



MONSIGNOR FEE OTTERSON

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER! 2026/2027

ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

WELCOME 🏡

On behalf of the staff of Monsignor Fee Otterson Elementary/Junior High school, we would like to welcome new and existing families to the new school year!

As a school community, we will be dedicated to supporting and embracing a shared vision where students are at the center of our commitment and where everyone belongs. Our amazing staff will place value on creating a school culture grounded in compassion and care and where love is the guiding principle in all that we do for one another or as Monsignor Fee Otterson (MFO) would say, "Love💖is central to all we do for one Another."

This year, the Division's theme "Rooted in Joy" is permeated and runs parallel **to** this year's book... **"The World Needs Who You Were Made to be"** by Joanna Gaines. Choosing a metaphor each year will guide us, deepen our thinking, and help us make connections to one another.

In *The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be*, each child contributes something remarkable and unique to create something extraordinary and beautiful (a display of hot-air balloons). It is rooted in the beauty that lies in difference. This profound book captures the essence of **'Rooted in Joy!** It reminds us that joy grows when we live as God designed and created us to be. The story reminds us that our differences are sacred gifts and that every person has something valuable to offer. When we recognize our God-given talents, celebrate the gifts of others, and work together in community, we experience a joy that is deeper than happiness. We become rooted in the knowledge that we are loved by God, created for a purpose, and called to share our gifts, perspectives and strengths with the world. "See how beautiful it can be when our differences share the same sky?" Just as each balloon adds beauty to the sky, each member of our school community adds something special to Monsignor Fee Otterson. "You're one of a kind, and it's so

clear to see: The world Needs who YOU were made to be." The world truly needs who God made each of us to be.

We are privileged to touch the lives of each student. We look forward to meeting and welcoming our students and families to MFO. By unpacking the book, both staff and students will explore wonderings and questions that align with our Catholic core values, creating global citizens and internationally minded students.

We hope every student experiences a joyful and everlasting imprint in the lives we touch. We look forward to the journey that lies ahead. Our dream this school year is to ignite "joy" in every student that will fuel their creativity, inspire imagination, foster curiosity, and stimulate imagination.

We thank you, our parents, for welcoming us into the lives of your children. There is always such a positive and welcoming spirit in the school on the opening day from the staff and students. What an honor it is to be part of their educational journey.

We remain committed to... **"Every Child, Every Day, No Exceptions"**

Principal, **Mrs. Liliana (Lily) Kucy**; Assistant Principal, **David Kiryluk**; Acting Assistant Principal, **Kelly Banco**

 **"ROOTED IN JOY"** 

REFLECTION ON JOY

As stated above, The Edmonton Catholic School Division's theme for this school year is 'Rooted in Joy' and we will dedicate time to examine what that means throughout the school year using our school theme book, "The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be" (building classroom community, morning announcements, creating communities of belonging and permeated daily).

When we are rooted in Christ, the fruits of the Spirit grow within us. One of those fruits is **"Joy."** As students discover and develop the gifts God has given them, they become more confident in who they are and more willing to share their gifts with others. Through these acts of service, creativity, kindness, and collaboration, joy takes root and flourishes in our school community.

A Prayer for the New School Year...🙏

We give you praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful, for everything which holds promise and hope brings us joy. Bless us as we start this new year with our friends, colleagues, students and community. Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh. May we show love and hope to one another and to all. Amen.

STUDENT SPACES

We would like to thank our teachers for creating beautiful environments for their classroom communities that support and inspire student learning. We welcome all students to discover new possibilities within themselves as the year unfolds. Our commitment to the Edmonton Catholic School Division's standards and practices will be central to our professional development this year as we look ahead to a strong academic year with a focus on "**Optimal Teaching and Learning.**"

NEWCOMER FAMILIES

ONE WORLD...ONE CENTRE

Dear Families,

Edmonton Catholic School's [One World...One Centre](#) is inviting newcomer families to a special information evening on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre ([9405 50 Street](#)).

This event is a great opportunity for families who are new to Canada to learn more about Edmonton Catholic Schools and the supports available.

