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Administrators' Message



A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

-Isaiah 40:3-5

During the season of Advent, it is important to take some time to reflect upon and prepare for the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. Bishop David Motiuk students will mark the start of Advent with classroom celebrations each Monday of Advent. We will also have an Advent Mass at St. Thomas More Parish on Tuesday, December 16. Our final Advent/Christmas celebration will be on Friday, December 19, 9:00 AM at school. Parents are very welcome to join us for our Advent mass and our final celebration.

We wish each of our families a blessed and holy Advent season and a very Merry Christmas!

Terry Volk
Principal

John Edwards
Assistant Principal

Joe Estephan
Assistant Principal



Chief Superintendent Anderson's Message

Please visit [https:// www.ecsd.net/ chief-superintendents-message](https://www.ecsd.net/chief-superintendents-message) to read Chief Superintendent Anderson's monthly 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!

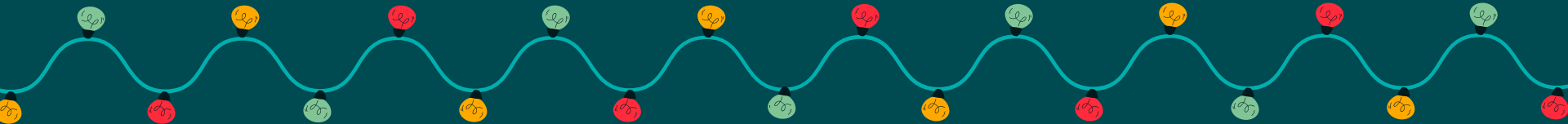
Instagram: [bishopdavidmotiukecsd](#)

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



Student Record Information



Parents who have recently moved or changed their contact information are asked to notify the school. We will then generate a new verification form for parents to complete. In case of emergencies, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information. Also, if students have recently become Canadian citizens, please provide us with documentation so that we can update our records. Thank you!



Possible Boundary Changes for BDM

Edmonton Catholic Schools is considering an adjustment to the attendance boundaries for Bishop David Motiuk School for the 2026-2027 school year. Under the proposal, Bishop David Motiuk would become the designated school for students living in the Big Lake area.

This proposed boundary change would help balance enrolment among three schools—Bishop David Motiuk, St. Thomas More, and Annunciation—while better aligning school boundaries with student needs and ongoing community growth. It would also reduce travel time for families in the Big Lake area, as BDM is significantly closer to their neighbourhoods than their current designated schools. Transportation to BDM from the Big Lake communities would be available.

BDM would remain the designated school for Stewart Greens, Webber Greens, Suder Greens, Potter Greens, and Breckenridge Greens. Consultations with families in the Big Lake area are currently underway, and we expect a final decision to be made soon.



Possible Boundary Changes for BDM

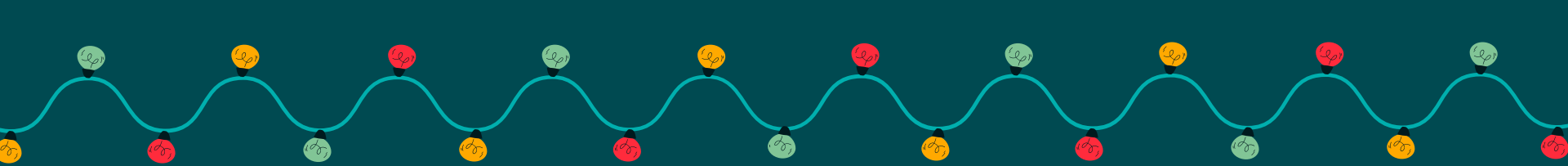
With the opening of St. Josephine Bakhita School, enrolment numbers at BDM are currently below capacity and are projected to decline over the next five years. By welcoming students from the Big Lake area, we anticipate that enrolment numbers would remain consistent with current numbers or slightly increase. As always, we will carefully monitor registrations and adhere closely to ECSD Administrative Procedure 300: Admission of Students, so new registrations will be accepted in the following order:

1. Resident* students in catchment area;
2. Resident students residing outside the catchment area;
3. Non-resident students residing within the catchment area; and
4. Non-resident students residing outside the catchment area.



* A resident student is a student who is Catholic or who has one parent who is Catholic.





