

Message from the Administration:

It is during this special liturgical season that we wait in joyful hope to receive Jesus as if he is coming to us for the first time. Advent is expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, and joyful preparation as we welcome God into our lives and await the celebration of Jesus' birth. We are also reminded during this season that there can be joy in waiting.

This Advent, let us add meaning to our waiting by committing to extra time in prayer, being patient with our family, speaking gently to other, being kind to ourselves, having patience with what we cannot control, and as always...continuing to believe that God's plan is the best plan. As we navigate this pandemic, may we remember the absolute tenderness and perpetual closeness of our Lord.

Heavenly Father, we trust you are with us in this time of worry and uncertainty as we continue to pray for an end to this pandemic. Whisper your words of comfort, encouragement, and hope to replace thoughts of dismay, anxiousness, and despair. Dear Lord, draw close to those who are sick, suffering or living in fear. Care for them, protect and uplift them. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

On behalf of the entire Mary Hanley staff, we wish to extend our best wishes to our families for a safe and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, love, joy, peace, and good health. May the blessings of this holy season be with you always.

Mr. D. Robinson
Principal

Mrs. D. Fransen
Assistant Principal

Advent Prayer



Dear Heavenly Father,
Help me to hear your voice.
Touch me once again.
Give me the courage to be your beloved.
Give me courage to choose joy.
I need you now this Christmas.
Be born in me again. Today.
In Jesus' name,
Amen





Advent:

On Monday, November 30th we began the Advent Season with a school wide celebration. All our students, online and in-person, participated in the wonderful celebration hosted by our Grade 1A and Kindergarten AM and PM classes. We will continue to celebrate Advent each week as we draw closer to Christmas.

A “Place of Joy” Christmas:

Mary Hanley is “A Place of Joy!” This year, we will be making our school “A Place of Christmas Joy!” On December 1st, our Christmas theme book, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” by Dr. Seuss was launched with a variety of Grinch and Christmas curricular activities planned for all students, both in-person and online. There are weekly school-wide activities, including creating our own “Whoville”! Students are encouraged to get into the Christmas spirit and enJOY through a variety of fun ways to learn.

The students are encouraged to help the Grinch’s heart grow three sizes by performing kind acts for others. These may include shoveling a neighbour’s sidewalk, helping with dishes or laundry, or any other action that would help show kindness and “heart growing”! Our culminating event will be on our full day of school-December 17 where students are invited to wear their pajamas to school and enjoy a movie version of the Grinch.

In keeping with our tradition of helping those in need, grade levels will be assigned an item to donate to those in need. For example, grades may choose to collect socks, mittens, toques, toothbrushes, etc. Watch for a note from your child’s classroom teacher for the specific item that your child is encouraged to donate.

As well, students are also being asked to do a “Direct Service” action as a class where they will be creating something for others. Examples can include making Christmas cards for a senior centre, letters to the Edmonton Fire Department, Cards for the Military, etc. Grades will decide what action they would like to participate in.

First Week of January:

The government recently announced that all students will be doing online learning January 4th to 8th. All in-person learning will resume January 11th.

Our School Division will share more information on what learning will look like closer to the Christmas break. Please check your emails as we approach the Christmas season for this important information.

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. 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.**

School Fees:

All School fees have been added to PowerSchool Accounts. We ask all our families to please log into their PowerSchool Accounts and pay their School Fees.



Bus Pass Fees:

Bus Fees are due on the 1st of every month. Please log onto PowerSchool before the first of every month to make your payment.

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 Mr. Robinson either by email (Daniel.robinson@ecsd.net) or by calling the school at 780-461-2551.

Health and Safety during COVID-19 Times:

**COVID-19 SAFETY
DAILY HEALTH SCREENING
QUESTIONNAIRE**

As always, the health of our students and staff is our first priority and as such, we will always take extra precautions to ensure optimum safety. We ask that our parents do the same by refraining from sending children to school when they are not well. In the event that a child comes to school with

symptoms, please be reminded that as per the AHS guidelines and the screening tools, we will call the parents to pick up their child immediately.

We also ask that families consider keeping students home if other members of the family are sick or are awaiting test results from a COVID test. As we get closer to Christmas, we want everyone to be able to celebrate Christmas with their immediate family without anyone having to isolate. By being overly cautious at this time of the year, we can help to ensure that everyone will be able to have a happy Christmas.

Please note that the newest, most current screening questionnaire is provided below for your information. In the interest of all students and staff, parents and staff are asked to complete a daily screening questionnaire as a best practice towards ensuring that students are healthy and should be coming to school. Staff use the same tool to self-assess. Parents are reminded that children who are coughing, have running noses and present with a temperature should not be at school. Students who arrive at school showing such signs will be sent home immediately.

