



October 2025 | Vol 9 | Issue 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Messages

Administrators' Message	6
Chief Superintendent Anderson's Message	7
IB Coordinators' Message	8

Important Information

School Council	10
Fundraising Association	11
Staffing Updates	12
Professional Development	13
Office Hours	14
Fee Payments	15
Enrolment and Class Sizes	16
BDM is on Social Media	17
Pull Tabs for Wheelchairs	18



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PowerSchool Applications

School Central App	20
Monitor Student Progress in PowerSchool	21
Entering Absence Information	22
Report Absences with Safe Arrival	23



Policies, Protocols and Procedures

School Emergencies	25
Student Illness	26
Lunch Drop Offs	27
Hot Lunch Program	28
Birthdays and Books at BDM	29

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Transportation & Traffic Safety

Student Pick Ups and Drop Offs	31
Slow Down for School Zones	35
Safety Patrols	36



Upcoming Events

READ IN Week	38
Thanksgiving Liturgy	39
Thanksgiving Day	40
School Picture Retakes	41
Good Shepherd Parish CWL Fall Fair & Market	42
Halloween Activities	44





WELCOME

WELCOME MESSAGES

ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

We know that many parents are concerned about the possibility of job action by teachers in Alberta and it is a good idea for parents to prepare for it, just in case. Job action is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 6. Please see the division's [Labour Update](#) page for the most timely information available. For now, classes and activities in the school are continuing as usual. We will let you know if anything changes. In the event that job action does happen, events and activities planned for October will be rescheduled.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, and we have many things to be thankful for. We are most thankful that you have entrusted us with the task of educating your children – they make us so proud every single day. We had a very smooth start to the school year. Students have settled in and are comfortable with routines and procedures.

We are very thankful for our school staff. Sunday, October 5 is World Teachers' Day, and we thank our teachers for all they do!

Thank you to all parents who sit on our School Council and on our Fundraising Association. It is wonderful to see so many parents who are committed to our school and wish to have a voice in the direction the school is going and in the decisions that affect their children's education. Thank you for your enthusiasm and your desire to help us to make our school even greater than it already is.

On behalf of the staff, we would like to wish each of our students and their families a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Terry Volk

