



October 2026 Newsletter

Administrators' Message

October 1, 2026

Dear St. Richard Families,

As we settle into the rhythm of the new school year, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, staff, and families for a wonderful start to September. It has been a joy to witness our school community come together with such enthusiasm, positivity, and faith-filled energy.

One of the highlights of the past month was our Opening School Liturgy, where we gathered as a community to place our year in God's hands. Together, we were reminded by Father Varghese's homily to find joy in everything we do.

October brings many opportunities to embrace our love of literacy and hone our skills. We are pleased to welcome literacy consultant Karen Filewych to the school the week of October 5 as she leads our students through a residency on crafting nonfiction reading responses.

We will also celebrate the joy of reading with Read in Week from October 5 - 9. Reading strengthens not only academic success but also the connections we build with one another. We look forward to welcoming family members into our classrooms and sharing in the love of learning.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, we are reminded of God's abundant blessings in our lives. This season invites us to pause and reflect with grateful hearts. We give thanks for our students, whose curiosity and kindness brighten our days; for our families, whose partnership supports student success; and for our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to create a caring and faith-filled learning environment.

May the month ahead bring joy and many blessings to your family.

God bless,

Alannah Muirhead	Nicole Lamoureux
Principal	Assistant Principal

Parent Council

Calling all parents/guardians! Our Parent Council needs you! A robust and vibrant parent council is vital in supporting the learning and opportunities provided to your children. Our meetings take place once a month in the library. The date of our first parent council for 2026 - 2027 is scheduled for Monday, October 5 at 5:00 pm in the library.

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.



HOT LUNCHES
MONTHLY HOT LUNCHES
PRE-ORDER FOR ENTIRE YEAR
OPTION AVAILABLE!

McDonald's **Chick-fil-A**
POPEYES **edo japan**
SUBWAY **DQ**
Boston Pizza

LOGIN TO ORDER TODAY!

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

HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
strichardparentassociation@gmail.com

Healthy Hunger Dates for 2026/27

October 16 - Dairy Queen
November 27 - Subway
December 11 - Pizza Hut
January 15 - Popeyes
February 19 - McDonalds
March 19 - Dairy Queen
April 16 - Boston Pizza
May 14 - Edo
June 18 - Chick Fil A

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



School Code of Conduct Policy

Each year our School Code of Conduct policy is reviewed and updated to align with directives set forth by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Our policy is also reviewed by staff and Parent Council. Our policy was reviewed with students at our opening assembly on Friday, September 11. A link to the document was included in the newsletter email notification.

All families are asked to familiarize themselves with the policy.

Read in Week

Read in Week is an annual event dedicated to promoting literacy and fostering a love of reading across all age groups. Read in Week runs from October 5-9. A special aspect of Read in Week is welcoming guest readers into our classrooms. If you would like to read to your child's class, please contact your child's teacher to set up a time. Thank you in advance for sharing your love of reading with our school community! Students are also invited to dress up as their favourite storybook character on Wednesday, October 7

Reading Stars at St. Richard

We are excited to launch year 3 of our school's literacy initiative *Reading Stars* on Monday, October 5. 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 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!

Picture Day

Don't forget to bring your smile on Tuesday, October 6, for picture day! Individual portraits will be taken on this day through Lifetouch photography.



Socktober Social Justice Project

For the month of October, we are asking students to bring in clean, new or gently used pairs of socks to help those in need! All donations will go to the Mustard Seed to make sure everyone can have warm toes for the winter! We will be collecting socks until October 30th

Inclement Weather and Appropriate Clothing

As the temperatures start to cool down, this is a reminder to ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, which includes proper outdoor and indoor footwear. In the event of an unplanned evacuation, students will need to ensure they have proper shoes they can wear outside, such as running shoes. Open toe shoes such as flip flops, or comfy footwear such as slippers are not a safe option for having to move quickly out of the building.

Clubs

We are pleased to share that we will be offering a variety of extracurricular student clubs this year. We want to thank our staff for volunteering their time to support these extracurricular activities.

Halloween

On Friday, October 30 the school will celebrate Halloween. Students are invited to wear their costumes to school that day. Please ensure that costumes are appropriate for school, and no weapons will be permitted. We want to have a welcoming and inclusive environment that is fun for all students. Please watch for specific information from your child's teacher about the in-class activities that will be offered.

Running Club

Congratulations to our St. Richard Running Club who did a great job at the Division cross country run! The students had a great time, and we are so proud of all our runners! Thank you to Mrs. Weiss for your time and dedication to coaching our students.

