

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th.

Advent is the time of preparing for Jesus' arrival. During Advent, we are invited to reflect on the mystery that is the incarnation and the birth of the Christ Child. This reflection reminds us that as we begin the winter season, and approach the shortest, darkest day of the year, there is hope in the light of Jesus.

As we enter the Advent Season, the staff at École Holy Cross wishes that much hope, love, joy, and peace fills your home.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.



JOYEUX NOËL

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 3A, Grade 4A, Grade 5A, Grade 6A, Grade 6A

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

Celebrating Success at Holy Cross

Celebrating Métis Culture

Betty-Sue (grade 1B) and her family, sharing Métis culture and contributions in Grade 1. Thank you - Marsi



Alberta Ballet: The Nut Cracker

Exciting news!

Yohanna (Gr. 9) and Leelai (Gr. 5) Mekonnen will be performing in Alberta Ballet's The Nutcracker this season. Bravo to you both!



Remembrance Day November 11, 2025

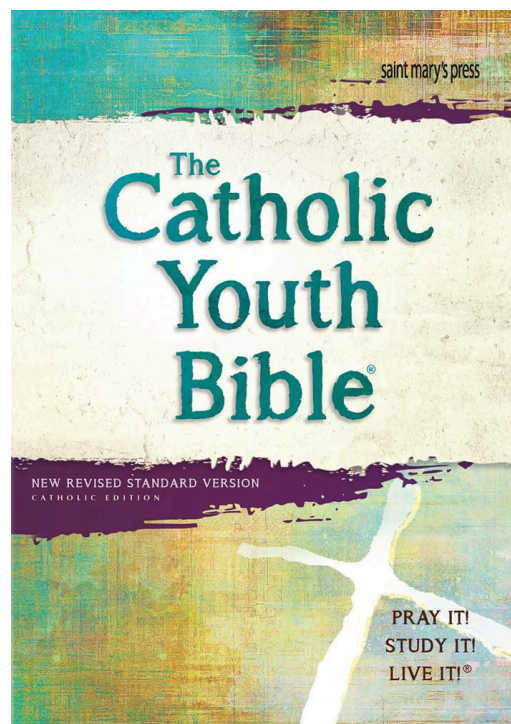
Over 2 million Canadians have served and continue to serve Canada. The Remembrance Day commemoration honours and lives meaning to the sacrifices that they have made. On November 7th, students participated in a Remembrance Day commemoration in the gym. Students were encouraged to reflect on the freedom and peace in their life. During the moment of silence, students remembered those who served with courage.



Bible Presentation - Grade 4

On November 18th, we had our Grade 4 Bible celebration. Fr. Dean from St John the Evangelist, led us in handing out the Word of God to grade 4 students.

Students received words of guidance and encouragement from Fr. Dean (Homily – Listening, Learning, and Living) as he reminded them how valuable the Gospel is in helping us grow in faith and in Christ's love. The Grade 4 students reflected on how they can keep their trust in the goodness of Christ, even through difficult and challenging times especially now. Each grade 4 student received a Bible, with a message from Fr. Dean, to guide them through their faith journey as we look forward to the Kingdom of God.



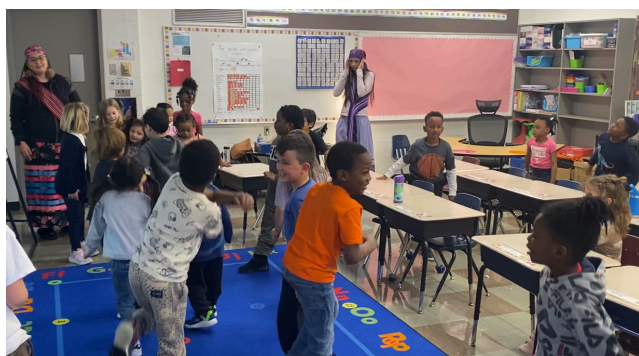
CTF - Environmental Stewardship

Grade 8/9 Students in our CTF-Environmental Stewardship class spent a morning at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre. The students had a great time outside, learning and practicing fire building techniques. The morning ended with students enjoying delicious Bannock they roasted over the fire!



Métis Week - November 15 -22, 2025

Métis Week is an annual commemoration held in November to honour the culture, heritage and contributions of the Métis people, in Canada



Classroom Connections Evening - November 20th

Thanks to all the families that partook in our Classroom Connections Evening. Please note that you are strongly encouraged to contact your child's teacher at any time.

