

December Newsletter

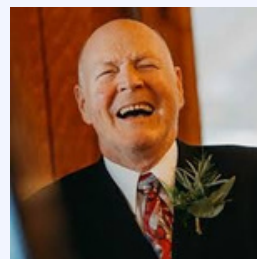


Principal Message- Mr. Runco

November was filled with meaningful learning experiences for our school community. On November 6, we held a reverent Remembrance Day Ceremony and Hallway of Silence to honour the brave men and women of our military. From November 17–21, we also observed a prayerful week in remembrance of the millions of Ukrainians who perished during the Holodomor. Our school offered daily prayers, and a special prayer table near the main office which helped us reflect on the victims, the children, and the lessons this tragic period in history teaches us.

From November 15–22, we recognized Métis Week as a school family. During this time, we honoured the legacy of Louis Riel and celebrated the culture and heritage of the Métis people. Métis Week is an annual November commemoration that celebrates Métis identity, acknowledges historical resilience, and highlights the continued contributions of the Métis Nation. Centered around Louis Riel Day—the anniversary of his execution in 1885—this week provides opportunities for ceremonies, learning, and community gatherings, fostering both reflection and pride.

We also hosted our 27th Mike Dea Classic Basketball Tournament, which pays tribute to Mike Dea, a beloved FX teacher and coach for 35 years. Though he passed away on November 11, 2023, his spirit, passion, and dedication continue to inspire our community. Congratulations to our Sr. Boys for winning the gold medal as Mike Dea Basketball Champions! We also congratulate our Sr. Girls for placing 5th place in the tournament. In celebrating St. Francis Xavier Feast Day alongside the tournament, we were reminded of how sports, education, and faith bring us together. Our annual Turkey Feast on November 28th offered a beautiful opportunity to “break bread” with staff, alumni, special guests, parents, and friends.



As we enter December, we begin the season of Advent—a time of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus. Advent means “coming,” and it calls us to reflect on Christ’s presence in our world. On Friday, December 12th, we will gather as a FX school family for our Advent Liturgy. While we look forward to the joy of the holiday season, may we also take time for quiet reflection to truly prepare our hearts for Christmas. Many special activities are planned for the month as we await Jesus’ coming birth.

The last day of classes before Christmas break will be Friday, December 19, and classes will resume on January 5. Please note that there will be no January Spotlight Newsletter; instead, we will send out a January Calendar, which will include exam schedules for the month.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Advent season!

Fernando Runco, Principal
St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School



Click on the link below

<https://www.ecsd.net/35f607a5-82d2-472b-88d7-e65a19cf270b>



Annunciation Parish



Thank you to Fr. Francis Mariappa for leading our St. Francis Xavier Day Liturgy of the Word at Annunciation Parish on November 27.

This is an important celebration for our school as we celebrate the feast day of our patron saint.

Please access the Annunciation Parish bulletins [here](#).

Religion Department

Some of our wonderful Religion teachers have been taking their classes to Annunciation Elementary to partner up with students there. This partnership allows them to work on reading, writing, math, and even creating Christmas decorations! We look forward to more visits as we move through the school year.



Casino Volunteers Needed- March 24 and 25

Our FX School Council are looking for Casino Volunteers for March 24 and 25, 2026. We would very much appreciate parent volunteers to help us raise money for St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School. Please use the link below to sign up: [Sign up Genius link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545AEA72AA6FFCE9-58990884-stfrancis](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545AEA72AA6FFCE9-58990884-stfrancis)

School Council Meeting -Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6pm

Please join us for our next School Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 9th at 6pm in our Learning Centre. All parents are invited to attend, as we will be electing parent volunteers for the following open Executive positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Casino Chair.

Our former SAC Chair, Francine Sundby, will be joining us to facilitate the election process. We encourage all parents to come out, get involved, and help shape our FX school community!

Soccer Academy

Soccer academy continues to offer the students a competitive, development-focused training environment that blends intensity with purposeful learning. Sessions replicate real match demands through small-sided games, quick transitions, and pressure-filled situations that boost decision-making and technical execution. Clear standards for effort, focus, and communication set the tone, while internal competitions, golden ball and match play with performance tracking, pushes players to improve. Overall, the environment is intense, engaging, and enjoyable - designed to elevate skill, sharpen decision-making, and foster continuous growth in a supportive yet highly competitive atmosphere.