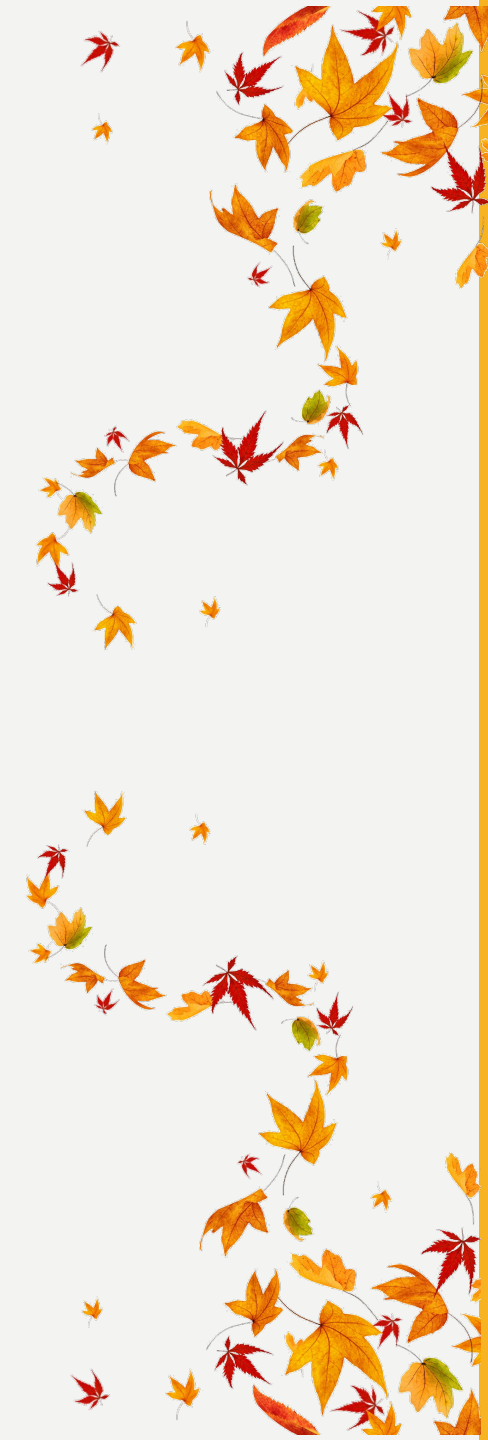
John Edwards

Joe Estephan

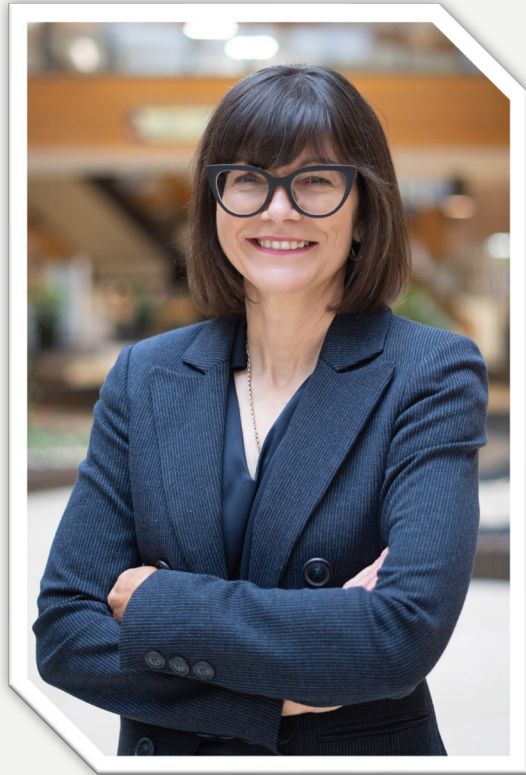
Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ANDERSON



Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's message is online:
Visit <https://www.ecsd.net/chief-superintendents-message> to
read the Chief Superintendent's October Message.

IB COORDINATORS' MESSAGE



Our IB Coordinators invite you to follow our school on social media to stay updated on all the exciting happenings in our PYP and MYP classrooms and school community. This is a great way to learn about events, achievements, and to gain insight into how the IB programs are implemented at Bishop David Motiuk.

Join us online to stay connected!

Instagram: [bishopdavidmotiukecsd](#)

Facebook: Bishop David Motiuk School ECSD

As always, we welcome questions about the IB programmes in our school. Andrea Olivieri is the coordinator for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Lyndsy Panizzon is the coordinator for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). They can be reached at Andrea.Olivieri@ecsd.net and Lyndsy.Panizzon@ecsd.net



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School Council

Thank you to the many parents who attended our School Council Annual General Meeting on September 24. We were so very pleased to have so many parents take an interest in their child's education!

Our School Council Executive for the 2025-2026 school year is:

Chairperson: Dwayne Vodden

Vice-Chairperson: Larissa Chenier

Secretary: Jess Gordon

Staff Representatives: Christine Santin & IB Coordinators

Principal: Terry Volk

Parents are always welcome to join us at our School Council meetings. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, October 29 at 6:00 pm** in the Library

Parents, please join us at our next Council meeting - your input into school decisions and activities is important to us.

Fundraising Association

Thank you to our Fundraising Association for their tremendous support for our school. The Executive of the Fundraising Association for the 2025-2026 school year is:

President: Jenn Krawchuk

Vice President: April Bernath

Secretary: Jessica Gordon

Treasurer: Richard Carr

Casino Chair: Jenn Krawchuk & April Bernath

Staffing Updates

Mr. Ernest has made the decision to retire from his teaching position effective today. While he has requested that his departure be quiet and without fanfare, we cannot let this moment pass without recognizing, with gratitude, the impact he has had on our school community.

Over the years, Mr. Ernest has been central to the growth and vitality of our Religious Studies program. His teaching, his care for students, and his witness to our faith have touched the lives of so many. Students and staff alike know him as a steady presence, a source of wisdom, and a model of kindness. Indeed, students come back to visit him year after year to let him know how much he has impacted them on their personal faith journeys.

Although he has chosen to step back without any kind of formal celebration, we hold Mr. Ernest in our prayers with deep appreciation for his service. We wish him every blessing as he begins this new chapter in his life.

With Mr. Ernest's departure, Mr. Wasik will be taking over Mr. Ernest's teaching assignment. **Mrs. Germaine** will take over for Mr. Wasik until December, when Mrs. Figiel will be returning from maternity leave and will assume these teaching duties.

OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm. Parents who call the school outside of these hours are asked to leave a clear message and we will return your call as soon as we are able to.

Please remember that we will be happy to give your child a message at the end of the day. We thank you for your **understanding of our wanting to protect learning time for all students by not interrupting classes for messages.**

FEE PAYMENTS



Fees have been entered into PowerSchool and are now due for payment. Fees may be paid using credit or debit cards. Thank you!

ENROLMENT AND CLASS SIZES

Enrolment numbers for Bishop David Motiuk have been finalized.

Currently, we have 449 students in our elementary IB Primary Years Programme (Kindergarten – Grade 5) and 408 students in our junior high IB Middle Years Programme (Grades 6 – 9) for a total of 857 students.

Class size averages are as follows:

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME			MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME		
Class	Total	Class Avg	Class	Total	Class Avg
Kindergarten	72	18	Grade Six	104	26
Grade One	54	18	Grade Seven	91	30
Grade Two	75	25	Grade Eight	101	26
Grade Three	76	26	Grade Nine	112	28
Grade Four	84	28	Total MYP	408	
Grade Five	88	29			
Total PYP	449		Total Enrolment	857	

BDM IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



- Do you wonder about what's going on in classrooms at BDM? Follow us on social media to see what we're up to:
- Instagram: [bishopdavidmotiukecsd](#)
- Facebook: [Bishop David Motiuk School ECSD](#)

PULL TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Don't know what to do with pull tabs from drink cans? Collect them and bring them to school! We are pleased to support the Knights of Columbus pull tab campaign. The aluminum in the pull tabs is used toward providing wheelchairs for people who need them. As you can imagine, it takes thousands upon thousands of pull tabs to make just one wheelchair...so please drop them off whenever you can.





POWERSCHOOL APPLICATIONS

SCHOOL CENTRAL APP



The **School Central App** is an easy way to access school-related information and keep you updated on your child's academic journey. Use the app to

- ✓ Stay informed about your child's progress by viewing grades and upcoming assignments.
- ✓ View attendance records so you're always aware of their presence at school.
- ✓ Track your child's bus schedule, with details on bus routes and history.
- ✓ Set notifications to get alerts about arrival and departure times.

The app is constantly evolving, with more features to come, ensuring you are always informed and in control, providing a seamless way to stay engaged in your child's education.

Please see the [School Central App Guide](#) for more information.



Download the app in App Store



Download the app in Google Play

MONITOR STUDENT PROGRESS IN POWERSCHOOL

In addition to the School Central App, parents at Bishop David Motiuk could choose to use PowerSchool to monitor their child(ren)'s progress at school. PowerSchool enables parents to monitor attendance, find out what homework assignments will be, confirm that students have submitted homework or assignments and view their child's grades as they exist in the teacher's gradebook at any given time. PowerSchool also allows parents to register to receive alert notifications, review daily comments from teachers and much more. For those who are not familiar with how to access grades and attendance on PowerSchool, please see the information below:

Assessment and Reporting Family Support

[For Parents | Tracking Your Child's Learning \[UPDATED VERSION\]](#) This video will walk families through the process of how to track their child's progress

[How to View Report Cards in the Parent Portal](#)

[Parent Guide to Assessment & Reporting – K-6](#)

[Parent Guide to Assessment & Reporting – 7-9](#)

PowerSchool is also the vehicle used for payment of school fees, field trips and other purchases.

In order to access the report card, parents will need to have their own unique PowerSchool account. (This is a different account than the one used by students.) If you require a username and first-time access code for PowerSchool, or if you have forgotten your PowerSchool log-in information, please call or email [Mrs. te Velde](#). She will be very happy to assist you. It is very important that parents who have not yet done so, create their PowerSchool account as soon as possible.

Note: PARENTS MUST HAVE A POWERSCHOOL ACCOUNT TO ACCESS STUDENT REPORT CARDS AND PAY SCHOOL FEES.

