



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

For immediate release
May 20, 2004

News Release

School Program Closures Due To Impending Strike

The Edmonton Catholic School District will cancel programs for students with severe special educational programming needs as Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association employees prepare to walk off the job as of Tuesday morning, May 25. The district cannot ensure the safety of these students who are reliant on assistant support during the school day. The following programs for children will NOT operate during the strike:

- **Educational Experiences 1** – elementary, junior high and senior high (37 students)
- **Educational Experiences 2** – elementary, junior high and senior high (93 students)
- **Positive Transitions Program** – junior high (40 students)
- **Positive Development Program** – elementary (88 students)
- **Extended Experiences** – full-day programming for kindergarten students at 13 schools (195 students). During a strike the program the regular kindergarten program will continue and the Extended Experiences portion of the program will be cancelled. School bus transportation has been changed and students will return home via school bus after the regular kindergarten program.

The 13 schools that have Extended Experiences Kindergarten are: Annunciation, Our Lady of Peace, St. Catherine, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Edmund, St. Elizabeth, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Gerard, St. Jerome, St. Justin, St. Leo, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Pius X.

Students in the Educational Experiences 1 and 2 programs have moderate to severe developmental delays that require intensive and on-going assistance and supervision. Positive Transitions Program and Positive Development Program students have severe emotional and behavior issues. Extended Experiences full-day programming for kindergarten students is for at-risk children with literacy and social skill development concerns. A letter will go home tomorrow to parents and be followed up by phone calls on Friday afternoons.

In addition, Principals at all schools will make decisions about severe special needs students in the regular classroom setting on an individual basis and will notify parents. There are 400 students with special needs in regular classroom settings throughout the school district.

For more information call:

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