

EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights



Pies soared into plenty of unsuspecting faces as the Flying Fathers — a hockey team of Catholic priests that includes Fr. Kris Schmidt from St. Francis Xavier Church in Camrose — visited Sherwood Park on Feb. 13 and 14 for two antic-filled hockey games against students from Elk Island Catholic Schools. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Board Highlights

Following Christ’s invitation: Trusting in the Bread of Life

February’s Faith Formation during the EICS Board of Trustees’ public meeting focused on John 6 and the pivot Jesus makes from delivering miracles to revealing Himself as the Bread of Life.

John 6 is a teaching that forms the foundation of our love and devotion to the Eucharist — the very center of our faith — explained Jody Seymour, our EICS Director of Student and Staff Formation.

After the miracles of feeding 5,000 followers and walking on water, Jesus shifts His message starting in John 6:22 from one of sustaining physical hunger to one of fulfilling eternal hunger.

The statements “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35, 48) and “I am the Living Bread” (John 6:51) connect Jesus to Exodus 3:14 and align Him with the God of Israel. His claims in these passages are



Archbishop Richard Smith was a special guest at February’s EICS Board of Trustees meeting as part of our Bishop’s Assurance process. Left to right: His Excellency, EICS Board Chair Le-Ann Ewaskiw, and EICS Superintendent Paul Corrigan.

so radical that many of His disciples chose to walk away — and Jesus lets them.

“Jesus does not force belief,” Seymour noted. “He invites it. We are free to accept or reject the truth of His presence in the Eucharist.”

She also challenged the Trustees to consider their

own personal beliefs: “Do we trust that Jesus is who He says He is? Is He truly the source of life for us, or do we look elsewhere for fulfillment?”

Ultimately, John 6 offers three key themes that Catholic faith is based on:

- **The Eucharist as**

the Ultimate Truth

- Jesus does not soften His teaching in John 6, even when many walk away. His real presence in the Eucharist is central to our faith and salvation.

- **Faith Requires Trust, Not Full Understanding** - Like Peter, we may not fully grasp Christ’s words, but true discipleship means trusting that He alone has the words of eternal life.

- **A Defining Moment: Stay or Leave** - The Bread of Life Discourse forces a choice. Just as the disciples had to decide whether to accept or reject Jesus’ teaching, we are invited to reaffirm our belief in His real presence and deepen our faith.

See BOARD on Page 3

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Le-Ann Ewaskiw
Board Chair
Strathcona County & Sherwood Park
Email



Jean Boisvert
Vice-Chair
Strathcona County & Sherwood Park
Email



Shelley Charchun
Member
Camrose
Email



Teresa Makowecki
Member
Vegreville
Email



Ted Paszek
Member
Strathcona County & Sherwood Park
Email



Dean Sarnecki
Member
Strathcona County & Sherwood Park
Email



Al Stewart
Member
Fort Saskatchewan
Email

Board Highlights

School calendars, AI guidelines, and wellness initiatives take focus

BOARD from Page 2

CALENDARS APPROVED

The EICS Board of Trustees formally approved the 2025-2026 school calendars.

The Board also approved in-principle the 2026-2027 school year calendar for Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville, which will be shared with our schools for feedback. More on [Page 4](#).

ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS

According to early projections, 8,929 students are anticipated to enrol for the 2025-2026 school year.

Alberta Education requires school divisions to provide an early projection in January to assist with its funding plan for the upcoming provincial budget.

Funding for the 2025-2026 school year will be determined by Alberta Education this spring, with final enrolment confirmed after classes begin in the fall.

WELLNESS UPDATE

The EICS Wellbeing at Work Cohort was formed to address staff wellness throughout the division, and includes teachers, school principals, and division psychologists.

The cohort's second meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 28.

EICS AI SUBCOMMITTEE

A subcommittee has been created to draft and propose an Administrative Procedure regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence within EICS that is aligned with the division's academic and professional integrity.

The nine-member subcommittee includes principals, staff consultants and tech leads, directors, and the division's communication coordinator.

Their first meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

BISHOPS' ASSURANCE UPDATE

EICS Board Chair Le-Ann Ewaskiw and Superintendent Paul Corrigan met with members of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories on Friday, Feb. 21.

Superintendent Corrigan presented an update on activities between our division and the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton as part of the Bishops' Assurance Pilot Project.

TAXATION LETTER

Catholic parents of EICS students are encouraged to ensure their property tax dollars are being designated to the Catholic school system.

A letter from Board Chair Ewaskiw is [available to read here](#).

EICS PARISH PRIESTS VISIT

Our division had another outstanding meeting with the parish priests in mid-February.

