

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

We are excited to see all of our students return to school on January 5th.

Epiphany is Tuesday, January 6th. It is the culmination of the Advent/Christmas Season and it is the last of the twelve days of Christmas, which are counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th. The term epiphany means “to show” or “to reveal”. It remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child.

Epiphany is a time for us to remember to reach out to others and “show” Jesus as the Savior of all people. Wishing you all the very best in 2026.



Mme Marlene Forest-Wallace
Principal

Mme Brigitte Levasseur
Assistant Principal

École Holy Cross School Hours:

Kindergarten

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Kindergarten AM – 8:20am – 11:27am

Kindergarten PM – 11:57am – 3:04pm

Thursday

No School for Kindergarten

Grade 1 to Grade 9

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

8:20am - First Bell

8:25am - Second Bell, classes begin

3:03pm – Dismissal

Thursday Early Dismissal

8:20am – First Bell

8:25am – Second Bell, classes begin

12:02pm - Dismissal

Exit door for pick up at the end of the day

Door #5 - Kindergarten

Door #2 – Grade 34A, Grade 4A, Grade 5A, Grade 56A, Grade 6A

Door #3 – Grade 1A, Grade 1B, Grade 2A, Grade 2B, Grade 3A

Celebrating Success at Holy Cross



Fresh snow, fast runs, and big goals ahead! ❄️🏂

Looking forward to many competitions with the Snow Valley Ski Racing Club.

Congratulations to Regional Gold Medal Winner Anniston Bell! 🏅

Learning French Not just for Students

Mme Hartt, It is amazing when the exact french word for the situation flows flawlessly in your conversation with our students.

We appreciate your effort to learn and speak french in the office. Bravo!



Advent Celebration December 12, 2025

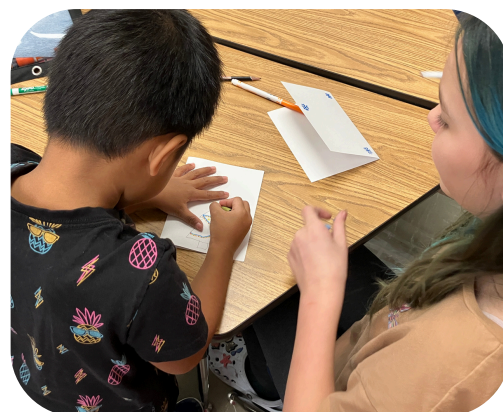
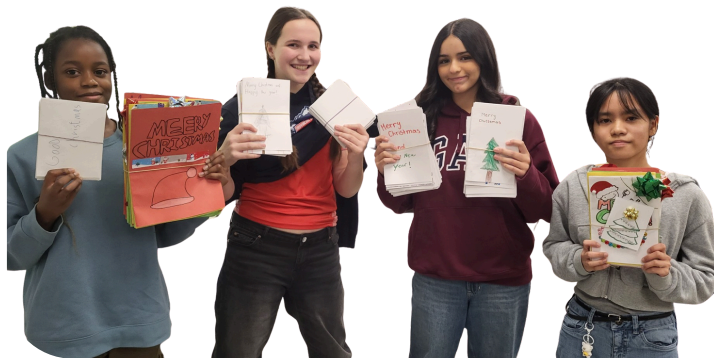
On December 12, students and staff came together for a joyful Advent celebration filled with prayer, songs, and moments of reflection. Students were encouraged to think about hope, kindness, and how to prepare their hearts for Christmas. This special gathering strengthened our sense of community and highlighted the spirit of peace, togetherness, and anticipation that makes the Advent season so meaningful. The celebration was a memorable experience and a beautiful way for our school community to prepare for Christmas.