St FX Soccer Academy would like to congratulate graduate Noah Bilodeau from King's University for being named the most outstanding player in the CCAA. Congrats to Noah for being the top college player in all of Canada!



Hockey Academy

November was a productive month for our academy both on and off the ice. We focused heavily on passing sequences and incorporated small-area and full-ice games that emphasized puck possession, creativity, and effective ice awareness. Off the ice, our athletes built strength and teamwork through training at Archetype Gym, movement sessions at True Movement, and fun activities like table tennis and volleyball. Overall, it was a well-rounded month of development, fitness, and team bonding.



As we move through November, our High Performance Hockey Academy continues to thrive in a demanding and fast-paced environment. Many of our athletes are now deep into their seasons, balancing heavy game schedules, travel, and academic responsibilities—all while maintaining a high commitment to their development. Despite the increased workload, the group has remained disciplined at Archetype training and on the ice, staying focused on the strength, speed, and skill demands that come with mid-season competition. With busy weeks and limited downtime, our athletes are placing even greater emphasis on mobility work, stretching routines, and targeted recovery strategies to stay resilient and avoid fatigue-related injuries.

By prioritizing recovery just as much as training intensity, we're helping them maintain their performance, manage the physical demands of their schedules, and stay healthy during one of the most challenging stretches of the year. As November continues, the group is determined to keep building momentum—refining their habits, sharpening their on-ice execution, and ensuring they're at their best when their teams need them most.



Baseball Academy

Our Baseball/Softball Academy is back in full swing. We've been training indoors and recently relaunched our throwing program, focusing on rebuilding arm strength and proper mechanics. We've also reintroduced our practice routines, which are now position-focused to give athletes targeted reps that match their roles on the field. These routines are the foundation of our winter training and are already helping students re-establish structure, confidence, and momentum. Our athletes have shown great effort and commitment as we get back on track, setting us up for a strong season ahead.



English Department Spotlight

FREE TUTORING AKA FLEX SESSIONS!!!

Please encourage your child to attend Flex Sessions!!

ESSAYS: Every student should have finished their first essay of the year. Please discuss with your child how they did. It is also important to familiarize yourself with the rubrics. (They are on the Google Classroom)

HAVE A FESTIVE AND RESTFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!



Science Department Spotlight

Study resources for our science students:

- Access your teachers during Flex Block (Mon-Wed, Fri: 11:04-11:32)

- Join a study group to practice with classmates

- Practice exams available online [Exam Bank](#) (username: stfx password: fxrams) and [Quest A+](#) (diploma courses)

Castle Rock “The Key” and Solaro study guides and practice workbooks available for purchase at FX Bookstore, online, or free through the [Edmonton Public Library](#).

Our students in every science class have been busy in the lab this month!



Math Department Spotlight

FLEX is back!

Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 11:04 - 11:32am

- Work on homework
- Get some extra help from your math teachers (maybe even work ahead)
- Write any missed assessments before Christmas break
- Work with your peers in a quiet space

Ms. Olson's Math 20-2 spent some time during class to play some logic games!



Social Studies Department Spotlight

This week, our Grade 10 students brought Canadian history to life by role-playing the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, a pivotal moment in the Seven Years' War. Students stepped into the roles of French, British, and First Nations participants to better understand the complex perspectives that shaped this event.

Our Grade 12 students have been diving deeply into the foundations and importance of the democratic process. Through discussion, case studies, and real-world examples, students are examining how democratic systems function—and why citizen participation is vital to maintaining them.

Physical Education Spotlight

Physical Education - Classes have been going a number of field trips one of them to Capital City for Gymnastics in November. Other field trips - curling, squash, arena, indoor soccer centre, yoga, dance



Girls Flag Football

Congratulations to the Sr & Jr Girls Flag Football Teams who won Silver in Metro Div 1!



Sr. Boys Volleyball

Senior Boys made it to the Div 2 Semi-Final & enjoyed Senior Night!



Sr. Girls Volleyball Senior Night



Sr. Boys Basketball Team



Sr. Girls Basketball Team



Jr. Boys Basketball Team



Jr. Girls Basketball Team



Jr. Girls Flag Football Team



Sr. Girls Flag Football Team



Cross Country Running Team

Cross Country Provincials have been moved to Spring 2026!



THANK YOU COACHES!!!

Fall Staff: Thank you to all the Winter Coaches & Advisors!

Coaches:

Swim - Dylan Johns & Brandise Fehr

Jr. Boys Football - Joshua Thomas, Seaghda McInnes, Nahome Wolde-Giorgis, Nancy Pinto

Sr. Boys Football - Ryan Stephens, Zach Kohn, Joshua Thomas, Nancy Pinto

Flag Football - Nathaniel Wojcicki, Francesca Fritz, Jody Coughlan, Joey Dvorak, Heidi McInnes

Volleyball -

Sr Girls - John Lintz, Josh Yen & Brooklyn Hyland/Sr Boys - Matt Johnson & Phillip Vandevalk

Jr Girls - Allan Yucoco & Adriana Yucoco and Advisor Helena Parker/Jr Boys - Joseph Pinto, Jasper Pinto & Nicole Poplawski

Cross Country - Jeremy Posteraro/Golf - Warren Sanregret/Curling - Nancy Pinto & Ray Rozycki

Basketball - Sr. Girls - Nicholas Schwarz, Olivia Ostapowicz/ Sr. Boys - Brad Farish & Jeremy Posteraro

Jr. Girls - Augi Gallardo, Sheila Phan, Ralph, Advisors - Nathaniel Wojcicki, Josh Yen

Jr Boys - Jordan Bunch, Marc Balthazar


Mike Dea 2025 Basketball Champions



Advanced Placement Spotlight

AP Exams have been ordered for Calculus AB, Physics 1, and Chemistry!
Exam Fees can be paid through PowerSchool accounts.


AP



CollegeBoard
Advanced Placement Program


Use Resources in AP Classroom

AP Classroom provides online resources to help you build college-level knowledge and skills.




AP Daily Videos

These short videos led by AP teachers can help you review course content and skills. Watch them online anytime, on any device.




Topic Questions

Your teacher can assign these questions to give you immediate feedback on your understanding of content and skills in each topic of the course.



Progress Checks

Your teacher can assign these assessments to give you feedback on your understanding of content and skills in each unit of the course.



Resources & Assignments

This section in AP Classroom shows all assignments from your teacher and allows you to manage videos and other course resources.

CTS & Fine Arts Department Spotlight

This month has been a busy and exciting time across our CTS and Fine Arts programs. Our Music program spent two days at Camp Nakamun for Band Camp, where students engaged in intensive rehearsals, skill-building sessions, and team bonding. The camp was a great success, and we are already planning to bring this experience back next year.

In Art, students have been exploring pottery, focusing on hand-building techniques and glazing to bring their creative ideas to life.

Our Industrial Arts students are building birdhouses, developing hands-on skills in measurement, woodworking, and tool safety.

Meanwhile, Media Broadcasting students are diving into video editing and content creation, learning how to plan, film, and produce engaging digital media projects.

English as an Additional Language Spotlight

ECSD LEARNING SERVICES

Second Language Course Challenge Information for Students



1

WHAT IS THE SECOND LANGUAGE COURSE CHALLENGE (SLCC)?

The SLCC allows students to earn high school credits in second language courses, by demonstrating their proficiency without taking the course. This is ideal for students who have gained fluency through home, travel, immersion or community use.

2

CHALLENGE PROCESS AND TIMELINE

There are three parts to the exam:

1

Part 1 (October 2025-February 2026)
Express interest to the school designate
Registration opens October 20, 2025
Once payment is submitted, students
receive access to Google Classroom
Students submit 2 independent projects
online by the due date (February 14, 2026)

2

Part 2 (February 14, 2026)
In-person oral assessment
Includes prepared and
spontaneous speaking tasks

3

Part 3 (March 7, 2026)
Written exam (reading,
listening and writing)

4

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

- 1) Speak to your parents about the best option going forward and use page 2 to help you make the decision.
- 2) Speak to your school designate as the first point of contact.
- 3) For further information, contact Alternative Education: click [here](#) for the website
Email: alternativeeducationprograms@ecsd.net
Phone: 780-441-6080

STUDENT CREDIT INFORMATION

5

- 10-level course: "P" (Pass)
- 20-level course: "P" (Pass)
- 30-level course: Final Mark (%) of the SLCC that will go on the student's final transcript

*Students can still apply for the Rutherford Scholarship if they have completed the SLCC

15
credits

English as an Additional Language Spotlight

Second Language Course Challenge

Important Dates

October 20, 2025 - Registration Opens

January 30, 2026 at 3 pm - Registration Closes

February 6, 2026 at 3 pm - Project deadline

February 14, 2026 - Oral Examination, in person at Lumen Christi

March 7, 2026 at 9 am - Written Examination, in person at Lumen Christi

REGISTER TODAY!



