



## December 2025 Newsletter

### Administrator's Message

December 1, 2025

Dear St. Richard Families,

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, our school community is filled with anticipation and joy. This past month, we celebrated our Demonstration of Learning and enjoyed the excitement of the Book Fair—thank you to everyone who participated and supported these events. We have also kicked off our Kid Inventor Day projects, and it has been inspiring to see the creativity and innovation coming from our students.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we look forward to seeing the spirit of the season reflected in our classrooms and hallways, reminding us of the hope and light that Christ brings. As we are reminded in the Gospel of Luke "... *the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*", the greatest gift of Christmas is the birth of a baby born in a stable laying in a manger.

As always, we want to thank you for your continued support and partnership.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes this December. May His light guide your family throughout the Advent season and into the new year, bringing hope, joy, and love to all you do. Merry Christmas and God bless!

Alannah Muirhead  
Principal

Leanne Aura  
Assistant Principal

## Picture Retakes

School picture retakes will take place on Tuesday, December 2.

## Parent Council News

Our next parent council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 22 at 6:30pm** in the library. We invite all parents and guardians to join us at our meetings. Thank you to the parents who have joined our council in executive positions!

## Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch

Parent Council is once again offering families the opportunity to order lunch for their children through Healthy Hunger. Thank you to Holly Karch for organizing this for our families.



**Healthy Hunger**

**MONTHLY HOT LUNCHES**

PRE-ORDER FOR ENTIRE YEAR  
OPTION AVAILABLE

**LOGIN TO  
ORDER TODAY**  
healthyhunger.ca

- 1. LOGIN OR REGISTER ACCOUNT
- 2. ADD STUDENT
- 3. FILL ALL INFORMATION (MAKE SURE TO SELECT CHILD'S SCHOOL AND GRADE)
- 4. ADD STUDENT
- 5. ORDER UPCOMING LUNCHES

**Pizza Hut** **Boston Pizza** **SUBWAY** **Tim Hortons** **DQ**

Questions? Contact  
strichardparentassociation@gmail.com

### Healthy Hunger Dates for 2025/26

January 23 – Dairy Queen

February 13 - Subway

March 13 – Pizza Hut

April 17 – Popeye's

May 8 – Rice Bowl Deluxe

June 12 – Dairy Queen

Please note all orders are due at 11:59 pm the Sunday before the order is delivered.

Volunteers are also needed to help deliver the orders to the classroom. If you can help, please email:  
[strichardparentassociation@gmail.com](mailto:strichardparentassociation@gmail.com)

## Reading Stars

*Reading Stars* is ready to launch and students were gifted with a new bookmark. Each grade level is asked to read a certain number of minutes each night and to record their reading on a tracking sheet provided by the school. Once your child has filled in one row on their tracking sheet, cut it off, have your child return it to school, and place it in the jar for their grade level. At the end of the month, one name will be drawn from each grade level, and the student will win a book! The more the students read the more chances they have to win! Remember reading does not have to be done independently. It can also be you reading aloud to your child, watching a story being read online, listening to audio books or reading comic books. Reading takes many forms, and the more children can interact with text, the greater the benefit. Thank you for being a partner in your child's reading journey!

## **Movie Day Social Justice Initiative**

As part of our commitment to social justice, we will be hosting a movie afternoon to raise funds for the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. St. Richard received almost \$3000.00 in support from the foundation during the 2024 - 2025 school year.

All students will get to watch a movie during the afternoon (kindergarten can enjoy their movie in the morning) of December 12. To raise funds for the foundation, families will have the option to purchase “treats” for their child to enjoy while watching the movie.

Treat selections will include chips, lollipops, skittles candy, sour patch kid candy, smarties, and kinder eggs. Order forms were sent home on Friday, November 28 and a digital copy was emailed to all families the same day.

## **Advent Celebration**

All families are invited to join us for our school wide Advent celebration on the afternoon of Thursday, December 18, at 1:00 PM in the gym.

## **Spirit Days**

We will have three spirit days in December to get into the spirit of the upcoming Christmas season.

Friday, December 5 – Christmas Hat/Headband Day

Friday, December 12 – Christmas Sweater Day

Movie Day Fundraiser

Thursday, December 18- Pajama Day

## **Santa Breakfast**

The St. Richard Parent Council will be hosting a pancake Santa breakfast for all students on Thursday, December 18. Please look for more information from the parent council about volunteer opportunities and times in the upcoming weeks.

## **Early Dismissal Switch**

A reminder that Thursday, December 18 is a full day of school, with dismissal at 2:46 PM.

Please remember to send lunch with your child that day. Friday, December 19, will be early dismissal at 11: 45 AM.