[COVID 19 DAILY SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

Changes in Bus Routes:

Our Transportation department has reviewed running boards and bus routes over the past few months. They have determined that with the number of students online and in-person that they can condense our buses from six to four buses. Families that are being affected by this change would have been contacted on Friday, November 27. Please check your emails and PowerSchool account for any changes. The new routes will begin on Wednesday, December 2.



Transportation / Yellow Bus Issues

A reminder if you are having issues with the service you are receiving from the yellow bus company, please do not phone the school with your complaint. Instead, you are to phone Transportation directly (780-441-6078) or Stock Transportation (780-451-9536), as they are the ones who will assist you with this matter.

Transportation and Severe Weather:

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 CRUZFM	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	FMK97 97.3
Kiss FM 91.7	TSN 1260	CBC	102.3 NOW! Radio

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.

PATHS in Our School:

Parents...do your children ever have difficulty calming down? You can use the control signals poster as a way to help your child get control of their behavior.



Step 1 is the Red Light : STOP! Take a long, deep breath. Say the problem and how you feel.

Step 2 is the Yellow Light: THINK! What can I do? Would it work?

Step 3 is the Green Light: GO! Try out your solution.

Your child is learning this way to solve problems in the classroom during our PATHS lessons. Using the same steps at home will help your child remember and follow these steps more often when they have a problem. Helping your child solve their own problems builds self-esteem!

This year our School Division has provided every school with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coaches to help teachers develop lessons and teach our students strategies related to Social Emotional Learning. This is very important this year, considering what we are all going through with the pandemic. All our teachers have also been trained in PATHS, which is a program designed to help with Social Emotional Learning.

Moving forward, we will put into the newsletter ideas to help parents at home that are related to SEL and PATHS.

Resources for Families:

21 Days of Mindfulness Bootcamp videos and strategies for kids and parents:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOL43Ch9yQXx70BqPbnNsW-_hnuvMQMR8

"What is Stress?" Video for kids and parents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8FiAxAqqYE>

AHS Coping and Connections for Children and Families during COVID-19:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/amh/if-amh-mhpi-disaster-pandemiccoping-for-children-families.pdf>



Focus on Math:

Math is visual. One way we can talk about Math is by using pictures to start the conversation. Make patterns at home with your family and ask how did you get that or what is the equation? You can find the patterns in objects in many ways by number or colour.

A great website with visuals already made is [Visual Patterns](#). Try some at home and talk about numbers using these pattern pictures.

Inclement Weather Conditions:

As we felt over the past two weeks, the winter chill is upon us. Parents are reminded that on days that temperatures hit -20 degrees Celsius, we will have all the doors open in the morning and children are to come in and proceed directly to their homeroom area. Due to Covid-19, waiting in the hallways will not be an option. Supervisors will always be on hand within the building supervising students. As well, as always, children would have indoor recess within their homerooms. Teachers will review expected behaviors during these scenarios.

School Advisory Council News

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2. We would like to thank our School Council for the recent purchase of Chromebooks to help with our students' learning! We also offer our thanks for the purchasing of new music instruments. Thank you!



PowerTeacher Pro/ Assessments / Reporting Periods



Our first Reporting period for this year will occur on January 29th. An electronic Report Card will be available through PowerSchool on this date. Assessment is always ongoing, so please check your PowerSchool account often for up-to-date assessment information.

Assessment of Learning/Report Cards/PowerTeacher Pro: 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.

Teachers enter marks and comments for each assessment directly into the PowerSchool gradebook. For parents, this means having access to a child's report card at any point in time. Parents unable to attend Parent / Teacher conferences should contact their child's teacher as soon as possible to set up an alternative time to discuss progress.

Report Cards: The student's progress is reported on an ongoing basis. Student progress will be formally reported to parents two times per year in the form of an online report card in January and a final report card in June which will be posted to PowerSchool where the next grade level

placement recommendation is made in June. There will be two report cards – the first in January and the second in June.

Online Parent Portal Log In Info:

If you do not have access to the Power School Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/> please call the school for assistance and we will provide you with log in information. Once you receive your Parent Portal Login User ID and Password from our office, please go in and verify your child's 2020-2021 registration.

Some Important Items done on Power School:

Verification of Student Registration Form (Essential and crucial to ensure emergency contact numbers and medical information is up to date and current.) Currently we have over 80 families who have still not completed their Verification of Student Registration Form. Information was originally sent out in September to all families to complete the form. Since the end of September, families who have not completed the form have been sent several emails asking them to complete the form. **This verification process is important because it ensures that we have the most current information in our PowerSchool database, in the event of an emergency where contact was required. Please log into PowerSchool and locate this form on the left-hand side on your child's account and complete the form.**

Fee Payment — All school fees have been posted to all our student PowerSchool accounts. All at school and remote students have fees to pay. To see the breakdown of fees, visit our school website.

Fieldtrip Payments (Our fieldtrips are hosted on a user pay model, meaning that students are expected to pay for the cost of the fieldtrip per their attendance.) Some fieldtrips are sponsored by the school council, should they choose to help support that.