FOR MORE INFORMATION
SPEAK TO YOUR SCHOOL
DESIGNATE

780-441-6080

<https://www.ecsd.net/second-language-course-challenge>



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

See Mrs. Pavone, Ms. Chong,
or Mrs. Bremault for more
information.

Off Campus Education

Off Campus education provides students at St. FX opportunities to explore and expand their career interests and aptitudes in meaningful activities, situated in community-based work sites, and volunteer agencies.

Off Campus Education at St. FX is a flexible program offered in 2 main streams: Work Experience and RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program)

Work Experience

Students have an opportunity to discover their career interests in meaningful work activities, situated in community-based work sites in business, industry, government, and community service. Work Experience is time based: 25 hours of work, equals one credit, and is available with the following credit options:

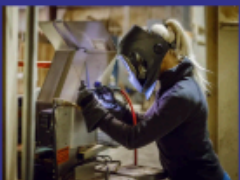
- Work Experience 15 – 3 to 10 credits
- Work Experience 25 – 3 to 10 credits
- Work Experience 35 – 3 to 10 credits



RAP - Registered Apprenticeship Program

RAP students are placed onto worksites that have designated journeyman supervisors/employers. Students within this program can earn up to 40 high school credits in the program. RAP students also earn up to 1000 hours in a skilled trade and earn money as a first year apprentice in one of Alberta's designated trades.

If students or parents would like more information on this wonderful program contact Mr. Bauer in the Learning Centre Darrin.Bauer@ecsd.net



XAVIER UNION Spotlight

Our XU team has been busy hosting events in the last couple of months to bring community to the school!

- Leading up to our annual Mike Dea Tournament, XU hosted Bingo and Cookie Decorating in the Cafeteria.
- On FX Day on November 27, FX students were able to hang out with friends and participate in several XU hosted activities - including Karaoke, Mario Kart Tournaments, Reflective Colouring, and much more!
- XU will be hosting several events to bring in the Christmas Spirit in the month of December.

Stay tuned for a recap of our Christmas Events in the new year!



GRAD COACH

REMINDERS:

- All independent modules must be done by December 15th, 2025. Please hand in to Ms. Chong.
- Course submission deadline for MDL courses is January 19th, 2025. Touch base with your teacher to come up with a plan for completion.
- The last day to hand in PASS modules is January 21st, 2025. Touch base with your teacher to come up with a plan for completion.



EDIAR: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism -

Facilitated by Jocelyn Chong, Richard Raposo, and Joshua Yen.

As an FX school community, we are having courageous conversations with our staff as part of our Community of practice to grow in our equitable education, address discrimination & racism to build accountability, and to celebrate inclusion to foster belonging for all that enter in our school.

- We're already doing God's work with our inclusive communities. If we don't acknowledge and celebrate our ministry, nobody else will do it for us.
- All students, staff, and families of Edmonton Catholic School Division will be provided with an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic environment that promises the well-being of all and fosters community support for achieving this goal.
- Catholic education is a gift to be lived, treasured and shared with all God's children.



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING -6pm	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 FULL DAY THURSDAY	19 EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAY	20
21	22 CHRISTMAS VACATION	23 CHRISTMAS VACATION	24 CHRISTMAS EVE VACATION	25 CHRISTMAS DAY VACATION	26 CHRISTMAS VACATION	27 CHRISTMAS VACATION
28 CHRISTMAS VACATION	29 CHRISTMAS VACATION	30 CHRISTMAS VACATION	31 CHRISTMAS VACATION			

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 CHRISTMAS VACATION	2 CHRISTMAS VACATION	3 CHRISTMAS VACATION
4 CHRISTMAS VACATION	5 CLASSES RESUME	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS	24
25	26 -TEACHER DAY FOR TIMETABLE RESOLUTION/MARK SUBMISSION -NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	27 -TEACHER DAY FOR TIMETABLE RESOLUTION/MARK SUBMISSION -NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	28 FIRST DAY OF SEMESTER 2	29	30	31