

**Ben Calf Robe St. Clare
Catholic Elementary
Junior High School**

**6227 119 AVE NW
Edmonton, AB T5W 4C4**

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Hours of Operation:

**Doors Open - 8:30 am
Recess 10:10-10:25
Lunch 12:00 – 12:35pm
Dismissal - 3:06 pm**

**Early Dismissal
Every Thursday
at 12:06 pm**

Ben Calf Robe St. Clare Catholic Elementary Junior High



April 2026

BCR Newsletter

Upcoming Important Dates

April 7 – Classes
Resume

April 15 – Parent
Council Meeting 5 PM.
TEAMS link to be
shared

May 9 – BCR Pow
Wow

May 15 – 18 – May
Long Weekend

May 19 – Classes
Resume

May 27 – Parent
Council Meeting 5 PM

June 22 – National
Indigenous Peoples
Day

June 23 – Last Day
of School



Tansi ekwa tawow - hello and welcome.

Today, we welcome Ayiki-Pisim-Frog Moon-April.

As we look back on Niski-Pisim, March, the students embraced their love of learning throughout the whole month, as well as extended their learning on field trips. They were able to participate in various educational opportunities that focused on the Lenten journey, Cree Language and Culture, as well as many academic teachable moments. The grade 1's visited the Art Gallery of Alberta to extend their learning. The grade 2's and 3's attended a swimming field trip and were active in the swimming pool, splashing around. They will be participating in three scheduled swimming trips this month. Thank you to all who were able to volunteer. The grade 4, 5, and 6's participated in the Highlands Public Library literacy presentation. As well, the Grade 4 and 5's embraced new teachings and learning at the Telus World of Science. The grade 7's and 8's students participated in a field trip to Mistatim Horse Ranch and enjoyed the outdoors. The grade 9's students are preparing for high school transitioning and completed course selections for their upcoming school year. Let us see what April will bring forth for all!

Demonstration of Learning was a success with families celebrating student learning on March 5th. While sharing the love of learning, the students were able to showcase their knowledge, understandings, skills, and procedures taught in each subject. Thank you to all who were able to attend. Just a friendly reminder to families who were not able to join, please log into Powerschool for your child's Progress Report. Should you require assistance, please contact the Main Office at 780-471-2360.

As we welcome Miyoskamin, Spring, let us all be mindful of the Easter season that has approached also. The BCR school community took part in the Stations of the Cross traveling from class to class with prayers, song, and meditation preparing all for Holy Week. The students and staff will be attending Mass at St. Clare Parish on Friday, April 10th at 9 am to celebrate Easter.

BCR Athletics is proud to announce that it is Badminton season. Thank you to the badminton coaches Ms. Wi and Mr. Zicc, for sharing their gifts and talents of badminton with the BCR Eagles team. Please note, that there is a \$25 badminton fee for all students on the badminton team. Caregivers, please ensure that the fee is paid to the Main Office. A schedule of games will be shared with those participating.

The BCR Parent Council Executive welcomes all to attend on Wednesday, April 15 from 5 pm - 6 pm via Teams for the upcoming meeting. See you there. A huge thank you to the BCR Parent Council Executive for the support within the school community. Your time and effort do not go unnoticed.

The Ben Calf Robe Annual Pow Wow will be held on May 9, 2026, at Commonwealth Stadium - Indoor Field House with the Grand Entry set for 1 pm. Please join with your families for this beautiful cultural event.

Wishing you all a blessed month of April Ayiki-Pisim. Hiy hiy.

Ekosi,

Ms. Thompson - Principal Mrs. Lastiwka - Assistant Principal Mr. Ulrich - Assistant Principal



Bus Planner Delays App



Receive notices when your bus is late.

Be alerted of delays 10 minutes or more through this app

- For Bus delays please visit www.ecsd.net/transportation
- Please apply online or contact the Office @ 780 471-2360 for bus changes.
- Bus times are subject to change weekly on WEDNESDAYS



REGISTER TODAY!
ecsd.net



Kohkom Itwewina

Kohkom Itwewina - Ayikipisim 2026

Tanisi; Mrs. Nowack Nitsiyihkason
Ni kiskinwahamakewin Nehiyawewin newo/niyanan
isko keka mitataht.

Miyoskamin-Spring
Easter- miyo -âpisisinowi-kîsikanisik



Newo/Niyanan -Pimohtatahowin
Nikotwasik- Miciwin ekwa Soniyaw
Tepakohp- Soniskwatikew Pekiskewina
Ayinanew- Kapesi
Keka mitataht- Peyak isko newo Pekiskewina

What are the students working on:

- Grade 4/5 Transportation
- Grade 6 Buying food and Money
- Grade 7- Hockey Talk
- Grade 8- Camping
- Grade 9- Review Unit 1-4



Mrs. Nowack (Nohkom)
Cree Instructor

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

NEW PARENT COUNCIL GROUP!

