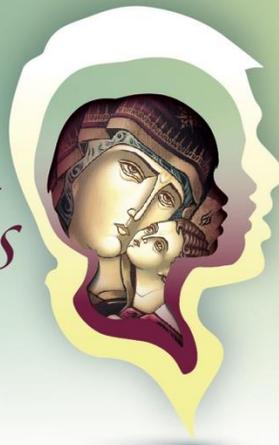


God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

We would like to welcome you back to a new school year that will prove to be interesting, challenging at times, but still full of excitement and learning. The staff at Our Lady of Peace School are eager to be back and we enjoyed seeing the faces of our students as they entered the building. For those students who will be working online, we have not forgotten about you. Even though you are not physically with us, we hold you in our hearts and know that some time soon, you will be able to join us.

These are unprecedented times in a myriad of ways for our world. Never have we encountered a situation when classes have been cancelled completely and then in September resume with a choice of in school or online education. The decision to choose one form over the other was difficult for parents and caregivers to make. Whichever path you have chosen, Edmonton Catholic is committed to providing your children with a rich Catholic environment as well as a high-quality learning experiences in the safest environment possible.

This year Edmonton Catholic School Division has chosen a quote from Isaiah 43: 1-4, 'God Calls Us Each By Name' as our theme:

"Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

We know that we belong to the Lord and it is wonderful to hear that He will be with us. We can know that He holds us, protects us, guards us, and cares for us. Being 'called by name' means that we have each been chosen to serve in a special way. When God invites you to join Him in His work it can be fulfilling, energizing, bringing you a sense of purpose. God is seeking our presence at this challenging time to guide us and be with us as we do His will.

As Pope Francis said in a recent tweet: "The current pandemic has highlighted our interdependence: we are all linked to each other, for better or for worse. Therefore, to come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together, all of us, in solidarity".

It is with our families, the staff and community that we will come out strong!

We also take this time to thank Mr. Szelewicki for his dedication to Our Lady of Peace. Mr. Szelewicki has decided to retire. Mr. Szelewicki was our grade 6 teacher for the past four years. Those who know him, understand that he was a caring teacher who ensured that all students learned to their potential!

School Hours

IMPORTANT

School Hours of Operation	Kindergarten – gr. 6
8:30 am	Outside Bell
8:35 am	Classes start
10:00 – 10:15 am	Staggered Morning Recess (Group A: half the school)
10:30 – 10:45 am	Staggered Morning Recess (Group B: half the school)
12:10 – 12:30 pm	Group A: Half the student population is having Lunch Recess (in the playground and field west of the school)
12:10 – 12:30 pm	Group B: Half the Students eat lunch in classrooms with staff supervision
12:35 – 12:55 pm	Group B: Lunch Recess (in the playground and field west of the school)
12:35 – 12:55 pm	Group A: Lunch in the classrooms with staff supervision
1:55 – 2:00 pm	Afternoon Break
3:00 pm	Dismissal Bell
* 12:11 pm dismissal on Thursdays	

100 Voices:

School Hours of Operation	100 Voices
8:30 – 11:31 am	AM program
12:10 – 3:11 pm	PM program
No school on Thursday	

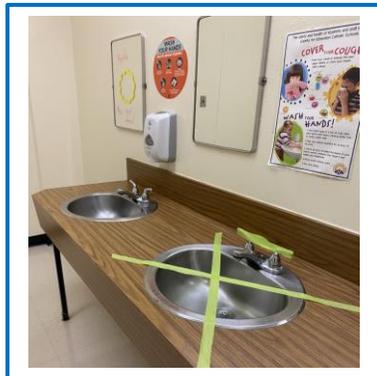
Changes to School Procedures due to COVID-19

- Parents are required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms daily using the [Alberta Health Checklist](#). Do not bring a child exhibiting any of the COVID-19 symptoms to school.
- Masks are mandatory for grades 4-6 and strongly encouraged from kindergarten to grade three. Two masks were given to each student on Sept. 7 from AHS.
- The school year is divided into four quarters. Approximately 8 days before the end of the quarter, parents/guardians will be required to make the decision to have their students enrolled in online or in person learning.
 - 1st quarter: Sept. 2 – Nov. 9
 - 2nd quarter: Nov. 10 – Jan. 29
 - 3rd quarter: Feb. 1 – April 20
 - 4th quarter: April 21 – June 25
- Students will not share their school supplies.
- Our custodian and afternoon light duty custodian will constantly be cleaning high touch areas.

