



St. Richard Catholic Elementary School

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February 2026 Newsletter

Administrators' Message

February 3, 2026

Dear St. Richard Families,

February is always a special month in our school community—a time when we celebrate friendship, family, and faith in meaningful and joyful ways.

We are excited to welcome Alien Inline Skating back to our school this month. This program is always a highlight for students, giving them the chance to build confidence, coordination, and perseverance while having a great deal of fun. Thank you to our Parent Council for funding this opportunity for our students.

Valentine's Day is a special day to celebrate friendships within the school. It is also a reminder of the importance of showing kindness and compassion to all. As a Catholic school, we recognize this time as an opportunity to deepen our connection to Christ's love for us and to share that love within our community. Please look for more information from your child's teacher regarding specific classroom activities.

Family Day on Monday, February 16th offers us a chance to honor the foundational role families play in shaping our lives. Family is at the heart of our school community, and we are grateful for the continued support and involvement of our families.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18, as we gather in community to mark Ash Wednesday. Lent invites us to slow down, reflect, and draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Throughout the season, our students will participate in activities and lessons that guide them in understanding compassion, sacrifice, and service.

As we journey into the Lenten season, the school is partaking in two social justice projects. The first is our annual food drive to support the foodbank at St. Theresa Parish and our second is we are fund raising for the Heart and Stroke Foundation with Jump Rope for Heart. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership, support, and prayers. May this month bring your family peace, joy, and many moments of grace. Please know we always welcome your feedback. You can contact us via email or phone.

Blessings

Alannah Muirhead
Principal

Mike Gagnon
Acting Assistant Principal

Staffing Updates

Ms. Aura will be retiring this month. We wish her well and thank her for all her contributions to the St. Richard community. Mr. Gagnon is our Acting Assistant Principal and Ms. Verdonk has assumed the Instructional Coach role.

We would like to welcome Mr. Koufogiannakis (aka Mr. Tino) who will be assuming the teaching duties of the grade four class.

Social Justice

Jump Rope for Heart is Here! ❤️

Get ready to skip, hop, and jump for a great cause! Our school is proudly participating in Jump Rope for Heart, helping raise funds to support heart disease research and education. Students will show off their moves on Jump Day, March 13, as they take part in exciting skipping challenges and activities. Our school goal is to raise \$2,000, and every jump (and donation!) makes a difference. Students brought home a QR code on Friday, January 30 or you can donate using the link below. Thank you for helping us keep hearts strong and healthy!

👉 <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/119375>

Food Bank Collection

As part of the Mill Woods Family of Schools community, we are collecting food for the St. Theresa Parish Food Bank. Donations are being accepted at the school until February 24. Thank you for supporting this initiative.

Parent Council News

Our next parent council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 12 at 6:30pm** in the library. During this meeting, the Division's Superintendent of Leadership Services, Dr. Ryan Feehan will be joining us. We invite all parents and guardians to attend.

Alien Inline Skating In-School Field Trip

Thank you to the parent council for generously sponsoring the in-school field trip, Alien Inline Skating. All classes will get the opportunity to experience in-line skating. This is a perfect opportunity for our students to get active while being indoors. This experience will take place from February 9 – 17. Fieldtrip letters have been sent home.

Kindergarten and New to St. Richard Registration

Registration for the 2026-27 school year is now open. We will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 pm for new families. We are encouraging everyone who is interested in having a child attend kindergarten or another grade level to come and learn more about our extraordinary school and programming. We would like to encourage our St. Richard families to talk to their neighbors about all the great learning opportunities taking place at our school. Word of mouth is by far the best way of advertising our school to the community.

Grade Six Transition to Junior High

This is a reminder to families with children in grade six to visit the [ECSD website](#) to explore the various options for junior high programming within ECSD. There is also a dedicated space that lists the [Open House](#) dates for the schools. Open houses are starting this week.

STEM in Action

Our students had a fantastic time celebrating Kid Inventors' Day! They proudly showcased their creative inventions and explored one another's ideas during our gallery walk. Throughout the project, students engaged fully in the design thinking process—identifying a problem,

brainstorming solutions, building a prototype, and reflecting on their work. It was an inspiring day of innovation, collaboration, and curiosity!

Summary Reports

A reminder that Student Summary Reports are now available for students in grade one to six via PowerSchool. Please take the time to review your child's progress with them. It is a chance to celebrate achievements, reflect on areas for growth, and set new goals for the remainder of the year. We encourage all families to engage with these reports thoughtfully and reach out if there are any questions or areas where we can work together to support your child's learning journey.

Please note there is no summary report for kindergarten students.

Healthy Hunger

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 Dates for 2025/26

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 needed to help deliver the orders to the classroom. If you can help, please email strichardparentassociation@gmail.com

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. If your child needs a coat or mitts, please reach out to us as we have extra winter coats and accessories.

Snow Removal Around the School

Thank you to our custodian Mr. Rampersaud for all his efforts in clearing the snow and ice from the school grounds. As temperatures are warming up we often get a freeze thaw cycle. Please use extra caution when walking there may be patches of ice.

Please note that the sidewalk area that runs in front of the school parallel to the road is cleared by the city. The wind rows are also maintained by the city.

Transportation

For families who use the yellow school bus a reminder 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.

Chaplain's Corner

The month of February is often associated with the themes of love and kindness as we observe, Valentine's Day, Random Acts of Kindness week and Pink Shirt Day.

With this intention in mind, the theme for the book selections for February focus on kindness.

This month the selections are two wordless picture books.

[I Walk with Vanessa](#) - Written by Kerascoet, this book inspired by real events tells the story of how a single act of kindness can inspire an entire community to help.

[Sidewalk Flowers](#) – Written by Jon Arno Lawson and illustrated by Sydney Smith, this book tells the story of a young girl picking flowers while walking with her distracted father. Each flower becomes a gift to various recipients.

School Fees

We have a number of outstanding school fees. School Fees were posted to Parent Power School accounts in September. 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.

Mark Your Calendars

February 4 – World Read Aloud Day

February 9 -17 – Alien Inline Skating – In School Fieldtrip

February 12 – Parent Council Meeting – 6:30 pm in the library

February 13 – Healthy Hunger Lunch

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 16 – Family Day – No school

February 25 – Faith Development Day – No classes for students

February 26 & 27 – Teachers' Convention – No classes for students