PAT Results – 2024-2025

Results are in for the 2024-2025 Provincial Achievement Tests. Students at BDM scored above both the division and provincial averages for the Acceptable Standard in all subjects except Grade 6 Math and scored above both the division and provincial averages for Standard of Excellence in all subjects except Gr 6 & 9 Math. PATs were not written in Gr 6 Science due to implementation of the new curriculum.

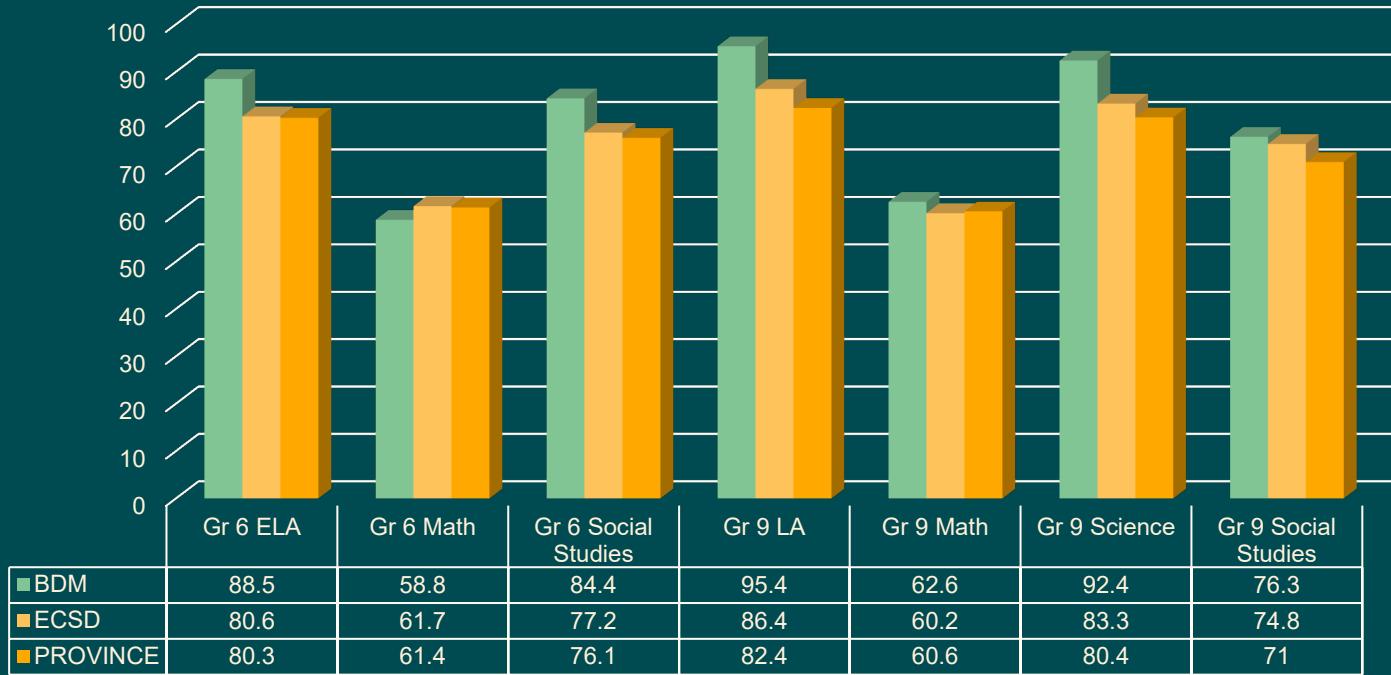
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING THE ACCEPTABLE STANDARD
Results all students writing.
Results based on number enrolled.

SUBJECT	SCHOOL	DIVISION	PROVINCE
Gr 6 LA	88.5	80.6	80.3
Gr 6 Math	58.8	61.7	61.4
Gr 6 Science	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gr 6 Social Studies	84.4	77.2	76.1
Gr 9 LA	95.4	86.4	82.4
Gr 9 Math	62.6	60.2	60.6
Gr 9 Science	92.4	83.3	80.4
Gr 9 Social Studies	76.3	74.8	71

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE
Results all students writing.
Results based on number enrolled.

