



Holy Child

December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Advent is upon us! As we start this holy season and prepare for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we pray for peace, hope, and love for all of our families. As we hear in the words of Isaiah 9:2: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." As we light our first candle this week, we experience the hope that Christ brings to us in our daily lives. A time of renewal, we are grateful for our blessings, and we also look at how we may also be able to support those in need during this special time.

We are looking forward to the many exciting Christmas events that will be taking place this month! From our Christmas concert at St. Joseph's Basilica on December 11th, to our upcoming Christmas market, that takes place on December 18th and 19th. Thank you in advance for all of your support!

In closing, I would just like to extend our thanks to all of our staff, students and families for your support and involvement in Dia de los Muertos (Day of the dead) celebration, a meaningful Remembrance Day Ceremony, and most recently, Advent celebration that took place today. We truly appreciate your involvement in attending and participating in our demonstration of learning at Holy Child! It was wonderful to see so many families at the school in the afternoon and evening.

Please read the newsletter for more details.

Take care and God bless.

Madame Christine Samson,
Principal





UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent**
- Dec. 2 – Holy Cross visits Gr. 56A
- Dec. 3 – Advent Celebration in the gym 9:00 am
- Dec. 4 – PAC meeting 6–7:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Dec. 6 – Choir performing at City Hall
- Dec. 11 – Christmas Concert at the Basilica
- Dec. 13 – Spanish Mass 10:15 a.m. at Corpus Christi
- Dec. 16  **Santa Hat Day Day**
- Dec. 17 – **Christmas Sweater Day** 
- Dec. 18 – **Christmas Market**
– **Christmas Sock Day** 
-  **Dec. 19 – Christmas Market**
– **Pajama Day**
– **Tourtiere/Empanada Pick up 3–6 pm**
- **Dec. 19 – Gr. 1 – 6 FULL DAY OF CLASSES**
– **dismissal 3:15**
– **Kindergarten Regular Class**
- **Dec. 20 – Gr. 1 – 6 HALF DAY OF CLASSES**
– **dismissal 11:43**
– **NO KINDERGARTEN Classes**



DECEMBER 23rd TO JANUARY 6th
CHRISTMAS VACATION





Holy Child Christmas Concert

Wednesday December 11
St. Joseph's Basilica
Doors open at 6:15 pm

6:45 - 7:30 Kinder to Grade 3

7:30 - 7:40 Brief intermission

7:40 - 8:15 Grades 4-6

Spanish Bilingual Grande Finale

French Immersion Grande Finale

The two parking lots across
113th street are available for
parking. Additional parking
is also available at the
northeast corner of
Connolly-McKinley's lot.

Students are asked
to wear black pants
with a red, green or
white top.



The Holy Child Christmas Market is a very special annual event on **Wednesday, Dec 18 and Thursday, Dec 19, 2024** where students have the opportunity to 'shop' for Christmas presents for their families. At the market, students select gifts from donated items which are then wrapped by volunteers and taken home for Christmas morning.

Each year students take great care in selecting the "perfect gifts" for their family members. They express great joy in telling why they selected the gifts they did and excitement in the anticipation of their loved ones' reactions to their gifts.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Come have fun wrapping gifts for the kids during the day or assist with set up/tear down. <https://signup.com/go/NEtLTDp>

DONATIONS

Holy Child families are asked to donate new or gently used items for the Market. There is no set limit on the amount you can donate, however it is suggested that you donate at least one item per person your child will be buying for (ex; if your child is buying for 4 family members we ask that you donate at least 4 items).

Donations will be collected at school December 4th-17th. Send your items to school with your child or bring them to the front entrance of the school and drop them in the Rubbermaid bins provided.

Donations of wrapping paper, tissue paper, bows, and gift bags are also greatly welcomed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW OR GENTLY USED DONATION ITEMS: toys, games, craft items, scrapbook supplies, aprons, place mats, puzzles, baby toys, picture frames, books, posters, candles, candle holders, vases, jewelry, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: for health reasons we cannot accept unsealed make up, clothing, pierced earrings, shoes, hairbrushes, or hair accessories. Please do not send movies, games, magazines or books that have inappropriate messages, pictures or themes. Stuffed animals are welcome but they must be clean and very gently loved.

