



Newsletter

BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
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MONTHLY MESSAGES

Administrators' Message



Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples; He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us; He is the Saviour of every nation.

During the season of Advent, and this year more than ever, it is important to take some time to reflect upon and prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. Bishop David Motiuk students will mark the start of Advent with livestreamed classroom celebrations and an Advent mass. Bishop David and our division Chaplain, Fr. Glenn MacDonald will be celebrating with us.

Thank you to all families who supported our action to give to the ECS Foundation's Dreams for Kids campaign through the division's annual We Care Challenge. Donations to the Foundation go to support school breakfast and lunch programs, to support student mental health initiatives and to assist students and families in need in our schools. Some of our own students and families have received assistance from the Foundation, so this is a charity we are very happy to support.

We know that this year is very different both in terms of the types of activities we carry out in our schools and in what families are able to give. We appreciate all of your support! At this time, we are still tallying our donation totals.

Families that would like to contribute to the Dreams for Kids campaign may still do so through PowerSchool. The option to donate through PowerSchool will remain open until December 18. To make a donation to the Foundation through PowerSchool, simply log onto PowerSchool and scroll to the bottom, where you will see the We Care Challenge donation form. Please note that we are not able to issue income tax receipts for donations made through the school. If you would like an income tax receipt, please feel free to donate directly on the Foundation's website:

<https://www.ecsfoundation.ca/> (simply click on the "Donate Now" button in the top right hand corner of the webpage). If you donate directly, please indicate that you are doing so in support of Bishop David Motiuk School.

Again, thank you for your support!

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we wish each of our families a blessed Christmas holiday filled with joy and happiness.

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Chief Superintendent's Message



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 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!

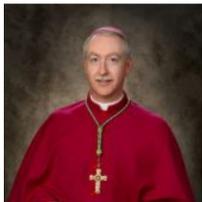
Sincerely,

Robert Martin, Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Robert Martin's message is also available online: [Superintendent's Message for December](#)

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Archbishop Smith's Message



Archbishop Smith's Advent message has been posted to our school website:

[Archbishop Smith – December 2020](#)

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IB Coordinators' Message



We are very happy to report that we had our Primary Years Programme Verification Visit last week. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Olivieri, our PYP coordinator for the exceptional job she did in working with and preparing our PYP staff for this important visit. Another special thank you goes out to the parents who met virtually with the evaluation team from the IB: Mr. Vodden, Mr. Rana, Mrs. Bernath, Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Yung. Your support and your willingness to speak to the benefits of the programme for our students was so important and so very appreciated! Finally, thank you to our teaching staff who have been working incredibly hard to prepare for our our PYP Verification Visit.

We are looking forward to our MYP Verification Visit this week. A team from the IB will be connecting virtually with our staff, students and parents, along with division personnel. A special thank you to Mrs. Panizzon and the MYP staff for their unbelievably hard work over the past several months and in unusual circumstances to prepare for this visit.

We expect to receive reports from the verification teams by March of 2021.

Our IB coordinators' monthly message is available on our website: [December IB News](#). This is where you will find updates on the wonderful learning taking place in our classrooms. Please take a few minutes to look through it and to see what our students are up to!

As always we welcome questions about the IB programmes in our school. Andrea Olivieri is the coordinator for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Lyndsy Panizzon is the coordinator for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). They can be reached at Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net and Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net

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BREAKING NEWS

JH Timetable and Complementary Course Changes



On Monday, November 30, we implemented a new timetable for students in grades six – nine. We learned a great deal from our recent experience of having several classes and teachers in isolation and our intent in putting a new timetable in place was to hopefully reduce the number of students and teachers who would be required to isolate in the event of a positive case in our school. The new timetable streamlines teaching assignments in junior high so teachers are not teaching as many classes in multiple grades. We have also eliminated shared gym time in our junior high and we have reorganized complementary courses so that as of our return date on January 11, they will no longer be offered in mixed cohorts. Our goal in confining junior high classes to cohort groups with no shared spaces is to keep as many students and teachers as possible at school in the event of a positive case. We thank all of our students and families for their understanding.

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Learning Stance Changes



Although the deadline for switching between at-school and online learning has long passed, we are still receiving requests to make changes in learning stances. Occasionally, a request for a temporary change in learning stance is also made. Please be advised that we no longer have the ability to adjust learning stances in PowerSchool. **This means that we are no longer able to accommodate requests for changes in learning stance.**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Student Record Information



A reminder to parents, if you have recently moved or changed your contact information, please let the office know. In case of emergencies, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information. Also, if students have recently become Canadian citizens, we ask that you provide us with documentation so that we can update our records.

