



Newsletter

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Powerschool: <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>, website: <http://www.stbrendan.ecsd.net>

October 2019 at a Glance

- School Fees
- Makerspace Conference
- Picture Retakes
- Thanksgiving Celebration
- Ukrainian Bilingual Awards Night
- Student Vote 2019
- Inclement Weather
- Peanut Awareness
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- Parking/Student drop-off
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- Cross Country Run
- Terry Fox Run
- Grade 7 Retreat
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have survived September! I am incredibly impressed with the positive attitudes, big smiles and great work witnessed in our classrooms and hallways during the first month of our school year.

I especially am appreciative of our new students and staff from St. Gabriel school, blending in quickly and feeling at home in this transition time. We have a total of 574 students enrolled in our school. That is 76 students more than last year's total of 498.

Our school family is growing and evolving in number and in many positive directions. It has been great seeing our St. Brendan Falcon's soccer teams and our elementary cross-country runners represent us in ECSD competitions throughout September. We are very proud of them. The boys and girls soccer teams are entering the playoff season this week, so GO FALCONS!

Thank you all for supporting our Terry Fox run donation drive. We'll know in a few hours if we reached our goal of \$2890 for myself to shave my head for Cancer research. Ms. Matchak and Mr. Hirniak will also colour their hair for the cause. Stay tuned...

We also are doing a school-wide Social Justice project coordinated by our FSLW Ms. Manzulenko for career support for adults with disabilities in our community. Please fill up the plastic bag you have received with any clothing or working items that you don't use anymore. Donated items will be given over to Value Village for sale and in that way raise money for the group called Selections Career Support Services - supporting disabled adults.

We have our first School Council meeting in the school Learning Commons on Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30 pm. We have an elected executive, but all parents are members and are welcome to join and give input on the work and plans of the St. Brendan School (parent) Council.

Lastly, a reminder that starting tomorrow, all school payments will be online only. Our office staff is there to support you, in learning how to do this, if you have not yet paid fees online. We even have a computer in the office you can make a payment on. We will no longer be taking cash payments.

I encourage you to pray together as family to give thanks for all our good Lord has provides for us in this month of Thanksgiving. God bless you.

Mr. T. Podilsky
Principal



School Council Meeting
Please join us!
October 1st 6:30 pm

Next Newsletter
October 31st.



PRAYER OF ST. BRENDAN

*"Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You."*
AMEN.

School Fees

Elementary Fees

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Kindergarten Agenda | \$10.00 |
| Kindergarten Technology | \$20.00 |
| Kindergarten Total | <u>\$30.00</u> |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Gr. 1–6 School Activities | \$10.00 |
| Gr. 1–6 Technology | \$25.00 |
| Student Agenda | \$10.00 |
| Gr. 1–6 Total | <u>\$45.00</u> |

Grade 4: Music Recorder \$10.00

Yearbook (optional) \$10.00

Junior High Fees

| <u>Course Name</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|
|--------------------|---------------|

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|--------------------|---------|
| Supplementary fees | \$55.00 |
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|-----|---------|
| Art | \$20.00 |
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| Foods | \$20.00 |
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| Dance | \$ 5.00 |
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| Drama | \$ 5.00 |
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| Spanish Drama | \$ 5.00 |
|---------------|---------|

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|-------------------|---------|
| Outdoor Education | \$50.00 |
|-------------------|---------|

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| CTF | \$20.00 |
|-----|---------|

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| Band: if using school instrument | \$50.00 |
|----------------------------------|---------|

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|---|---------|
| Band: if student owns instrument or rents from outside source | \$10.00 |
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|---------------------|---------|
| Locks (replacement) | \$ 5.00 |
|---------------------|---------|

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|---------------------|---------|
| Yearbook (Optional) | \$40.00 |
|---------------------|---------|

Benefits to using the Online Payment system:

- * Money will never be lost!
- * Fees are applied to student's account immediately.
- * Parents can earn airmiles/points

We would appreciate your support in paying these fees as soon as possible.

Makerspace Conference

Makerspace Conference for grades 4-6 is Oct. 19th, from 8:30am-2:00pm at Monsignor Fee Otterson School. Forms are due this Friday, October 4th.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will take place on **Monday, October 28th**. **Please note that if your child is absent on picture day of September 30th and October 1st, they will not be in the class photo.

Students should **NOT** wear **GREEN** as the photographer uses a green screen background system that provides parents with a selection of 30 backgrounds.

