

Quick Calendar:

DECEMBER DAILY: ART of ADVENT

- **DEC 24:**
CHRISTMAS EVE
- **DEC 25:**
CHRISTMAS DAY
- **DEC 26:**
BOXING DAY

**NOTE THAT SCHOOLS AND
MANY ECSD OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED OVER THE
CHRISTMAS BREAK:**

**DEC 20TH 2021
THROUGH
JANUARY 4TH 2022**

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



SOMETHING TO ADD?

If you would like to contribute to future newsletters with events, features, memories, poetry, photos or have content suggestions, please email submissions before the first of the month to:

STAFFALUMNI@ECSD.NET

ECSD STAFF ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

ECSD presents The 'Art Of Advent'

Our 2021 Virtual Advent Calendar

Edmonton's Catholic Schools have returned to the virtual stage for the 2021-2022 school year to highlight the extraordinary and incredible things happening across the Division in the area of Fine Arts. Along with these works of art, daily Advent messages from Father Glenn McDonald and Father Julian Bilyj will be shared, in addition to prayers and lessons created by Religious Services.

Remember to come back each day for another offering from our talented students and staff!

From Superintendent Robert Martin:

The Art of Advent is back for its second year, celebrating the amazing things happening throughout our Division in the area of Fine Arts! The virtual calendar launched on the First Sunday of Advent and has already attracted views from around the world.

Have you seen the students of Louis St. Laurent turn their entire school into a Broadway stage? Or witnessed the creative editing from the cohort-friendly, school-wide rendition of "Come, Emmanuel" featuring St. Boniface students? What about St. Francis Xavier's Elijah Halfe's performance and introduction of the Men's Fancy Dance? And don't forget about the curated gallery of artwork from across the Division posted daily.

There are dozens of reasons to bookmark The Art of Advent and check in daily. On top of Advent-themed arts performances, we have daily reflections from Father Glenn McDonald and Father Julian Bilyj, weekly prayers, and Advent-themed activities for the family. While I can't tell you what's coming next, I can assure you that our amazing Fine Arts team is just getting started.

Please support the virtual calendar and our Fine Arts team's hard work by visiting The Art of Advent page and spreading the word about this innovative project designed to bring our ECSD family together as we patiently and prayerfully prepare for Christmas.



Special Feature:

ECS Centennial 1988

from Donna Swiniarski

The other day I was searching my photo files; looking for a particular Halloween photo, when I came across another October photograph, this one from 1988.



Dove of Peace Project
Eddie Williams Donna Henry Kuster
October 28/88

Who remembers working for the Edmonton Catholic School District (ECSD) in 1988, during the year of celebrations to recognize the District's centennial?

As the District's Community Relations Coordinator at that time, I found myself in the thick of things, leading a team of employees and Edmonton's Catholic community in planning and actioning a number of events to remind the greater public of the

history of the ECSD and its values and contributions to Edmonton. This was showcased through celebrations that included the production of an historical video, commissioning a commemorative painting, hosting a Western Canadian Catholic Education Conference and resurrecting the Dove of Peace canopy that had been built as a backdrop for Pope John Paul II's 1984 papal visit.

The Dove's frame was erected in Edmonton's river valley and a burial vault interred below it as a time capsule to hold representative items of the year 1988 and in particular, Edmonton Catholic Schools' documents and memorabilia. This capsule is to be opened in 2088, the 200th anniversary of the ECSD.

Among those of us who have dedicated part of our lives to the ECSD there exists a strong faith in the continued value and purpose of Catholic education. This has become especially relevant given the current state of world affairs.

There is no doubt in my mind that because of its strong focus on faith and community Edmonton Catholic Schools will be alive and well, and will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2088.



NOTICES:

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE: DECEMBER 2021

<https://www.ecsd.net/page/38482/chief-superintendent-s-message-december-2021>

ST BASIL: SCHOOL CLOSURE CONSULTATION

The Board of Trustees hereby provides notice that a motion regarding the closure of St. Basil Catholic Elementary /Junior High, effective Thursday, June 30, 2022, be considered at the Board of Trustee's public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022

The Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting for parents, guardians, students, and other persons regarding the proposed closure of St. Basil Catholic Elementary/Junior High School. At the meeting, ECSD will share information, including the rationale, the plans for students, and the timelines for decision making. The meeting will be held on **Monday, January 17, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees welcomes your input and invites you to provide comments at: engagement@ecsd.net

Please note all written and video submissions must be received by **Monday, January 24, 2022**

For more information, visit:

<https://www.ecsd.net/page/38344/notice-regarding-st-basil-school>

NOTICES CONTD. :**OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL:
CLOSURE OF JR HIGH
PROGRAM**

The Board of Trustees hereby provides notice that a motion regarding the closure of the Grade 7, 8 and 9 located at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary/ Junior High School, Thursday, June 30, 2022, be considered at the Board of Trustees' public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022

The Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting for parents, guardians, students, and other persons regarding the proposed closure and relocation of the junior high program. At the meeting, ECSD will share information, including the rationale, the plans for students, and timelines for decision making. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 20, 2022**
Time: 7 p.m.