ENTERING ABSENCE INFORMATION

With the sheer number of students at our school, it can take a few hours for office staff to go through phone messages regarding student absences. This sometimes results in call-outs, even though parents have left messages, simply because staff have not had the chance to listen to all of the messages before the call-outs begin.

The SchoolMessenger app includes a system for reporting your child's absences called SafeArrival. SafeArrival is an efficient way to report student absences. It allows you to report an absence in advance, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and helps us reduce the time it takes to confirm your child's attendance. You can report these absences through the mobile app, website, or telephone. You are also still welcome to call the school directly at (780) 409-2603.



USING SAFE ARRIVAL TO REPORT ABSENCES

To learn how to use the SafeArrival automated system through SchoolMessenger, please visit ecsd.net/reportingabsences. There, you will find step-by-step instructions and a video on downloading and using the app. To ensure easy account setup, please use the same email address and phone number you use for PowerSchool. The SafeArrival system will also be able to notify you quickly in the event of an unexpected absence. This will also be done by email, text, or phone call, and the system will continue to contact you until the absence is explained. We hope this new system will enhance our communication with you and improve the efficiency of our attendance processes. Thank you for your continued partnership as we strive to provide your child with the best possible Catholic education.

Edmonton Catholic Schools @ home.schoolmessenger.ca





POLICIES, PROCEDURES, PROTOCOLS

SCHOOL EMERGENCIES

- In the Edmonton Catholic School Division, the safety of our students is always our first priority and students are well supervised when they are on school property. When situations occur that warrant emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all students, we will provide parents with accurate and up to date information. In an emergency situation, we are in touch with division personnel. They will send messages and post information for parents to our school website. Information will be posted and updated as required when a school is experiencing an emergency.
- If there is an emergency situation at the school where your child(ren) attend, check the school website to stay informed and receive timely information. We also need to keep phone lines available at the school during an emergency, so we ask that you do not call the school. This will enable staff at the school to keep in touch with emergency providers and Division personnel. Thank you for your support and help in ensuring our students remain safe.



STUDENT ILLNESS

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms daily before coming to school. This is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of illness. Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of illness, including fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, new or worsening cough, or shortness of breath, should remain at home until their symptoms have improved and they have been free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and they feel well enough to resume normal activities. If your child becomes sick at school, parents/guardians will be called to pick them up. If your child is away from school for any reason, please call the office to let us know.

At our school we are,

- Encouraging students to wash and/or sanitize their hands regularly. Hand sanitizer is available at our school.
- Prioritizing frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.
- Ensuring proper ventilation is extremely important to us. We have installed the ASHRAE-recommended MERV 13 filters in our school, and our HVAC systems are running for extended periods of time. We continue to reference and implement ASHRAE guidance where practicable within the limitations of existing infrastructure across the Division.
- Respecting individual choice regarding masks. Our priority is supporting a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment.
- Reporting illness to Alberta Health Services when school-wide student absentee rates are over 10% due to illness so they can investigate and advise. This has always been our practice.

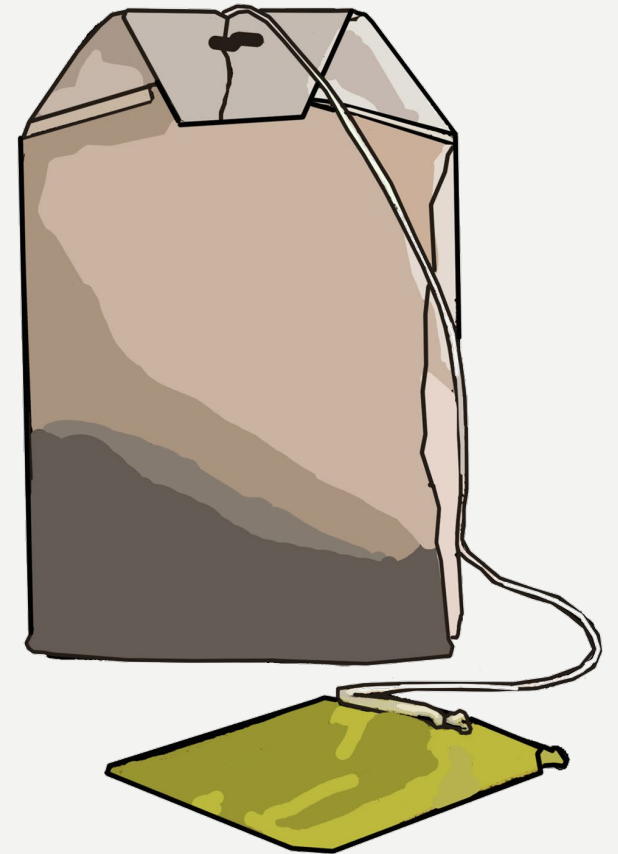


LUNCH DROP OFFS

Many of our families like to drop off lunches for students.