Thanksgiving

Our Thanksgiving Celebration will take place in the school gym on Friday, October 11th, at **9:00 am**. Please join us to celebrate our spirit of thanks and lend your voice to ours in song and prayer!

Ukrainian Bilingual Awards Night

On Thursday, October 3 the evening of celebration and appreciation hosted by Ukrainian Bilingual Parent Advisory Society will take place at St. Brendan School. The program includes annual scholarship/awards presentation for Ukrainian Bilingual students from elementary, junior high and the high school levels. The invitation letters have been given to the recipients of the awards.

Student Vote 2019!

On Thursday, October 17th students from Grade 5-9 will participate at the Student Vote 2019. Student Vote is an authentic learning program that provides students with the opportunity to experience the voting process firsthand and practice the habits of active and informed citizenship. They will cast ballots for the election candidates running in Edmonton Strathcona electoral district.

Inclement Weather

Severe Weather cancellation of Yellow Bus Service - ALL PROGRAMS. A message will be sent to parents as well as many Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

Peanut Awareness

Please be aware that we have students and staff members who have peanut allergies. We would like to ensure the safety for all students and staff and request that only peanut free foods are sent to the school.



School Office

In order for the office staff to efficiently serve the student and teacher community, we ask your help in **minimizing** the number of **calls** and **disruptions** to the office. Please take the time to inform your children in advance if plans will change for their pick up after school. It is also very helpful for younger children if this is written in the child's agenda. Absences can be called in the night before or in early morning and messages can be left on the answering machine.

Parents, if you receive an electronic message, please take a moment to **listen** to the content as messages often come from various Edmonton Catholic Departments. (Example: transportation services will often send an electronic message in regards to late busses, bus changes etc.) The office will not necessarily have this information in advance.

Supervision

Please note that supervision does not start until 8:20. Children should not arrive at the school before supervision begins and will be asked to wait in the school yard.

Parking / Student Drop Off

Parents, for the safety of our staff and your children, please **DO NOT** use the staff parking area or any areas assigned for Yellow Buses for student drop off and pick up. Doing so creates a safety hazard for all, as well as a traffic blockage. Thank you for your cooperation!

Snack Shack

Concession at St. Brendan has been opened for JH students, and offers students snacks and drinks at a minimal cost. Students are still encouraged to pack and bring their own healthy lunch but for those days where they have forgotten or their lunch is not enough, the Snack Shack will be open from 12:00 - 12:15 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday). Stock varies depending on availability from our suppliers. PLEASE CONSUME RESPONSIBLY!

Golf Academy

The St. Brendan Golf Academy begins the 2019-2020 year on Friday October 4 this year. Students will be learning about all of the various aspects of golf from a CPGA professional at the Evolution Golf every Friday and will eventually use their learned skills on a spring golf trip in June 2020.

Cross Country Run

On Monday, September 16th, runners from Grade 3-6 from the St. Brendan Running Club participated in the annual Edmonton Catholic Schools Cross Country Run held this year at Rundle Park. All our runners did very well! Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Masluk were pleased with their enthusiasm and school spirit. We will be starting up Running Club again in January to prepare for the Running Room Indoor Games.

Terry Fox Run

On Tuesday, September 24th, students from kindergarten to Grade 9 meet in the large gym to view a video on Terry Fox and then both ran and walked to demonstrate their support for cancer research. This year, the school set a goal of \$5/student (a high five for Terry) which came out to: \$2,825.00. We are still in the process of totalling all the donations that have come in. As of the morning of September 30th, we already have: \$2,390.00!! We are very close to our goal! Our deadline was September 30th, but we will still accept donations until Friday, October 4th! On-line is the easiest way to donate (<http://www.terryfox.ca/StBrendan>). If we reach our goal, Mr. Podilsky will shave his head!!! Thank-You to all who have already donated! There will be a final update in the November Newsletter!

Grade 7 Retreat

On Wednesday September 25, the grade 7 students of St. Brendan participated in their first retreat as junior high students. They spent the morning at St. Nicholas Parish, where the day began with a religious celebration with our district Chaplain, Father Bilyi. Next, the grade 8 and 9 Leadership students led team building games and gave the grade seven students some tips on how to survive junior high. A delicious lunch was provided and then students left for Millwoods Recreation Center, where they swam for the afternoon. Students enjoyed a day of building community and making new friends. Thank you to Mr. Shaigec, Ms. Richards, Mr. Hrynkiw, Mrs. Hernandez, Ms. Manzulenko, Mrs. Kostal and the Leadership Team, for all of their help in running a successful day.