Custodian Appreciation Day/ World Teacher Day

On Friday, October 2, we pay tribute to our fantastic custodial staff for Custodian Appreciation Day. We are so blessed to have such an amazing team to keep St. Richard School clean and in order.

On October 5, we pay tribute to our amazing teaching staff for World Teacher's Day. Thank you to all the educators at St. Richard that continually go over and above to ensure student success!



Thanksgiving Celebration

On Friday, October 9 our Grade 5 and Grade 2 classes will be hosting our Thanksgiving Celebration at 9:15 am in the gym. We invite all families to join us!

Faith Formation

A reminder that St. Theresa Parish is currently accepting registrations for families wishing to have their children receive sacraments

For families wishing to have their children receive the sacrament of Confirmation here is the link for the [Confirmation Brochure](#)

The registration deadline for Confirmation is October 8, 2026.

Here is the link for the [First Eucharist Brochure](#)

The First Eucharist Parent Meeting is Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM at St. Theresa Parish.

Here is the link for [St. Theresa Parish](#) where you can access further information

School Fees

School Fees were posted to Parent Power School accounts on September 15th. 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.

Transportation

Those families who are using the yellow school bus are reminded to download the Bus Planner App for up-to-date information.

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

Attendance

Regular and consistent attendance is integral to school success. We understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable. However, we encourage families to prioritize attendance whenever possible and to reach out if your child is facing challenges that affect their ability to attend. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.



Please note that if students are away for extended vacations during regular instructional days, homework will not be provided. Students can access their google classroom account to see assignments.

If your child is late, please ensure they stop by the office to check in, receive a welcome slip and have their attendance updated. Accurate attendance of students is important so we know who is in the building and we can account for all students and staff in the event of an emergency.

Communication

We love hearing from our families! Please reach out to school staff via email or by calling the office. A reminder to please follow the protocol of first contact. Should a challenge arise please contact your child's teacher first. If you feel the issue requires further discussion, after first discussing the challenge with the teacher then please contact school administration.

A monthly newsletter will be sent home at the beginning of each month and will contain all the news and information about upcoming activities and events at the school.

Parking and Drop Off

A reminder the staff parking lot is for staff parking only and should not be used for student drop-offs, the exception being families who require the handicap space. 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 signs for bus parking and use marked crosswalks for crossing the street. The safety of all our students and families is paramount.

Parent Volunteers

We are grateful for the help and assistance our parents and community provide for our school. This is a reminder that per Division administrative procedures all volunteers must complete a Volunteer Registration form. This includes activities such as, fields trips and working with small groups. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office and we will provide you with the Volunteer Registration form.

Student Verification

In the coming weeks, you will be asked to log into your Parent Power School account and complete the student verification document. It's important to ensure all information is correct, so we have the most current information for your child. If you've moved or have got a new phone number, please ensure you make those adjustments. Thank you in advance!



Please note that all items regarding bussing are handled centrally and must be addressed directly with the Division's transportation department at 780-441-6078.

Social Media

Did you know we are on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)? Please like and follow us. Our social media accounts are a great way to see the latest happenings of the school.

Professional Learning Days

The staff of St. Richard will participate in two school-based professional learning days this year. There will be no classes for St. Richard students on the following days:

- Thursday, November 26
- Friday, February 12
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Mark Your Calendars! October Events

- October 5 – Parent Literacy Evening & Parent Council Meeting
- October 5 – 9 – Non-Fiction Reading Residency for students
- October 6 - Picture Day
- October 7 – Dress as your favourite book character
- October 9 – Thanksgiving Celebration at 9:15 am
- October 11 – Hot Lunch Order due at 11:59 PM on the Healthy Hunger Website
- October 12 – Thanksgiving Day – No School
- October 16 – Hot lunch Day
- October 19 – School is closed
- October 30 - Halloween Activities in afternoon

Year at a Glance

Please mark your calendars for the following special events at St. Richard this year. The dates and activities listed below are specific for St. Richard, all Division holidays/PD dates can be accessed on the [ECSD Calendar](#). Specific times and information will be sent out closer to each event. Please note other dates and events may be added throughout the year and we will do our best to keep you updated.

- October 5 – 9 – Non-Fiction Reading Residency for students
- October 6 - Picture Day
- November 3 – Family Math Night



- November 24 -27 Book Fair
- November 25 – Demo of Learning
- November 26 – School PD Day – No classes for students
- November 30 – December 11 – Hip Hop Dance Residency for Students
- December 15 – Christmas Concert
- January 11 – 15 – Non – Fiction Writing Residency
- January 12 – Parent Literacy Evening
- February 12 - School PD Day – No classes for students
- March 10 – Demo of Learning and Open House