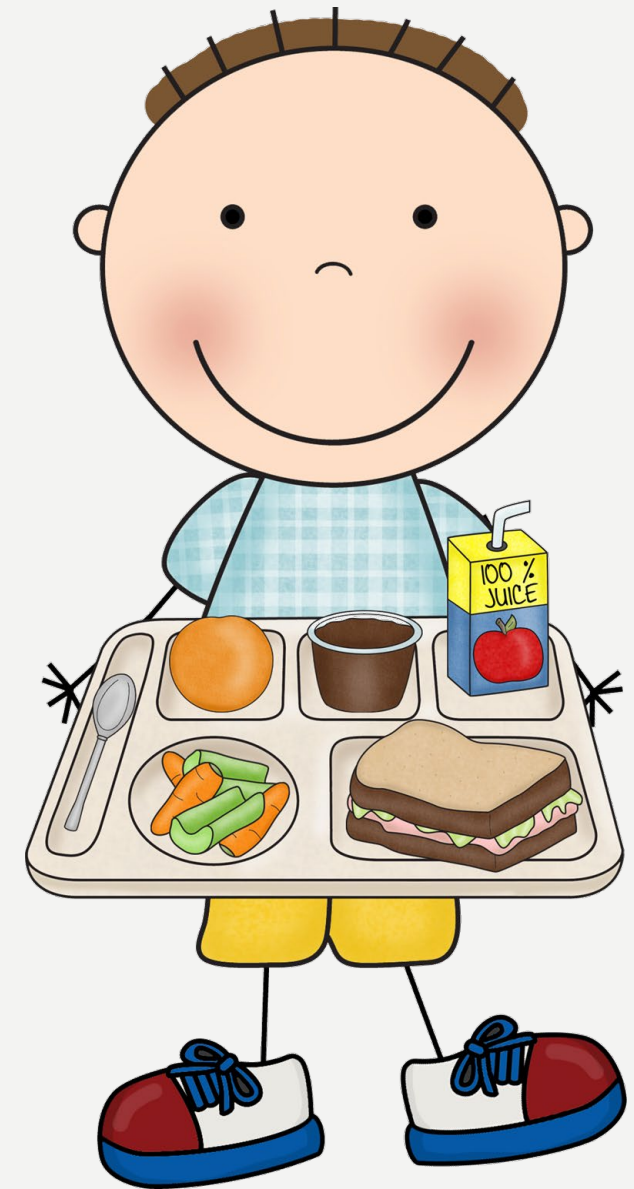
Unfortunately, since we have so many students, we are not able to manage lunches that are dropped off for students. It is disruptive to make calls to classrooms to let students know about their lunches and our office staff are not able to manage the volume of calls and coordination necessary to distribute these lunches. Therefore, we ask parents to plan ahead and make sure to send a lunch with their children each day. Students will be able to order through our weekly Hot Lunch program as a treat every now and then.

Note: if parents choose to drop lunches off, they are left on the bench at the main entrance. Lunches must be clearly labelled with the student's name. Students do not have access to cell phones, so they must be aware that a lunch will be there before they arrive at school. The school will not monitor or assist with lunches.



HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

- Bishop David Motiuk uses [Healthy Hunger](#) as our hot lunch organizing service. Hot lunches are offered for students on Fridays. Our hot lunch providers include Subway, Opa, Boston Pizza and others. Because our vendors require advance notice, lunch orders must be placed in advance. Once parents sign up for the service, they will receive email notices when new lunch dates are added. Orders are placed and paid for online. The school does not collect money for lunches. Changes to orders, including cancellations, may be made up to five days prior to the hot lunch date. After that time, no changes may be made. If a student is absent or ill on hot lunch day, parents may call the school to make arrangements for pick-up if they wish. Otherwise, the lunch will be donated to someone else.
- The first hot lunch for this year will be on Friday, October 17, 2025. **Orders for the October 17 lunch are due on Friday, October 10.**



BIRTHDAYS AND BOOKS AT BDM

We are cautious about sharing food at BDM, since we have several students with food allergies. We know that families often like to celebrate special occasions such as birthdays with treats or cupcakes. These practices are discouraged since they can result in several sugary treats within a short time span, and it is difficult to know if these treats contain allergens. Families are asked not to purchase lunches for entire classes. Instead of food items for a class, please consider donating a book for your child's classroom library instead. This is a nice way to mark your child's special day and it would bring much enjoyment to students in the classroom.

There will be specific times of the year when the school will provide treats and/or children will be allowed to bring treats to class.





TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC SAFETY

STUDENT PICK UPS AND DROP OFFS

Many parents choose to drive their children to school. Our school population is very high and traffic in the neighbourhood is extremely congested. Due to the number of busses, day care vans and staff vehicles we have, our school parking and drive through areas are closed to parent traffic between the hours of 8:00 AM – 3:45 PM (or when the busses leave).

This is the case in most schools and is much safer for students. The area between the wrought iron fences is set aside for day care vans and staff parking. Staff vehicles also park in the staff parking area. Yellow school busses drop students off directly in front of the school.

Please see the [Traffic Safety Application](#) for detailed information about traffic safety and parking around the school. The area between the wrought iron fences is set aside for day care, out of school care vans and staff parking. Staff vehicles also park in both staff parking areas. Yellow school busses drop students off directly in front of the school.

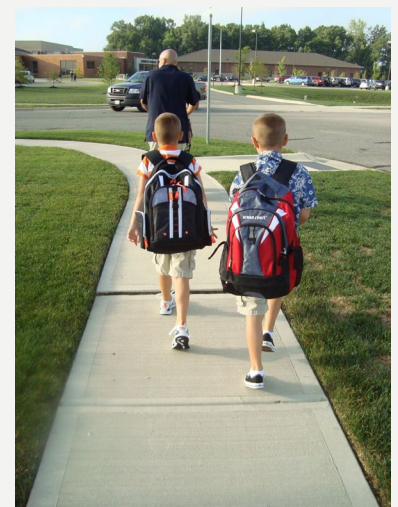
Persons with disabilities who will be leaving their vehicle to meet younger children (K-3) at their doors may park in stalls designated for persons with disabilities. A placard for persons with disabilities must be displayed. Persons with disabilities who are picking up older children are asked to park on the street or in a prearranged spot in the neighbourhood where children can meet them.



STUDENT PICK UPS AND DROP OFFS

Again, traffic right around drop off and dismissal time is very congested. Some parking is available on Lewis Greens Drive and the stretch right in front of the school is a loading zone. In order to lessen traffic in the neighbourhood, families that qualify for bussing are encouraged to arrange for bus transportation for their children. Younger children can be met at their stops. Parents may also wish to drop their children off at the far side of the school field and have them walk from there. Parents wishing to wait at the doors with children may have to park a block or two away and walk to the school. Although brisk walking is good exercise and helps to get our brain cells working well, it is important to dress for the weather. Parents are asked to make sure that children are dressed for the weather at all times. We ask that everyone be patient and keep the safety of our students at the forefront.

All entry doors to the school are locked at 9:00 AM. Doors are monitored until then. Students arriving after 9:00 are asked to go to the front door of the school and ring the buzzer for entry. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep our students safe.



STUDENT PICK UPS AND DROP OFFS

Parents who park in the neighbourhood are reminded to obey all traffic signs and laws.

Bylaw enforcement will be on-site at various times over the school year to monitor traffic in the area. Common offences and their associated fines include those listed on the right.

Please keep the safety of our students at the forefront.