You will receive information on:

- Intercultural Services
- Community Partnerships
- School Procedures
- PowerSchool
- Busing
- Resources for English Language Learners

Meet community partners and attend breakout sessions with Intercultural Liaisons on topics critical for new families to integrate into schools - available in 10 languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, English, Filipino/Tagalog, French, Spanish, Tigrinya, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions, meet ECSD staff and community partners, and learn about the support available.

Light snacks and refreshments will be served, and on-site childcare from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Please register by September 11, 2026, by [clicking here](#) or by calling 780-441-6060.

For more information visit [Newcomer Information Night](#)

We look forward to welcoming you!

SCHOOL REGISTRATION FEES/FIELD TRIPS

& OTHER RELATED FEES

PLEASE NOTE:

The 2026/2027 School Registration **Fees** support the **operational decisions** made and we are dependent on this **financial support** to carry out the **educational goals** set for the school year.

Registration fees are an essential component of supporting the comprehensive educational experience provided at our school. These fees contribute directly to the costs associated with elementary and junior high programming, including curricular enhancements, athletics, extracurricular activities, and field trips that enrich student learning and engagement. It is important to understand that the school allocates significant resources each year to ensure these opportunities are available to students. When fees remain unpaid, it places additional pressure on the resources available to sustain these programs and experiences. As a result, students with outstanding fees may be unable to participate in certain activities, including athletics and field trips.

- **We respectfully** ask families to prioritize **the payment of school fees at their earliest convenience**.
- **Prompt payment** allows the school to continue providing enriching educational experiences while ensuring that resources remain available to support student learning, extracurricular opportunities, athletics, and field trips throughout the school year.
- We recognize that families may face financial challenges and encourage anyone experiencing difficulty with payments to contact the principal to discuss available supports.

Method of payment is the standard **online payment** through your **PowerSchool account**. **We appreciate your attention to this request!**

FIELD TRIPS

Families will be provided with written notification in advance of all field trips. **A completed permission slip signed by the parent or guardian** needs to be returned before a student may participate in the field trip. Just a friendly reminder, **payment needs to be made one business day prior to the field trip through your PowerSchool account**.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF IN THE OFFICE

DOCUMENTATION

To help us maintain accurate records and provide timely support, we kindly ask families to note the following:

- **Requests for Letters of Enrollment:** Please allow a minimum of **four business days** for the processing of Letters of Enrollment. We appreciate your patience as we prepare these documents.
- **Updated Immigration Documents:** It is important that both student and parent immigration documents remain current in our records. If there are any updates to your documentation, please provide a copy to the school office as soon as possible.
- **Parent Volunteers:** Families wishing to volunteer at the school are reminded that volunteer registration forms must be submitted to the office **no later than April 30**. Please note that volunteer applications will **not be accepted during the months of May and June to allow for the necessary processing**.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our records up to date and ensuring a safe and well-supported learning environment for all students.

STUDENT SAFETY PROCEDURES

PRACTICE FIRE AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

In the weeks ahead, the children and staff will be practicing fire drills, lock down and emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all within our school community. Staff will be aware of when these initial drills are taking place so that they can prepare the children of all ages within our school setting. Equally, messaging will also be sent to families via 'School Messenger.' Please inform your child in the next month especially to alleviate any anxiety or worries from our little ones.

MEDICAL ALERT

FORMS

Please ensure you have communicated with the school office about any **medical conditions or severe allergies** that your child may have. If your child requires medication to be given at school or your child self-administers, **a form is required**.

Please either come into the office or download the document off the school website and fill out a current medical alert form as soon as possible to ensure we have the most up to date information. **Please note** that a **doctor's signature is required on the form before any medication can be given/taken (self-administered) at school**.

Should a child become ill while at school, parents or guardians will be notified and asked to pick up their child. We thank you for ensuring your child's safety and well-being!

Also, please assist us in keeping our school population healthy by keeping sick children at home.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

YELLOW BUS

Our yellow bus *is* up and running and on time!