Ongoing Reporting & Assessment (As indicated in Swift messages, instructions on how to log in and view your child's report card has been sent out, as such, please refer to that document for additional information.)

Transportation Information (This applies to families riding the bus, who are required to pay for a monthly pass.)

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will be occurring on Thursday, December 3rd, from 1:15 to 4:45 pm and 5:30 to 7:30 pm. All interviews will be done online, through TEAMS and will be ten minutes long. If you have not already signed up please do so using the following website:



<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MaryHanley1@ecsd.net/bookings/>

Virtual Book Fair:



We will have a “virtual” book fair this year instead of an in-person book fair. The link to the Book Fair was shared out earlier, via email, and is also found below. Remember on Wednesday, December 2, all orders placed between 6:00 and 8:00 pm will have free shipping! A portion of all sales will go back to the school to help buy new books for our library. The Book Fair closes on

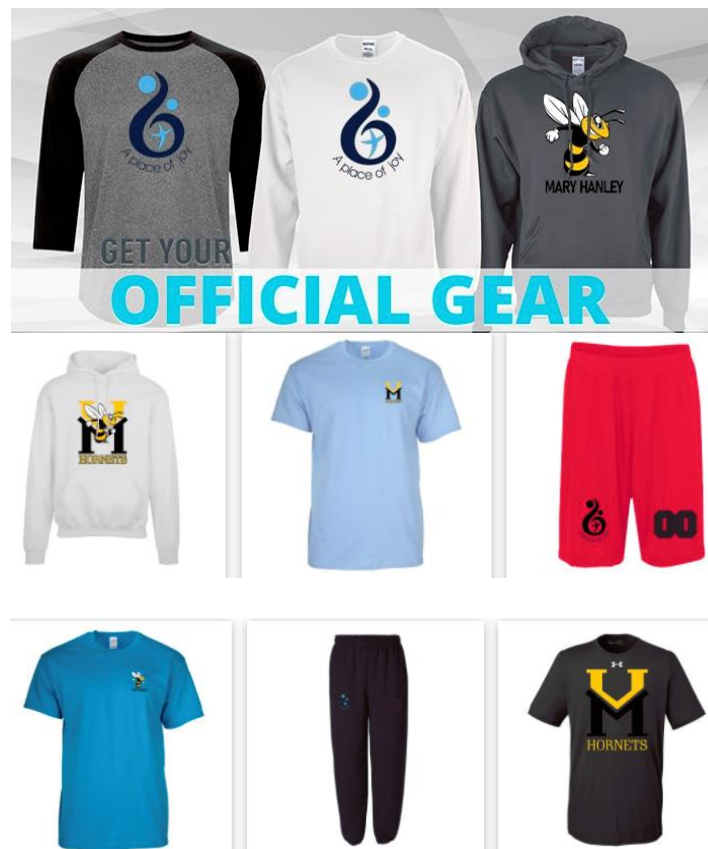
December 6th, so please make all your purchases before then.

<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5151334>

School “Spirit Wear” Online Store:

We have an online store where clothing items can be purchased with the new school logo and the new school mascot logo. There are many clothing items to purchase and many logo designs to choose from. These clothing items will make a great Christmas gift for our students. Please consider visiting the site to buy some “Spirit Wear” for your child to wear around the school or in their online classes! We are very excited to see our students show their “pride” and “joy” for their school by wearing the new logos proudly in their classrooms, online or in-person. The website for the store is found on our website and below:

<https://maryhanley.entripyshops.com/>



New Staff Members:

We have been blessed to have recently added Miss Feldberg to our staff. She will be serving as a second Dedicated Substitute Teacher and has already begun supporting students and staff this month. We are also welcoming a new custodian to our staff, Audette Ennis, for the month of December. She has been allocated to our school to help and assist during the day. Once school begins again in January she will return to her regular school. We welcome both staff members to our community.

Mary Hanley Out-of-School Care Centre:

Soon there will be an Out-of-School Care Centre in our own school. They are currently in the process of getting the space ready and all licences in order.

If you are interested in this service, please do not phone the school, as it is not affiliated with the school. For any information and, please contact:
Ravneet or Sanjolly through email @ info@stfrancisdaycare.ca or by phone @ 780-406-4748.

We are excited to have this addition in our school.

Important Dates:

December 2 – SAC meeting – 6:30 PM
December 3 – Parent / Teacher Interviews
December 17 – Full Day of School, Dismissal at 2:40 PM
 - Kindergarten Classes AM and PM
December 18 – Half Day of School, Dismissal at 12:01 PM
 - No School for Kindergarten
December 21 – January 1 – Christmas Holidays
January 4 – 8th – Online Learning for all students
January 11th – In-person Learning Resumes
January 29th – Electronic Report Cards

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 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 29th to Thursday, December the 24th.

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,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton