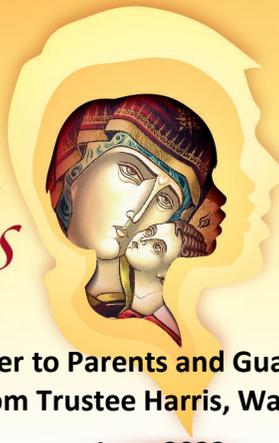


God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

**Letter to Parents and Guardians
from Trustee Harris, Ward 71**

June 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:



On behalf of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Board of Trustees (ECSD), I extend a heartfelt appreciation to our school communities for their contributions to the success of the 2021-2022 School Year. Thank you...

- Firstly, to you, our parents and guardians – for your involvement and support and for entrusting Edmonton Catholic Schools with the education of your children;
- To our students – for your determination, perseverance, and hard work; and
- To all our staff – for your outstanding service to students, families, and our communities. We are very grateful for your dedication and passion. We are so proud of our amazing Division.

We are pleased to share the most recent edition of [Board Messenger](#), which highlights the initiatives and work undertaken by the Board towards its goal of providing a quality Catholic education for our students.

Leadership, Staff and Academic Excellence

The Board is extremely pleased with the outstanding results from the ECSD Assurance Survey that was conducted to engage stakeholders with respect to the quality of Catholic education provided by the Division. Overall satisfaction rates reported by parents and guardians, students, and staff were 87.2%, 95.9% and 95% respectively. These superb results were earned during the pandemic, which attests to the dedication and commitment of our administrators, teachers, staff, and families towards providing an excellent Catholic education for our students. Please click [here](#) to view the report.

Alberta's



ECSD was once again named as one of [Alberta's Top Employers](#). The Division is delighted to be recognized for supporting our staff and creating workplaces where they feel safe, healthy, valued, included, and encouraged to reach their full potential. Our school families are integral to creating the supportive atmosphere that provides the firm foundation upon which the Division builds. Thank you for your active and positive participation in our collective success.

Understanding and Responding to Needs

On March 14th, school council members met virtually with their Ward Trustee representative in a Community of School Council (COSC) meeting to learn about the Board's Advocacy Plan and the themes that the Board will be promoting on behalf of the Division. Parents and guardians were encouraged to provide feedback on the themes presented and provide additional themes for consideration. They also provided their feedback on the best ways for them to share their voice with the Division, and how the Division can improve parent and guardian participation in its surveys and school



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KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS THE LORD,... PLANS TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE.
(Jeremiah 29:11)

engagement sessions. Excluding the themes that were already identified by the Board of Trustees to lobby government, the following were the top themes that were suggested by parents and guardians: Serving Our Youngest Learners – Pandemic Recovery, Curriculum-New Curriculum and Serving Our Youngest Learners. The valuable feedback from this engagement session will assist the Board of Trustees, Division, and School Principals in planning for the future. The Board looks forward to further COSC engagements and appreciates its partnership with school councils in its pursuit of the best Catholic education possible. If you plan on being a council member in 2022-23, please watch for the date of the next COSC meeting during the first week of the new school year.

Meetings with Elected Officials

Our Board works hard to ensure elected politicians are aware of the opportunities and challenges facing our Division. In that regard, the Trustees continue to meet individually with elected federal, provincial, and municipal representatives to advocate for the needs of our students. Our advocacy efforts to the Alberta Government resulted in full funding for a new Catholic High School in Castle Downs/Dunluce and for a new Catholic Elementary/Junior High School in Lewis Farms. We are grateful to receive approval for these schools. Both are critically required to ease significant enrolment pressures in north and west Edmonton. Schools in those areas are overcrowded and students will benefit from vibrant new learning spaces that are able to accommodate the growing communities.

Celebrating our Staff, Retirees and Graduates

The Board of Trustees was pleased to be able to attend events to celebrate the achievements of our dedicated employees, retirees and high school graduates. The Board offers a heartfelt “thank you” to our long-serving staff members. The staff of ECSD is at the heart of everything we do, and our students’ success is directly aligned with the talents and efforts of our teaching and support staff. The Board is amazed by how all our staff, working together, have risen to the challenges experienced over the past two years.

The Board celebrated the significant and important contributions of our 2021-2022 retirees at a Retirements Gala held in May. Each and every one of these staff members brought a unique set of skills and talents to their roles which will have a lasting impact on our Division. Congratulations to our wonderful retirees. We thank them for their years of dedication and service to the students, families and staff at ECSD.



It was such a pleasure for the Trustees to attend our High School graduation ceremonies in-person after a two-year absence. We would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to our graduates. You made it! This is your time, the beginning of a bright future filled with hopes and dreams. We wish you many blessings as you confidently step forward to live full and satisfying lives, and to serve God in one another.

We hope you have a relaxing, safe and enjoyable summer break with family and friends, and we look forward to working and learning together for the success of all students in the 2022-2023 school year.

In closing, I would be pleased to attend one of your school council meetings to update you on these and other Board initiatives, and to answer any questions that you may have. I can be reached at 780-937-8268 or terence.harris@ecsd.net.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Harris".

Terry Harris
Trustee, Ward 71



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