The Board of Trustees welcomes your input and invites you to provide comments at: engagement@ecsd.net.

Please note all written and video submissions must be received by **Monday, January 24, 2022**

For more information, visit:

[https://www.ecsd.net/
page/38345/notice-regarding-
our-lady-of-mount-carmel-school](https://www.ecsd.net/page/38345/notice-regarding-our-lady-of-mount-carmel-school)

Our Common Home

Exciting Things Are Happening...

Our Common Home is reading ready for the next phase...Construction! All flooring, mechanical, and electrical elements have been removed. Crews have also started the demolition of some interior walls.

Want to see a virtual tour of the new spaces?

[OUR COMMON HOME VIRTUAL TOUR](#)



From the Archives...

St Joseph High School Yearbooks

Looking for some Nostalgia? We have been hard at work with St Joseph High School, digitizing their school yearbooks from 1948-Present! These volumes are wonderful time capsules of everyday life at St Joe's, and yield a unique thread in the tapestry of local Edmonton history as well.



Note that the first 5 volumes (1948-1952) also contain yearbook content from the former St Mary's Girls' High school (also known as the Third Street School), prior to its closure and amalgamation with St Joe's.

All yearbooks are available in PDF format here, via the Official Webpage for St Joseph High school:

<https://www.ecsd.net/8407/page/16760/yearbooks-1948-present>

Do you have old yearbooks or school memorabilia looking for a good home? We are happy to accept donations of these items to our collections. Contact us any time by phone at 780-439-7356 or by email at archives@ecsd.net



NOTICES CONTD.:

RELIGIOUS SERVICES BOOK CLUB

Any ECSD staff alumni who enjoy reading books while growing in faith, and are interested in joining a faith-filled division-wide book club? Susanna Kaup is looking for book club members to join her in exploring various books. Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday evening of the month (October 13th - February 9th) from 4pm - 5pm (TBD virtually or in person depending on Covid). Our first book will be Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life*.

For more information or to register, please send Susanna an email at Susanna.Kaup@ecsd.net

SAGE

Did you know the SAGE offers a wide variety of virtual drop-in activities, classes and supports for seniors in our city? Visit their webpage and December activity calendar here:

<https://www.mysage.ca/>

<https://www.mysage.ca/about-us/news/post/85883>

MISSING AN ISSUE?

You can find all past issues of this newsletter on our Staff Alumni webpage here:

<https://www.ecsd.net/9002/page/35725/staff-alumni-newsletter>

Health & Wellbeing

Staying Safe and Active in the Winter

Physical activity is an important part of healthy living and aging. Walking is just one winter activity to get you moving! Regular physical activity during the winter months could include walking, snow shoeing, or shoveling. Get creative and have fun this winter! It is important to be prepared for winter walking conditions. Many things can impact your safety while you walk including footwear, balance, medication, distractions, and environmental factors such as temperature and snowfall.

BEFORE WALKING:

- Monitor the forecast and plan ahead. Dress in layers so you are prepared for changing winterweather. Stay warm by wearing a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- Wear bright or reflective gear so you can be seen by drivers, cyclists, and other walkers.
- Choose warm, stable footwear -- look for well-insulated and lightweight footwear with a non-slip tread sole.
- Consider a cane or walking poles, use ice grippers on footwear and assistive devices when outside.

DURING YOUR WALK:

- Be aware of your surroundings and scan for hazards. Black ice is often not visible to the eye.
- Watch for ice, cracks, and uneven or changing surfaces. Be safe! Walk on designated, and clearpaths. Try walking with a friend. Take your time and ask for help if needed.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets to help stay balanced.
- Give time to let your eyes adjust when going from outdoors to indoors or vice versa.

AFTER YOU WALK:

- Assess how you feel. If you are sore, switch to shorter walks and gradually increase your walking time.
- Enjoy a glass of water. Dehydration can make you dizzy, which increases the risk of falling.



NOTICES CONTD. :**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

www.ecsfoundation.ca

or by phone at **(780) 459-5511**.

SPAIN & PORTUGAL

THIS SMALL GROUP ADULT TOUR PRICE OF **\$3,995.00** IS
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In Memoriam



Full Memorial messages and information regarding funeral arrangements may be found on our In Memoriam page here:

[IN MEMORIAM](#)

It is our hope that these memorials convey the gifts and vitality of these individuals and serve as fitting tributes to them. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

VICTOR POULIN - NOV 4TH

HENRY RAKOWSKI - NOV 27TH