Please contact the office to join our exciting group of parents!

School parent council involvement helps you stay connected with the school and allows you to gain a broader perspective of how you can play a supportive role. You can also network and make connections with other parents, business partners in your community and agencies that share a common goal of student achievement.

Meetings are Hybrid Meetings at 5:00 PM, Teams Link to be sent that day to your email.

Wednesday, April 15
Wednesday, May 27



Ben Calf Robe
Annual Traditional
Pow Wow
Saturday, May 9,
2026

Important dates coming up....

April 3 - Good Friday

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 6 - Easter Monday

April 7 - Classes Resume

School Fees Are Due

Please pay fees online through your Powerschool account with debit/credit. Should you choose to pay in person, cash only. Fees include Nutrition, Agenda and Technology.

Thank you!

**NO CELL
PHONES
DURING THE
SCHOOL DAY**



click [here](#) for more info



Provincial Achievement Test Schedule

May 2026

| | | |
|------------------|------------|---|
| Thursday, May 21 | 9 AM-11 AM | Grade 9 English Language Arts Part A |
| Friday, May 22 | 9 AM-11 AM | Grade 6 English Language Arts and Literature Part A |

June 2026

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| Thursday, June 4 | 9 AM-10 AM | Grade 6 English Language Arts and Literature Part B |
| Tuesday, June 9 | 9 AM-10:15 AM | Grade 9 English Language Arts Part B |
| Thursday, June 11 | 9 AM-10 AM | Grade 6 Social Studies |
| Friday, June 12 | 9 AM-10 AM | Grade 6 Science |
| Monday, June 15 | 9 AM-9:30 AM | Grade 6 Mathematics Part(ie) A |
| Tuesday, June 16 | 9 AM-9:30 AM | Grade 9 Mathematics Part(ie) A |
| Thursday, June 18 | 9 AM-10:15 AM | Grade 6 Mathematics Part(ie) B |
| Friday, June 19 | 9 AM-10:20 AM | Grade 9 Mathematics Part(ie) B |
| Monday, June 22 | 9 AM-10:20 AM | Grade 9 Social Studies |
| Tuesday, June 23 | 9 AM-10:15 AM | Grade 9 Science |

Please call to book and appointment prior to your arrival if you wish to see:

MS. THOMPSON – PRINCIPAL
MRS. LASTIWKA – ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MRS. PAQUIN – ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/
INSTRUCTIONAL COACH
MS. VANESSA – FAMILY SCHOOL LIASON WORKER
MS. ANGELA – FAMILY SCHOOL LIASON WORKER
CONSTABLE ANNE – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
MS. ANDRUSIAK/MRS. NORTON – OFFICE STAFF
OR
ANY OF OUR VALUED STAFF



IMPORTANT

DAILY CHANGES TO PICKING UP CHILDREN

Parents/Guardi [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.] and wanting to change how their children are picked up are required to **call the school one hour prior to the end of the day, please and thank you.**

This allows us to notify the teacher, the bus driver, the end of the day in-school supervisors and the front door supervisors. Your child's safety is important to us!

KINDERGARTEN IN ECSD - APRIL 2026



KATHLEEN RUFF
Kindergarten Programming Consultant
kathleen.ruff@ecsd.net



KAILEY POLLITT
Kindergarten Programming Consultant
kailey.pollitt@ecsd.net



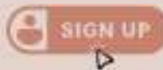
TAKEAWAYS

- 1) Teachers are always looking for examples and ideas of how Demonstration of Learning and Student Led Conferences are organized in Kindergarten classrooms around the Division. If you are comfortable, please share your handout you provide to parents during either November or March. We will compile the handouts in one place for everyone to be able to access. Thank you in advance!
- 2) Screener Data has now been released and can be found on Vretta! If you have questions about your class results or are looking for ways that this data can help to inform your practice, please reach out to the Math, ELAL, or Kindergarten consultants.
- 3) Check out these Songs, Chants, Fingerplays, and Transition ideas to jazz up your repertoire.



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Join us on Thursday, April 16 from 11:5-3:30 at Joan Carr School for our second session of Documentation of Learning in Kindergarten. Our first session was boat loads of fun. During our second session, we will expand our discussions on documentation and reflect on next steps for the upcoming school year. Whether you are using paper portfolios, SpacesEDU, or something in between, come prepared to share your successes and questions. Fill out the pre-session survey and register on ECSD Events.



| 2026 | | | | | | | APRIL | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | |

Thursday, April 30 from 11:5 - 3:30 at Lumen Christi is our final DFPD of the school year. Together with Occupational Therapist Justin DuVal, we will explore meaningful ways to teach mathematical concepts while integrating developmentally appropriate pre-printing practices that support core, shoulder, and hand strength, as well as fine motor and visual discrimination skills. Practical strategies for building targeted skills using math resources such as a number path, manipulatives, and hands-on materials will be shared. Register on ECSD Events.



