

Newsletter ~ April 2026

Administrators' Message

On **Sunday, April 5**, we look forward to celebrating the most important event in the Christian faith—the Resurrection of Jesus, Easter. Just as Sunday anchors the week, Easter Sunday serves as the cornerstone of the liturgical year. The Resurrection is the foundation of our hope and faith, reminding us that through Jesus' triumph over death, we too are promised new life in both body and spirit. The Easter season, known as **Easter tide**, is the second-longest season in the Church calendar, lasting 50 days until **Pentecost**, when Scripture recounts the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

Later in the month, on **Wednesday, April 22**, we recognize **Administrative Professionals' Day**, a special opportunity to honor our dedicated support staff who ensure our school community runs smoothly. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible administrative assistants, **Mrs. Gosche** and **Mrs. Strelkov**, for their tireless commitment. They are the welcoming presence in our office, the voices answering calls, the caregivers tending to sick or injured students, and the meticulous organizers of registrations, student records, and essential documents. Their work also includes managing finances, coordinating transportation, maintaining PowerSchool, overseeing the library, and handling countless other responsibilities that keep our school functioning seamlessly. Their



Jennifer Dimas
Principal



Beth Pecson
Assistant Principal



Sonia Schultz
Assistant Principal

dedication is deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for the many ways they support our students, staff, and families.

School Charism

Ways Christ is the Good Shepherd

Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11, 14). The relationship of believers with Jesus Christ is that of sheep to a shepherd. The Lord is our shepherd; we are his flock. But what does that mean?

In John 10, Christ spells out what it means for him to be our shepherd and for us to be his sheep in seven wonderful ways.

3. Christ gave himself for you.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep....I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:11, 15)

Here is something very wonderful: The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Everything Jesus endured in his passion was for you. When he gave himself into the hands of the arresting party in the Garden of Gethsemane, it was for you. When he was scourged and beaten, it was for you. And when he was condemned to death, it was for you. When he hung on that cross in agony, it was for you.

[Tweet "Never forget that Jesus chose to suffer and die for you. This was not imposed on him."]

Never forget that Jesus chose to suffer and die for you. This was not imposed on him. He gave himself willingly. "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again" (10:18).

Jesus accomplished everything he had come to do and then he gave himself into death. And this is what he has done for you. Christ's sheep can say with Paul, "The Son of God...loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

4. Christ called you and brought you to himself.

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice." (John 10:16)

How does he bring us to himself and make us his sheep? "He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (10:3). The sheep who are called by name in John 10:3 are the same sheep who enter by the door in John 10:9. And Jesus says, "I am the door." Christ is the door, and "if anyone enters by the door, he will be saved" (10:9).

You come through the door when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. But when you believe, you will very quickly have an awareness that there was something going on beyond your believing. Somehow he called you. Somehow he brought you. He did not stand back and wait to

see if you would come to him. Like the shepherd who went out to find the lost sheep, he laid you on his shoulders and brought you back home.

No School ~ Easter Monday, April 6

As we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter, we remind families that there will be **no school on Easter Monday, April 6**. May this sacred time be one of reflection, renewal, and rejoicing in the hope of Christ's resurrection. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 7.

Easter Celebration ~ April 8

Our school-wide Easter celebration is being held at Good Shepherd Parish on Wednesday, April 8 at 10:00 am. Good Shepherd families and friends are most welcome to join us for this beautiful liturgy!

From 2000 to Today: Opening Our Time Capsule ~ April 9

On Thursday, April 9, we are excited to celebrate a special moment in Good Shepherd history—the opening of our Time Capsule, originally sealed in the year 2000! This capsule holds a fascinating snapshot of our school and community from over two decades ago, including memorabilia, letters, and artifacts that capture the spirit of the time. Students, staff, and members of our school community—both current and past, including alumni and former families—will come together to witness this unique celebration, reflect on the past, and marvel at how much our school has grown and changed since the new millennium. It promises to be a memorable event that connects generations of the Good Shepherd family and reminds us of the enduring legacy of our school community.



Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School

TIME CAPSULE

Opening

Thursday, April 9 | 9:30 AM | 18111 57 Ave. NW

Join us as we take a step back in time!

Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School will be opening a time capsule sealed in the year 2000. Come celebrate the memories, stories, and surprises from our school's history.

🎵 Get Ready for Our First Ever Good Shepherd School Spring Concerts! 🎵

We're thrilled to invite you to **our very first Spring Concerts** at Good Shepherd School! Each grade will have its own special performance, and we can't wait to celebrate the season with music, fun, and lots of talent.