POLICY REVIEWS

The Policy Committee

reviewed the following policies during February's public Board meeting:

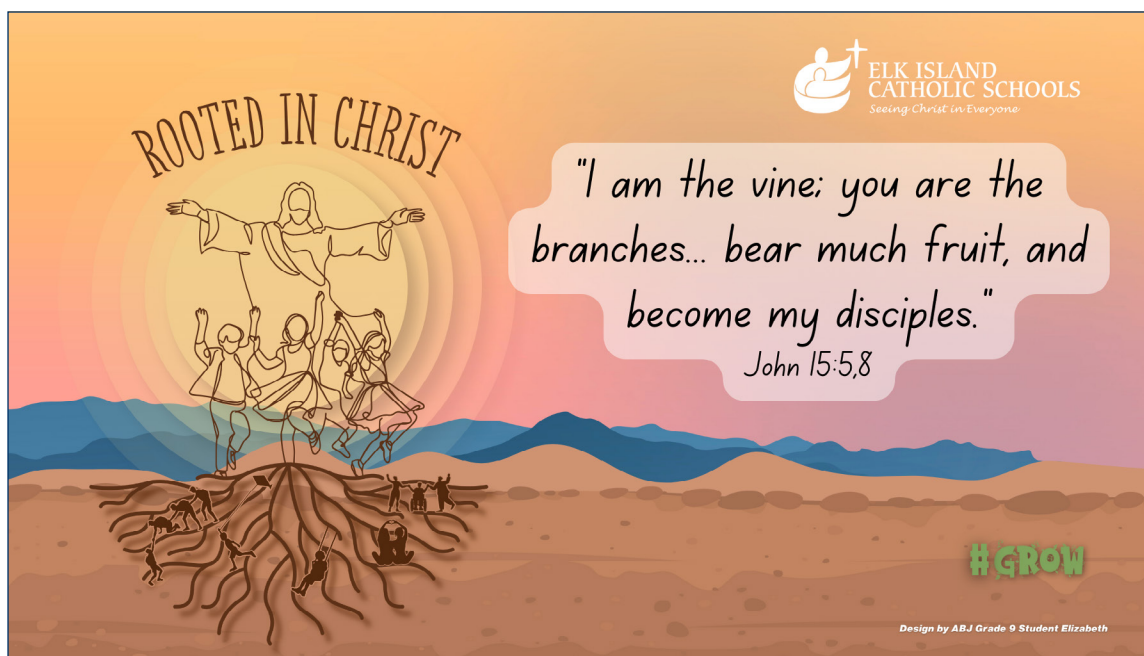
- **[Policy 9: Board Representatives](#)**
- **[Policy 13: Distributed Decision Making](#)**
- **[Policy 11: Board Delegation of Authority](#)**

Policies 9 and 13 returned for a second reading and passed. Policy 11 had its first reading and will return for a second reading at a future Board meeting.

GRACE UPDATE

Two EICS parents are the new chairs of the local Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) committee.

Visit gracealberta.org for more info about GrACE.



Board Highlights

Calendars approved for 2025-2026 school year

The EICS Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 school year calendars at their Feb. 19 public meeting.

Each year, the goal is to develop a calendar that meets required instruction hours, supports a quality learning environment, and provides for teacher and staff professional development.

In addition, EICS takes into consideration the calendars for Elk Island Public Schools and Battle River School Division. While our

division provides student transportation in Sherwood Park and Strathcona County, we have cooperative busing agreements in place with our public board counterparts in Vegreville, Camrose, and Fort Saskatchewan.

New this year, schools in Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville will have early dismissal every Wednesday.

In Camrose, Our Lady of Mount Pleasant and Blessed

Carlo Acutis Catholic schools will operate four-day student weeks. St. Patrick Catholic School will continue with five-day student weeks.

Notable dates for the 2025-2026 calendar include:

- **Aug. 28:** First day of school in Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park/ Strathcona, Vegreville.
- **Sept. 2:** First day of school in Camrose.
- **Nov. 10 - 14:** Fall break for all schools.
- **Dec. 22 - Jan. 2:** Christmas break for all schools.
- **March 23 - 27:** Spring break in Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park/ Strathcona, Vegreville.
- **March 30 - April 3:** Spring Break

in Camrose.


- **April 3:** Good Friday
- **April 6:** Easter Monday
- **June 23:** Last day of school for all schools.

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The EICS Board of Trustees also approved in-principle the 2026-2027 school year calendar for the communities of Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville.

Creating this calendar now is a direct response to the feedback our division heard from parents during consultation for the 2025-2026 school year.

This calendar will be circulated by schools for feedback prior to returning to the March EICS Board of Trustees meeting for potential final approval.