WE ANTICIPATE BEING SHORT OF GIFTS FOR DADS, TEENS AND BROTHERS. Suggestions for donations: golf balls & tees, hats, tools, ties, coffee mugs, candy, CDs, movies, games, etc.

All items must be clean and in good shape. (ex; ensure all puzzle pieces are included) Remember, the items you donate will be a Christmas gift for a child's loved one, chosen from the heart. **Families are asked to contribute \$0.50 for each item being purchased by their child.**

The 7th Annual Holy child Christmas Market

Please complete the following information so we know who your child is buying for at the Christmas Market. Return it along with your money to your child's classroom.

Your child's teacher will discuss with your child which family members they are buying for.
Your child **does not** buy for him/herself.

Families are asked to contribute \$0.50 for each item being purchased by their child.

Child's name: _____

Classroom: _____ Teacher's name: _____

My child is buying for:

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Sibling (s) name(s)/age(s):

Additional family members (optional):

Total money sent at \$0.50/family member: _____

Please return your child's form and payment to their teacher
by **Monday, December 16/24.**

**Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at the Holy Child
Christmas Market.**

Please sign up to volunteer at
https://signup.com/go/NEtLTDp_



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF **AT HOLY CHILD!**

★ Sra. Leticia Martin-Bello: Grade ½ Spanish
While Sra. Stephanie Cote is on leave, Sra. Leticia will be teaching the Grade ½ Spanish class. If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to her directly.

★ Sra. Nataliia Bak: Kindergarten and grades 1 – 3
Educational Assistant

★ Marie Banzubaze: French language monitor until
February 26, 2024

★ Rebekah Lynch: Family School Liaison Worker

VOLUNTEERING AT HOLY CHILD

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers we have at Holy Child! Your enthusiasm and involvement is greatly appreciated. Please note that in order to volunteer in a classroom, participate in an in school or out of school field trip, every volunteer must fill out a volunteer form. Volunteer forms can be picked up at our office, or you may ask your child's homeroom teacher for one. It is best practice to fill this out and hand it in before the date that you are to volunteer in the classroom. Please note that no one is permitted to volunteer in the school without this form being filled in and signed.

Thank you in advance for your diligence and assistance with this.



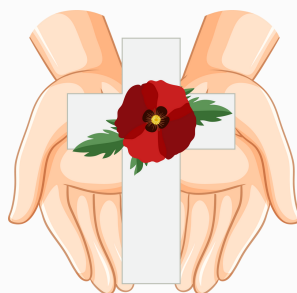
DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Our Spanish Bilingual teachers worked so hard creating a beautiful Dia de los Muertos experience for our staff and students. There was an artist residency, time spent at the altar, and a beautiful art display. The day was capped off with a wonderful Family Night here at Holy Child. Families enjoyed pan de muertos (special sweet bread for this occasion), a singer performance, art display and goods for sale. Thank you to all staff and families who joined us for this wonderful event!



REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Staff and students participated in a special Remembrance Day liturgy which gave us time to pause, reflect and be grateful for peace and freedom. The readings also asked us to ponder how we can be peacemakers. We were very blessed to be joined by NCdt Ilya Khineyko who shared special stories from his time in the military.



GRADE 6 BAKE SALE SUCCESS!

The Grade 6 students are thrilled to announce that **they raised over \$300 at the Demo of Learning Bake Sale!** Thank you to all the families who contributed cookies and volunteered their time running the booth. Stay tuned for other upcoming fundraising events in support of the Grade 6 Birch Bay Field Trip.





SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A huge thank you to Amanda P and all the volunteers for their hard work, time and dedication to setting up and running the Scholastic Book Fairs. The Book Fair was a success, and many books were directly donated to each classroom and the school library. Thank you to all families who stopped by and bought books for a great cause!

