

October Newsletter Spotlight



Principal Message- Mr. Runco

As we enter the month of October, we take time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving. At St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School, we are especially thankful for our incredible school community, beginning with our exceptional students, who consistently demonstrate kindness, joy, and respectful behavior.

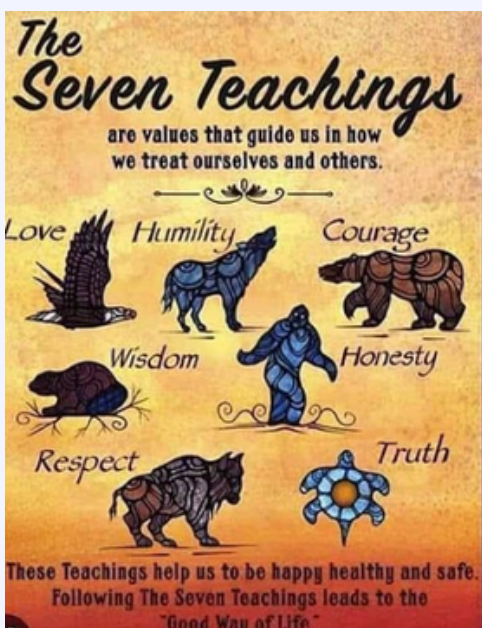
In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff. Their passion and commitment to student success make a lasting difference in the lives of our students every day.

We are also pleased to share that our FX Cell Phone Policy continues to be a great success. This initiative has led to a more focused and engaged learning environment by reducing distractions, while also fostering stronger face-to-face connections and increased social interaction throughout the school.

Our school year is off to a fantastic start! Some of the early highlights include:

- The addition of six new portables to support our growing school community
- Grade-Level Assemblies that built school spirit and connection
- Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation activities, which deepened cultural understanding and strengthened our shared faith
- Practicing Safety - 2 Fire Evacuation Practices and 1 Lockdown Practice
- BOOM Volleyball Tournament celebrating our Sr. Boys and Sr. Girls Teams





We were also thrilled by the incredible turnout at our Post-Secondary Parent Engagement Evening on September 18, with nearly 400 parents in attendance! A special thank-you to Megan Thomas, Darrin Bauer, and Kathy Davis for organizing such an informative and successful event. That same evening, we held our School Council Annual General Meeting, where four new parents volunteered to join our School Council for the 2025-26 school year. Our next School Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Centre. At that meeting, we'll be holding elections for the following positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Casino Chair. We encourage all parents to attend and get involved!

Our Athletic Teams and Sport Academies are also thriving! We've had strong starts across a variety of sports, including Junior and Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball, Junior and Senior Boys Football, Girls Flag Football, and our High School Cross Country Run Team. As we prepare to celebrate Custodian Appreciation Day on October 2 and World Teachers' Day on October 5, we invite everyone to take a moment to recognize and thank the hardworking staff who make our school such a special place.

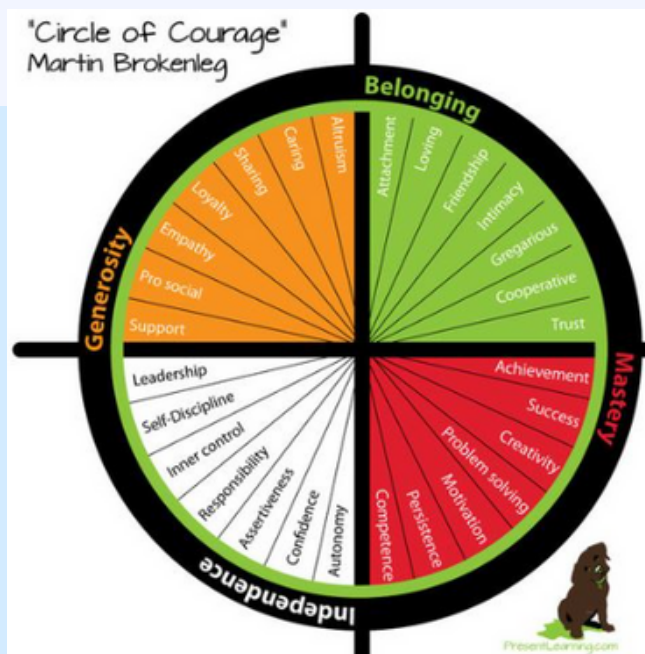
Looking ahead, we are excited for several upcoming events:

- School Opening Celebration and Thanksgiving Celebration – October 10
- Academic Awards Evening – October 15
- We are honoured to welcome Chief Superintendent Anderson, Trustee Engel, and our Division Chaplain, Father Glen, as we celebrate our students' outstanding academic achievements.

