

2025 - 26 December School Newsletter

Hello St. Leo Families,

As we joyfully enter the Advent season of 2025, we are reminded of the incredible blessings that surround us— the excitement shining in our children's eyes, the moments of grace that lift our days, and the unwavering truth that We Are People of Hope. This beautiful season brings the gifts of Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace, filling our classrooms and homes with warmth and light.

A heartfelt thank-you to our dedicated staff, enthusiastic students, and supportive families for making our recent Demonstration of Learning such a wonderful celebration. It was inspiring to gather together and witness the vibrant teaching and learning happening every day at St. Leo.

As Christmas approaches, our school is buzzing with festive spirit! From pancakes lovingly prepared by our amazing HR department volunteers, to a few special holiday surprises we can't wait to share with students, it's shaping up to be a month filled with wonder and joy. We're excited for the many opportunities ahead to spread kindness, generosity, and Christmas cheer throughout our community.

And before winter settles in for good, don't forget to take advantage of the milder weather—step outside, enjoy the fresh air, and soak in the beauty of the season.

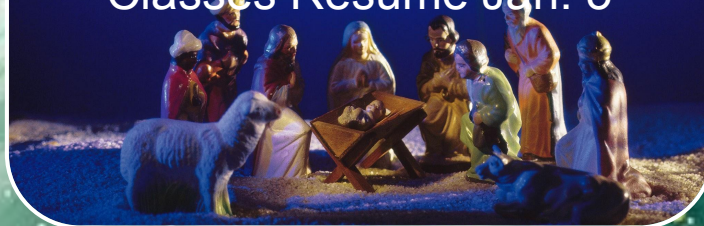
Wishing you and your family a Christmas filled with joy, peace, and the hope that unites us all.

Mr. Korassa
Principal

Mrs. Cerra
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Simpson
Administrative Support

Christmas Break
December 22 - Jan 2.
Classes Resume Jan. 5



Division/ SAC News

Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson's December 2025 Message

The season of Advent is upon us, when our amazing ECSD community celebrates that “The Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). There are far too many events between now and Christmas for me to share them all in this brief December Message, so I will only highlight a few reflections according to my usual themes of truth, beauty, and goodness.

TRUTH. In response to the instructional time lost to the labour dispute, there has been much discussion about potential changes to the school calendar. The cancellation of the January Diploma Exams and the ensuing cancellation of exam week have allowed high schools to add seven instructional days to the end of the first semester. This modification in high schools will be the only change to the 2025-2026 school calendar. At the elementary and junior high levels, our Learning Services consultants and staff have implemented new cross-curricular plans and realigned the pacing guides for the remainder of the school year. These modifications will ensure learning outcomes are met without the need to change the school calendar for elementary and junior high schools.

Parent Council Meeting

Looking ahead, we invite all families to attend our School Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, starting at 6:30 p.m. ending at 7:30 p.m. Supper will be provided — we hope you can join us for an evening of connection and collaboration.

If you can't attend in person, [you can join from home using this Teams link](#). We'll also be serving pizza, [so please complete this survey so we can order enough food](#).

Christmas Season

Advent

It's hard to believe we're already stepping into December, but what a beautiful season it is. Advent is a special time in our faith—a period of joyful waiting as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Each of the four weeks of Advent invites us to focus on a guiding theme that helps shape our spiritual journey. This year at St. Leo, we will gather each Monday to reflect on the gifts of **Hope, Love, and Joy** during our morning announcements, helping our students grow in faith and prepare for the season with open hearts.

As we move into the Christmas break, we encourage all St. Leo families to connect with their local parish to learn about and celebrate the final Advent candle: **Peace**.

May this season be filled with warmth, reflection, and a deep sense of anticipation as we prepare to welcome Christ into our homes and hearts once again.



Important Surprise Events

Please note that the school in partnership with our school council are proud to host a series of surprise events taking place over the next two week and especially over the week of December 15 - 19th. This week on December 11th there will be a huge surprise for our Kindergarten, grade 1 and 2 students.



★ Student Clubs at St. Leo ★

At St. Leo School, we are proud to offer a wide range of clubs that enrich student life and support the development of the whole child. These opportunities allow students to explore their interests, build skills, strengthen relationships, and grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

LEGO Bible Club takes place every Monday at lunch and is led by Ms. Poljan. Students explore different biblical stories and bring them to life by creating LEGO scenes inspired by Scripture. This engaging club encourages creativity, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of our faith.



Pokémon Club, held on Tuesdays and led by our very own Pokémon professor, Mr. Ball, gives students the opportunity to further their understanding of how the game is played. Through gameplay, students also strengthen important literacy and numeracy skills, including reading, counting, strategic thinking, and problem-solving.



PET Theory, led by Ms. Colleen and running on Mondays and Wednesdays, focuses on building essential life skills. Students learn social skills, problem-solving strategies, and healthy coping techniques that help them become compassionate, confident, and resilient members of our school community.



★ Student Clubs at St. Leo ★

Abbotsfield Youth Project (AYP) takes place after school on Wednesdays. AYP provides a safe, supportive, and engaging space where students can build positive relationships, develop life skills, and grow in confidence through mentorship, activities, and community connection.