EDMONTON COMMUNITY POLICE VISITS

We recently had the opportunity to meet our local community police officers who are stationed near the L.R.T. station and surrounding area. The officers took some time to visit and talk to students on November 20th. The students were so excited to meet Cst. Chantel and Cst. Jon, who took the time to visit with our classes! They said they are excited to be able to visit our school when they have some time. It is wonderful to have our local community police officers take an interest in getting to know the staff and students at Holy Child. We are looking forward to their next visit!

RECESS AND ACTIVITIES: WEATHER

With the cold weather approaching, this is a kind reminder that students are to dress appropriately for the weather. Recess is important to children to provide a break from regular school routine, and a chance to get some fresh air. We will only cancel outdoor recess when Environment Canada determines that the temperature is below -20 degrees Celsius (including wind chill) or during wet, rainy days in accordance with District Procedures. Air quality is monitored similarly to extreme cold temperatures. The suggested guideline is that students do not go outside when air quality reaches an index of 7 or more. Whenever outdoor recess is cancelled, an inside, supervised recess break will occur.



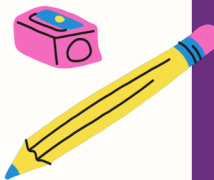
ÉCOLE ESCUELA
HOLY CHILD
Catholic Elementary School



**PARENT COUNCIL &
FUNDRAISING SOCIETY**

Parent Council & Fundraising Society News

DECEMBER 2024



Upcoming Events

December 18 + 19

Christmas Market! Donate your gently used items until December 16th

December 19

Tourtierre/Empanada Pick Up between 3:00-6:00pm

Meeting Dates

All Welcome | 6:00-7:30pm
Virtually via Zoom
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85755829458>

Wednesday, December 4th

Wednesday, February 5th

Wednesday, April 2nd

Wednesday, June 4th

***Meetings will be held every second month this year. PAC members will meet each month for planning. Same link for all meetings.*



December 18th + 19th

Everyone's favourite event!
Holy Child's 1st Annual
Christmas Market

Donate new or lightly used items to the school (for all ages + adults) so the kids can 'shop' for those on their list. See parent letter for more details.
No clothing or alcohol items.

Parent volunteers are needed for set up, tear down and wrapping!
<https://signup.com/go/NEtLTDp>

Xmas Market

Volunteers/wrappers needed

<https://signup.com/go/NEtLTDp>

Reminders

- Join the Council or Society for 2024/2025!
Email us to find out more details
- HOT LUNCH now available to order online
- Watch for details on Book Fair soon!
- Follow us on Instagram for school information @HolyChildECSD



HolyChildParentCouncil@gmail.com | @HolyChildecsd on Instagram

MEETiNG

**Parent Council & Fundraising
Society virtual meeting is
Wednesday, December 4th from
6:00pm - 7:30pm via Zoom.
All are welcome!**



Virtual Link

**[https://us06web.z
oom.us/j/8575582
9458](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85755829458)**

Healthy Hunger

Date	↑↓	VENDOR
2024-10-25		
2024-11-29		
2025-01-31		
2025-02-21		

2025-03-20	
2025-04-25	
2025-05-30	

Hot Lunch is BACK!!

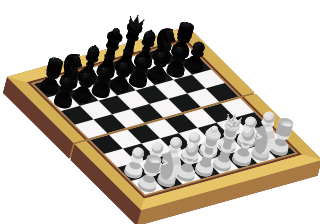
Last Friday of the month.

Register & pay for your child online at

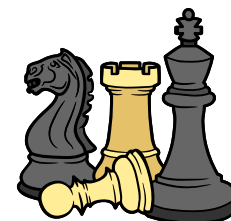
www.healthyhunger.com

Volunteers needed each month to help deliver lunches to classrooms from 11:30am-12:15pm.

Sign up online!



