



# St. Richard Catholic Elementary School

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## October 2025 Newsletter

### Administrators' Message

October 1, 2025

Dear St. Richard Families,

As we welcome October, we do so with hearts full of gratitude for a wonderful beginning to the school year. September was filled with meaningful moments that brought our school community together in faith, learning, and compassion.

We had our Opening School Liturgy, a beautiful celebration led by Father Patrick that reminded us of our shared mission to be People of Hope. Our students showed incredible spirit and generosity during the Terry Fox Run, honouring Terry's legacy and raising awareness for cancer research. On Orange Shirt Day, our school gathered in a powerful assembly to reflect on the importance of truth and reconciliation, honouring the experiences of residential school survivors and committing to a future rooted in respect and understanding. We were blessed to have residential school survivor Cheryl Makokis share her story and answer the students' questions.

Throughout September, students have settled into routines, built friendships, and embraced learning with enthusiasm. Classrooms are alive with curiosity and collaboration, and it's been a pleasure to witness the energy and kindness that fills our halls.

We recognize that there may be potential labour disruptions in the coming weeks. We encourage all families to stay informed by checking the Edmonton Catholic School Division's website regularly for the most current and up-to-date information. Here is the link [ECSD Labour Updates](#)

As always, we value your partnership and welcome your feedback. If you have thoughts, suggestions, or ideas to help enrich our school community, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful October.

Alannah Muirhead  
Principal

Leanne Aura  
Assistant Principal

We're sharing this month's newsletter with details about upcoming events and school news. Please note that, due to the possibility of a province-wide teachers' strike beginning Monday, October 6, regular school operations may be disrupted.

If an agreement is not reached, classes will be cancelled, and students will not attend school in person or online. The events listed below would be cancelled or postponed for a future date.

### STEM at St. Richard

St. Richard is off to a wonderful start this year! Our teachers have been busy creating engaging STEM activities in their classrooms that spark curiosity and encourage students to think like problem solvers. Mr. Gagnon our Instructional Coach, has met with each teacher to plan exciting STEM projects for every grade. We are also eager to share that October will mark the launch of our first school-wide STEM challenge! We can't wait to see the amazing solutions and creativity our students bring forward. We'd like to invite you to be part of our upcoming STEM assemblies by sharing your expertise! If you work in a STEM related field and would be interested in speaking to our students, we'd love to hear from you. These assemblies are a great way to inspire young minds and showcase the exciting careers within our school community.

### Picture Day

Don't forget to bring your smile on Wednesday, October 8, for picture day! Individual portraits will be taken on this day through Lifetouch photography.

### Parent Council News

Our Parent Council Annual General Meeting will take place later this month. Information regarding the date and time will be sent when the date is finalized. During the AGM, new executive positions will be elected, and the 2024 -2025 financial statements will be presented.

We invite all parents and guardians to join us at our meeting.

We also send our well wishes and gratitude to our outgoing executive members for sharing their time and talents in supporting the various initiatives and activities to enhance the learning of our students.

### Healthy Hunger

We are looking for a volunteer to lead and organize Parent Council's Hot Lunch Program. The hot lunch program brings in much needed funds to help support our council's initiatives for the school. If you would be interested in taking the lead, please reach out to our parent council.

### 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 6-10. 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!

## Reading Stars at St. Richard

We are excited to launch year 2 of our school's literacy initiative *Reading Stars* on Monday, October 6. 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!

## 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.

## Halloween

On Friday, October 31 the school will celebrate Halloween. Students are invited to wear their costumes to school that day. Please ensure 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.

## Professional Learning Days

The staff of St. Richard will be engaging in two professional learning days this year. Please note there will be no classes for students on the following days:

Thursday, November 13

Thursday, January 29

## 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 of our runners! Thank you to Miss Sadoway and Miss Foy for your time and dedication to coaching our students.

## Custodian Appreciation Day/ World Teacher Day

On Thursday, 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 10, our Grade 5 class 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 the sacrament of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. Please contact Sr. Marife Macalam at 780-463-8646m, Press #1 and option 7 or via email at [srmarife@strcp.com](mailto:srmarife@strcp.com).

If you are looking for your child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, please note registration closes on October 10.

## 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.

## 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.

## Mark Your Calendars

October 2 – Custodial Appreciation Day  
Parent Council AGM in the library at 6:30 pm  
October 5 – World Teacher Day  
October 6 – Reading Stars program begins  
October 6 – 10 – Read in Week  
October 8 - Picture Day! Bring your smile!  
October 10 – Thanksgiving at 9:15 am  
October 13 – Thanksgiving – No classes, school is closed  
October 31 – Halloween