card, but also access to other school and classroom information. PowerSchool passcodes for those parents who have not yet created a PowerSchool account will be sent home later this month, so please watch for them. PowerSchool accounts remain in effect from year to year, so parents only need to create an account once. Parents/guardians who do not have internet access and would like to receive a paper copy of their child's report card are asked to email the school office. As always, if you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist you.

Illness and Recess

We have always taken the position that students who are ill should not be at school. We understand that in the past, it may have been easier to send a child to school if he or she exhibited mild symptoms rather than arranging for child-care. Unfortunately, in our current climate, this is no longer acceptable. We must do everything we can to make sure that everyone is safe. Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Staff will also assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school. All persons should use the health assessment checklist to assess themselves daily prior to entering the school/site. Any person who selects “yes” on any of the screening questions will not be permitted to enter the school, pending further testing for COVID-19. Signs will be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold. Should a student exhibit signs of illness at school, they will be moved to the quiet room within our school. Parent/caregivers will be notified and advised to pick up their child immediately. Please ensure that student emergency contact information is up-to date in the event that parents cannot be reached. Should a student become ill, a parent/caregiver or emergency contact must pick up the student as soon as is practicable.

COVID-19 SAFETY		
SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE		
Parents/guardians/students must use this questionnaire daily to decide if the student should attend school.		
Risk Assessment: Initial screening questions		
1	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE
	Fever	YES NO
	Cough	YES NO
	Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES NO
	Sore throat	YES NO
	Chills	YES NO
	Painful swallowing	YES NO
	Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES NO
	Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES NO
	Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES NO
	Unexplained loss of appetite	YES NO
	Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES NO
	Muscle / Joint aches	YES NO
	Headache	YES NO
	Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES NO
2	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES NO
3	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES NO
4	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES NO
<small>* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact. ** "ill" means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.</small>		
If you have answered YES to any of the above questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the AHS COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.		
If you answered NO to all the above questions, you may attend school. <small>*the screening questionnaire is subject to change as needed.</small>		
 PLEASE HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY		

God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year! Whether you have chosen to return to the classroom or to participate in an online environment, it is wonderful to have our students and staff connecting in a more 'normal' manner as we work together to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another. This is going to be a year unlike any we have ever experienced, and we are all going to draw on our ability to be flexible, nimble, and responsive to the ever changing demands placed on us as we learn to exist in a Covid world. As you navigate through the quartermesters this year and revisit your learning options, it is important that you know that there are no wrong choices for your child and family with respect to the in-person vs. online learning environment. We are so pleased to be able to offer the advantage of multiple shifting points through a quartermester model.

Our theme for this year is ***God Calls Us Each By Name***. It is grounded in scripture from Isaiah: "I have called you by name, you are mine." This provides the beautiful vision of our work in Edmonton Catholic Schools as being work for God; this is the essence of Catholic education. It also provides a beautiful vision of what we are trying to instill in our students: the understanding that they, too, have been called by God to serve. Over their time with Edmonton Catholic Schools, as our students come to know and love Jesus ever more deeply, they will discern how God has called each of them by name to serve Him and the world.

There are some exciting things that are happening in our Division right now. Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School will have its first students this year. Within just a few short weeks, we are going to be having a site blessing and ground breaking for our new 950 student K-9 school in Keswick. We are preparing for a new 1300 student high school in Heritage Valley, and the construction of the Ben Calf Robe replacement school has begun. As a nod to our agility and nimbleness as a Division, we will be creating a K-12 online school as a viable option for our families.

Each year, ECSD establishes a [Division Plan for Continuous Growth](#) that sets out our primary goals for the year and the global strategies that we will use to achieve them. Our schools ensure that their site-specific plans for continuous growth are aligned with these goals. You can explore our Division plan by visiting www.ecsd.net or clicking on the link above.

I would like to share just a few additional words about our re-entry plan. I can't begin to emphasize the countless hours that our re-entry team has put in getting ready for our start up. They have put so much effort into being sure that we are well prepared and consistent across the Division as in person learning begins again.

This team is simply amazing! You can see the diversity of membership on this tremendous team by visiting the [ECSD Re-Entry Plan page](http://www.ecsd.net) on www.ecsd.net.

I will leave you with a thought from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, that reflects the essence of how God has called us each by name: "The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence... We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." (*Pope Francis, 2018, sections 1, 14*)

Have a wonderful year of learning and growing in relationship with Christ!

Sincerely, Robert Martin

Chief Superintendent

Parent Community Newsletter

Edmonton Catholic Schools

August 2020

Seeking God's inner beauty.

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Welcome back!

I pray you and your family had a restful and fun-filled summer. I appreciate it may have been different with the pandemic still upon us, and that you had to be creative in finding ways to enjoy God's creation while physical distancing and staying safe.

Well, a new School Year begins. The principals, teachers, and staff look forward to journeying with you in the education of your children. We know things will be different, and will require some adjustments along the way, but together we walk hand in hand as we explore God's love and beauty in our lives and in the world around us.

Beauty. Inner beauty. I spent a lot of time this summer reflecting on beauty, and I'd like to ask you to do the same during this school year.

Thinking about beauty came to me early on at the outset of the pandemic. One day, I was in my office at the Pastoral Centre, chatting with someone on the phone. As I often find myself doing, I spun my chair around and looked out the window at the passersby on the street. I was startled by someone who had stopped and was staring back at me through the window! Well, she wasn't really staring at me. Let me explain.

You see, the windows to our Pastoral Centre have a reflective film on them, so you can see out from the inside but you can't see in from the outside. From the outside, the reflective film is like a mirror, and you can see yourself in the mirror. Ann, we'll call her, wasn't really looking at me; she was looking at herself. She was combing her hair, putting on her lipstick, fixing her blouse. In my eyes, and in my heart, she was beautiful. She was a princess!

The reality is that Ann lives on the streets. She's homeless, as are many who live around our Pastoral Centre and Saint Josaphat Cathedral. That doesn't mean that Ann's not beautiful. That day, looking at herself in the "mirror" of our window, she saw beauty – beauty on the outside, and beauty on the inside. That day, God gifted me with a glimpse of how beautiful Ann is, in God's eyes, and in mine.

God "has made everything beautiful" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We are beautiful. Everything around us is beautiful. That's the way God created us, created in God's image and likeness.

This school year, take time to see God's beauty in every sunrise, every sunset, in the world around us, in your child, and in each other. Let us remind ourselves, we are baptized into Christ, that God's love, beauty and glory are best revealed in the life of God's son, Jesus Christ. The best way to see God's beauty is to be in relationship with Christ, each and every day.

And if you don't see God's beauty, clean your glasses, then look again!

May God bless us and our new school year!

Bishop David Motiuk

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton