

Good afternoon.

The days are getting busier as we fill the time with celebration and activities to meet this time of Advent and preparation of the celebration of Christ's birth. Our Christmas Concert is currently being filmed for next week's presentations and students are getting excited for the upcoming break. Our weather today had us skating to school which is where we stayed. Students remained indoors as the field was too icy to play. We also had to cancel the field trip for our Grades 4-6 and sledge hockey. There may be an opportunity to make up this date later in the year: we will let parents/guardians know in advance if that can happen.

It is with sadness that we will be saying farewell to Mrs. Tran. Mrs. Tran has accepted a position with the division in helping schools wherever there is a need to be filled within the office. She will be heading into her new position on Tuesday 14 December 2021. We thank her for her years of dedication to the Katherine Therrien family. She will be missed by us all.

We are excited to welcome Ms. De Oliveira who will be taking over for Mrs. Tran. Ms. De Oliveira will be joining us on Monday 13 December 2021. Ms. De Oliveira has been an admin assistant in our school division for more than 10 years and is coming from another school. Please help us welcome her the next week when you are in contact with the office.

As we head to the Christmas Break, there are several items to note:

- The NED Mission Yo-Yos arrived from the Pacific coast! Yo-Yos and a couple of accessories will be sold around morning recess times on Friday (10 December) as well as Monday through Wednesday of next week (13-15 December). Please see the attached sheet for prices and items available.

Purchases are optional and only if desired. Here is a message from the NED show with links to further information:

*Hello,*

*As you know we recently hosted an all school live stream event called NED's Mindset Mission. We trust your student was encouraged by the show which taught about having a positive Mindset for learning and life!*

*Mindset Mission yo-yos are still available for purchase at school to support the free show and message. If your student has already purchased a yoyo, here is an important link to help them get off to a good start with proper string length adjustment, click [here](#).*

*Additionally, here are a couple of our favorite follow up home resources from the Mindset Mission website. You may want to use these with your child as they are designed to go hand in hand with the program.*

**[NED Coloring Face Masks](#)**  
**[Parent Encouragement Notes](#)**

If you'd like additional resources, they are available [here](#).

And don't forget to ask your student what they learned in the show about having a growth mindset from YET the Yeti, Captain Kindly and during NED's visit on the spaceship!

*Educating together!*

- In your child's agenda today, a form should have come home regarding our Christmas Concert.

Our concert this year will be via Microsoft Teams with one showing at 10:30 am and the other at 6:30 pm

As part of our annual tradition, we are asking families, that are able, to donate to our ECS Foundation via PowerSchool. Please see your child's agenda or the attachment below for more information.

- We have been blessed by our School Council and will be hosting a hot lunch on Thursday 16 December 2021. We are asking \$5 per child to help with some of the costs towards this lunch.

Please see your child's agenda or the attachment below for more information and to fill out any allergies that we need to be aware of.

- A reminder from Mrs. Crant that ALL library books need to be returned to the school on or before Thursday 16 November 2021.

Students will be able to borrow books from the library once again after the Christmas holidays.

- Braided Journeys: We would like to invite Indigenous families across the Division to our second Braided Journeys Family Wellness Session: Indigenous Family Candlelight Gathering for Grief & Loss Healing. This session will take place on Microsoft Teams on December 13, 2021 at 6pm. To easily access the meeting link, click [here](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/?url=https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%253ameeting_ZmRINTlwZjEtNDhhMS00YjY5LWUwYmYtM2I3MWZmNTQ0MGYx%2540thread.v2/0?context%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522b18d9f6f-0743-460d-a19b-0b3297eeeb89%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%252285ffb9d7-16af-4569-af2c-6de8aaa7a8c1%2522%257d&data=04%7c01%7cElana.Simington%40ecsd.net%7cb4a7dcf6bcdb4096c12d08d9b3775c08%7cb18d9f6f0743460da19b0b3297eeeb89%7c0%7c0%7c637738147484608709%7cTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAilCjQjoiV2luMzliLjBTil6lk1haWwiLCjXVCI6Mn0%3D%7c3000&sdata=rx%2BL%2BvHB0PO57CBmwiY%2BdLANbitPAXiTmjER5KIHS%2B0%3D&reserved=0) ([https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/?url=https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%253ameeting\\_ZmRINTlwZjEtNDhhMS00YjY5LWUwYmYtM2I3MWZmNTQ0MGYx%2540thread.v2/0?context%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522b18d9f6f-0743-460d-a19b-0b3297eeeb89%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%252285ffb9d7-16af-4569-af2c-6de8aaa7a8c1%2522%257d&data=04%7c01%7cElana.Simington%40ecsd.net%7cb4a7dcf6bcdb4096c12d08d9b3775c08%7cb18d9f6f0743460da19b0b3297eeeb89%7c0%7c0%7c637738147484608709%7cTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAilCjQjoiV2luMzliLjBTil6lk1haWwiLCjXVCI6Mn0%3D%7c3000&sdata=rx%2BL%2BvHB0PO57CBmwiY%2BdLANbitPAXiTmjER5KIHS%2B0%3D&reserved=0](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/?url=https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%253ameeting_ZmRINTlwZjEtNDhhMS00YjY5LWUwYmYtM2I3MWZmNTQ0MGYx%2540thread.v2/0?context%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522b18d9f6f-0743-460d-a19b-0b3297eeeb89%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%252285ffb9d7-16af-4569-af2c-6de8aaa7a8c1%2522%257d&data=04%7c01%7cElana.Simington%40ecsd.net%7cb4a7dcf6bcdb4096c12d08d9b3775c08%7cb18d9f6f0743460da19b0b3297eeeb89%7c0%7c0%7c637738147484608709%7cTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAilCjQjoiV2luMzliLjBTil6lk1haWwiLCjXVCI6Mn0%3D%7c3000&sdata=rx%2BL%2BvHB0PO57CBmwiY%2BdLANbitPAXiTmjER5KIHS%2B0%3D&reserved=0))

Session highlights: Within our Indigenous communities we have our own practices of honouring those who have passed on. The pandemic has made it harder for us to gather and for some this has impacted our ability to grieve for loved ones. Also, within our Indigenous communities, we often face compound

grief, when we experience multiple deaths in a short amount of time. Whatever your personal family experience is, we would like to take the time to gather online and honour our loved ones who have passed on. The candlelight ceremony will include elements of traditional Cree teachings and Catholic faith. All beliefs are respected in our gathering.

Participants: Please have a candle with matches/lighter for the evening. A picture of your loved one(s) is welcomed (you will be able to show it on screen if you choose to share). Please see the attached poster for more details!

- A reminder that there is a change in school times on 16 and 17 December 2021.
  - Thursday 16 December 2021
    - FULL DAY (8:25-3:08) for Grades 1 to 6 students
    - Kindergarten attend school this day (8:25-11:30)
  - Friday 17 December 2021
    - EARLY DISMISSAL (8:25-11:34) for Grades 1 to 6
    - NO KINDERGARTEN this day
    - Office will be closed for Christmas Vacation at 12:30 pm.
- Every year, we review our Code of Conduct with our school community and ask families to review it with their children. Please find attached an electronic copy of this form. A paper copy can be found in your child's agenda today. Please review this with your child and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.
- For our Christmas Social Justice Project, we are still looking for gently used/good condition or new winter clothing for students, specifically coats, winter pants and boots. We will also accept hats, toques, mittens, gloves, scarves, and other winter outerwear. We are looking particularly for sizes varying from children's 5 to 12.

We will be collecting these items at school until Wednesday 15 December 2021. Your donations are greatly appreciated in supporting the students in our surrounding area.

- Please read the following message from our Chief Superintendent:

*Edmonton Catholic Schools believes it is important to engage stakeholders and greatly values their opinions. As a result, the Edmonton Catholic School Division is conducting surveys with our parents/guardians, students, and staff to gather feedback. The surveys will begin on **Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at 8:30 am and will close on **Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at midnight. The feedback will be used by our schools, departments, Division, and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved. It allows everyone (parents/guardians, school staff, Division staff, and students) to respond to successes and challenges together.*

**All surveys will be conducted online.** Important information about the survey administration is provided below:

- **PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEYS** - A SWIFT message will be [or has been] sent to **parents/guardians of all students (100 Voices through to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year High School students)** inviting them to participate in the ECSD Assurance Survey. Parents/guardians are requested to **fill out a survey for each child** registered in the Division by logging into PowerSchool (<https://powerschool.ecsd.net>) and then clicking on the **ECSD Assurance Survey icon** on the left hand side. Parents/guardians are to respond to each child's survey from the point of view of that child's educational experience. The first

*parent/guardian to respond on behalf of a student will be the response recorded. One parent/guardian response per child.*

- This month's North Central Edmonton YMCA Family Resource Network Newsletter can be found [here](https://mailchi.mp/northernalberta.ymca.ca/family-resource-network-newsletter-december?e=a17ab42044) (https://mailchi.mp/northernalberta.ymca.ca/family-resource-network-newsletter-december?e=a17ab42044)

Have a wonderful rest of the week.

Take care, stay safe!