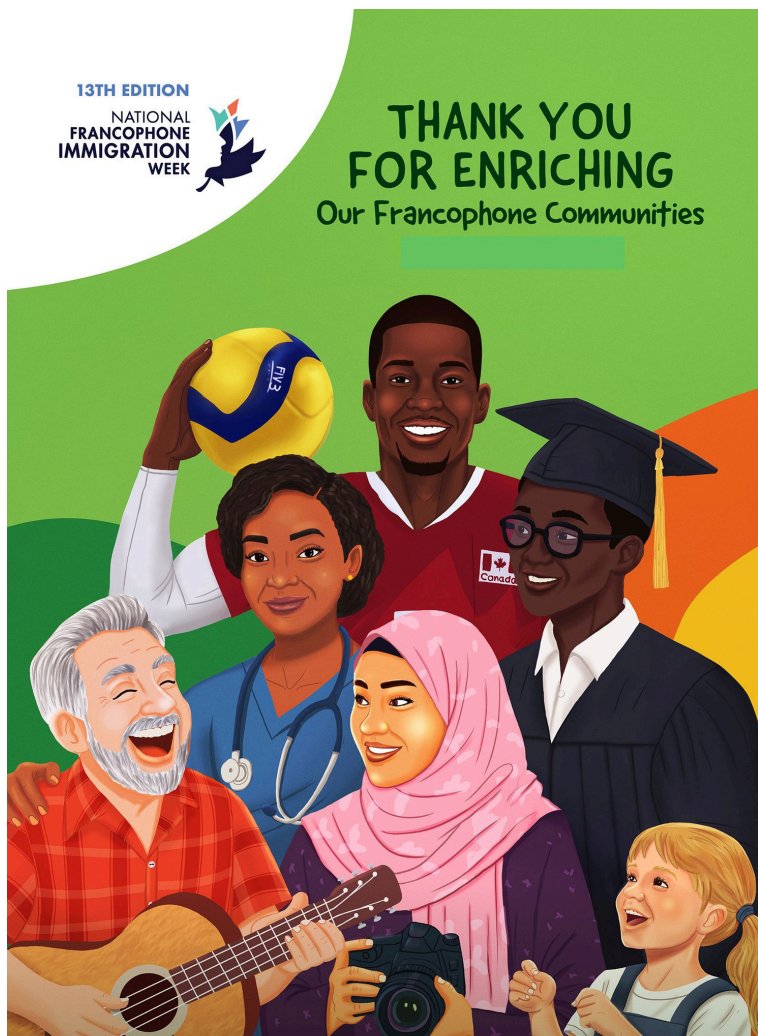


Our Scholastic Book Fair was a success!

Thank you to all families, teachers, and students who participated, supporting our school while enhancing home libraries. We raised over \$2600.00 in sales, 23 new books will be added to the library.

Thank you for participating in our Scholastic Book Fair. Happy Reading!

National Francophone Immigration Week



National Francophone Immigration Week 2025 took place from November 2 to November 8, with the theme "Merci d'enrichir notre francophonie!".

The 13th edition of the event celebrated the cultural, economic, and social contributions of Francophone and Acadian immigrants across Canada. The week included events like workshops, cultural evenings, and discussions, coordinated nationally by the FCFA and Francophone Immigration Networks.

During the week of November 24-27, Holy Cross students worked collaboratively on a project to say "Thank you" in a language spoken by their families near and far.



Advent 2025

Sunday, November 30 - Wednesday, December 23

Advent begins this year on November 30th.

It is a time to prepare for the birth of our Lord JESUS CHRIST. Family time is precious and makes lasting memories.

It is our desire for all families to have time set aside to grow together to welcome JESUS into their lives and hearts this Advent season.

May GOD BLESS each family this Advent



In Advent we wait for the most wonderful birthday of all - the birthday of Jesus!

The Advent season of waiting lasts for four weeks. During Advent, we remember the Christmas story, the true reason for the season and we put out an Advent Wreath.

The circle of the wreath reminds us that God's love for us will never have an end.

The evergreen branches stand for our hope that one day we will live with God forever.

The flames of the four candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Three candles of the Advent wreath are purple and one candle is pink. Advent candles are typically placed in an Advent wreath, with each candle representing a key theme leading up to Christmas: hope, peace, joy, and love



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.

The program will begin November 24th. Sessions take place from 3:15pm to 4:15pm on Monday and Wednesday. The last session before Christmas break will be Wednesday, December 10th. The tutoring program will resume on Monday, January 12th.

Please complete the form below if you want your child to participate. One form per student is required.



FRAP tutoring student Registration Form

Holy Cross School Council Update

We're excited to share that the Holy Cross School Council will be hosting this year! First up is our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast on February 17**, a tasty tradition our students always look forward to. Later in the spring, we'll be capping off the year with a **year-end BBQ and gathering (May/June)** to celebrate our school community.

Event leads are already in place, and now we're looking for **enthusiastic volunteers** to help bring these events to life! Volunteer roles may include joining a short (virtual) planning meeting and lending a hand on the day of the event.