On behalf of the entire FX staff, we wish all our students and families a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving season!

7 Sacred Teaching & Circle of Courage

As a FX family that builds great wonders, we are also focusing on the 7 Sacred Teachings and the Circle of Courage to allow us to be mindful and intentional in deepening our understanding of cultural awareness leading to the 'Good Way of Life.' During our Staff Meetings, we gather in our 7 Indigenous Spirit Animal Group, with each animal deepening our spirit and values. The Spirit Animals are: Eagle -teaches us Love; Wolf- teaches us Humility; Bear- teaches us Courage; Sage- teaches us Honesty; Turtle- teaches us Truth; Buffalo- teaches us Respect; and Beaver- teaches us Wisdom. As a Staff, we hope to grow in our Circle of Courage in all that we do!





EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dear ECSD Families,

This evening, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) announced that members have voted against ratifying the tentative agreement with the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA). Without an accepted deal, the ATA has indicated that teachers will begin strike action on Monday, October 6.

We recognize that this news may raise questions and concerns for families. At this time, there are no changes to classes or school operations. Students should attend school as usual on Wednesday, October 1.

If a strike begins, there will be no classes starting Monday, October 6. Families are encouraged to arrange childcare in advance.

More information will be shared on October 1. Edmonton Catholic Schools will communicate directly by email and update the Labour Update webpage as new details become available. We remain hopeful that a resolution will be reached and are committed to supporting students and families through this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Anderson
Chief Superintendent



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Read the full message

Here.

<https://www.ecsd.net/29c53358-fc3a-4ea5-9f12-b89ac5ab2733>

Annunciation Parish

At St. Francis Xavier, we are honoured to be in the Annunciation Parish community.

Fr. Francis Mariappa may be seen visiting our school, interacting with our students and staff. Annunciation Parish will host us for Mass on our Feast Day in November (St. Francis Xavier Day), Easter, and for our Grad Mass in May.



[Click here to access their most recent bulletins.](#)

Opening School Liturgy & Thanksgiving Celebration

For the 17th year, we will welcome Grade 1 students from Annunciation Elementary to FX for our Thanksgiving Celebration! Each student will buddy up with a member of our senior football team or girls flag football team while we celebrate with our guests.

This event will also be accompanied with a Food Drive for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Annunciation Conference, which runs out of Annunciation Parish. Look for info on how to donate food or money!

<https://annunciation.caedm.ca/Bulletins>



FX Sport Academies

Soccer Academy

The Soccer Academy has been able to take advantage of the wonderful weather and train outside at Jubilee Park and the JP Bowl. Lots of skill based work and competitive gameplay including a 3 v 3 tournament in the accompanying pictures. As the month winds down we would like to congratulate Cosmin Stirbat, Danny Trujillo, and Portia Lange for being our "Franco Saporito St. FX Academy Players of the Month". As well we would like to wish Academy players Eli Reddy-Mullins and Damien Vachon all the best at the U17 and U15 Canadian Club Championships.



Baseball Academy



We've had a great start to the year in the Baseball Academy! Over the past couple of weeks, athletes have been completing baseline testing to set their starting points and goals for the season. This gives our coaching staff valuable insight into each player's strengths and areas to develop as we move forward. We've also kicked off the fall season with two games already under our belts. The athletes are showing strong effort, teamwork, and improvement each time they step on the field. It's exciting to see their hard work paying off so early in the season!

We're looking forward to continued growth and success as the year progresses.