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School Plan for Continuous Growth



Our [School Plan for Continuous Growth](#) has been posted to our school website.. The plan was developed with input from our staff and elements of it were reviewed at our November School Council meeting. Please take a few minutes to review our goals for the year. As always, parents who have any questions or concerns are invited to contact Ms. Volk either by email (Theresa.Volk@ecsd.net) or by calling the school at 780-409-2603.

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Severe Weather Conditions



Our transportation system has an excellent record for service. However, given the possible extremes of Edmonton weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming. Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location. Parents must then make alternate arrangements to get their child to school.

Parents should also ensure that:

- children are supervised at the bus stop
- children have a place to go in the event the bus does not arrive
- children have alternate arrangements for getting to school should the bus not arrive
- children are suitably clothed to withstand weather extremes

Transportation Services normal operational procedures for delayed transportation also apply in severe weather conditions. The Carrier is responsible for notifying the School and the Transportation Services office when a route is running late.

Parents then have access to 3 different resources (by calling either the school, the Transportation Services office, or directly contacting the carrier) to get an update on the status of a particular route.

CANCELLATION OF YELLOW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE FOR ALL PROGRAMS

The following radio and TV stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions:

RADIO STATIONS

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

TV STATIONS

CITYTV	CTV Edmonton	GLOBAL Edmonton	CBC TV
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Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m.

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It's Not Cool to Be Cold



Did You Know?

- Snow forts and tunnels can collapse and suffocate a child
- When children are outside they often do not realize how cold they are becoming
- Bright sun during the winter can cause a sunburn

What Parents Can Do:

- Signs of frost nip are slight pain and whitening of the affected area e.g. tips of the ears turn white. Warm the affected area by breathing on it or warming it with your hands but do not rub. Do not apply snow or water.
- Supervise children when they play outside.
- Choose play areas with warm shelters nearby.
- Provide children with a neck warmer instead of a scarf to prevent strangulation on playground equipment.

What Kids Can Do:

- If you feel pain in your fingers, toes, ears, cheeks, nose or chin, get inside to warm up.
- Dress in layers. If you get too warm take off one layer at a time.
- Wear sunscreen on exposed skin on sunny days.
- Don't put your tongue on cold metal

If you can only remember one thing:

- Most of our body heat is lost through our heads, so always wear a hat or toque in cold weather.

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Change in Dismissal Times



Please remember that Thursday, December 17 will be a full day of school for students, with dismissal at 3:12 pm. Students will be dismissed at 12:17 pm on Friday, December 18 for Christmas Vacation. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2020 in the online format (students will be working from home). Students will access links to online Teams meetings through the Google Classroom (additional information will be sent home prior to Christmas Holidays). Regular at-school classes will resume on January 11, 2021.

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Pull Tabs for Wheelchairs



Don't know what to do with pull tabs from drink cans – especially around the holiday season? Collect them and bring them to school! We are pleased to support the Knights of Columbus pull tab campaign. The aluminum in the pull tabs is used toward providing wheelchairs for people who need them. As you can imagine, it takes thousands upon thousands of pull tabs to make just one wheelchair...so please drop them off whenever you can.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

School Council



Thank you to the parents who attended our Virtual School Council Meeting on October 28. We were very pleased to have so many parents take an interest in their child's education!

Our next Virtual School Council Meeting is on Wednesday, December 9, at 6:00 PM. A link to the meeting will be posted on the [School Council](#) page of our website at 5:00 PM on Dec 9. All parents are welcome to attend. We value your input into school decisions and activities!

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Advent Celebrations & Mass



We will mark the start of Advent with short celebrations that will be livestreamed to our classrooms, both at school and online.

Nov 30 – 11:00 AM (Fr Glenn MacDonald will celebrate)

Dec 9 (Mass) – 1:00 PM (Fr Glenn). Mass will be livestreamed to all of our classrooms, both at school and online. Parents will be most welcome to attend this mass with us. A link will be sent via Swift prior to the livestream.