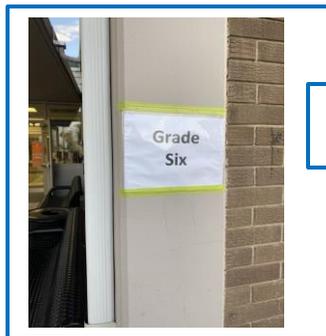
- Each teacher has created a Google Classroom, for use in school and at home. If your child is sick, they will be able to continue their learning through Google Classroom.
- Library and classroom reading books will be available to the students. Once returned the books are quarantined for 72 hours, according to AHS requirements.
- If your child becomes ill during the day, they will be placed away from others. You will immediately be called to pick up your child. It is important to follow [Alberta Isolation Requirements](#) before students are able to return to school.
- AHS will direct the school in a course of action when a COVID-19 case is confirmed.
- No fieldtrips will occur at least until the end of the first quarter.
- No parents or volunteers will be allowed into the school to maintain our school cohort. If a parent is coming to pick up his/her child, we ask that you wait outside, and your child will be brought to you.
- We have reduced in half the number of children outside for recess (see the above school times).
- Snack and Lunch will be delivered to each classroom and remain covered until served.
- We have one bottle filling station in the school with one more to come hopefully before January. We ask that each child bring a water bottle to school labelled with your child's name.
- Below are some pictures of the steps we have taken as a school:



Directional markers on the floor



2 metre markings on the fence



Visuals on wall

School Conduct Policy

Our school conduct policy is located on our website. Please take time to read it. It can be found at <https://www.ecsd.net/8010>

School Dress Code

Clothing should be both comfortable and modest. While some outfits may seem fine, in reality, the tasks of sitting in desks, reaching onto shelves, and participating in gym activities may not suit some clothing choices. We ask for your assistance in providing guidance in this area for your child. Please support us in ensuring that clothing that may become too revealing during school activities, does not make it to school. Where necessary, school staff will use discretion to quietly approach any student who may be inappropriately dressed for school, to change into something more appropriate for school. Our dress code is founded on our District's Core Values of dignity and respect and is an important and valuable part of our program. Rapidly changing styles and fashions make it impossible to suggest a definite standard of dress. However, a few standards are:

- Please remain appropriate by keeping underwear, bra straps or midribs under clothing.
- Given the spiritual nature of our school, students are asked to use good judgement regarding clothing and masks with offensive language or slogans.
- Students are **expected to have a pair of indoor runners** for school at all times. Students are asked to remove their outside footwear and change into clean indoor gym shoes upon entering the building.
- Ensure that students are dressed for the weather. Weather permitting, all students are sent outside for morning as well as lunch recess each day.

Parent PowerSchool



The online site, Parent PowerSchool, is an important tool that every parent/guardian **must** access. Through this site your child's academic progress will be available in real time. Gone are the times of printed report cards. Now your child's marks will be online and updated as soon as a new assessment is accomplished. As well through PowerSchool, you will be able to pay for field trips or bus passes with a credit card/debit card. PowerSchool is a tool that will be used throughout your child's time with Edmonton Catholic. If you require assistance in obtaining an id and password for PowerSchool, please contact Mrs. Oliver at school to help you. She can guide you through the process.

Verification of Student Information

As we have moved to paperless school documentation, we would like to remind all parents and guardians that the form "Verification of Student Registration" **requires your immediate attention and must be updated every September. This online form will go live on Tuesday, September 15th**. It is very important in order to keep your child's information current and up to date for our files (i.e. address, phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts other than yourselves, and my medical information). Please log into your Parent PowerSchool account, click on the Verification of Student Registration and update all information. You must update the online document with any changes **no later than Monday, September 21**.

School Staff Resources

At Our Lady of Peace, we are lucky to have many specialists. We continue to have a school psychologist who will be with us on Wednesday's. In addition, we have Educational Assistants, as well as, Therapeutic Assistants for Speech and Language, and Behaviour.



School Council (Parent Council)

We are looking for parents to participate in our school council. This would mean a one hour commitment, once a month, usually from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in the school library. No experience is necessary. Parents come together to discuss ways they can help the school. Come once and listen. We have a school council meeting soon.