Edmonton Catholic Schools has adjusted student transportation fees for the 2026–2027 school year. Student demand, increased routes, and higher carrier costs continue to drive overall transportation expenses.

- Yellow bus *passes* are available at the *office* for purchase at a cost of \$60.00 per (K-12) students
- \$70.00 for ETS bus passes
- ETC Arc cards are \$6.00

All students who ride the yellow school bus must have a monthly bus pass which is payable on Powerschool at the beginning of each month.

Busing Students:

Division transportation policy requires that an adult/guardian is available to receive all Kindergarten and Grade 1 students at the scheduled drop-off location and time. If there is no adult at the stop the child will be brought back to the attending school.



SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE

We want to make you aware of our focus on “**Safety**” for all students during the drop off and pick up times. Given that we have seven **buses** dropping off and picking up, it is important for all families to help with the following:

1. **There is no drop off or pick up in the bus zone in front of the school (turnaround).**
2. **The turnaround can be accessed once the buses have left.**
3. The turnaround in front of the school is a **NO PARKING** zone **during peak drop-off and pick-up hours of the day.** There is **no parking in the turnaround** between the hours of 7:30-8:30 am Monday-Friday. Also, 2:30-3:30 pm on regular school days AND 11:30 am -12:30 pm on Thursdays (early dismissal).
4. Families are asked to keep traffic moving by using the turnaround to **STOP, DROP-OFF/PICK-UP** and **go once the buses have left.**
5. **Please avoid parking at the entrance and exit of the turnaround so that buses can have easy access.**
6. **For parents and guardians who wish to remain with their child(ren) in the morning, there is parking available across the street and next to the school sidewalk.**
7. **Parents are asked to remember that there is no parking in the staff parking lot. Our staff parking lot is completely full, and we ask parents not to park there.**
8. **Regarding the drop off zone in front of the school, the curb side area is active from 7:45-8:10 am. Parents can access this zone only to drop off their child(ren). Please do not park and leave your vehicle. This allows for safety and fluid traffic flow. Thank you for your patience.**

We feel it is important to bring this forward as we work together to assure all students are safe. Thank you for your understanding and patience to ensure that every student is safe to and from school. We are very thankful our school is part of the wonderful community. It is very important to us that we are all good neighbours and show kindness to one another.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Dear Families,

The first day of school is just around the corner and we have a special plan to ensure that it is a smooth and welcoming experience for everyone.

Here's what to expect on the first day:

Warm Welcome: As students arrive at MFO, our school staff will be outside, eagerly waiting to greet them. Each teacher will be holding a sign with their grade level and wearing a vest, so students can easily find their designated entrance. Our entire staff will be fully engaged in welcoming students and families. You'll see team members stationed throughout the building and outside ready to assist with classroom locations, offer directions, and ensure everyone feels confident and supported. It will be an all-hands-on-deck effort to make the first day smooth, warm, and memorable.

Email: You will receive an email indicating who your child's teacher is and a map of the classroom location prior to Wednesday.

Class Lists: The class lists will be posted inside and outside.

Escorting Inside: Once the bell rings, our teachers/support staff will escort the students inside the school to their classrooms. We want to make sure that every student feels confident and ready for the exciting year ahead.

Parents/Guardians -Welcome: We understand that the first day can be a big moment for both students and families. Therefore, we warmly invite you to accompany your child into the school building to wish them well. This will also give you a chance to see their classroom and meet their teacher before the school day begins.

OPENING CELEBRATION 🙌

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Our first new school year celebration will take place on **September 15**, at 8:30 am. This school wide gathering will center around our division theme and reflect on the transformative power of 'JOY,' as we begin the new school year. Through prayer, reflection, and community spirit, we will come together to celebrate new beginnings, embrace our shared values, and look forward with faith and optimism. It promises to be a beautiful start to the journey ahead.