2025-2026
Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville
FINAL Approved Calendar - February 2025


August 2025					September 2025					October 2025					November 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31
25	26	27	28	29	29	30													

December 2025					January 2026					February 2026					March 2026				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			

April 2026					May 2026					June 2026				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

Legend

- First Instruction Day --Semester 1 & 2
- PD Days/Operational - School closed to students
- Early Dismissal/Staff Meeting
- Holiday/Vacation/School Closure
- Day in Lieu Interviews Operation Day -no students/staff
- Last Student Day



2025-2026
Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School / Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School
FINAL Approved Calendar - February 2025


August 2025					September 2025					October 2025					November 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31
25	26	27	28	29	29	30													

December 2025					January 2026					February 2026					March 2026				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			

April 2026					May 2026					June 2026				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

Legend

- First Instruction Day --Semester 1 & 2
- PD Days/Operational - School closed to students
- Early Dismissal/Staff Meeting
- Holiday/Vacation/School Closure
- Day in Lieu Interviews Operation Day -no students/staff
- Last Student Day



2025-2026
St. Patrick Catholic School
FINAL Approved Calendar - February 2025

August 2025					September 2025					October 2025					November 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31
25	26	27	28	29	29	30													

December 2025					January 2026					February 2026					March 2026				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			

April 2026					May 2026					June 2026				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

Legend

- First Instruction Day --Semester 1 & 2
- PD Days/Operational - School closed to students
- Early Dismissal/Staff Meeting
- Holiday/Vacation/School Closure
- Day in Lieu Interviews Operation Day -no students/staff
- Last Student Day

The 2025-2026 school year calendars. Click or tap on any of the above calendars to download the PDF version.

Board Highlights

Student Transportation merges safety and faith

Student Transportation's February presentation to the EICS Board of Trustees touched on its effort to continue to align itself with the division's Catholic teachings and leadership.

Currently, EICS Student Transportation features 36 school bus routes within Sherwood Park and Strathcona County.

FIRST RIDER PROGRAM

Last August, 94 students registered in the First Rider program, granting kids who had not previously ridden a school bus the opportunity to see one up close, learn best practices about bus safety and rider behaviour, and take a short ride with their parents.

EICS Student Transportation Director Mike Hayden said he is pleased with the feedback he has heard from parents about the program, as well as its overall growth in registrations from year to year.

The First Rider program is offered in mid-August as a part of the back-to-school ramp-up. More information is available [on our website](#).

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

The Give A Pencil Car Wash Fundraiser launched by Student Transportation in 2024 will return this spring. Liane Gingras, the Student Transportation Coordinator who had



A new bus rider receives a gift bag after completing the EICS First Rider program in August 2024.

the idea to create the car wash fundraiser to collect backpacks and supplies a year ago, said it will collect donations to help schools purchase athletic equipment this year.

The car wash is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, May 28. More info will be made available in the spring.

DRIVER COMMUNICATION

Heidi Cunningham, our Student Transportation Safety and Planning Coordinator, shared that she works on a monthly EICS Bus Buzz newsletter.

Sent to all EICS bus drivers, it includes tips that range from health and wellness, to driving and student safety best

practices, and preventative maintenance.

FAITHFUL JOURNEYS

Looking to the future, Hayden noted that Student Transportation is exploring a Faithful Journeys program for 2025-2026 that rewards students who demonstrate good behaviour while riding the bus.

"They've done an amazing job seeing themselves and responding to the Assurance Plan," Superintendent Corrigan told the Board.

Archbishop Richard Smith, who attended a portion of the public meeting, said he was impressed with the initiative to seek out opportunities to instill Catholic teachings.



The inaugural Give A Pencil Car Wash enabled Student Transportation to donate 600 backpacks with school supplies to students. Left to right: Heidi Cunningham, our Student Transportation Safety and Planning Coordinator; Liane Gingras, our EICS Student Transportation Coordinator; Mike Hayden, EICS Student Transit Director.

Division News in Pictures



The Flying Fathers, a team of Catholic priests who combine faith, hockey, and comedy, visited Sherwood Park on Thursday, Feb. 13 and Friday, Feb. 14 for a round of games against students from École Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Holy Redeemer, St. John Paul II, and St. Theresa Catholic schools. Plenty of goals were scored, but the Flying Fathers' ultimate goal is to combine Canada's love of hockey, the Catholic Church's evangelization, and a demystification of the priesthood.