FX Sport Academies

High Performance Hockey

Our High Performance Hockey Academy has kicked off the school year in a highly competitive environment, with many of our athletes wrapping up tryouts and starting their seasons. The group began strongly at Archetype training and has been focused on preparing on-ice for the demands of the season ahead. Through high-intensity skill sessions, our athletes are incorporating mobility work, stretching, and targeted recovery strategies to boost performance and reduce injury risk early in the year. By placing equal emphasis on recovery and training, we're helping them stay strong, healthy, and ready to compete at their best when their teams need it most.



Hockey Academy



Our Hockey Academy has launched into the school year with energy and focus, as many of our athletes wrapped up tryouts and began their seasons. Training is underway both on and off the ice, with early emphasis on edge work, hand-eye coordination, and battle drills during skill sessions. Off the ice, the group has built team chemistry through activities at Activate and sharpened focus with time on the golf course. Looking ahead, our athletes are motivated to continue developing their skills and making the most of the first months of the semester.



English Spotlight

Introducing your English Department:

- Richard Raposo - English 10AP, 30-1(Richard.Raposo@ecsd.net)
- Jocelyn Chong - English 20-2, 30-2 (Jocelyn.Chong@ecsd.net)
- Angie Bober - English 10-1, 20-1, 30-1(Angela.Bober@ecsd.net)
- Lauren Williams - English 10-2/4, 20-2/4 (Lauren.Williams@ecsd.net)
- Jesse Crowley - English 20-1, 30-2/4 (Jesse.Crowley@ecsd.net)
- Daniel Abbott - English 10-1, 10-2 (Daniel.Abbott@ecsd.net)
- Tina Fiorillo - English 30-2 (Tina.Fiorillo@ecsd.net)
- Joey Dvorak - English 20AP, 30-1(Koey.Dvorak@ecsd.net)



Math Spotlight



Mr. Stephen Zipp
Mr. Brad Farish
Mr. Phillip Vandevalk
Mr. Seaghda McInnes
Mrs. Sandra King
Miss. Breana Olson
Mrs. Heidi McInnes
Mrs. Ulana Gnutel

Science Spotlight

The labs got an upgrade this summer! Our Bio and Chem labs are more inclusive with new safety wash stations and lab benches with improved accessibility.

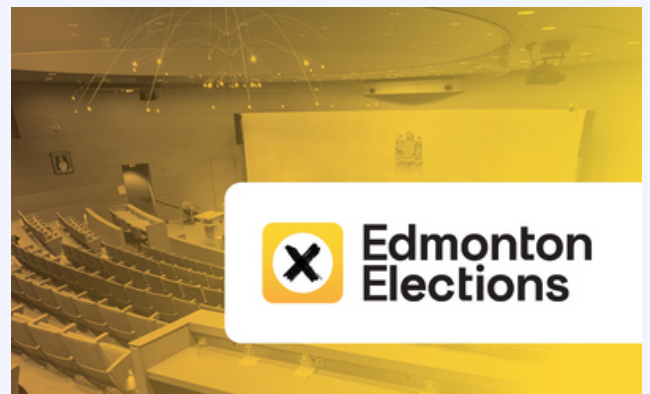


Now FX Science Classes have goggles to learn and practice skills in the lab. Special thanks to Mrs. Bertrand!