Concert Dates & Times:

- **Monday, April 27**
 - Kindergarten – 6:30 PM (arrive at 6:00 PM)
 - Grade 1 – 7:15 PM (arrive at 6:45 PM)
- **Tuesday, April 28**
 - Grade 2 – 6:30 PM (arrive at 6:00 PM)
 - Grade 3 – 7:15 PM (arrive at 6:45 PM)
- **Wednesday, April 29**
 - Grade 4 – 6:00 PM (arrive at 5:30 PM)
 - Grade 5 – 6:45 PM (arrive at 6:15 PM)
 - Grade 6 – 7:30 PM (arrive at 7:00 PM)

What You Need to Know:

- No tickets are required since each grade has its own concert.
- Please limit attendance to **immediate family members**, including grandparents, to ensure there's enough seating for everyone.
- Students should arrive **30 minutes before their performance** and report to their assigned room in the atrium.
- Each evening will include a **15-minute break** between performances to make transitions smooth for all guests.
- Our wonderful music teachers, **Mrs. Pecson and Mrs. Kim**, will share more details about concert attire as the dates get closer.
- The concerts are **public events**, so feel free to take photos and videos to capture the memories!

We can't wait to celebrate **spring, music, and our amazing students** with you. It's going to be an unforgettable week of songs, smiles, and applause!

Chief Superintendent's April Message

Read Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's [April Message](#) as she shares examples of the truth, beauty, and goodness that are found in Edmonton Catholic Schools.

School Supply Pre-order Packages

Good Shepherd School will once again be offering the opportunity for parents to pre-order school supplies through Write-On Stationary for the upcoming school year. We are currently in the process of confirming our supply lists. Information on how to place orders will be available at the end of April.

School Council/Parent Advisory Association

Parents are always welcome to join us for our School Council/Parent Advisory Association meetings. Our most recent meeting took place on **Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 pm**. We invite you to attend our next meeting which will be held at the school on **Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 pm**. School Council meeting minutes can be found on our school website.

Transportation of Additional Articles on the School Bus



The following guidelines have been established to ensure that the Division is meeting the provincial safety requirements set out in the Alberta Transportation School Bus Operator's Manual. The manual can be viewed at

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/content/docType45/Production/schoolbusopmanual.pdf>

Guidelines:

1. Passengers must not bring additional articles on board the bus if they cannot be stored safely.
2. Safely storing an item means that the item must be in a closed bag and placed on the child's lap or between their legs on the floor of the school bus.
3. No items larger than a backpack will be allowed on the school bus.
4. Items cannot block aisles or emergency exits.
5. When larger items are required by a student for purposes at the school, it will be the

responsibility of the parent to transport the item to and from school.

6. It is the parent responsibility to ensure their child's item will be acceptable to the driver for transporting.

Transportation - Yes	Transportation - No
Musical instruments in a bag (clarinet, flute,	Musical instruments larger than a clarinet (guitar)
Skates in a sealed backpack or bag	Hockey Equipment - Sticks, padding or hockey bags
Skateboards in a sealed backpack or bag	Toboggans, sleds, crazy carpets or saucers
Balls in a sealed backpack or bag	Loose items: Balls (soccer, basketball, volleyball)
Student projects that can be held in the students lap (dioramas, poster projects rolled up)	Skis, snowboards, poles or boots

Moving? Please Let Us Know

Spring really seems to be a time when families move to new homes. If you are moving out of our school community, please let us know so that we can have an accurate registration count for the fall and can staff our classes accordingly. As well, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information in the school office, so if you have a change of address or telephone number, please let us know. Thank you!

Registrations for 2026 – 2027

Registrations for the 2026-2027 school year are well underway and we have already welcomed a number of new families to the Good Shepherd School Community.

If you know of families who wish to register at Good Shepherd next year, please urge them to do so quickly. Please direct them to visit our school website for more information regarding registering. Thank you very much for spreading the good news about Good Shepherd School!



Capital City Clean-Up

This year, Good Shepherd students will once again take action by participating in the City of Edmonton's Capital City Clean-Up "School Yard Clean-Up" initiative. This event promotes responsible stewardship and care for the environment while teaching students how important it is that everyone do their part to keep our city and our school yard looking great. Schools that have the tidiest school yards are eligible to win prizes. We will begin cleaning up our school yard as soon as the fields are dry. We hope that Good Shepherd School will be a winner this year!



Young People are Vulnerable to Identity Theft

March was Fraud Prevention month in Alberta, and throughout the month the Edmonton Police Service worked in collaboration with community partners and hosted a number of fraud prevention initiatives. The main focus of this year's campaign was to remind people about the importance of protecting their privacy to prevent becoming a victim of identity theft, including taking responsibility for their 'digital footprint' (i.e., the traces of information we leave behind through our emails, online activities, etc.).