Cards for the Bissell Centre - Grade 1 and Grade 9

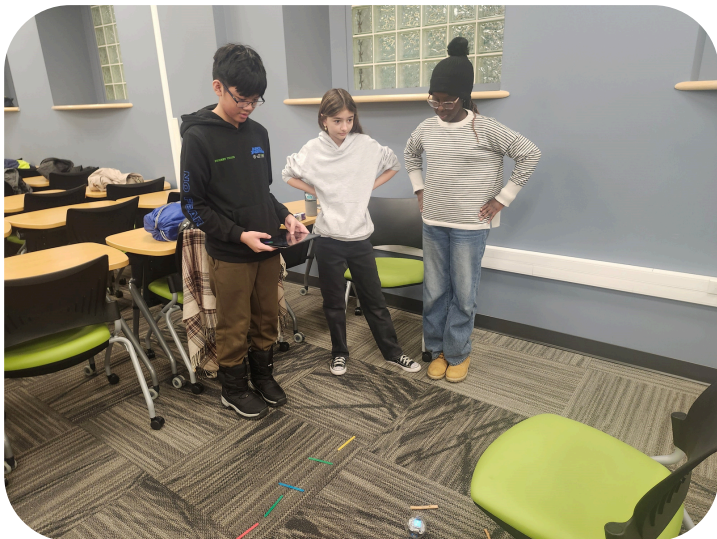
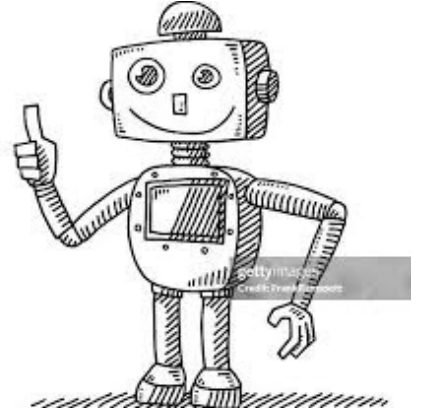
Once again, this year, students worked in buddy classes to create Christmas cards for people experiencing homelessness who receive support from Boyle Street Services.

Together, they made over 150 cards.
Thank you for your kindness!



CTF - Robotics visit to the Faculté Saint Jean

Our Robotics class visited Campus Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta, where students participated in a variety of engaging activities and enjoyed a guided tour of the university. They also had the opportunity to ask questions, learn more about university life, and received a small gift from the university. The visit ended with a treat from Café à la Bicyclette, where students enjoyed a chocolate croissant.



Classroom Activities 3A

Grade 3 students conducted a science research activity on classroom computers to explore factors that can affect the surface of the Earth. Using kid-friendly websites and digital tools, students researched how natural forces like water, wind, ice, and human activities such as building and farming can change Earth's surface over time. Students practiced finding information, taking simple notes, and discussing what they learned with classmates. This activity helped build students' understanding of Earth science concepts while strengthening their digital literacy and research skills.



Gym Activity

Grade 3 students in the gym playing a basketball. This activity focused on developing basic movement and teamwork skills. Students practiced fundamental skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting through fun drills and small-group games. The activity encouraged cooperation, coordination, and fair play while promoting physical fitness and confidence. Students showed enthusiasm and improved their skills as they worked together and followed game rules.



Christmas Art Activities

Grade 3 students participated in some Christmas art activities that allowed them to express their creativity while celebrating the holiday season. Students used a variety of materials to create festive artwork such as Christmas trees, christmas decorations and christmas cards (with Grade 6 students the clients of the Bissell Centre). They practiced cutting, colouring, and assembling their designs while exploring patterns and colours. The activity encouraged creativity, fine motor skills, and pride in their work. Students were engaged and enthusiastic as they shared their finished artwork with classmates.

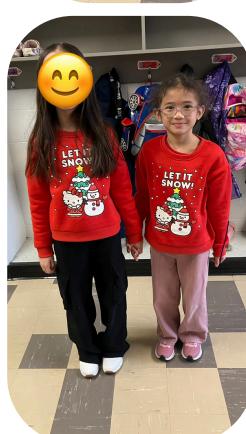
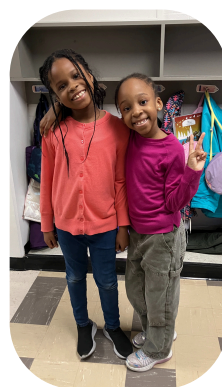


Grade 2 - Visit to The Telus World of Science

In December, the grade 2 classes had the opportunity to learn about coding while attending a program at The Telus World of Science. The students explored different challenges as they used their creativity to make algorithms that made the Finches (robots) move, light up, make sounds, and perform! The students also visited the Jurassic World by Brickman exhibit. They saw dinosaurs created entirely with Lego blocks and were able to create their projects using a variety of Lego blocks.