## **STEM Update**

Students have been engaged in a variety of school activities, with each class exploring STEM projects.

For example, Grade 1 has been applying their knowledge of following directions, sequencing, and coding to bring migration patterns and Blue Bots to life.

Grade 5 is developing their Scratch programming skills to demonstrate their understanding of weather, enhanced by creative use of Makey Makey technology.

Meanwhile, Grade 4 has been investigating the important issue of pollution in our oceans and the difficulties in cleaning them.

In November, we launched Kid Inventor Day with a school-wide assembly. Each class identified real-world problems that needed solutions, and students working alongside their

buddy classes began the first stages of the engineering design process. Later in December, they will move into the building phase, bringing their ideas to life.

All these inventions will be showcased at our Kid Inventor Day assembly in January, and we can't wait to see the creativity and innovation our students will share!

### Chaplain's Corner

Advent is the beginning of our liturgical year. It is a time of renewal and hope, of joy and community. While the world is quieted by a blanket of snow and the lingering darkness, we welcome the light and love of Jesus into our homes and schools. Please access our [Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#) resource through your child's account for some great ideas for celebrating this season as a family.

As Catholics, we celebrate each week of Advent with a different theme. The first week is Hope. As we prepare our homes for the upcoming Christmas season, let us remind ourselves to take time to prepare our hearts as well. Jesus always welcomed the poor, the children, and the most vulnerable, they are at the heart of our Catholic social teaching. Ask yourself how you can be Hope for others and support them during this Advent season. A beautiful story about hope that you can share as a family is [Little Mole Finds Hope](#) by Glenys Nellist.

The second week is Faith. As we shop for that perfect gift for those we love, we trust in that strong relationship that we have with each person to guide our choices. Jesus opened his heart to all those he met, listened to their words, as well as their hearts, and offered healing to everyone who had faith in His truth. May you offer your relationship to others as Faith in the strength of Jesus' truth, and in the love, we give to each other. A moving story about Faith to share as a family is [It Will Be Okay: Trusting God Through Fear and Change](#) by Lysa TerKeurst

The third week is Joy. The joy of seeing our families, watching children light up at the wonder and beauty of this season, is unmatched in reminding us that true joy does not come from the money spent, the best decorations, or the biggest gift; it comes for the gift of Jesus' life, given over to us in love, to light up our world and save us from the darkness of despair and loneliness. May we take the time to stop rushing and let the Joy of this season open your heart. A reflective story about Joy to share together is [The Little Book of Joy](#) by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The final week of Advent is Love. While love looks different for everyone, and is expressed differently, love is eternal. It is there when you are hurting, it is there when you are joyful, it is there even when you are alone. We can see God's love in every story from Jesus' life, including the love that shines in the very first story of Jesus' birth. May you find love in your words, in your laughter, and in our actions this season. A delightful story about Love to share with your family this season is [What colour is God's Love?](#) by Xochitl Dixon.

### School Fees

School Fees were posted to Parent Power School accounts on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Fee payments can be made online. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the office to speak with Mrs. Muirhead to discuss how we can support you.

### Inclement Weather

This is a reminder to ensure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for being outdoors. As we know, the weather can change quickly, and we want to ensure students are prepared to be outside in colder temperatures.

## **Transportation**

Those families who are using the yellow school bus are reminded to download the Bus Planner App for up-to-date information. The app will send notifications of delays or bus cancellations.

If your child rides the bus, it is important that you communicate with your child what arrangements are in place should the bus not arrive at their stop in the morning or if it is delayed, especially with colder temperatures.

We also ask that you ensure you have your contact information up to date in PowerSchool, so in the event the bus is delayed at the end of the day the school can contact you to pick up your child.

Please note that issues with yellow bus transportation should be addressed directly to the Division's transportation department at 780-441-6078.

## **Parking and Drop Off**

This is a reminder that the staff parking lot is for staff parking only and should not be used for student drop off. Street parking is available, and we ask that you use the sidewalks to walk around the perimeter of the school. Also, please observe all posted signage for bus parking and use marked crosswalks for crossing the street. The safety of all our students and families is paramount.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

December 2 – Picture Retakes

December 4 – Snack Orders for Movie Afternoon due

December 5 – Spirit Day, Christmas hats and headbands

December 12 – Movie Afternoon

Spirit Day, Christmas sweaters and shirts

December 18 – Santa Breakfast

Advent Celebration 1:00 PM in the gym

Full Day, dismissal at 2:46 pm for grades 1 – 6

December 19 – Half day, dismissal at 11:45 am for grades 1 – 6

No kindergarten classes