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

We also invite our school community to join us for our **Meet the Staff Night** on **Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 pm**. This informal gathering is a great chance to explore the school, connect with the staff who support your children, and gain insight into the learning environment and classroom expectations. It's a warm and engaging way to build relationships and strengthen the

partnership between home and school. Please gather at the back tarmac for a social and treat prior.

TERRY FOX RUN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

We're pleased to share that our annual **Terry Fox Run** will take place on **Friday, September 18** as a school-wide walk or run. This event is a meaningful opportunity for our students to honor Terry's legacy and contribute to the ongoing fight against cancer. We are encouraging every student to bring a **toonie** as a donation to the **Terry Fox Foundation**, which supports vital cancer research across Canada. Thank you for helping us promote participation and spirit as we come together for this important cause. Together, let's walk in hope, believing in a future where every step brings us closer to a cure.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING/PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Our **first School Council meeting of the year** will take place on **Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and guardians to connect with school staff, share ideas, and collaborate in support of our students' success. Our team is looking forward to meeting you, hearing your insights, and working together to build a strong, inclusive school community.

All are welcome as your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference. This meeting is in person. We are excited to meet our parent community.

NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

On **National Truth and Reconciliation Day**, all students from **Kindergarten to Grade 8** will take part in meaningful school-wide activities designed to honor the experiences of Indigenous peoples and reflect on the importance of reconciliation on Tuesday, September 29. Through storytelling, art, discussion, and learning, students will engage in age-appropriate experiences that foster understanding, empathy, and respect. This day serves as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to listen, learn, and walk forward together in truth and hope.

Please note that **Wednesday, September 30, is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and there will be no school for students**. This aligns with our school calendar and previous school communications regarding September 30 as a non-instructional day for students and staff

MONSIGNOR FEE OTTERSON ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH STAFF



SCHOOL STAFF

CUSTODIAL TEAM:

Edgar dela Rama
Honorio Estabillo
Rizwan Sheikh

SUPPORT AND TEACHING STAFF:

Educational Assistants:

Ayse Karas
Dilanka Mallawa
Misty McManus
Maryna Mryha
Melba DSilva
Lily Cheng
Liudmyla Stepanova
Tolulope Aribastise
Nisha Nisha
Tara Tremblett
Sylvia Barrett

Therapeutic Assistant Behavioural Therapist:

Juliet Boadu
Navneet Kaur

Administrative Support:

Natalie Maroney
Mariia Kyiovchik

Teaching Staff:

Kindergarten AM/PM: Alessia Alain

Grade 1A - Diana Ohiozebau

Grade 1B - Desiree Magleo

Grade 1C - Ashleigh Melnick

Grade 2A - Merin Syriac

Grade 2B - Daniella Lemire

Grade 2C - Stephanie Hay

Grade 3A - Keri-lyn Mazur

Grade 3B - Deb Bondy

Grade 3C - Jennifer Litzenberger

Grade 4A - Tetyana Miller

Grade 4B - Andrianna (Anna) Cadieux

Grade 4C - Hannah Rude

Grade 4D - Frederick (Ricky) Gregorio

Grade 5A - Carolyn Proudlove

Grade 5B - Anastacia (Stacia) Dolynchuk

Grade 5C - Jillian Gulli

Grade 5/6 - Jerica Pierce

Grade 6A - Lillian Turner

Grade 6B - Colin Oberst

Grade 6C - Gwynneth Turner

Grade 7A - Kathryn (Kathy) McCutcheon-Christie

Grade 7B - Kelsey Lehman

Grade 7C - Pablo Ramirez Pedraza

Grade 8A - Peter Johnson

Grade 8B - Richard Shinkaruk for Kelly Banco (until December 18)

Grade 8C - Alicia Kalman

Grade 8D - Leslie Harbin (**Performing Arts: junior high band teacher**)

Complexity Teachers

Charlene Michaud (0.8)/Taisa Corsaro (0.2)

Elementary Music:

Andrea Fraser

Junior High Visual Arts; Elementary (Grade 6) French:

Monique Draudson

Junior High Physical Education:

Joanna Dumicz

Instructional Coaches:

Wendy Sweetland

Erin Woolley

Jennifer Walker

EAL Designate:

Nikole Lekness

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

Acting Assistant Principal, Kelly Banco (August 24- December 18-2026)

Assistant Principal, Ashley Jennings (January, 2027)

Assistant Principal, David Kiryluk

Principal, Liliana (Lily) Kucy



HOURS OF OPERATION



MFO SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 8

KINDERGARTEN HOURS OF OPERATION (AM)

- (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday)
- 8:10 – 11:21 am

KINDERGARTEN HOURS OF OPERATION (PM)

- (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday)
- 11:45 - 2:56 pm

Please Note: No School for Kindergarten (AM/PM) on Thursdays

ELEMENTARY HOURS OF OPERATION (Grades 1-6)

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:

First Bell: 8:10 am

Classes Start: 8:13 am

Recess: 10:00-10:15 am (Gr. 1-3)

Recess: 10:15-10:30 am (Gr. 4-6)

Lunch Hour: 11:45 am -12:25 pm

Dismissal : 2:56 pm

THURSDAY- PLEASE NOTE EARLY DISMISSAL:

First Bell: 8:10 am

Classes Start: 8:13 am

Recess: 10:00-10:15 am (Gr. 1-3)

Recess: 10:15-10:30 am (Gr. 4-6)

Dismissal: 11:39 am

JUNIOR HIGH HOURS OF OPERATION (Grades 7-8)

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Friday:

First Bell: 8:10 am

Classes Start: 8:13 am

5 Minute Break: 10:00-10:05 am

Lunch Hour: 11:45 am – 12:25 pm

Dismissal: 2:56 pm

THURSDAY- PLEASE NOTE EARLY DISMISSAL:

First Bell: 8:10 am

Classes Start: 8:13 am

5 Minute Break: 9:58-10:03 am

Dismissal: 11:39 am

REGARDING SCHOOL EMERGENCIES

At the Edmonton Catholic School Division, the safety of our students is always our first priority and students are well supervised when they are on school property. When situations occur that warrant emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all students, we will provide parents with accurate and up to date information. One way to keep parents informed about an emergency and the safety procedures that have been put into place is by posting the information on the school website and through our messaging system (School Messenger). Information will be posted and updated as required when a school is experiencing an emergency.

If there is an emergency at the school where your child(ren) attend, check the school website and emails to stay informed and receive timely information. We also need to keep phone lines available at the school during an emergency, so we ask that you do not call the school. This will enable the staff at the school to keep in touch with emergency providers and division personnel. Thank you for your support and help in ensuring our students remain safe.

ENROLLMENT

CLASS CONFIGURATIONS

MFO classes are up and running! Each class is comprised of students with various abilities, interests, and strengths. This rich mix of students fosters an inclusive learning environment and creates an atmosphere which nurtures the development of all children. Please take time to read your child's classroom newsletter , Google Classroom, etc, to gain insight into the engaging, challenging, *and* creative learning experiences your child will partake in the days and weeks ahead!

ABSENTEEISM CHECK/ATTENDANCE

STUDENT ABSENCES

Regular attendance is directly related to success in school. Please ensure that your child arrives on time so that they can be welcomed into the classroom learning experiences taking place each day. Students who arrive late are asked to report to the office to check in.

Families are required to contact the school if a child is late or absent. Please notify the school office at 780-430-8015 and leave a message if all lines are busy.

Absences can also be reported via PowerSchool using the following steps

- Log into the [PowerSchool](#) using your existing account.
- Click on the **SchoolMessenger** Icon in the left-hand menu to sign into the SchoolMessenger website.
- Select the **Attendance** Menu, then **Report an Absence**.

Please ensure that any changes to personal information are reported to the office to keep our records up to date.

Students who have appointments and must leave the school prior to dismissal are asked to ensure the teacher and the office is informed. Parents are required to check in at the office to sign out your child(ren).

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ECSD

"What did you do at school today?"

Resources to help answer your questions about your child's education:

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/>

Edmonton Catholic School Division Website: www.ecsd.net



Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters