

After a beautiful, busy September, October has arrived with vibrant fall colors and nice weather. We have been blessed with a wonderful start up this September. We are well into the routines of school and our students have settled into the business of learning.



This fall, there are many reasons for the staff at École Holy Cross to be thankful. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our families. We are grateful for the words of kindness that we receive every day from our parent community. We are grateful for our bus drivers who bring our students safely to school. We are grateful for our custodians who ensure that our school is clean for our school family.

On Monday October 13th, we will pause and take time from our busy lives to celebrate Thanksgiving. A day when we humbly count our blessings and give thanks for the bounty we enjoy.

May God's blessings be with you and your family during this time of Thanksgiving and throughout this school year.

On behalf of the staff here at École Holy Cross we wish you a Happy and a Blessed Thanksgiving!

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

Merci M D.J. !

A safe, clean and orderly environment helps contribute to our students' learning success! We are grateful for the care and attention delivered by our temporary custodian Mr. DJ. He will soon be moving on to new postings in the Division. We fare thee well. Thank you, Mr. DJ!



Holy Cross Student Ambassadors



Student ambassadors - Ange, Marianne, Andico and Kalysta - pass on their own successful experiences at École Holy Cross to Grade 6-9 peers joining the community for the first time. On September 29, in collaboration with the school, Francophonie Canadienne Pluriel (FRAP) hosted a welcoming pizza lunch as an opportunity for the new students to connect with our ambassadors who will guide them in the school with a friendly smile.

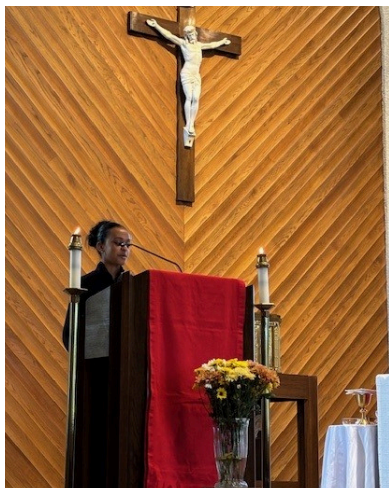
Birch Bay Ranch

Birch Bay - Grade 7 students enjoyed a day of fun filled activities at Birch Bay Ranch
September 8, 2025.



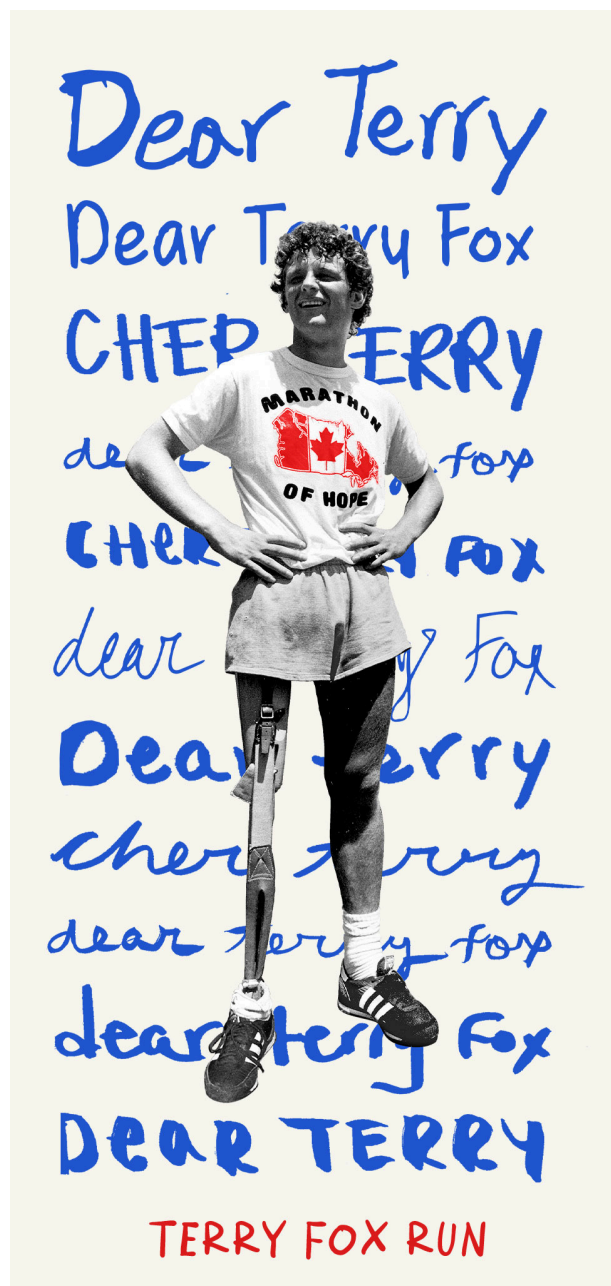
Opening School Mass at St John The Evangelist

Holy Cross students gathered in unity as they walked to church for the Opening School Mass, celebrating the start of the academic year with faith, reflection, and a sense of community."



Terry Fox Run-Walk September 25

A big thank you to all students and families who donated toward this year's Terry Fox initiative! Our students participated in our Week of Terry every morning leading up to our school wide walk/run. The Terry Fox Run teaches the students a very valuable lesson; it teaches the children the importance of working together as a team to help others. This year, Holy Cross was able to raise over \$500 for cancer research! Keep trying like Terry!



Holy Cross Elementary Shines at ECSD Cross Country Run!

On Monday, September 22nd, our Elementary Running Club proudly represented Holy Cross at the Edmonton Catholic Schools Cross Country Run, held at Rundle Park. A total of 27 enthusiastic students from Grades 3 to 6 laced up their running shoes and gave it their all after weeks of dedicated training on our school field. The sun was shining, spirits were high, and the energy was contagious as our runners tackled distances of up to 2 kilometers, depending on their age group. We're thrilled to share that several of our athletes placed in their divisions.

Congratulations to Benjamin Gainer (2nd in 10 year old boys), Maren Schinking for earning 2nd place, and to Viktoria Drobina for coming in 5th both in 11 year old girls category. A huge shout-out to all our runners for their incredible effort, commitment, and sportsmanship. You made us proud! Thank you as well to the parents who came out to volunteer and cheer on our team — your support means the world.

Go Holy Cross!



Orange Shirt Day - September 29, 2025

On September 29, 2025, students and staff at École Holy Cross wore our orange shirts to acknowledge Canada's Indigenous history and remember all the children and families whose lives were irrevocably changed through the tragedy that is to be found in residential schools. It is a time to honor those who survived, and to remember those who did not. Students participated in learning activities and discussions about the importance of this day to show that we are committed to the principle that Every Child Matters.



Custodian Recognition Day

October 2 each year marks Custodial and Facilities Staff Appreciation Day. It is an important time for us to say thanks to those who keep our schools and sites safe and welcoming for all each day. Their work is critical to the learning process. An engaging environment is the starting point for learning!

Thank You - Merci

M Tesfaye Hunde

M Nomer Tadeo

M Jeson Barroa

M DJ Stawnichy



Catholic Education Week is October 18-24, 2025

Dear Jesus,
Let your light shine in our Catholic schools.
Let your grace rain down,
bringing hope to each person we encounter,
wisdom to our teachers and leaders,
and strength in times of trial.

Protect us from harm.
Let the children come to You,
for the kingdom of God is theirs.
St. Thomas Aquinas,

patron saint of Catholic schools,
pray for us.
Amen.



Catholic Education Sunday - October 19, 2025

Catholic Education Sunday is a special day for us to come together in celebration of the gift of Catholic education.

On this day, we reflect on the many beautiful aspects of Catholic education is that it is grounded in the partnership between the school, the home, and the parish. Together, we all play a role in the nurturing of our children in mind, body, and spirit. Catholic Education Sunday provides us with an excellent opportunity to celebrate our very special relationship.

Wear Blue for Catholic Education - October 23, 2025

Join us on Thursday, October 23, by wearing blue to celebrate Catholic Education! Blue is a powerful symbol of constancy, fidelity, genuineness, and aspiration. It also holds a special connection to the Blessed Virgin Mary, making it a fitting choice during October, the month of the rosary.

By wearing blue, we recognize and celebrate the vital role publicly funded Catholic schools play in shaping both education and faith across Alberta and Canada. Let's come together to visibly show our support and pride in Catholic education!

READ IN WEEK - October 6-10, 2025



READ IN Week 2025 will be held from October 6-10, 2025, with the theme "Books to Bytes" to celebrate the diverse forms reading takes, including digital and technological resources. This annual event in Edmonton promotes literacy and encourages people of all ages to read.

Thanksgiving - Monday, October 13. **There will be no school on this day.**

Our École Holy Cross Staff would like to wish
your family a Happy
Thanksgiving and a safe and bountiful holiday
weekend!



School PD Day, Thursday, October 16

School will be closed on Thursday, October 16 for a school wide PD day.
No school for students.

Thanksgiving Celebration

October is also a month for the celebration of Thanksgiving and students will have many opportunities to reflect on the things in their lives for which they are most thankful. **A Thanksgiving Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at Holy Cross School on Thursday, October 23 at 10:45am**

After School Programs

We are pleased to offer again this year after school tutoring to support students Grades 4-9. Francophonie Albertaine Plurielle (FRAP) will provide support to small groups or individual students, when possible, in French. More information to come.



FRAP
FRANCOPHONIE
ALBERTAINE
PLURIELLE

Welcome Lunch - New students to Holy Cross (Grade 6-9)

In collaboration with École Holy Cross, FRAP organized a Welcome Pizza Lunch for new students in Grades 6-9 on Monday September 29, 2025. This lunch was an opportunity for your child to connect with ambassadors who will guide them in the school. The Settlement Worker (SWIS) will introduced FRAP services to new students as well as all the services available at École Holy Cross for students.



La FRAP vous accueille à l'école Holy Cross



Je m'appelle **M. Jidiri Ndagije**,
Travailleur en établissement dans les écoles
d'immersion française pour la FRAP
(Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle).

Je suis à l'École Holy Cross tous les lundis et
mercredis pour aider principalement sans
me limiter aux élèves nouvellement arrivés
au Canada et leurs familles à

1. Connaître et s'habituer au système scolaire albertain et Canadien,
2. S'adapter au nouveau milieu scolaire et à leur nouvelle communauté,
3. Mieux naviguer tous les systèmes de leur nouveau pays,
4. Accroître leurs opportunités pour la réussite en tant que familles nouvellement arrivées et leurs enfants.
5. Accéder aux opportunités pour renforcer le français dans ce pays qui est bilingue à travers les clubs de lecture et autres.

My name is **Mr. Jidiri Ndagije**. I am a Settlement Worker in French Immersion Schools for FRAP
(Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle)

I am at École Holy Cross School twice a week on Mondays and Wednesday to help mostly but not limited to Newcomer students and their families to

1. Know and adapt to Alberta and Canadian School system for a successful future,
2. Belong to their new school family and community,
3. Better navigate all the systems in the new country, province, and city,
4. Increase opportunities for success as newcomer families and their children,
5. Access opportunities to strengthen and improve the French Language in this bilingual country through French Reading Club and more.

Pour me joindre, veuillez me téléphoner au (780) 298-7974 ou m'envoyer un courriel sur jidiri.n@frap.ca

You can get in touch with me by phone at (780) 298-7974 or send me an email at jidiri.n@frap.ca

Merci beaucoup! Thank you very much!

ECSD French Immersion

École Holy Cross hosted Vitrine Artistique Showcase on Thursday, September 25 organized by ECSD Learning Services and the division French Immersion Cultural Coordinator. Teachers and administrators looking for an artist or activities to book for their class and school were invited to meet Francophone artists and organizations and book your activity directly. Kindergarten to Grade 9 students at École Holy Cross can already look forward to theatre presentations by L'Unithéâtre in January!



Edmonton Catholic Schools
invites you to a

FRENCH MOVIE FOR KIDS



Learning FOR PARENTS

How to support my
child's French learning

& CÉRÉALES

Saturday, October 4

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Cereal and coffee will be served.

North: Bishop Savaryn Catholic Elementary School
16215 109 St. NW

South: Monsignor William Irwin Catholic
Elementary School • 2629 Taylor Green NW

\$ 5 per family
Please pay through your child's
PowerSchool.



School Fees - online payments

School Fees can be paid online via your parent portal. School fees can be paid starting **September 15**. Buss Fees can be paid immediately.

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

Important Dates

Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving - No School
Wednesday, October 15	Picture re-take day
Thursday, October 16	Holy Cross School PD Day
Monday, November 10 to Wednesday November 12	Remembrance Day / Fall Break
Monday, December 22 to Friday, January 2	Christmas Vacation

Chief Superintendent's Office - Message



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
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
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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1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31
	30	
January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
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
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
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

October 2025



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.

October Education Sessions

More than Just a Bad Day *Understanding Depression*

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

Monday, October 6
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Parenting Strategies for Positive Mental Health

For parents and caregivers of children in grades K-6

Part 1:
Monday, October 20
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Monday, October 27
12:00 – 1:00 pm

November Education Sessions

Understanding Anxiety Series

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

Part 1:
An Introduction
Monday, November 3
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2:
Calming Our Bodies
Monday, November 10
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 3:
Settling Our Minds
Monday, November 17
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 4:
Overcoming Avoidance
Monday, November 24
12:00 – 1:00 pm

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!”



Professional Practice & Education Services
Edmonton

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

October Education Sessions

Fall 2025



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, October 6, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

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

Parenting Strategies that Promote Positive Mental Health

Explore factors that contribute to your child's mental health and wellness and learn how you can be your child's greatest mental health asset.

Part 1: Increasing Wellness Deposits

We will look at what mental health and wellness is and discuss strategies for increasing your child's protective factors that provide a buffer to life's challenges and promote wellness.

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of children grades K-6, for adults only.

Part 2: Reducing Wellness Withdrawals

We will discuss strategies for reducing mental health 'withdrawals' – the risk factors that increase stress and drain your child's inner resources.

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

For caregivers of children grades K-6, 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

"I really enjoyed the format, content and delivery of the presentation.

"It was good, and I look forward to more learnings like this."



Professional Practice & Education Services
Edmonton

For more information, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

November Education Sessions

Fall 2025

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: Monday, November 3, 2025

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: Monday, November 10, 2025

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: Monday, November 17, 2025

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: Monday, November 24, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

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

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 facilitators] were awesome and engaging so well with us...keep up the great work. Thank you."



Professional Practice & Education Services
Edmonton

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