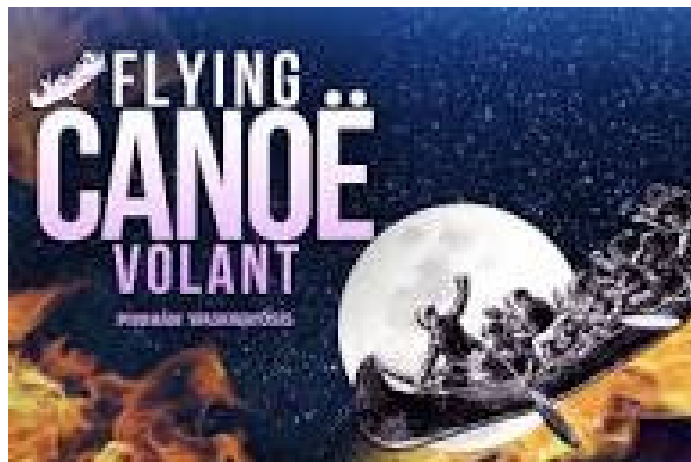


Grade 1 - Twin Day... and one set of triplets



Grade 9 - Flying Canoë Volant

The Canoë Volant is a cultural, creative and interactive event designed to celebrate local Indigenous and Francophone history and the magic of a long winter night. Grade 9 students were lucky enough to take part in a sneak peek of this event and participate in Indigenous storytelling and Francophone music. They played the spoons while singing French songs and got to learn about wayfinding and Métis peoples who lived around Edmonton and the Red River. It was a great way to start off the 2026 year and get them interested in going to the festival with their families! The Canoë Volant takes place January 28th to the 31st near Campus Saint-Jean.



Welcome to École Holy Cross School

Hello Families,

My name is Madame Gertrude, and I am delighted to be joining the community at Holy Cross School. I am an active member of Corpus Christi Parish, where I have spent the past three years teaching Children's Liturgy and coordinating the annual summer camp.

I bring a diverse range of teaching experience, from kindergarten through adult education, and have taught in settings ranging from Northern Alberta to Southeast Asia. I am passionate about language learning and currently speak French, intermediate Spanish and Japanese, and beginner Vietnamese.

I am especially committed to supporting children in maintaining their mother tongue here in Canada—a goal that can be challenging but incredibly meaningful for families.

I look forward to meeting you and working together to support your children's learning and growth.

Yours in Christ,

Madame Gertrude








Bonjour! My name is Kelly Paltzat. I am excited to be joining Holy Cross School as an Educational Assistant. I have worked with Elk Island Public Schools as an Educational Assistant for the past 3 years. I have 2 daughters aged 12 and 15. They keep me very busy playing competitive softball and volleyball. I am a huge animal lover! I have 2 doodle dogs, and we just recently rescued a budgie from our yard that has now become our pet! In my spare time, I love to read, travel, go camping and spend time outdoors whether it's downhill skiing or gardening. I look forward to a fun year with the amazing staff and students at Holy Cross!

Recess Club

We are excited to offer recess clubs to Grade 4-6 and Grade 7-9 students beginning this month. Grade 1-3 clubs will take place in the spring.

Grade 7-9 Clubs starting Monday, January 12

Junior High students are asked to sign up directly with the staff member running the club if they are interested. All other students will continue to have recess outdoors. Daily homework club is ongoing!

-  Lundi **Haltérophilie** (workout room avec M. Gnoan)
-  Lundi **Lecture** (bibliothèque avec M. Jidiri)
-  Mardi **Maths** (#009 avec Mme Saliba)
-  Mardi **Haltérophilie** (workout room avec M. Gnoan)
-  Vendredi **Library Team** (bibliothèque avec Mme Hartt)

Grade 4-6 Clubs starting Tuesday, January 20

Students can choose to go outside at recess or attend a club. We welcome students in the order of their arrival until a maximum of 20 is reached.