Young people are the most vulnerable targets of identity thieves online, as this type of crime can be undetected for a long period of time. Students are reminded to never provide any personal information over any websites, social media groups, and SMS messages or by email to unknown parties. Always use safe passwords to access mobile phones, school accounts, home computers, bank accounts and social websites.

Strong passwords that are changed on a regular basis can help prevent wrongdoers from gaining access to personal devices and prevent them from committing crimes like theft, fraud or even cyber bullying.

Tips for selecting new passwords:

1. Use a difficult password; easy-to-remember yet difficult to guess.
2. Use a 8-14 characters mixed of upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters.
3. Use different passwords for every websites and device.
4. Try to use a phrase, a song, or a poem rather than things like an address, name of friend or pet.
5. Change website passwords for any accounts which contain personal information (i.e. Birth date) at least every two months.
6. Do not access websites that require personal passwords or personally identifiable information on free public Wi-Fi networks.

7. Memorize passwords or store in a locked safe, do not share, write or store any passwords anywhere on your phone or computer.



Reporting a Student Absence

Edmonton Catholic Schools utilizes the SchoolMessenger SafeArrival system to simplify reporting absences for families. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and you can report your child's absence in advance using any of these options:

SchoolMessenger App (iOS or Android)

PowerSchool (click on the SchoolMessenger icon in the left hand menu)

Website: go.schoolmessenger.ca

Phone: 1-833-788-7662

Using SchoolMessenger is quick, convenient, and helps keep your school informed and your child safe. For full instructions and more information, visit ecsd.net/reportingabsences.

While student absences can be reported through the SchoolMessenger SafeArrival app, please be aware that messages sent via the app do not reach staff members. If you need to communicate directly with your child's homeroom teacher, please continue to use email or write a note in your child's agenda.




Thank you for helping us ensure clear and timely communication!

Good Shepherd Reading Superstars Program

Our monthly draw for our Good Shepherd Reading Superstars was held on March 26 and we are pleased to congratulate our lucky winners who will enjoy a pizza lunch with Mrs. Dimas, Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Pecson on Friday, April 10!

- Kindergarten: Julianna, Julia and Jude
- Grade One: Ose, Nikita and Samantha
- Grade Two: Vince, Oliver and Mathis
- Grade Three: Kyrie, Jordyn, Adriana and Celestine
- Grade Four: Asher, Daniel C. and Bruno
- Grade Five: Haskel, MJ and Clarke
- Grade Six: Chloe, Audrey and Andrea

The top three classes with the most accumulated reading strips for March are:

-  **1st Place:** 6C - Miss Millar's class with 107 strips
-  **2nd Place:** 1B - Mrs. Huang's class with 104 strips
-  **3rd Place:** 2A - Mrs. Pond's 91 strips.

Great job, everyone! A big thank you to our homeroom teachers and parents for encouraging students to read and participate!

The Seven Grandfather Teachings/ Good Shepherd House News

In March, our school community focused on the Turtle character trait of truth. Truth is developed through wisdom, knowledge and peace, peace within oneself and with others.

Students worked really hard to demonstrate this attribute and were recognized and at total of 1409 rocks were earned! The three houses that earned the most rocks in March for following the character trait of truth were as follows:

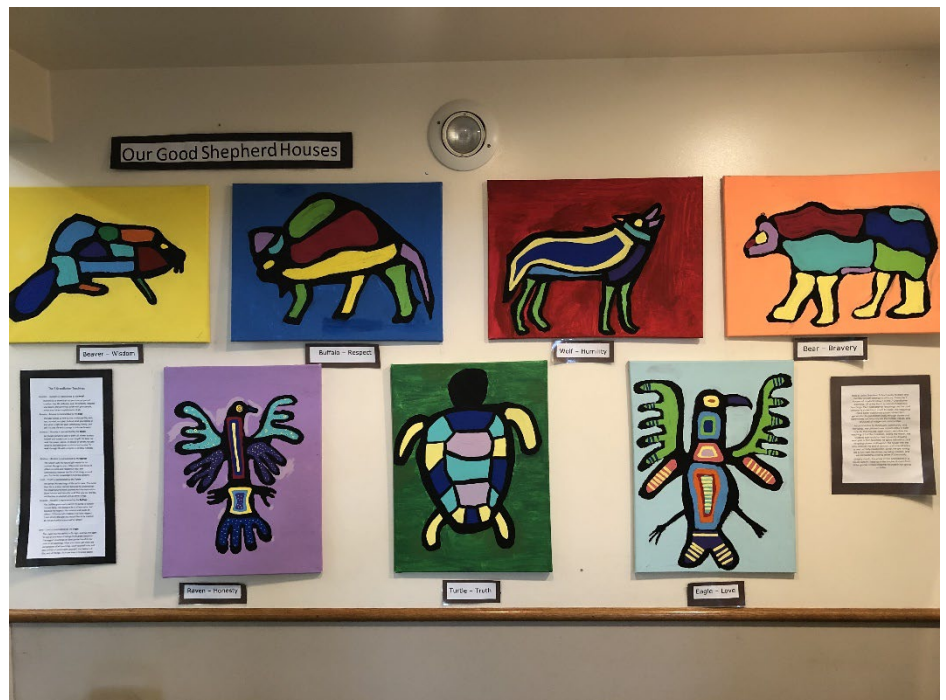
1st Place: Turtle House – 194 Rocks Earned

2nd Place: Eagle House – 193 Rocks Earned

3rd Place: Turtle House – 181 Rocks Earned

In April, we will work towards developing the character trait of the Beaver. The teaching of wisdom is taught to us by the beaver. Beavers use their teeth to cut trees and build dams; in doing this they have a positive impact on their community (the nature around them), their family (who live in the dam), and themselves (by finding purpose and health in doing what they are meant to do). The beaver reminds us that we all have gifts and a purpose in this world. It is through the love of knowledge that we find wisdom.

A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Strelkov for her leadership and work in implementing The Seven Sacred Teachings initiative at our site.





DREAMS for KIDS

supported by
Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation

February 28, 2026

Jennifer De Stefanis-Dimas, Principal
Good Shepherd School
18111 57 Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6M 1W1

Dear Jennifer:

Thank you for making dreams come true for the students of Edmonton Catholic Schools! Because of your generosity, we exceeded our goal, raising a record \$797,919 in our 2025 *Dreams for Kids* campaign!

Your beneficence will enable us to help more vulnerable children and youth of Edmonton Catholic Schools this year. This is particularly important since more families with children are struggling to make 'ends meet' during our difficult economic times.

For the period of February 1, 2026 through to January 31, 2027, your *Dreams for Kids* gift will support our:

- ♥ **Conquer Hunger Fund** – providing healthy school snack, breakfast, and lunch programs
- ♥ **Guardian Angel Fund** – providing support for students with mental health needs
- ♥ **Helping Hands Fund** – providing resources to assist schools in addressing student/family 'emergency needs' including health, clothing, shelter, transportation, and food
- ♥ **Dream Maker Fund** – offering financial support/subsidies to students in need so they may participate in school recreational, educational, spiritual, and social events/activities
- ♥ **100 Voices Fund** - funding socially and educationally disadvantaged young children who would benefit from early childhood education, but who do not qualify for government support
- ♥ **Champion Projects Fund** – through this Fund, students demonstrate their social justice values, while also developing their leadership, communication, and team-building skills

I ask that you please read our enclosed annual Foundation newsletter—the *Dream Maker*.

On behalf of Dr. Mona-Lee Feehan, our Board, and the staff of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation, I express our debt of gratitude to you for entrusting us with your gift. It is making a difference!

Sincerely,

Marc Barylo
Executive Director

P.S. Your past and continued support is vitally important to our sacred mission of serving Edmonton Catholic School students/families in need.

A Bite of Health

As an APPLE school, we strive to build a healthy school community focusing on improving students' mental health, physical activity, and eating habits for life.

Bring Back Play

This month, students are learning to get active outside of school hours through a campaign called Bring Back Play. Here is a summary of the learnings and how you can support your child's health.

Canadian children spend only 14 minutes of the after-school period engaged in heart-pumping physical activities. And only seven per cent of kids are meeting the current Physical Activity Guidelines of 60 minutes of moderate-to vigorous-intensity physical activity per day.¹



Canadian kids can move more. Physical Activity Guidelines recommend that children and youth get at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily, in order to live healthier, happier lives. You heard right – that's every day.¹

What can parents do?

After school and on weekends are perfect times to encourage outdoor, active play. Let your child decide what he/she would like to do - from dancing with friends to playing hide and seek or collecting sticks in the woods. Don't forget to take advantage of parks and playgrounds that are available for free fun. Parents, you can be a great role model by playing with your children!

Active Ways to Play

Classic Games

Captured the Flag
Jump Rope
What Time is it, Mr. Wolf?
Jumping Jack Tag

Ball Games

Kick Ball
Hacky Sack
Four Squate
Wall Ball

Unstructured

Get on your bike and go
Play hopscotch
Walk the dog
Run through the sprinkler

Fun Stuff

Throw a dance party
Make an obstacle course
Fly a kite
Tobogganing

Try a New Sport

Skiing/snowboarding
Swimming
Gymnastics
Bouldering

More Fun Stuff

Lawn bowling
Yoga
Climb a tree
Frisbee Golf

Reference:

¹ www.participation.com

www.appleschools.ca

Join our social community for the latest on our project