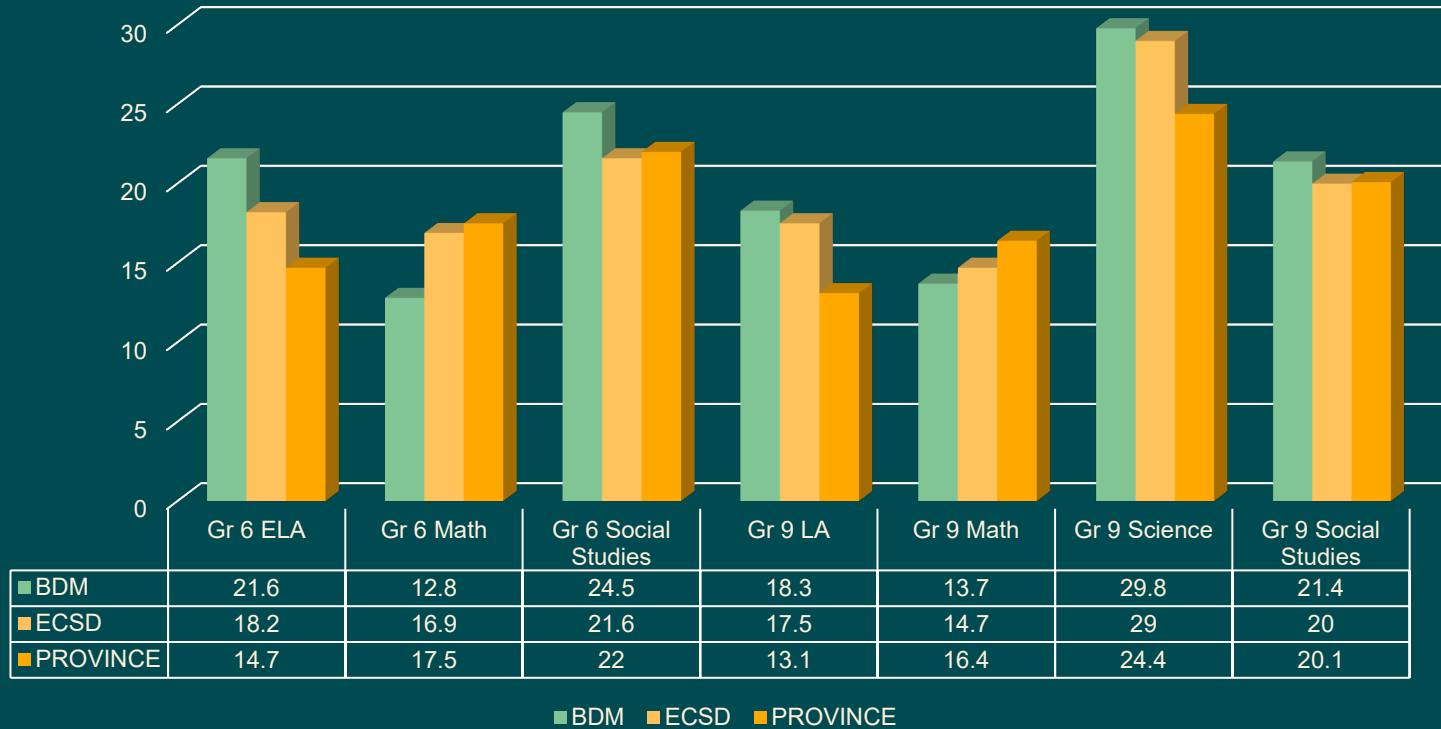
SUBJECT	SCHOOL	DIVISION	PROVINCE
Gr 6 LA	21.6	18.2	14.7
Gr 6 Math	12.8	16.9	17.5
Gr 6 Science	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gr 6 Social Studies	24.5	21.6	22
Gr 9 LA	18.3	17.5	13.1
Gr 9 Math	13.7	14.7	16.4
Gr 9 Science	29.8	29	24.4
Gr 9 Social Studies	21.4	20	20.1

2025 PAT Results Acceptable Standard



■ BDM ■ ECSD ■ PROVINCE

2025 PAT Results Standard of Excellence





Ongoing Assessment in ECSD

It is important that teachers, parents, and students are partners in education. Teachers share assessment information to communicate student progress. Assessment is the process of gathering information about what a student knows, understands, and can do in relation to learning outcomes established by Alberta Education.