-  Lundi **Art** (bibliothèque avec Mme Levasseur)
-  Mardi **Maths** (#201 avec Mme Shipka)
-  Mardi **Wellness** (bibliothèque avec Mme Laura)
-  Mercredi **Library Team** (bibliothèque avec Mme Hartt)
-  Vendredi **Japonais** (#206 avec Mme Gertrude)

After School Programs

We are pleased to continue offering after-school tutoring to support students Grades 4-9. Francophonie Albertaine Plurielle (FRAP) provides support to small groups or individual students, when possible, in French.

The program will resume Monday, January 12. Sessions take place from 3:15pm to 4:15pm on Monday and Wednesday.

If your child is not already participating and you would like them to attend, please contact the office for registration.

[FRAP tutoring student
Registration Form](#)

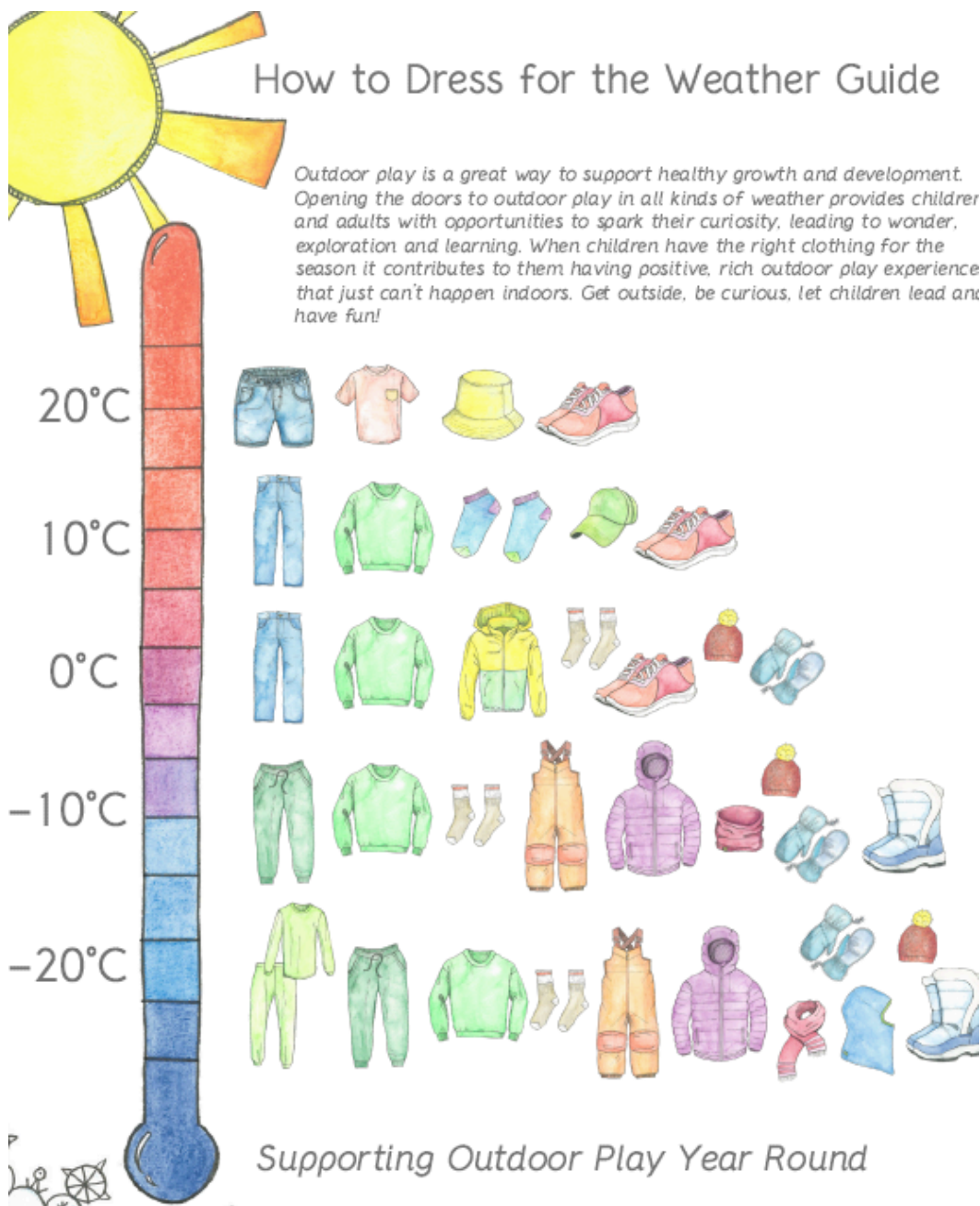


Dress for the Weather

A friendly reminder that students need to come to school properly dressed for the weather. As the weather can be colder, icy, wet and windy, students need to have the following items:

- winter hat
- mittens/gloves
- scarf/neck warmer
- winter boots
- snow pants
- proper winter jacket

Outdoor recess is an important and valuable part of our students' day, and a lot more fun when students are dressed appropriately for the weather.