Learn to play CHESS at HOLY CHILD



Learn and Play Chess at Holy Child School! Beginner chess lessons on Thursdays early dismissal for 10 weeks starting January 16, 2025 from 11:50am-12:55pm. Richard Pua, a chess expert with 19 years of experience teaching chess in schools, and Holy Child's chess teacher from the school years 2016-2020 and 2022-2023, will be offering an 65 minute class on Thursdays early dismissal. The topics covered are how to set up the board, how to move the pieces and how much they are worth, key ideas in how to play a good chess opening, how to checkmate with 1 queen or 2 rooks, what is a check, checkmate and stalemate, how to record moves in algebraic notation, how to attack the king's castle, tactics such as pins, discovered checks, forks, how to recognize standard checkmate patterns, scholar's mate and fool's mate, and procedure in how to select a chess move. Homework sheets are given out, and could be studied if the student wishes to improve his/her results faster. Don't let the idea of learning chess scare you. Chess, just like Math or Science, has some basic general principles. Just like learning ABC's and then writing words and sentences, students that give a decent amount of effort will soon see Discovered Checks, Forks, Pins, Italian and Spanish Openings and Attacking the King like child's play! Even a properly trained kindergarten student can beat most casual adult players. Holy Child Thursday chess will go for 10 weeks. Class time is from 11:50am-12:55pm. The first 25 minutes is for learning chess concepts. The remaining 40 minutes will be for actual chess playing, in order for the students to use the newly learned ideas. Students can bring their lunch and eat it during the chess class. First class and registration will be on January 16 and will run until April 10. If there is sufficient interest, a second term of about 10 weeks will be added on after April 10. Class dates are Jan 16, Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13, Feb 20, Mar 6, Mar 13, Apr 3, Apr 10. No chess classes on Feb 27 (Teacher Convention), Mar 20 (No early day) and Mar 27 (Spring Break). Holy Child Thursday chess will be instructed by Richard Pua. With a current FIDE chess rating of 2003, Mr. Pua is a chess expert and in the top 20 players in Edmonton. Richard has taught thousands of juniors proper tournament chess play, in dozens of schools in Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray. Many of his students have become provincial and national chess champions. He was the first teacher to Richard Wang, who is now an accomplished International Master and received a chess scholarship to attend Harvard, who himself became a chess expert (rating of 2000) at age of 10! For more information, you can contact Richard Pua at richardpua9@hotmail.com or text (780) 863-9929. No refund policy, please read. Once a student registers and pays the chess fee, no refunds will be given for any missed classes or drop-outs. No refunds given for any school cancellations due to any unforeseen events leading to any school closures such as a health lockdown or physical damage to school. No online chess class option offered for any school closures or cancellations. Note for Parents: Please make sure that you are on time and ready to pick up your student when class ends at 12:55pm.

Registration Form for Holy Child Thursday early dismissal chess 11:50am-12:55pm starting January 16, 2025 for 10 wks Name of Student _____
Grade ____ Room ____ Birthday _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail _____
Mailing _____
Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____
List possible student allergies or health concerns _____

Holy Child Thursday Early Dismissal Chess for 10 weeks: \$ 85

Fee must be paid at the first class.

Payment options are either cash or cheque.

Please make cheques payable to "Richard Pua"

For more information, you can contact Richard Pua at richardpua9@hotmail.com or text (780) 863-9929. No refund policy, please read. Once a student registers and pays the chess fee, no refunds will be given for any missed classes or drop-outs. No refunds given for any school cancellations due to any unforeseen events leading to any school closures such as a health lockdown or physical damage to school. No online chess class option offered for any school closures or cancellations. Note for Parents: Please make sure that you are on time and ready to pick up your student when class ends at 12:55pm.



December 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WED

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

advent
celebration

PAC
meeting

French
Kitchen
Party

Choir at
City Hall

8

9

10

Christmas 11
Concert
6:45 pm at
the Basilica

12

13

14

15

Santa 16
Hat Day

Christmas 17
Sweater
Day

Christmas 18
Sock Day
.....
CHRISTMAS
MARKET

Pajama Day 19
.....
Regular
Kindergarten
classes
CHRISTMAS
MARKET

No 20
Kindergarten
.....
Grade 1-6
Early Dismissal
11:43

21

22

Christmas 23
Vacation

Christmas 24
Vacation

Merry 25
Christmas

Christmas 26
Vacation

Christmas 27
Vacation

28

29

Christmas 30
Vacation

Christmas 31
Vacation

Christmas
Vacation

Christmas
Vacation

Christmas
Vacation

Classes will resume Monday, January 6th, 2025
Merry Christmas and all the best for a Happy New Year