Junior High Yearbooks

Remember to order your 2019-2020 Junior High Yearbook! Please pay on-line with Powerschool. The cost is \$40.00.

St. Brendan Junior High Yearbooks from 2018-2019 are still available for purchase through the office. The cost is also \$40.00.





STAY Alert

October 2019

Digital Citizenship

Can you believe a month has gone by since our kids have returned from summer break? Our STAY Advisors have been busy building relationships with new students, new staff and reacquainting ourselves with those students and staff from the previous years. Our goal is to build healthy relationships with as many youths as we can. Our message to our students this month is that of respecting what the Responsible Use Agreement sets out. We want to make sure that everyone abides by the conditions set out in this document

https://www.ecsd.net/ParentsStudents/ParentResources/Documents/responsible_use_agreement.pdf

We are blessed to have Wi-Fi in all our schools, allowing students access to the internet. They can use their personal devices to access the internet through WI-FI and they can use their own 4G/LTE networks. We are encouraging our students to use these networks responsibly to avoid potential issues that might affect them being able to access them.

We would ask that, as parents, you encourage your children to use technology wisely and appropriately. Our online reputations are important and they can greatly impact our future. Please continue to educate yourself in the ever-changing world of Social Media, both its perks and its pitfalls. The internet is a great place to research this information. If any parent would like to speak to a STAY member, please contact your school directly and they will help you with this. See the link for a great resource. <https://www.common sense media.org/>

Have a great month!

School Team Advisors for Youth (STAY)

Junior high schools in the Edmonton Catholic School District each have "School Team Advisors for Youth" (STAY) which are comprised of retired Police Officers.

The STAY role involves:

- Educating, mentoring, and empowering students.
- Educating and mentoring parents on the realities their children face each day by raising parent awareness on these issues.
- Educating and mentoring staff on the realities that students face each day. Working in partnership with the administration of the school to develop action plans for safety and health of all students.



The Board of Trustees and Administration of
Edmonton Catholic Schools
invite you to a

Celebration of Catholic Education

You will have the opportunity to learn & dialogue about the
philosophy & topics from the Religious Education Programs
of Study across the grades.

Please join us!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENT/GUARDIAN
ENGAGEMENT EVENINGS FALL 2019

Mass **6:30 pm**
Presentation **7:15 pm**

Wednesday, November 6
Corpus Christi Parish
2707 - 34 Street NW
Archbishop Smith Presiding

OR

Thursday, November 7
St. Charles Parish
17511 - 112 Street NW
Archbishop Smith Presiding

Please visit <http://bit.ly/ecsd-catholic-ed> by Wednesday, October 30
to register for a session

Light refreshments will be served.

THANKSGIVING - EUCHARIST - WHOM DO WE MEET IN CHRIST?

The second Monday in the month of October, every year, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is a chance for people to give thanks for a good harvest and blessings in the past year. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, let us not forget God. Let us pause this Thanksgiving weekend and take time to pray, reflect on our lives, and give thanks. Each Catholic Christian should make a real effort to attend Mass and come to the Banquet of our Lord to lift up our hearts in Thanksgiving and to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. Yes, we give thanks for the gifts of faith, Church, Sacraments and the Catholic Education in our province. We give thanks for the loved ones who are entrusted to our care and those who care for us. We give thanks for our country which has provided such great opportunities, security, and peace. In all, we give thanks and rejoice in the Lord who has blessed each of us with so much and in so many ways.

The word "Eucharist" comes from the Greek language and it means *thanksgiving*. The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers a brief definition of the word. The inexhaustible richness of the sacrament of the Eucharist, i.e. the "Mass" is expressed in the different names we give it. Each name evokes certain aspects of it. It is called: Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God. The Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* recall the Jewish blessings that proclaim — especially during a meal — God's works: creation, redemption, and sanctification (CCC 1328). As we come to the Eucharistic Banquet this Thanksgiving weekend let us pause and reflect on *Whom do we meet in Christ?*

In Christ we meet God. We meet also our true selves as God wants us to be. "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect," said Jesus (Mt. 5:48). The most important decision one has to make in life is the decision for or against Jesus Christ. Say "yes" to Jesus as Lord and you gain light, life, forgiveness, joy and eternity. Say "no" to Jesus and you throw all these away. Father Raymond L. Bruckberger, a French Dominican priest, pictures God the Father saying of Jesus: "Since I have told you everything in My Word, Who is My Son, I have no other words that can at present say anything or reveal anything to you beyond this. Fix your eyes on him alone, for in him I have told you all, revealed all, and in him you will find more even than you desire or ask. ... If you fix your eyes on him, you will find everything, for he is My whole word and my reply, he is My whole vision and My whole revelation." ... "From the day when I descended upon him with My Spirit on Mount Tabor saying, 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him!' (Mk. 9:7) I have put aside the old forms of teaching and response and I have given all to him: listen to him, because I have no further faith to reveal ... If I spoke, it was in order to promise the Christ ... in whom all good was to be found."