School Fees

School Fees for kindergarten to grade 6 are being revised. In November FaceItFace, a Catholic evangelical group, was to present our students with a faith-filled day. Because of COVID-19, we are trying to postpone the event into the new year. The potential cancellation of this event may affect school fees. Once we receive more information, our school fees will be posted. You will be able to pay for them through Parent PowerSchool. We hope to have more information by the middle of the month.

School Mass

On Friday, September 11, Father Dean will be joining us at 11:00 am for mass. One class will be in the gym with Father Dean while the other students will be their classes, with the mass being presented virtually through the smartboard.

Snack and Lunch Program



This year, because of a combination of private funding and President's Choice Charities, we are able to provide a healthy snack every day to our students! Snack will occur between 8:35 – 10:00 am. We would like to thank an anonymous individual who has fund raised monies in order that every child in

As well, we will be continuing our lunch program at Our Lady of Peace. Every Kindergarten to grade 6 student will receive a free lunch (milk included) from Monday to Wednesday and Friday. The menu will be posted on our school website. Parents are asked to provide healthy snacks for recess and breaks. If you know that your child will not like a particular lunch, parents are asked to prepare a lunch from home for that day. The lunch is part of the Alberta Provincial Government Nutrition Program.

Nehiyaw Pimatisiwin Cree Culture and Language Program

We are blessed to have the Nehiyaw Pimatisiwin Cree Culture and Language Program in our school. We welcome back Nicole Tekie as our Braided Journey's Instructor. She will focus on literacy development and online learning as well as cultural. More information will come in future newsletters. Feel free to reach out to her.



Orange Shirt Day

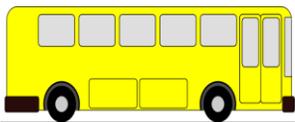
Orange Shirt Day grew out of a Indian Residential School survivor's account of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission Residential School. The orange shirt is meant to recognize the harm done to Indian Residential school students and show a commitment to the principle that Every Child Matters! A date in September was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Orange Shirt day is being celebrated on Wednesday, September 30. We encourage all students to wear orange on this day.



Meet the Staff

Unfortunately, we will not have our annual 'Meet the Staff' barbecue this year. We are looking into a different format. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or information, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Bus Passes



Bus pass fees are to be paid through Parent PowerSchool. Bus passes are \$35.00/month or \$30.50/month/child for families with 3 or more children. Families who are unable to purchase a bus pass are to **contact** the principal at the beginning of **each month**. Bus passes will be checked by the bus drivers!

If you have a change in address, please inform the office immediately. It takes three to four weeks to set up bussing to a new location.

Agenda Books

Each child from kindergarten to grade 6 will receive an agenda book, the cost of which is included in our school fees. This is an excellent communication tool between the home and school. Check the plastic pocket located in the front of the agenda daily for additional information. Any field trip forms (hopefully later in the year) or other noteworthy school-related activity will be placed in the pocket. We are fortunate to have these agendas, and will use them for the following reasons:

- To teach and develop organizational skills
- To enable students to manage their time and assignments more effectively
- To build and maintain communication among students, parents and teachers
- To improve learning and achievement
- To maintain a Catholicity focus

There will be a replacement cost of \$8.50 for a student who has lost their agenda.

Cell Phones

Students are to keep their cell phones in their backpacks during the school day. If students need to call home or if you need to get in touch with your child, we ask that you use the school phone. Refer to Freedom of Information and Privacy regulations for further information.

Safety

In order to maintain the security of the school, we will be practicing 6 fire drills (3 in the fall/winter and 3 in the spring) and 3 lock downs. In the case of an evacuation of the school building, our children will be moved to Mayfield school or if Mayfield cannot be used, to the Mayfield Community Hall. From there we will be calling parents/guardians to pick up their children.



Car and Road Safety

When dropping off your children with a vehicle, do not park in front of the school. This is the designated bus and handicap parking zone. Parent parking is available on the east side of the school. Parking or dropping off students in the staff parking lot is dangerous and prohibited.

Also remember that the **speed limit** in the area of elementary and junior high schools is **30 km/h**.

Do not park in the handicapped stall on the west, kinder/grade 1 entrance. This spot is used daily by one of our parents.

Office Hours



Our normal office hours are from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. You may reach us during this time. Outside of those hours, we ask that you leave a message and we will return your call. Occasionally on a Thursday afternoon when we are in a staff meeting you may get the answering machine. At any other time if the answering machine is on, it is because we are in an assembly or working with children, and no one is available in the office. If you leave a clear message, we will always return your call!