For more information and highlights featuring the Flying Fathers' visit to Elk Island Catholic Schools, [watch the YouTube video](#) by the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Division News in Pictures

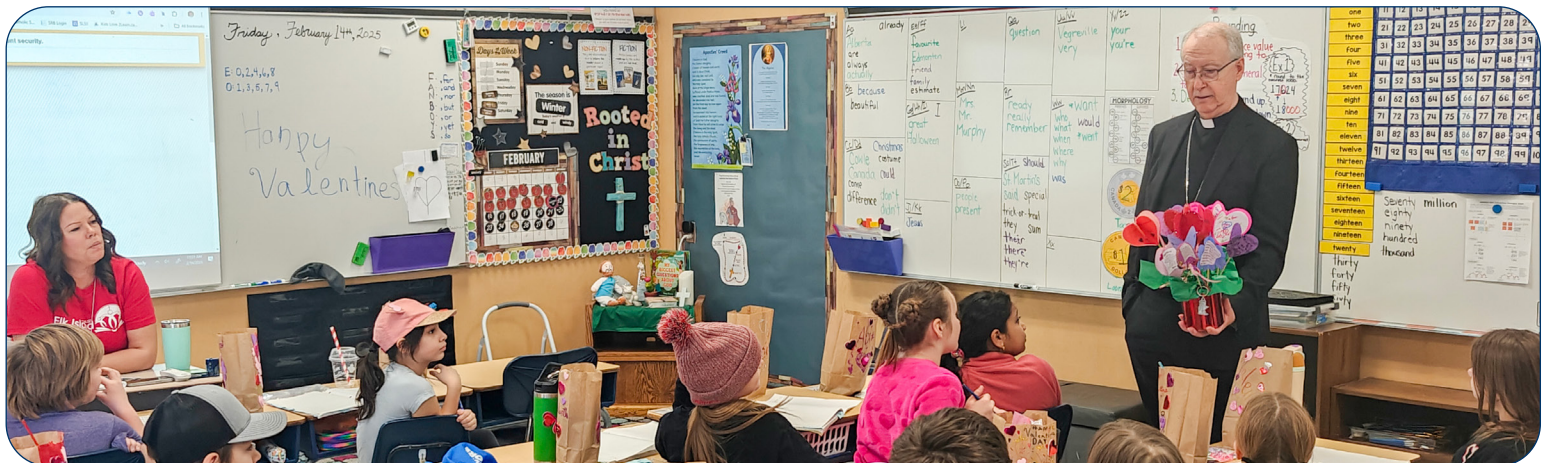
Game 2 of the Flying Fathers vs EICS students on Feb. 14 featured a very determined team of students from Holy Redeemer and St. John Paul II Catholic schools.



School News in Pictures



Archbishop Richard Smith from the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton visited and celebrated Mass with our schools in Vegreville on Friday, Feb. 14.



School News in Pictures

Throughout February, EICS students and staff honoured Black History Month by exploring African culture, traditions, and contributions through music, art, storytelling, and learning. These activities fostered appreciation, understanding, and unity in our school communities.



School News in Pictures



Just like that, 100 days of school is in the books! Students and staff at our schools celebrated hitting the increasingly popular school-year milestone in style and with fun and games.



School News in Pictures

Students and staff throughout EICS celebrated Valentine's Day with festive activities, classroom fun, and acts of kindness. As a meaningful gesture, St. André Besette Catholic School students also created Valentine's Day cards for seniors, sharing messages of love and support.



School News in Pictures



Fort Saskatchewan’s Twice But Nice Society recently donated \$4,993 to St. John Paul II’s Grab N Go food cart to support students.

Left to right: Joan Prochnau, Twice But Nice Board Director; Lee Dube, St. John Paul II Family Wellness Worker; Nikki Bolen, St. John Paul II Assistant Principal; Judy Rehill, Twice But Nice Board President.

Trustee Event Calendar for February

February 7

Partners in Education Lunch with Alberta Teachers’ Association Local 21.

Game 1: Flying Fathers vs EICS students in hockey.

Bishops’ Assurance Meeting

February 28

EICS Board meeting with MLAs who represent constituencies within EICS.

February 11

Catholic Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting.

February 14

Archbishop Richard Smith leads Mass and visits St. Martin’s and St. Mary’s Catholic schools.

February 22

ACSTA Symposium Day 2.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday
March 19
1 p.m.**

Visit our website for meeting agendas and minutes.

February 12

Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees’ Association (ACSTA) Ed Talks.

Game 2: Flying Fathers vs EICS students in hockey.

Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 General Meeting.

February 25

EICS Board of Trustees meeting with Alberta Teachers’ Association.

February 13

Theology on Tab with Our Lady of the Angels Church’s Fr. Abraham.

February 19

Monthly EICS Board of Trustees Public Meeting.

February 26-28

Archbishop Jordan Catholic School Review.

February 21

ACSTA Symposium Day 1.



Catholic-integrated education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in the communities of Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville.

CONTACT US

310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8H 1A4
780-467-8896
eics.ab.ca

FOLLOW US

Follow EICSCatholic to stay up-to-date on what’s happening at our division!