Social Studies Spotlight

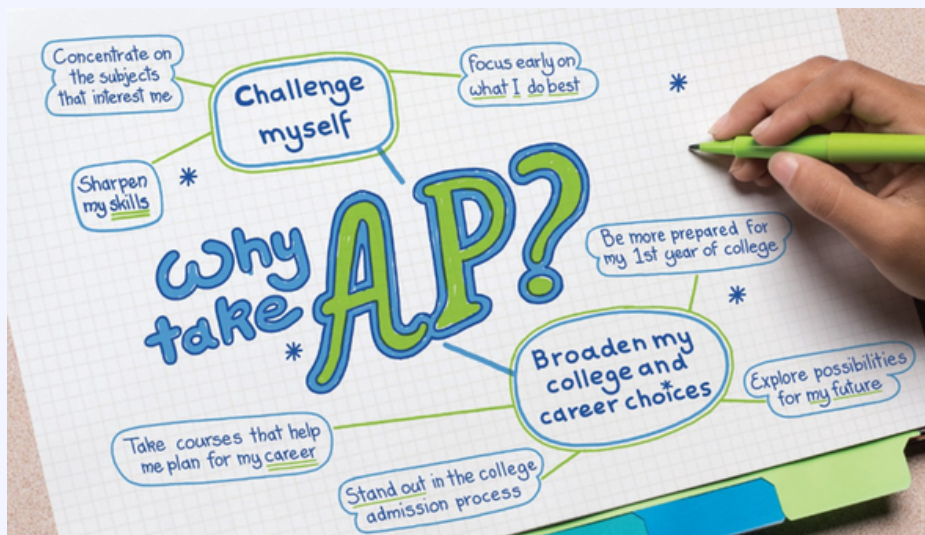
Edmonton's municipal election will be held on October 20, 2025. Classes are using this opportunity to explore how the election may affect the lives of Edmontonians. This provides a chance to understand representative democracy, showing how voting empowers citizens to elect officials who make decisions on their behalf, and how individual choices collectively shape governance in society.



Advance Placement Spotlight

AP Courses:

Biology, Physics, Chemistry,
Calculus, Psychology, English
Literature and Composition,
Capstone Seminar, Computer
Science Principles



2025-2026
**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

AP

Fine Arts Spotlight

Meet the CTS Staff!

- Foods - Ms. LeBlanc, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Fehr, Mr. Yen.
- Sports Medicine - Mr. Kohn, Mr. Wojcicki, Mr. Schwarz.
- Sports Performance - Mr. Thomas
- Comm Tech - Mr. McInnes, Mr. Raposo
- Computer Science - Mr. Greschner, Mr. Wojcicki
- Design - Mr. Greschner
- Industrial Arts - Mr. Stefaniw
- Business - Mr. McInnes
- Electro-Technologies - Mr. Greschner
- Media Broadcasting - Mr. Wojcicki
- Culinary Skills - Ms. LeBlanc



Meet the Fine Arts Staff!

Art - Mrs. Yarovenko-Szewczuk
Drama - Miss. Mills
Music - Mr. Johns

Off Campus Education Spotlight

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



Registered Appreciation Program- RAP Spotlight

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



PE 10, 20, 30 Spotlight

PE classes have been going outside to participate in lots of activities in the beautiful Fall we have been having. Activities like slopitch, disc golf, golf range, golfing, soccer, flag football, rugby, walk at Alfred Savage, ultimate frisbee, track & field, lawn games, leadership class.



Alfred Savage Walk



Senior Girls Volleyball



Senior Boys Volleyball



Jr. Girls Volleyball



Jr. Boys Volleyball



Cross Country



Xavior Student Union

On September 22nd, to celebrate the end of summer and welcome the first day of fall, our XU team invited Kona Ice to FX!

Students enjoyed refreshing sno-cones while taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather.

Stay tuned to our XU Instagram page to be up to date on all the events we have planned for this year!



Braided Journeys

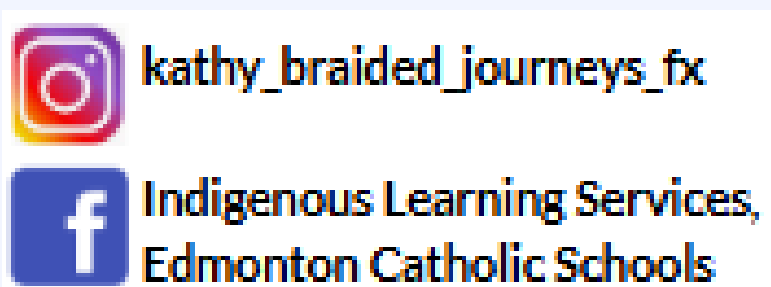
Hello FX Parents and Guardians,

I'm Kathy Davis, returning as your dedicated Braided Journeys Graduation Coach at St FX! With over 16 years with Braided Journeys and 25 years of experience working with students, I'm committed to empowering our youth. As a proud member of Lubicon Lake First Nation, I call Slave Lake my hometown and love soaking up the summer vibes there.