All schools in ECSD provide ongoing assessment as a variety of classroom assessments guide teachers with what they need to do next. Teachers at Bishop David Motiuk School enter marks and comments for each assessment directly into the PowerSchool gradebook. For parents, this is like having access to a student report card at any point in time. As well, student-led conferences are offered twice per year. A summary report is posted in January, and the final report card is posted in June.





Ongoing Assessment in ECSD

Student-led conferences are offered twice per year. The division also provides a summary report in January as well as a final report card in June.

Student-led conferences and report cards for this school year are scheduled for:

- Student - Led Conferences: November 27, 2025
- Summary Report: January 30, 2026
- Student-Led Conferences: March 19, 2026
- Final Report Card: June 23, 2026



It's Not Cool to Be Cold

★ Did you know?

- Snow forts and tunnels can collapse and suffocate a child
- When children are outside, they often do not realize how cold they are becoming
- Bright sun during the winter can cause a sunburn



It's Not Cool to Be Cold

What Parents Can Do

- Signs of frost nip are slight pain and whitening of the affected area e.g. tips of the ears turn white. Warm the affected area by breathing on it or warming it with your hands but do not rub. Do not apply snow or water.
- Supervise children when they play outside.
- Choose play areas with warm shelters nearby.
- Provide children with a neck warmer instead of a scarf to prevent strangulation on playground equipment.



It's Not Cool to Be Cold



What Kids Can Do

- If you feel pain in your fingers, toes, ears, cheeks, nose or chin, get inside to warm up.
- Dress in layers. If you get too warm take off one layer at a time.
- Wear sunscreen on exposed skin on sunny days.
- Don't put your tongue on cold metal

If you can only remember one thing:

- Most of our body heat is lost through our heads, so always wear a hat or toque in cold weather.



* Severe Weather Conditions

When the temperature outside reaches -20 with the windchill or colder, students are kept inside. If they arrive in the morning prior to the start of supervision at 8:20, then they are to enter through the main doors and wait in the foyer until supervision begins. At that time, they will make their way to classrooms. Recess will also be indoors.



Our transportation system has an excellent record for service. However, given the possible extremes of Edmonton weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. **Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming.** Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location. Parents must then make alternate arrangements to get their child to school.



Severe Weather Conditions

Parents should also ensure that:

- children are supervised at the bus stop
- children have a place to go in the event the bus does not arrive
- children have alternate arrangements for getting to school should the bus not arrive
- children are suitably clothed to withstand weather extremes



Transportation Services normal operational procedures for delayed transportation also apply in severe weather conditions. The Carrier is responsible for notifying the School and the Transportation Services office when a route is running late.

Parents then have access to 3 different resources (by calling either the school, the Transportation Services office, or directly contacting the carrier) to get an update on the status of a particular route.



Cancellation of Yellow Bus Service

The following radio and TV stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions:

RADIO STATIONS		
880 CHED	UP! 99.3 FM	95.7 CRUZ FM
CISN FM 103.9	HOT 107 FM	The Bear 100.3 FM
THE CHUCK FM 92.5	AM 930 The Light CJCA	SONIC 102.9 FM
INews 880 AM	SHINE 105.9 FM	104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM
Kiss FM 91.7	TSN 1260	CBC
CHFA (CBC Fr.)	CFCW 840	CAPITAL FM 96.3
K97 97.3	102.3 NOW! Radio	
TV STATIONS		
CITYTV	CTV Edmonton	GLOBAL Edmonton
CBC TV		
Every effort will be made to have messages broadcast commencing no later than 6:30 a.m		



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.





Upcoming Events



Elementary (PYP) Christmas Concert



This year, our PYP Christmas Concert will take place on one night only:

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 PM

West Meadows Baptist Church

Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

Please note: Each household will be issued two tickets for the concert. Since the concert this year is on one night only, we do not have additional tickets available. Tickets were given out at student-led conferences for the youngest child in a family. Tickets that were not collected are being sent home today. The recipient of the tickets must sign for them.

Family members who are not able to attend the evening performance are welcome to attend our dress rehearsal on concert day. Information about the time your child's class will be onstage during the dress rehearsal will be sent home by your child's teacher.

We are very grateful to Ms. Barnett, Mrs. de Wee, Mrs. Sharrock-Wiggins, Mrs. Snihur, Mrs. Palomino, and all of our PYP teachers for volunteering their personal time so that a Christmas concert is possible. Although the concert takes place outside of the regular school day, this is our teachers' gift to parents and students during the holiday season.