Dec 14 – 1:00 PM (Fr Glenn)

Dec 18 – 9:00 AM (Bishop David)

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Elementary Christmas Concert



We are not able to hold our Elementary Christmas Concert in our traditional format this year, but nonetheless, our students are hard at work preparing a virtual performance for our families. Your child's performance will be posted to the Google Classroom for their music teacher. We are looking forward to wonderful performances that reflect the spirit of the Advent and Christmas season!. Special thanks to Mrs. Sharrock-Wiggins, Mrs. De Wee and Ms. Barnett for their hard work in preparing children for their performances

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Christmas Food Drive



Advent is a time to prepare, to anticipate and to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. During this time, we prepare our hearts, but unfortunately, it is a difficult time for some. Preparations for Christmas are hard for some families, especially when it comes to preparing a holiday meal. This year at Bishop David Motiuk, we will once again prepare our hearts for Advent, by supporting our community with Christmas hampers. We will also be supporting the Edmonton Food Bank. Classroom collections will take place each day. Boxes will be placed outside the main door so that families with children taking part in online learning will also be able to drop off food items.

Below, you will find items that we will be collecting and when to send them with your child(ren). Examples are provided, the more the variety of items we collect, the more hampers we can provide. We will be collecting during the first week of December so that food items can sit for a time before being delivered. We ask that families DO NOT send perishable items, since we would not be able to deliver them to families in time for them to be used before their "best before" dates expire. Families are welcome to send grocery store gift cards, which will be put towards helping families with perishable or large item purchases like turkeys, hams, milk, bread, and eggs.

Should you have any questions or would like to help more with this endeavor, please contact Mrs. Corisa Rose at the school 780-409-2603 or via email at Corisa.Rose@ecsd.net

Monday: Potatoes, Stuffing, Pasta (5lbs bags of potatoes, boxes of Instant potatoes, Stovetop-style boxed stuffing, spaghetti/pasta, macaroni and cheese)

Tuesday: Fruits and Vegetables (cans of fruit, cans of peas, beans, corn, or mixed vegetables, cans of cranberry sauce, jars of pickles)

Wednesday: Sweet Treats (packages/boxes of cookies, boxes of candy canes or other packaged candy/chocolate treats, bags of sugar, pancake syrup)

Thursday: Drinks (1 litre cartons of juice, cans/boxes of hot chocolate, cans of coffee, jars of instant coffee, boxes of tea, cans of Lemonade or Iced Tea mix)

Friday: Miscellaneous Pantry Items (canned ham, canned tuna or salmon, crackers, mayonnaise, mustard, jam, peanut butter, tomato/pasta sauce, Cheez Whiz, canned meats [tuna/salmon/ham]), pancake mix

Your generosity will have a positive impact on our families, as well as the larger community. Every donation matters, thank you for making a difference

Thank you to our grade six classes for taking a lead role in organizing our food drive this year!

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Christmas Activities



This year, our at-school students will be invited to participate in 12 Days of Christmas Activities. Although they will have to enjoy them in their classroom cohort groups, they will still be able to enjoy some of the magic and wonder of the Christmas season. Online students are invited to participate in events that are suitable for the online environment, such as dress-up events and special classroom activities. The events we have scheduled include:

Thurs Dec 3 - Christmas Around the World - Celebrate/Learn about Christmas traditions around the world

Fri Dec 4 - Favourite Christmas Story Day - Share your favourite Christmas story

Mon Dec 7 - Christmas Hat/Antler Day

Tues Dec 8 - Play Christmas Carols 1 or 2 times throughout day

Wed Dec 9 - Red and Green Day

Thurs Dec 10 - Christmas Games Day. Christmas games for one block in the day

Fri Dec 11 - Grinch Day - Read the story/watch the cartoon/dress like a character

Mon Dec 14 - Candy Cane Day - All students and staff get a candy cane - dress in red and white

Tues Dec 15 - Christmas Pajama Day – Wear your cosiest Christmas pajamas to school.

Wed Dec 16 - Christmas Fitness - Christmas themed fitness activities

Thurs Dec 17 - Christmas Dance (in classroom cohort groups) and Classroom Parties

Fri Dec 18 – Christmas Sweater Day/Advent Celebration

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Christmas Mass Times



At this time, we are not able to share information about Christmas masses in the parishes associated with our school. Our parishes are operating under COVID 19 protocols and each has capacity limits with regard to how many parishioners can be accommodated at one time. Pre-registration is required for all masses. Please take some time to visit parish websites and read the parish bulletins (posted on each parish website) each week so that you will have information as it becomes available:

[Annunciation Parish](#)

[Good Shepherd Parish](#)

[St. John the Evangelist Parish](#)

[St. Joseph's Basilica](#)

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Bishop David Motiuk Catholic Elementary and Junior High School

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