We are elated to see you when you all walk through the door for PD, but please register a minimum 24 hours before the session!

QUOTE CORNER

"Some doctors and nurses [say] that, sometimes when children are injured and need attention in emergency rooms, it's because the child did not know how to safely navigate a potential threat, or they did not know what pain the activity could cause them. They believed that when children have time to understand the consequences of their actions and to learn how to successfully overcome anxiety-inducing situations, they can become less anxious over time when facing similar environments (e.g. knowing how to pet dogs without scaring them and being bitten). This in turn helps them learn to regulate the emotions they experience. Play that is thrilling, exciting, and challenging, even if it could result in minor pain and injury, is encouraged!"



— Epstein, T. (2025). Can play help children to cope with anxiety? Culture Play Canada.

SLP CONNECTION

Noticing children who struggle with rhyming, letter sounds, or remembering letters? This brief handout highlights early signs of dyslexia in kindergarten and why it's important not to "wait and see."



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

GETCA 2026

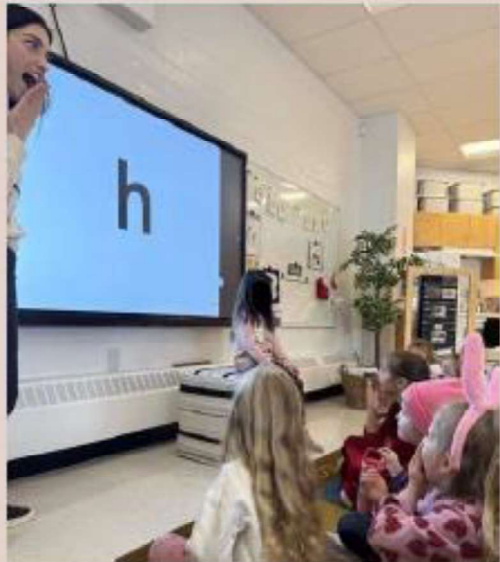
Thanks to all the ECSD teachers who came to see us at GETCA! Even though we had the least desirable time slots for the entire convention, Kindergarten teachers still came out in numbers to learn more about the new Social Studies curriculum and how to use Number Paths in the classroom.



Our Division Focused Professional Development session on Thursday, March 12 was incredible! SLP Tracey Robertson delivered a fantastic presentation having us learn more about how children acquire AAC devices in the division. We played interactive games like Jenga and a "truths and myths" sort to learn about the dos and don'ts of using AAC devices with young children. She also taught us how to use descriptive teaching when using an AAC device or a Flipbook. SLP Michael Stone collaborated with us on presenting teachers with information about how to integrate Chat Editor into their daily teaching. Teachers learned how to put in a ticket to request Chat Editor be installed on their desktop computer, how to use the "capture" feature to insert visuals into their slides, centres, and visual directions, how to effectively use the icons during a whole group read aloud, and the importance of simple sentence structures. Teachers walked away with a much better understanding of their purposeful language and actions when supporting AAC device users in their classrooms. A big thank you to Michael and Tracey for presenting, and the team at École Monsignor William Irwin School for hosting us.

DFPD #3





GUESS THE LETTER OR SOUND

To review the letters that children have learned, Carly McAvoy from St. Paul School invites her Star Student to play a round of "guess the letter." Similar to the game "Heads Up," a letter is displayed on the board and children share the sound the letter makes or words that begins with that letter. After listening to the clues provided by their classmates, the Star Student is encouraged to guess the letter name!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & LITERATURE:

Learning Outcome: Children make connections between letters and sounds in words.

- Make connections between letters and sounds in words.

CLOTHESPIN PASS

Kristen Mangold from St. Benedict School adds another layer of programming to her carpet time by incorporating interactive games that focus on OT development while her class waits for morning announcements to begin. Children form a circle on the carpet and are all given one clothespin. Using their fingers, children work to open and close the clothespins as they pass gold coins to and from their elbow buddies. The goal is to have the coins make their way around the circle without falling. Not only was this a great activity to develop hand and finger strength, but it also supports the development of hand-eye coordination, core strength, crossing the midline, communication, and cooperation skills.



RAPUNZEL'S HAIR

Thanks to Cristina Swinnerton from Archbishop Joseph MacNeil School for sharing this invitation to play with length using yarn and unifix cubes. The children were tasked with measuring Rapunzel's braid to see how long it was and then creating a block tower that was the same size. The teacher used a "slide in beside" technique to ask the children questions about which hair and which tower were longer or shorter.

MATH:

Learning Outcome: Children explore size through direct comparison.

- Describe the size of an object in relation to another object, using comparative language.
- Describe the size of an object in relation to a purpose or need, using comparative language.