Advent Celebrations

We will mark the start of Advent with weekly classroom celebrations.

Our Advent Mass will be at St. Thomas More Parish on Tuesday, December 16 at 10:00 AM. Students in grades 1 – 9 will attend.

Our final Advent/Christmas celebration will take place at the school on Friday, December 19 at 9:00 AM. Parents are always welcome to join us for our celebrations and masses. As part of this celebration, students will be asked to donate adult socks that will be donated to the homeless in the inner city. We will be collecting socks in the last week before Christmas holidays.



12 Days of Christmas Activities

Thurs Dec 4 – Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Fri Dec 5 – Christmas Story Day

Mon Dec 8 – Colourful Cultural Christmas Outfits

Tues Dec 9 - Wear Red and White

Wed Dec 10 - Make a Christmas Ornament

Thurs Dec 11 - Christmas Caroling

Fri Dec 12 - Grinch Day

Mon Dec 15 – Perform a Random Act of Kindness

Tues Dec 16 – Christmas Sweater Day

Wed Dec 17 -Wear comfortable, cozy Christmas pajamas

Thurs Dec 18 - Favorite Christmas Story, Christmas Dances, Christmas Fun Day

Fri Dec 19 - Crown, tiara or Christmas Hat





Babysitter Training

Babysitter training is on Saturday, Dec 6, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Bishop David Motiuk School. The cost of the babysitting course is \$65 plus GST.

To register for the Babysitter Workshop happening on Saturday, December 6, 2025, please click [HERE](#).



School Council Meeting

Save the Date!

Our next School Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 PM in the Learning Commons. This will again be a hybrid meeting that is offered both in person and through Teams. Parents who would like a link to the Teams meeting are asked to email [Mr. Edwards](#).



Christmas Fun Day / Concession

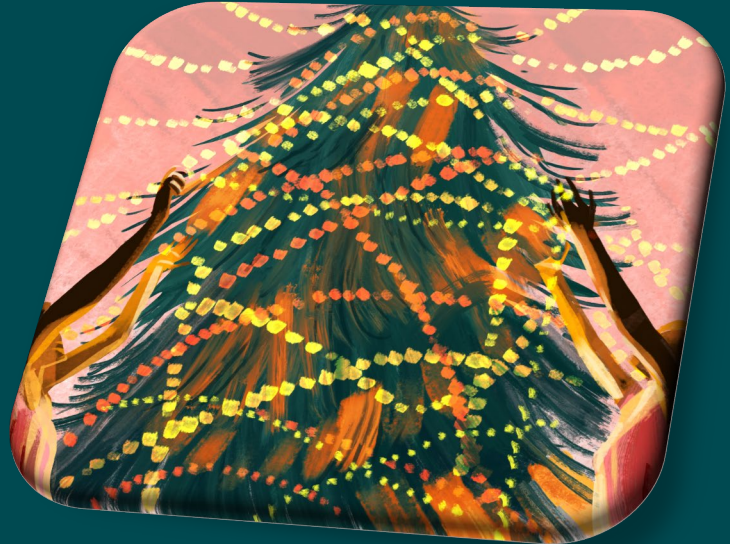
Students are looking forward to Christmas Fun Day, which will feature dances for all grades, classroom activities in PYP, and a visit from Santa for students in K-3.

Our MYP Leadership Team will be having a concession on Christmas Fun Day, with proceeds going to the ECS Foundation. Chips, pop and juice (for younger students), and other items will be on sale.



Change in Dismissal Times

Please remember that Thursday, December 18 will be a full day of school for students, with dismissal at 3:25 pm. Students will be dismissed at 12:15 pm on Friday, December 19 for Christmas Holidays. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026.



Advent Penitential Services and Christmas Mass Times

At this time, information about [Advent Penitential Services](#) for the parishes associated with our school has not been posted to the Archdiocese website. Please take some time to visit parish websites and read the parish bulletins (posted on each parish website) each week so that you will have information as it becomes available:

[Annunciation Parish](#)

[Good Shepherd Parish](#)

[St. John the Evangelist Parish](#)

[St. Joseph Basilica](#)

Christmas Mass Times will be posted to the [Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton Website](#) closer to Christmas.



Save the Date

Our MYP (Gr 6 – 9) Winter Concert is on Thursday,
January 22 at West Meadows Baptist Church.





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