

MARCH NEWS

MARCH 2, 2026



March Message



Our students and staff have been very busy with learning and growing these past months.

We are grateful for the moments that allow us to grow and learn as a school family during Lent and for the many activities that our students have been partaking in.

March brings renewal and change as we head into the last part of the year. There will be another opportunity for students and parents to share in learning as we have our March Demonstration of Learning.

We continue to journey together in Lent as we prepare for Easter and Spring Break.

We wish all our St. Philip families a blessed Easter and a safe and restful Spring Break!



Message from the Superintendent

Please click [here](#) for a message from Chief Superintendent Anderson:



Prayer



A Prayer for Lenten Grace

*Loving God,
During this sacred season of Lent,
bring me closer to You.
Prepare a place in my home and heart
for silence and solitude, so that I may
re-discover the grace of a prayer-
filled life.
Help me to fast from those things that
threaten the well-being of body and
soul and remind me of the grace of
simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to
those in need and, in so doing, re-
discover the grace of gratitude and
generosity.*

*May this season be a grace-filled time
to rekindle my love for and faith in
You.*

AMEN



Safety Reminders

**Absolutley NO PARKING or
DROP OFF/PICK UP in Staff
Parking Lot**

NO parking/drop off in the bus lane where orange pylons run. No U-turns on 144Ave as this is very dangerous for our pedestrians and patrols. We thank you for your support in putting safety first!



Carnevale -Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Carnevale another huge success! To all our parent volunteers, we thank you for your time and support!

Special thanks to Mrs. Bubula, Mrs. Castro, Miss Farrar, and Mrs. Gazzola for their time and effort in organizing and setting up this event. Thank you to Mrs. Hamanishi-Lohner and Mr. Sirica for all their help behind the scenes in preparing.

Grazie mille!

Thank to your our SAC for the delicious Pancake breakfast that was provided for all staff and students on Shrove Tuesday!

THANK
YOU

School Assemblies



This year we have been focusing on the Virtues as a theme for our school wide assemblies, which develop our faith and sense of community. Virtues are good qualities that help us make kind, fair, and honest choices. They guide us to do what is right and to be our best selves.

During the month of February, we focused on

FORGIVENESS

This month's focus will be on **PERSEVERANCE** where students will learn more about the virtue.

Each assembly ends with a draw for 5 lucky students to have "Pizza with the Principals". This opportunity is a wonderful time for students to share their learning from our assembly, give ideas for the school, ask questions, and get to know others while enjoying a tasty treat with our Admin Team! It is a favourite time for all!

PC Food Grant



Once again, our school is fortunate to have received a Grant from **PC Powerful Kids**. With this grant, we are able to provide weekly, healthy snacks to our students while teaching about nutritious foods and choices. These snacks are usually distributed on Fridays and students have enjoyed apples, oranges, bananas, cheese, yogurt and granola bars.

NO SCHOOL DAYS

Please note there is **NO SCHOOL** for students on the following days:

March 30- April 6- Spring/ Easter Break

Students will have a **full day** on March 26th and an **early dismissal** on March 27th

Demonstration of Learning



Demonstration of Learning will take place on **Wednesday, March 25th** from 3:15 pm- 8 pm.

More information will be provided to families about the Demonstration of Learning by classroom teachers regarding booking a time slot for this.

This is an opportunity to see the work your child has been doing in class, and to celebrate success and set goals for the remainder of the year. Please note: it is not a formal time to discuss progress with the teacher as there will be several families at once. If you have specific concerns please connect with your child's teacher beforehand. Thank you

Easter Blessings



Our school will be recognizing the Stations of the Cross with a school wide reflection on March 26th.



As Easter falls during our Spring Break, we want to wish everyone a Blessed Easter!

HAPPY EASTER!

Yearbooks

Yearbooks for this school year are now available for pre-order on PowerSchool at a cost of \$22.00. The yearbook is compiled throughout the year and final product will be delivered to students/families next fall. If you are interested in ordering a yearbook, you can do so on your PowerSchool account.



Follow us on social media:
Instagram: stphilip_ecsd



Please visit our school website for more information and monthly calendar





Important Dates:

March 2026

March is Nutrition Month

March 2 - Cyberbullying presentation - Grade 5 students

March 3 - Ski Field Trip for Grade 4-6 students

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 10 - 100th Day of School; SAC Meeting (6:15 pm)

March 13 - Grade 1 Royal Alberta Museum Fieldtrip; Pre-enrolment deadline for next school year through PowerSchool -call school office if you require assistance.

March 16 - School Assembly

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day -wear green; Grade 5 Muttart Conservatory Field Trip

March 19 - Healthy Hunger hot lunch online orders due; Grade 4 Royal Alberta Museum Field Trip

March 20- Socks for Down Syndrome Day- school wide activity; Grade 6 City Hall Field Trip

March 25 - Demonstration of Learning (3:15 - pm 8 pm). More information will be provided to families about the Demonstration of Learning soon.

March 26 - Full Day; Hot lunch for those who ordered; School Spirit Day - Reverse Day: students are invited to dress like a staff member on this date.

March 27 - Half Day - Early Dismissal at 12:04

March 29 - Palm Sunday

March 30 - April 3 - Spring Break/Easter Break - NO SCHOOL; School resumes on April 7.

April 3 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 6 - Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL

April 7 - Classes Resume; Easter Mass at St. Matthew Parish - 1:00 p.m; K-3 Dental Fluoride Treatments will occur April 7-10.