School Fees - online payments

School Fees can be paid online via your parent portal.

We encourage all parents to pay their fees online by accessing the PowerSchool parent portal. PowerSchool is the Edmonton Catholic Schools online program that allows parents to view attendance, assessments and pay school fees, and bus pass fees.

If you require access to you PowerSchool parent portal, please contact the office.

Here is the link for your child's school fees for Kindergarten to Grade 9:

[2025-2026 Holy Cross School Fees](#)

Holy Cross Apparel



There are many advantages to ordering through Entripy:

- Free shipping on orders over \$75
- Direct shipping to your address
- Online payment
- It's quick, easy, and hassle free!

[Holy Cross Entripy Shop](#)

FOLLOW US ON



Instagram

Follow us at [@holycrossecsd](#) to stay up to date with our school's programs, events and all other fun stuff our students are doing!

Chief Superintendent's Office - Message



IMPORTANT DATES



Thursday, January 22, 2026	Junior High PD Day (No School for Junior High)
Thursday, February 12, 2026	Holy Cross Open House 6pm-7pm
Monday, February 16, 2026	Family Day
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Division Wide Faith Development Day (No School for all students)
Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27, 2026	Teachers' Convention
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Elementary Spring Concert
Thursday, March 19, 2026	Demonstration of Learning
Monday, March 30 to Monday, April 6, 2026	Spring Break / Good Friday / Easter Monday
Friday, May 15 to Monday, May 18, 2026	Victoria Day Weekend
Monday, May 25, 2026	Holy Cross School PD Day

ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026



First Day of Operation
August 28, 2025

First Day of Instruction
September 2, 2025

Last Day of Instruction
June 23, 2026

Last Day of Operation
June 24, 2026

Labour Day	Sept 1
Truth & Reconciliation Day	Sept 30
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 13
Remembrance Day/Fall Brk	Nov 10-12
Christmas Vacation	Dec 22 to Jan 2
Family Day	Feb 16
Faith Development Day/PD	Feb 25
Teachers' Convention	Feb 26-27
Spring Break	Mar 30 to Apr 6
Good Friday	Apr 3
Easter Monday	Apr 6
Victoria Day Weekend	May 15-18

MONTH	Operational Days	Instructional Days
August	2	0
September	20	20
October	22	22
November	17	17
December	15	15
January	20	20
February	19	16
March	20	20
April	18	18
May	19	19
June	18	17
Total	190	184

July 2025	August 2025	September 2025
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27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30
	31	
October 2025	November 2025	December 2025
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26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31
	30	
January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
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18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
25 26 27 28 29 30 31		29 30 31
April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30
	31	

- Non-instructional day
- Non-operational day
- Cancellation of early dismissal
- Early dismissal
- Statutory Holiday - Office/School Closed
- Named Holiday - Office/School Closed

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

January 2026



Recovery Alberta is proud to offer **FREE** online programming to caregivers of school-age children and youth as well as adults in the community who want to learn more about addiction and mental health topics.

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application. A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

January Education Sessions

Understanding Anxiety Series

For adults supporting their own wellness or supporting the wellness of children and teens.

Part 1:
An Introduction

Wednesday, January 7
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Calming Our Bodies

Wednesday, January 14
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 3:
Settling Our Minds

Wednesday, January 21
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 4:
Overcoming Avoidance

Wednesday, January 28
12:00 – 1:00 pm



January Education Sessions

Body Image and Eating Disorders

For parents and caregivers supporting youth (Grades 7-12)

Part 1:
Tuesday, January 20
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Tuesday, January 27
12:00 – 1:00 pm

February Education Sessions

More than Just a Bad Day *Understanding Depression*

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a loved one.