Absences and Appointments

Parents are reminded to **phone** the school at **780-489-1222** to report absences and late arrivals. You may leave a message on our phone system. Also, a written note in the agenda is required when students need to be called away from school for appointments. **Students must be signed in and out when leaving or returning anytime during the school day.**



It is important that children come to school on time. When students consistently arrive late, it disrupts the flow of learning in the classroom, distracts other students, impedes learning and leaves a child feeling lost, frustrated and behind. Many behaviour issues arise when a child comes to school late.

This year the District will continue to use an automated phone callout system to parents of students who are absent without notification. Be advised that the automated system will call all of your phone numbers, including emergency phone numbers, until someone is contacted regarding a student's absence. Help our office by leaving a message on our answering machine or by contacting the school when your child will be away or late. Thank you.

Literacy and Numeracy Focus

This year's academic focus will continue to be on literacy and numeracy. Go to the public library and have your child pick out books of interest. The public library is free and has many resources such as dvd's, magazines and maker space devices. When driving in the car, take time to quiz your child on their basic number facts. Solid basic numeracy skills will aid your child in understanding math concepts.



French and Cree

A reminder that students in grades 4 – 6 will be studying either Cree or French as a Second Language. In addition, kindergarten to grade 3 students may take Cree as a Second Language. Please inform the office if you would like your child to take Cree language classes.

Medical Alert and Dispensing of Medication



To ensure that the staff is informed about your child's medical needs, **contact the office** to fill out a Medical Alert form. It is to be filled out **ONLY IF YOUR CHILD REQUIRES A MEDICAL ALERT** (for example Diabetes, severe allergies, asthma, epilepsy, etc.). The information will be kept private among staff.

For some students to maintain their physical and/or emotional well-being in the school setting, it may be necessary for them to receive medication and/or medical treatment during the course of the school day. Edmonton Catholic School policy requires that a **form be signed by a doctor** indicating the nature and dispensing instructions for those students taking medication at school. Non-prescription drugs purchased by parents may be administered to students only when the **appropriate forms are filled out**. These can be obtained from the office.

Taxes

Please review your tax notice to ensure your support is assigned to Edmonton Catholic Schools. If there is any error or doubt, please call City Hall at 780-496-5090.

Mass Times

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples

Saturday 8:30 am

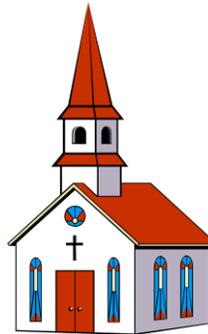
Sunday 10:00 am , 11:30 am, 7:00 pm

No mass during the week

St. John the Evangelist

Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm



From our Parish Office St. John the Evangelist:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is a quick reminder that St. John the Evangelist Parish preparation programs for the sacraments of first Reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion) (gr. 2 and up), Confirmation (gr. 6 and up), and Baptism will start in the fall. Please contact the Parish office to come in for a short meeting with your child to register. If you belong to another Parish, please contact their Office or check their website to find out when their programs are and how to register.

Blessings,

Sophie, Linda, Fr. Dean

St. John the Evangelist Parish

9830 – 148 St., 780 452- 3988

Pastoral Assistant email: sophie.ogle@caedm.ca

General Parish email: stjohnevangelist.edm@caedm.ca

www.stjohnevangelist.edm.caedm.ca

APPLE Schools



Alberta Project Promoting
active Living & healthy Eating

Our Lady of Peace is proud to be an APPLE School. APPLE Schools is an innovative school-focused health promotion initiative that improves the lives of more than 16,500 students annually in 63 schools across Northern Alberta through healthy eating, physical activity and mental health. To help us maintain this initiative please send your children to school with healthy, nut free snacks such as fruit, veggies, crackers and cheese for recess time.

Protocol for Parent Concerns

Edmonton Catholic Schools recognizes the freedom of all members of the school community (students, staff, parents and neighbours) to voice their concerns in an appropriate manner to the appropriate school personnel. The principle of “**first contact**” needs to be followed (Administrative Procedure 152). This means that the person(s) who have the concern have the responsibility to begin addressing the concern **directly** with those persons with whom they have the concern before taking their concern elsewhere. If a resolution is not found, then involve school administration and School Operations Services as needed. All parties will deal with concerns in a manner that is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.