Braided Journeys is dedicated to championing student success, providing a supportive environment where Indigenous students feel seen, respected, and celebrated. We offer a wide range of academic, cultural, leadership, career, and transition support, and plenty of encouragement to help students thrive.

You can find me in the Braided Journeys room or reach out using my contact information provided here. I'm excited to embark on this school year adventure together!

Is your student interested in attending an Open House, and might want to go as a student group, contact Kathy for details.



Kathy Davis | E: kathy.davis@ecsd.net
Braided Journeys Grad Coach | St. Francis
Xavier High School
T: 780-489-2571 | C: 780-637-1195

School Resource Officer

Hello FX Families!

As this is my 3rd year as the SRO at ST. FX, I have got to know many students and I continue to strive to build positive relationships and provide guidance & education to students. In the month of September I have carried out presentations in CALM classes on the topic of policing as a career & the role of the SRO and opened up the classroom to any questions/ discussion. I also attended the assemblies that were held for each grade at the start of the term. One of my messages to the students was that my office door is left open when I am available (no appointment necessary) and that they can also email me as a way of communicating their concerns/ seeking advice. Feel free to encourage your child to reach out in this way if this would be helpful. I look forward to another fantastic year at ST. FX :)

Reg. #2270 Cst. Jody Coughlan
Edmonton Police Service
School Resource Officer Unit
St. Francis Xavier High School
jody.coughlan@edmontonpolice.ca



Instructional Coaches

Barbara MacKnight and Alecia Stefaniw work alongside students, teachers, and families to support diverse learning needs and remove barriers to success. They collaborate with classroom teachers to build inclusive practices, connect students with strategies and resources, and strengthen school-wide supports. As leaders on the learning team, the Instructional Coaches help ensure that every student has the opportunity to grow, achieve, and thrive.



Counselor Spotlight

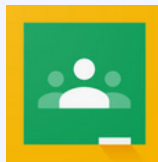


Thank you to everyone that came out to the Parent Post Secondary Evening on September 18th to gather information to help your students plan for their future!

Applications for Post Secondaries across the country open October 1st, so please make sure that you have your mypass and applyalberta accounts are ready to go before applying.

For help and support for this process, please check out the My Future Google Classroom!

My Future Code: 3NMLEYA



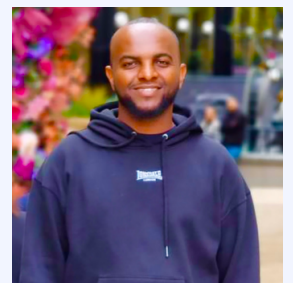
Several post secondaries came to our school to present, and will be back again on October 22 alongside other institutions from across Alberta.

If your child is interested in going to school out of province (OOP) we will be taking a small group to JP to the OOP's Fair on October 14th.

UPCOMING EVENTS	2025	Sept 18	Thursday After School	U OF A
		The evening of Sept 18 there will be a parent info session at 7 pm!		
		Sept 22		NAIT
		Sept 23		CONCORDIA
		Sept 26		MACEWAN
		Sept 29		KINGS
		Oct 1		EMINENT
		Oct TBD		NORQUEST
These info sessions will be in the DRAMA Room - come hear about each school and ask any questions!				

FSLW Spotlight - Meg Edmonds & Robel Araya

As Family School Liaison Workers (FSLWs) at FX High School, Meg and Robel support students and families by strengthening the connection between home, school, and community resources. We provide individual and small group support to students experiencing emotional, social, or behavioral challenges, helping them develop coping skills, confidence, and healthy relationships. We also work directly with families to improve communication with the school and connect them to services such as mental health supports and offer students soft counseling. In times of crisis, such as emergencies, we collaborate closely with teachers, school staff, and community partners to ensure students feel supported and are able to thrive at school.