Monday, February 9
12:00 – 1:00 pm

February Education Sessions

Keeping Scattered Kids on Track

Supporting Children and Adolescents with ADHD

For parents and caregivers supporting children and youth (Grades K-12)

Part 1:
Tuesday, February 17
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Tuesday, February 24
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Plugging In *Enhancing our Mental Health in our Digital Lives*

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a loved one.

Monday, February 23
12:00 – 1:00 pm



Professional Practice & Education Services
Edmonton

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

January Education Sessions

These free adult sessions are intended to provide community members with information and strategies regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect us all. When topics are presented as a series, participants can attend one or all sessions.

Understanding Anxiety Series

Part 1: An Introduction

This session will distinguish between normal worries and anxiety that is no longer helpful or productive and will help participants to identify signs that they or their child/youth may be experiencing anxiety.

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of children and youth.

Part 2: Calming Our Bodies

In this session, we will review how the body reacts to stress triggers, ways we can start to notice the body's stress responses, and strategies for regulating ourselves, children, and youth.

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of children and youth.

Part 3: Settling Our Minds

In this session, we will look at how anxiety can lead to negative thoughts and thinking traps that can hold us back. Strategies for encouraging more realistic thinking will be discussed.

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of children and youth.

Part 4: Overcoming Avoidance

In this session, we will discuss how avoidance of stressors can increase our stress response over time. We will discuss ways to manage stressful situations in steps and effective coping skills.

Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of children and youth.

Recovery Alberta

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Participant Feedback

"I liked the visuals and easy to understand presentation. It helps me to be able to communicate more easily with [my family]."

"I like the hour-long session, as I don't have a lot of time."



Professional Practice & Education Services
Edmonton

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January Education Sessions

Recovery Alberta



These free sessions are intended to provide community members with information and strategies regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect us all.

Body Image and Eating Disorders

Struggles with self-esteem, body image and weight control are a common concern. This session will explore some of the reasons behind these struggles, provide information on disordered eating and eating disorders, as well as discuss strategies for supporting teens towards healthier perspectives and habits.

Part 1: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of youth grades 7-12; for adults only.

Part 2: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of youth grades 7-12; for adults only.

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Participant Feedback

“The presenters were professional and friendly. The learning environment felt safe and I felt confident learning from the presenters. Thank you for providing these valuable education sessions!”



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Edmonton

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February Education Sessions

Recovery Alberta



These free sessions are intended to provide community members with information and strategies regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect us all.

More than Just a Bad Day Understanding Depression

In this session, we will discuss what mental health is, the difference between sadness and depression, and common signs and symptoms of depression. Treatment options and supportive strategies for coping and support will be shared.

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a loved one.

Plugging In Enhancing our Mental Health in our Digital Lives

Technology is woven into nearly every part of our daily lives—connecting us, entertaining us, and even supporting our health. But when does helpful tech turn into harmful use? This interactive session explores both sides of our digital world: how technology supports wellness and where it can negatively affect sleep, stress, relationships, and mental health. Together we'll look at problematic screen use and discuss practical strategies to build a healthier relationship with our devices. We'll look at ways to support ourselves and our families towards a more intentional use of technology to support balance and well-being.

Date: Monday, February 23, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For adults supporting their own wellness or the wellness of a loved one.

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Participant Feedback

“The trainers were awesome and engaging so well with us, felt like i was in class training. Keep up the great work. Thank you.”



Professional Practice & Education Services
Edmonton

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February Education Sessions

Recovery Alberta



These free sessions are intended to provide community members with information and strategies regarding addiction and mental health challenges that can affect us all.

Keeping Scattered Kids on Track Supporting Children and Adolescents with ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common mental health conditions diagnosed in children. Come to these Lunch & Learn sessions and learn about the signs and symptoms of ADHD, ways that ADHD impacts achievement, self-worth, and relationships in children and youth, and strategies to support success.

Part 1: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For parents and caregivers supporting children and youth (Grades K-12)

Part 2: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For parents and caregivers supporting children and youth (Grades K-12)

Registration:

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application.

A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to:

www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Participant Feedback”

“This was a great session. Lots of good takeaways. Thank you for offering these sessions. They provide me with tips and tricks to be a better parent...”



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