

# DECEMBER NEWS

DECEMBER 2, 2025



## December Message

November was a busy month! Our students have been engaging in wonderful learning activities, and our student leadership groups, clubs and teams have been busy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who attended the Demonstration of Learning Conferences. We are so proud of our students and staff for their hard work and dedication to learning and growing!

Thank you to everyone who supported the *Scholastic Book Fair* which will support our literacy resources and our library. A special thank you to Mrs. Armani and the parent volunteers who gave their time to run the book fair. A special thank you to all parents who volunteered for the SAC Casino and Bingos as well. Your support and dedication is greatly appreciated!

As the beautiful season of Advent is upon us, we take time to reflect on the gifts of the season as we prepare for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus.

May peace and gentleness fill your hearts as we prepare for Christmas. We wish everyone a wondrous Advent Season and many blessings for Christmas!



## Message from the Superintendent

Please click here for a message from Chief Superintendent Anderson:



## Prayer for ADVENT

Heavenly Father,  
As we enter this holy season of Advent, we lift  
our hearts to You in hope.

You sent Your Son, Jesus, as the Light of the  
world—  
a promise of peace, joy, and salvation for all.  
In the midst of waiting, help us to trust in Your  
plan.

When life feels uncertain, remind us that Your  
love never fails.

Fill our homes and hearts with the hope that  
Christ brings,  
so that we may share that hope with others  
through kindness and faith.

Come, Lord Jesus, and renew our spirits.

Prepare us to welcome You with joy this

Christmas,  
and to live each day in the light of Your grace.

Amen.



## Safety Reminders

The safety of our students is our top priority. **PLEASE:**  
No Parking in staff parking lot and **NO parking/drop  
off in 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 making safety first!



# Christmas Concert

To meet fire regulations and accommodate our new gym layout, there will be two evenings of performances:

- **Concert A: December 16 at 6:15 PM – Classes: 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A**
- **Concert B: December 17 at 6:15 PM – Classes: Kindergarten, 1B, 2/3, 4B, 5/6, 6A**

Parents may only attend the concert for their child(ren). We understand some families will have to attend both concerts for multiple children, and hope that they will enjoy this time! Each family will receive **two tickets**. If extra tickets become available, families may request them, but availability is not guaranteed. **For safety reasons, we cannot exceed capacity and only guests with tickets can be admitted.**

There will be a dress rehearsal held for each concert where parents, grandparents and family who cannot attend the evening performances can do so.

**Concert A Dress Rehearsal** will be December 16th at 1:00PM

**Concert B Dress Rehearsal** will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

**We will be having a Silver Collection at the door to support the ECS Dreams For Kids Foundation**



More information will be coming soon regarding tickets and opportunities for Front Row and Parking give aways. Please check your email for more information!

## 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 November, we focused on **Peacefulness**.

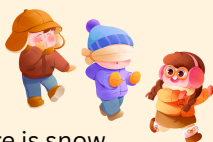
This month, our focus will be on **Generosity** where students will learn more about this virtue in the spirit of the season of giving.

During each assembly, we end 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!

## Dress for Weather

Now that the weather is getting colder and there is snow, students are reminded to dress warmly and be prepared. Students go outdoors unless the temperature is -20 °C whereby students stay indoors.



## 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.

## Upcoming PD Day

Please note that **Friday, January 23, 2026** will be a Professional Learning Day for staff. There will be **NO CLASSES** for St. Philip students on this day.



## Important Dates:

### Advent



**Dec. 1** - Advent Liturgy

**Dec. 4** - Feeder School Volleyball tournament at Cardinal Leger



**Dec. 7** - 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Dec. 9** - Advent Mass at St. Matthew Church 1pm  
(Gr. 1-6)

**Dec. 10** - Photo retakes



**Dec. 12** - Ski Trip for Div. 2



**Dec. 14** - 3rd Sunday of Advent; **Hot lunch order due online**

**Dec. 16** - **Christmas concert A** (Gr. 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A)  
@ 6:15pm



**Dec. 17** - **Christmas concert B** (K, 1B, 2/3, 4B, 5/6, 6A) @ 6:15pm



**Dec. 18** - **Full day of school.** School wide Christmas activity. Hot lunch for those who ordered. School

**Spirit Day** - WEAR Christmas attire



**Dec. 19** - Early Dismissal at 12:05 pm. School Spirit Day - Pajama Day



**Dec. 21** Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 4 - Christmas Vacation - No School**

**Jan. 5, 2026** - Classes resume

**Jan. 6** - Epiphany Liturgy



## Christmas Break

A reminder that there will be a switch in days prior to the break:

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> will be a full day of classes.**

(Half day AM for Kindergarten)

**Friday, December 19 will be early dismissal at 12:05PM**

(No Kindergarten)

Christmas Break will be from December 22-January 4<sup>th</sup>

Classes resume on January 5, 2026



## Parish Information

We are blessed to continue to have St. Matthew Parish as part of our learning and growing in faith. For any information on Sacraments, please contact the Parish.

Father Joy will be resuming classroom visits this year.

**Registration for Confirmation** at St. Matthew closes on February 2, 2026. Please contact the parish office at 780-475-2888 if you would like more information.

## SPARK NEWS

Our SPARK Team has been very busy planning new events and social justice activities for the Advent and Christmas season.

*Thank you to everyone who supported the cookie and hot chocolate sale at our Demo of Learning Conferences! Proceeds will be shared with ECS Foundation- Dream Builders*

SPARK will be organizing a variety of events and social justice projects for the week before Christmas Break. Stay tuned for more information!

### Spirit Days!

**Monday Dec. 15th**- Christmas Accessories & Plaid Day (headbands, hats, socks, jewelry)

**Tuesday Dec. 16th**- Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

**Wednesday Dec. 17th**- Red/Green Day

**Thursday Dec. 18th**- Any Christmas attire Day

**Friday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**- Pajama Day



Follow us on social media:

Instagram: stphilip\_ecsd



Please visit our school website for more information and monthly calendar

## 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**

-Thursday, January 22nd

-Sunday, March 8th

-Wednesday, April 22nd

-Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

5 Afternoon Shifts (10:30 AM-4:00 PM)

5 Evening Shifts (4:30PM- 10:00PM)

#### Volunteer Perks

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



**Next Bingos -Saturday, Dec. 6- need 1 evening volunteer.**



**Thursday, January 22nd, we are in need of volunteers!**

If you can volunteer for any Bingo dates, please contact: **sabrina.filiplic@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 Friday December 18th with orders due online December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

## SAC Casino

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this year's Casino on November 23 and 24. It was a very successful event which provides so much support to our students and school. We are so grateful to our amazing school community!

Special thanks to Gina for coordinating all volunteers and for ensuring a successful event.

THANK  
**YOU**

## 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

## Healthy Hunger Volunteers

*Thank you to the parent volunteers who assist with organizing and distributing the Healthy Hunger lunches! We appreciate your help each month!*



**REJOICE in HOPE**

be patient in suffering,  
persevere in prayer.

- Romans 12:12 -