Who is this Jesus? He is indeed "the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, Light of Light, true God of true God ... Through Him all things were made." (Nicene Creed)

*The need of the world is Jesus.
The hunger of the world is Jesus.
The hope of the world is Jesus.
The healing of the world is Jesus.
The light of the world is Jesus.*

Resource: "Daily Vitamins for Spiritual Growth." Anthony M. Coniaris. Light and Life Publishing. Minneapolis Minnesota, 1994.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fr. Julian Bilyj, ECS D Chaplain



Walking TOGETHER in the Light of Christ

October 2019

"I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:26)

This scripture passage comes from a time that is very close to Jesus' death. He is praying to God for his disciples. It paints a beautiful picture of divine love. Jesus ensured that we knew that he loved us and named God as the source of that love. His goal is that we always know the deep and enduring nature of the glorious love of the Father and the Son for all people.

There is a very famous phrase from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*: "that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." On September 1, the new Education Act reformatted the names of school jurisdictions in Alberta. Our legal name is now Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, but we will continue to also use our familiar names of Edmonton Catholic Schools and ECSD. You can rest assured that our commitment to excellent Catholic education remains as our foundation.

Our promise to provide innovative ways to meet the needs of students is creating exciting new opportunities. We are pleased to announce that we opened up a Millwoods Campus at 7319-29 Avenue for our [Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centre](#). This classroom-based learning model is designed for students who are in their fourth and fifth year of high school and require an alternative way of finishing high school or need to upgrade Grade 12 diploma courses. The end result of this model is that our Division has outstanding high school completion rates, excellent transition rates, and a very low drop out rate. We are so pleased to be able to now offer this educational option in the south side of the city.

We have some upcoming opportunities for parents and guardians to engage in various aspects of our faith and faith formation. Edmonton Catholic Schools is proud to be sponsoring an evening with the highly engaging Father Richard Leonard as part of Newman Theological College's 50th anniversary celebrations. The session is on Tuesday, October 29 from 7-9 pm at the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, 8421 - 101 Avenue. Visit www.newman.edu/FrLeonard to register for this free public lecture.

ECSD will be offering 2 identical sessions, one at Corpus Christi Parish (Nov. 6) and one at St. Charles Parish (Nov. 7) from 6:30 - 8 pm, that will provide parents and guardians with the opportunity to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Smith and then learn more about the religious education programs of study across the grades. Please visit <http://bit.ly/religiouseducation> by Wednesday, October 30 to find out more and to register.

Pope Francis shared a tweet on August 27 that is a lovely reflection of our yearly theme and the learning that takes place in our Edmonton Catholic Schools. He shared, "The light of God enlightens those who welcome it." Our work with the over 44,300 students who join us each day is to help them to welcome that light into their hearts and minds!




Have a blessed Thanksgiving and month of October!

Sincerely,
Joan Carr

Superintendent



October

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | | 1 Day 4 Picture Day for gr. G-6 | 2 Day 5 Custodian Appreciation Day | 3 Day 2a | 4 Day 6 Gr. 4-6 Makerspace Forms Due | 5 World Teacher Day |
| 6 | 7 Day 1 Gr. 7 Band Clinic | 8 Day 2 | 9 Day 3 Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2  | 10 Staff PD NO SCHOOL | 11 Day 4 Thanksgiving Celebration | 12 |
| Read-In week | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 No School  Happy Thanksgiving | 15 Day 5 | 16 Day 6 Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2  | 17 Flex Student Vote | 18 Day 1 | 19 Makerspace Conference |
| 20 | 21 Day 2 Federal Election | 22 Day 3 | 23 Day 4 Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2  | 24 Day 2p School Spirit Day | 25 Day 5 | 26 |
| CCAT FOR GR. 6 | | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 Day 6 Picture Retakes  | 29 Day 1 | 30 Day 2 Skating for K, Gr. 1 & 2  | 31 Flex Halloween Dance for JH students | November 1 | Young Authors Conference |
| CCAT FOR GR. 6 | | | | | | |