Description	Fine
Double parking	\$50.00
Interfere with a peace officer	\$250.00
Park outside a marked space	\$50.00
Obstruct traffic by parking	\$50.00
Obstruct doorway by parking	\$50.00
Obstruct emergency access by parking	\$50.00
Park in a passenger loading zone	\$50.00
Park in a no parking zone	\$100.00
Stop in a no stopping zone	\$100.00
Stop in a bus zone	\$50.00
Park on private property with no public access	\$50.00
Parking too near a marked crosswalk	\$50.00

STUDENT PICK UPS AND DROP OFFS

Staff monitor entry doors until morning announcements are done (usually by 8:50). All entry doors are locked at this time. Students arriving at school after 8:50 AM are asked to go to the front door of the school and ring the buzzer for entry. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep our students safe.



SLOW DOWN FOR SCHOOL ZONES



AT EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS IS ALWAYS OUR FIRST PRIORITY! SCHOOL ZONES ARE IN EFFECT AROUND ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT EDMONTON. THE SPEED LIMIT (PHOTO ENFORCED) ON LEWIS GREENS DRIVE IN FRONT OF OUR SCHOOL IS 30 KM/HOUR BETWEEN 7:30 AM AND 9:00 PM. PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS NEAR SCHOOLS.



SAFETY PATROLS

The primary role of AMA School Safety Patrollers is to assist younger students to cross the street — not to direct traffic. Patrollers will now extend their arm to indicate pedestrians want to cross the street and will only extend their stop sign when it is safe to cross their fellow classmates. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could assist our patrollers by exercising extreme caution when approaching the intersections in front of the school.

Thank you for your cooperation. Let's make this a safe and successful year for our children!

UPCOMING EVENTS



READ IN WEEK

- READ-IN Week is the week of October 6 - 10 and Bishop David Motiuk students and staff are looking forward to this wonderful annual event. The theme for READ-IN Week this year is “Books to Bytes.” We have a number of guest readers lined up and we are looking forward to sharing our favorite stories during READ-IN!



THANKSGIVING LITURGY

We will mark Thanksgiving with a Liturgy of the Word on Friday, October 10 at 9:00 AM. Bishop David and Fr. Julian will be with us. Parents are very welcome to attend.





THANKSGIVING DAY

A reminder to our families,
there is no school on
Thanksgiving Day, Monday,
October 13.



SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKES

For those students who missed Picture Day or who are unhappy with school photos, retakes are scheduled for Friday, October 24.

GOOD SHEPHERD CWL FALL FAIR & MARKET

Good Shepherd CWL Fall Fair & Market will be held on Saturday, Oct 25 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm and Sunday Oct 25 from 9:00 to 2:00 pm. On the Saturday you can come and also enjoy a hot dog and chips lunch from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. Come check out our Silent Auction and Sister Maureen raffle. Our Catholic Girls League members will be making floats and will have various items for sale. Our baking tables is always full of wonderful home baked goods to take home. We will also be selling \$5.00 raffle tickets for some great prizes. Numerous vendors will be selling their various items that would make great gifts or a treat for yourselves. On Sunday after 9:00 am and 11:00 am mass the Knight of Columbus will be serving their delicious pancake breakfast.





Good Shepherd Catholic Church

18407-60 Ave. NW

CWL Fall Fair & Market

Saturday, October 25, 2025; 2:00—6:00pm

Sunday, October 26, 2025; 9:00am—2:00pm

*Great Selection of Vendors, Food Sales, Baking, Crafts,
Silent Auction, Sister Maureen Draws, CWL Raffle*

Hot Dogs and Chips on Saturday

KofC Pancake Breakfast on Sunday after 9:00am & 11:00am mass

Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League

Frozen Food Sales

Perogies,
Sausage



Crafts

Baking



Vendors



HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES



Friday, October 31 will be full of Halloween fun for students at Bishop David Motiuk. Students will be treated to dances and activities at various times throughout the day. Students and staff are welcome to dress up in their Halloween costumes all day long. As a reminder, for everyone's safety and enjoyment of the day, no weapons or weapon-like props are permitted at school, even as part of a costume.

We are looking forward to day filled with spooktacular fun for everyone!



BISHOP DAVID MOTIUK
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop David Motiuk Catholic Elementary and Junior High School
855 Lewis Greens Drive NW | Edmonton, AB | T5T 4B2
Phone: 780-409-2603 | Email: 1967web@ecsd.net