



## MONTH AT-A-GLANCE: MARCH 2021



### MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since last March when the pandemic became a bleak reality for everyone in our community and across the world. During this past year, and now especially during the Lenten season, we are reminded of how very precious life is, how much we love our family, how much we appreciate our friends, how we can make a difference for those who need us. Now more than ever we are called to be disciples, to act with kindness, compassion, understanding and patience - to work together, support one another, and to live a life guided by love and hope.

*“Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Pope Francis said it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be “willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference”. In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn.”*

*Pope Francis (Feb. 17, 2021)*



Heavenly Father,

Despite the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, we have faith that your love guides us. We give you thanks and praise for the goodness that shines through the relationships formed, knowledge learned, and memories made through our school. Loving God, we ask that you protect the students, staff, and families of St. Pius X. Bless the body, mind, and soul of every member of our school community. May we celebrate your glory and use our gifts to build your kingdom of peace.  
In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Mrs. T. Sauer – Assistant Principal  
Mrs. P. Binassi-D'Amours - Principal

### INTENTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

**\*\*\* NEW for 2021/22**

**Communication from ECSD was sent to families on February 22 to explain how to select their 'Intentions for Next Year' in [PowerSchool](#) . This must be done by parents/guardians for each student by March 22, 2021.**

**We are encouraging families to select 'In-Person Learning' for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Students attending school in-person will be learning from a dedicated teacher, alongside their peers, and will be able to access supports as needed. We believe in-person learning is the best environment – academically, socially, and emotionally - for students from Kindergarten to Grade Six. **Selecting In-Person Learning is a commitment for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year.****

If 'Online Learning' is selected, ECSD has dedicated an online school for Elementary/Junior High that students throughout the city can be enrolled in for the upcoming school year. Parents/guardians who choose online learning **will most likely be required to leave St. Pius X school and be registered as a full-time student at the online school - online learning is not guaranteed to be offered at St. Pius X.** Online students can only return to in-school learning for Term II (February 1, 2022).

Please note: Online Learning is best suited for:

- Students who have medical issues which make in-person classes difficult.
- Students who have parents or caregivers that can partner with the school to support the student in his/her learning.
- Students who are very independent, highly motivated, capable of regular and active attendance/participation, and are very skilled at navigating daily routines/expectations of the classroom using technology.

## CHANGE IN LEARNING STANCE

### Return to School For 2020-2021 School Year

As we move forward in Term II (February to June), some families who selected online learning for students in Grades 1-6 may now feel that their children would benefit from returning to school in person. We have welcomed many children back to in-person learning since the beginning of Term II! Should you wish to change your child's learning stance from online to at school, you are asked to contact the office to discuss the possibility of returning to school for Term II. Requests will be addressed/accommodated on a case-by-case basis by administration.

## COVID-19 GUIDELINES

It is expected that all stakeholders are familiar with, and adhere to, the **ECSD Re-entry Handbook** which is regularly updated by the Division. [The ECSD Re-entry Handbook](#)

## DAILY SELF ASSESSMENT

**Parents/caregivers must assess their child for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 every day before sending them to school.** Staff will assess themselves daily for the same symptoms.

Any student/staff/parent/guardian who enters the school grounds or school building must complete a daily self assessments: [healthassessmentchecklist](#).

**\*Any person who selects "yes" on any of the screening questions will not be permitted to enter the school, pending testing/results for COVID-19.**

## PARKING

Traffic Safety and Traffic Violations:

**\*There is no drop-off, pick-up, or parking in the bus zone or handicapped zone in front of the school, or within FIVE METERS of the marked crosswalk.**

**\*Please do not enter the staff parking lot at any time throughout the day.**

As an entire school community, we must work together to ensure that our children are safe before and after school. Please set a positive example when you are driving and parking around schools. Please abide by the following:

- **Do not block or obscure the pedestrian crosswalks or school patrollers.**
- **Do not Jay Walk in front of the school. Please use the cross walk.**
- **Do not make U-turns in front of the school.**
- **Do not park or stop in marked bus zones.**

## BUS PASSES/FEES

Reminder: bus pass fees are **\$35.00 per child due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.** Please note that all fees are to be paid through PowerSchool.

## SCHOOL FEES: 2020-2021

Please note the following School Fees – in effect as of November 1, 2020 (based on September 2 learning stance choice and November 10 learning stance choice):

Kindergarten – **At school: \$16.00**

Kindergarten – **Online: \$12.00**

Grades 1-6 – **At School: \$36.00**

Grades 1-6 – **Online: \$18.00**

\*Please note that all fees are to be paid through PowerSchool as of November 1, 2020.

## MARCH - FLASHBACK FRIDAYS

Our Grade Six Student Leadership Team has planned a very fun and special event coming up in March - Flashback Friday! Every week we will be taking a trip down memory lane. The first week is 80's, the second week 90's, and the last week will be 2000's. Every week students and staff are encouraged to dress up from the decade. Monday is 'Music Monday', Tuesday is 'Trivia Tuesday', Wednesday is 'Wacky Hair Wednesday', Thursday is 'Toy Thursday', and finally, 'Flashback Friday' - a review of everything learned throughout the week!

### CELEBRATION OF LEARNING/PARENT MEETINGS

Information regarding the scheduling of brief online/virtual meetings to discuss student learning/progress will take place this month. Teachers will be providing further information for scheduling a time to meet. Meetings will occur online, through TEAMS, and will last approximately 10 minutes on the afternoons of **March 17 and March 24 from 3:30-6:00 PM.**

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL

ECSD has dedicated Thursday, **March 18<sup>th</sup>** as a day of professional and faith development for all staff. School is canceled for this day.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next School Council meeting will be held on **April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**, organized by SC via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please email School Council Chair, Rayanne Fuhr, at [stpxschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stpxschoolcouncil@gmail.com).

We would like to thank our School Council for generously providing Shrove Tuesday pancakes for students and staff.

### 2021-2022 NEW REGISTRATIONS

Registrations are to be completed online for the upcoming school year. **Please locate the new 2021-2022 registration document at [ecsd.net](https://www.ecsd.net).** Note: Kindergarten students must turn 5 on or before December 31, 2021.

### GRADE 6 TO 7 TRANSITION

February 16, 2021 marked the first day parents were able to access the Parent Portal to declare which junior high school they intend to register their child in for the 2021-2022 school year.

Parents are expected to log in and identify the current school their child is in, identify the designated school for next year and indicate the intention of attending the designated school as 'Yes', 'No' or 'No-Selecting Online'. (If parents

select 'NO' or 'No-Selecting Online', then they will be asked to identify a school from a drop-down menu). Should you have any questions, or require assistance, please contact the office.

### VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE – KINDERGARTEN

Mark your calendars and help spread the word! If you know of any families that have children who are ready to attend Kindergarten, please spread the good word about our great school! Our virtual Open House will take place on **March 25 at 6:00 PM**. More information will be posted to the school website.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH:

Spring Break:

**Full Day THURSDAY** – March 25<sup>th</sup> – Regular Dismissal: 3:00 PM

**Half Day FRIDAY** - March 26<sup>th</sup> – Early Dismissal: 11:56 AM

**Spring Break: March 29 – April 5: *Classes resume Tuesday, April 6 following Easter Monday.***

### FOLLOW US:

SOCIAL MEDIA!

You can find us at:

X @StPiusXECSD  
X St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School