If you'd like to donate your time, we'd love to hear from you! Please email us at holycross.schoolcouncil@gmail.com. Let's make this a memorable year together!

Save the Date

Save the Date - Spring Concert Elementary
Concert is Thursday, March 12, 2025.

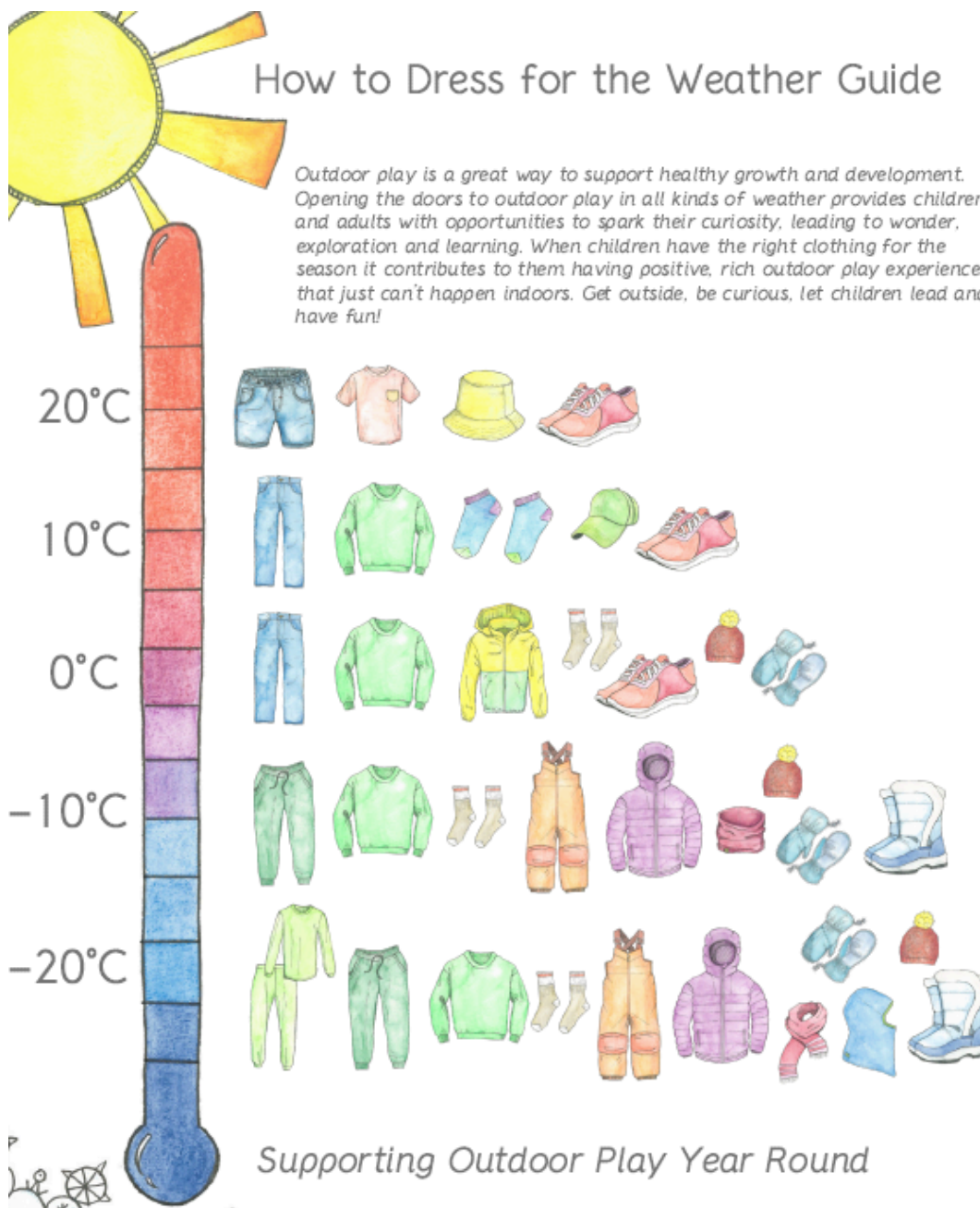


Dress for the Weather

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. School fees can be paid starting **September 15**. Bus 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 your 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



Monday, December 22 to Friday, January 2	Christmas Vacation
Thursday, January 22	Junior High PD Day (No School for Junior High)
Thursday, February 12	Holy Cross Open House 6pm-7pm
Monday, February 16	Family Day
Wednesday, February 25	Division Wide Faith Development Day (No School for all students)
Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27	Teachers' Convention
Monday, March 30 to Monday, April 6	Spring Break / Good Friday / Easter Monday
Friday, May 15 to Monday, May 18	Victoria Day Weekend
Tuesday, May 19	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
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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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