SPARK NEWS

Our Student Faith Leadership Group has been working hard to plan our School Spirit Days, activities and lead social justice projects.

They have been planning service and almsgiving actions for LENT.

The **next Spirit Day** will be on **March 17th- Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day**



March 26th- Dress like a staff member/student day- students are invited to dress as staff members or their teacher and staff like students! Thank you to the SPARK team for these fun days!



Parish Information

We are blessed to continue to have St. Matthew Parish as part of our learning and growing in faith. Father Joy will be resuming classroom visits this year.

For any information on Sacraments, please contact the Parish at 780-475-2888

March: Nutrition Month

March is celebrated throughout Canada as NutritionMonth: a time to bring attention to the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthy eating habits. Please visit [Canada Food Guide](#) for more information and resources.



Social Justice

The SPARK Team will be organizing a school wide collection of:

toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, socks, new combs, brushes, soap bars, hand lotion, travel size shampoo, and any other hygiene products

to help create

“***Blessing Bags***” that will be distributed to the less fortunate at Hope Mission and Mustard Seed.

Students can bring these items to the their classroom teacher by **March 20th**

Thank you for your support and generosity as we demonstrate Almsgiving!



Socks for Down Syndrome Awareness

Students are encouraged to wear bold, bright or mismatched socks to bring awareness for World Down Syndrome Day on **March 20th**.

Pre- Enrolment for 2026-27 School Year

We need your help!

Pre-enrolment for current students is now open. Sign into your PowerSchool account and click on "**Pre-Enrolment for Next Year**" to let us know if you will be returning to our school or where you will be attending as you move into Junior High.

The pre-enrolment process helps us know how many students to expect in September 2026, enabling us to plan for staffing, class sizes, and programming.

To learn more, visit ecsd.net/pre-enrolment.

Pre- enrolment closes on March 13th.



Pre-Enrolment for CURRENT STUDENTS

- Log in to PowerSchool.ecsd.net
- Click on the Pre-Enrolment for Next Year icon
- Follow the instructions to select your 2026-2027 school
- Complete for each child registered with ECSD



Visit ecsd.net for more information

Wellness TEAM/ Recess Leaders



Our school Wellness Team—made up of Grade 4–6 students and Miss Farrar—has been sharing helpful tips, jokes, strategies, and Scripture passages during morning announcements to support the well-being of our school community. We appreciate their efforts in promoting healthy minds and bodies for learning!

Our Recess Leaders led by Mrs. Martin & Miss Hackova have been creatively planning new games and activities for all grades to play during recess. We thank them for their commitment!

Recycle Green TEAM



Mrs. Hamanishi-Lohner is leading a group of Grade 4 students who have been helping our school to be more “green”.

They are taking care of recycling juice boxes, as well as other green initiatives to help bring awareness to caring for our environment and God’s creations.

Thank you to all of our Green Club members for their hard work!

GLOW TEAM



Our school prayer group has been gathering to grow in faith. The prayer group, led by Mrs. Diebolt, is called **GLOW** (God Lights Our Way). Together, we gather to pray the rosary and for the intentions of our school community.

If any families have prayer intentions, please send them with your child and GLOW will pray for your intentions.

School Patrols



Thank you to our Grade 6 Patrols who have been committed to serving their school community each day! Their help in keeping our crosswalk safe is greatly appreciated!



School Advisory Council (SAC)

Your time makes a huge impact on our school! Many of our school initiatives are funded thanks to parent volunteers. Events like Bingos/Casinos help support school initiatives and provide new learning opportunities and equipment for students.

Bingo Volunteers Needed

NO WALKING Bingo Hall for volunteers

Location: Fort Road Bingo

-Wednesday, April 22nd (3 day shifts needed)

-Friday, June 5th (4 day shifts needed)

Day Shifts (10:30 AM-4:00 PM)
Evening Shifts (4:30PM- 10:00PM)

★ Volunteer Perks ★

No walking, and free meal provided on shift.
Name entered for a gift card draw!

If you can volunteer for any Bingo dates, please contact: sabrina.filiplc@ecsd.net

Healthy Hunger

Once per month, our SAC volunteers organize a hot lunch. Interested families can register online with HEALTHY HUNGER. Through this online process you will be able to order and pay for hot lunch from participating restaurants. Please note:

This is an optional program.

Please visit: <https://healthyhunger.ca> to set this up.

The next Healthy Hunger lunch will be on Thursday March 26 (full day) . Orders are due online on March 20th.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next SAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 10 at 6:15 PM.** Parents are welcome to attend.



Purdy's Fundraiser

A reminder that the Purdy's orders for interested families are **due March 12**. Delivery of product will be March 23-26.

Orders can be submitted online as well as visiting <https://fundraising.purdys.com> and using the campaign id: 000023900.

Ongoing Fundraising

Boston Pizza Receipts Fundraiser

Dine Out & Donate! This cooperative fundraising initiative partners Boston Pizza restaurants in our community with the school to earn 5% cashback on the pre-tax total of submitted receipts.

1. Dine out at Boston Pizza.
2. Save your original receipt
3. Submit the original receipt to the school until June 2026

Bottle Drive Fundraising Opportunity- Skip the Depot

Our SAC has organized an ongoing fundraising opportunity for families who would like to donate bottles with Skip the Depot.

Scan the QR code, arrange a pickup time and the funds will go directly to the school fundraising through SAC.



REJOICE in HOPE

be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.

- Romans 12:12 -