FSLW Spotlight -BSA Launch

FX High School has officially launched the Black Students Alliance (BSA). The BSA is a student-led group that aims to celebrate Black culture, provide a supportive space for students, and create opportunities for learning, discussion, and community building. Meetings are open to ALL students, and we will continue to host regular sessions throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported us in making this possible. Everyone is welcome to join, participate, and be part of building a positive and inclusive school community.



English As An Additional Language Spotlight



St. FX Settlement Worker: Grannie Ann Masangkay.
Email: GAMasangkay@eisa-edmonton.org or
grannieann.masangkay.ta@ecsd.net
Phone: 780-918-6286

How can Settlement Workers in School (SWIS) help you?

- Provide information and guidance on the education system to students and parents
- Facilitate communication between parents and school personnel
- Provide practical, culturally sensitive guidance, referrals, and intervention
- Increase understanding of the rights and responsibilities of students and their families
- Refer students and their families to available programs and services in their community
- Increase parents' involvement in the education of their children and increase the families' participation in the community
- Promote respect for cultural diversity by providing newcomer orientation regarding settlement challenges
- Facilitate access to community resources and government services
- Provide settlement services in a culturally competent manner, in languages specific to the needs of each family.

St. FX EAL Designate: Alena Pavone
Email: alena.pavone@ecsd.net

**These are
record numbers
for FX**

FX Stats

35 within the last 6 months **15** are international students



and are
Cot

and are from the following countries:



Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Nigeria
Mexico
Lithuania
Israel
Hungary
Dominican Republic
Poland
Germany
Colombia
Liberia
Croatia
Romania
Japan
Italy
Zimbabwe
Ireland
Cameroon
Kenya
Ecuador
Armenia
Honduras
Netherlands
Syrian Arab Republic
Greece
Venezuela
Chile
Brazil
Uganda
Mongolia
Vietnam
Ghana
Philippines
India
China
Ethiopia
Serbia
Eritrea
Saudi Arabia
Cote D'Ivoire
Ukraine



Approx
41% from Ukraine
20% from Philippines
39% from everywhere else!

1 in 3 are ELL



STAY UP TO DATE

@FX.ATHLETICS @STFXHIGHEDM @XAVIER.UNION



EVERY CHILD MATTERS



**ORANGE
SHIRT DAY**

September 27

**NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

September 30 (No Classes)

Truth THEN Reconciliation

Now that we are learning the TRUTH, what does RECONCILIATION look like?

Truth

From 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act

1. It denied women status
2. Introduced residential schools
3. Created reserves
4. Renamed people with European names *without their consent
5. First Nations people had to receive permission to leave the reserve
6. To attend university, First Nations people had to give up their rights
7. Land that was provided through treaty negotiations could be taken away if the government decided they needed it.
8. It denied First Nations people to a lawyer, and it did not allow any lawyers to help First Nations people.
9. It forbade First Nations people from speaking their native language.
10. It forbade First Nations people from practicing their religion or ceremonies.
11. First Nations needed a permit to sell any products from their farms.



Reconciliation

How do we walk the path forward together?

- Honour the treaties by learning whose land we walk on.
- Acknowledge and let go of negative perceptions and stereotypes
- Acknowledge the past and ensure that history doesn't repeat itself
- Learn about Indigenous culture & history
 - did you know that FX offers an Indigenous Studies class?
- Take part in the cultural offerings at your school
 - smudge in the Braided Journeys room on Thursdays
- When you are unsure about something, look to find authentic knowledge for better understanding



St. FX Awards Night is coming quick! October 15 at 6:30PM

All students who are receiving an award should have received an email by now with the invitation. Please RSVP to the school at 780-489-2571.



October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Custodian Appreciation Day Football Homecoming Game	3 Senior Sunrise	4
5 World Teacher Day	6	7	8	9	10 School Opening Celebration & Thanksgiving Celebration with Annunciation School	11
12	13 Thanksgiving Long Weekend - NO SCHOOL	14	15 Academic Awards Evening	16	17	18
19 Catholic Education Sunday	20	21 Life Touch Photo Retakes	22 School Council Meeting - 6pm	23	24 FX Hosting JH Volleyball Tournament	25 FX Hosting JH Volleyball Tournament
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	