Leadership Club meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is made up of several student-led committees, including fundraising, school culture, and school activities. These groups support school engagement, foster student voice, and help create a positive and inclusive school environment.



Choir Club, led by Mrs. Priolo, meets every Friday at lunch. Students enjoy singing together while developing their musical abilities, confidence, teamwork, and self-expression.



We are grateful to our dedicated staff for offering these wonderful opportunities and proud of our students for their enthusiasm and involvement in making St. Leo School a vibrant, connected, and caring community.

Stay Tuned For More To Come!

Hello St. Leo Community!

Our names are Natalya and Hannah, and we are Nutrition students from the University of Alberta. Thank you for welcoming us into your school and allowing us to share fun lessons about healthy eating!

We hope the students enjoyed learning with us and that the school community was able to explore our bulletin board!



Fun fact: Frozen fruits & vegetables have many benefits!

- Long shelf life
- Can be less expensive
- As nutritious as fresh options
- More choices in the winter



How to use frozen produce?

- Add frozen fruits such as berries to...
 - **Oatmeal** (Hannah's favourite way to eat fruit!)
 - **Muffins**
 - **Yogurt**
- Frozen veggies can be used for..
 - Serving **boiled or steamed** with salt & pepper
 - Adding to **stir-fry dishes**

See more at food-guide.canada.ca !

Home Reading Program

School Wide Reading Initiative

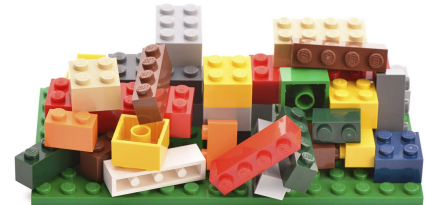
Our Reading Program is underway — and this year it's bigger, better, and more exciting than ever! **Reading is one of the strongest indicators of future success, and together, we can help our students become confident, capable readers who truly love books.**

Students can earn fun and motivating rewards for their efforts, including awesome LEGO prizes for all age groups. Don't forget to send in those reading strips — the more students read, the more chances they have to bring home an amazing prize!

We can't do this alone. We need to work together to help our students become stronger readers. By setting aside time to read at home, encouraging your child to explore new stories, and celebrating even the smallest progress, you play a key role in their reading growth.

Let's make reading a daily habit, support one another, and watch our students soar.

Happy reading, St. Leo!

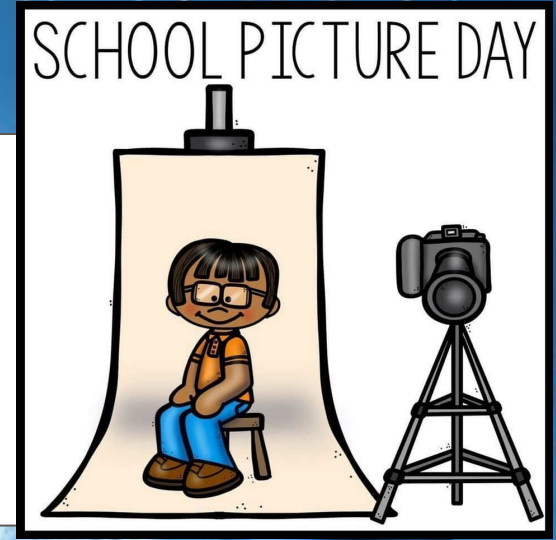


St.Leo Updates

St. Leo Picture Retakes Day (TENTATIVE)

Great news—Picture Retake Day is coming up on January 16! This is a friendly reminder for staff and students to avoid wearing green, as the photographers may be using a green screen background.

We can't wait to see all those bright smiles captured once again!



Social Media

We love sharing all the exciting learning and activities happening at St. Leo! Follow our Instagram page to see what our students are up to, from classroom projects to school events and celebrations.

If you haven't joined us yet, now's the perfect time — we'll even be running fun contests with prizes for our followers!

Find us at [#stleo_ecsd](https://www.instagram.com/stleo_ecsd) or scan the QR code to follow.

Thank you for supporting our amazing school community!



Weather is Changing

Cold Weather is Here

Please ensure that children are dressed appropriately for the weather. This includes gloves, hats, and appropriate footwear. Our ECSD policy states that children will stay indoors only when the weather is -20° outside or greater including windchill.

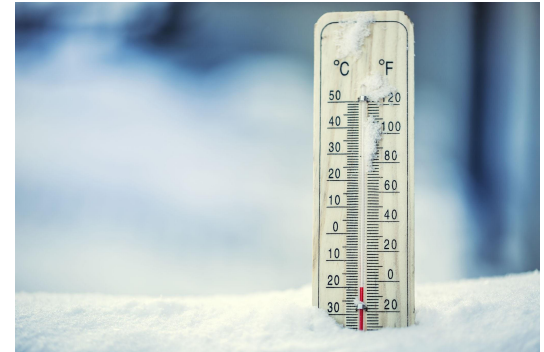
Please be advised that the following Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions.

RADIO STATIONS

630 CHED AM 930 The Light CJCA CBC CISN FM 103.9 SHINE 105.9 FM
CHFA (CBC Fr.) FRESH FM 92.5 TSN 1260 CFCW 840 INEWS 880 AM 95.7
CRUZ FM CAPITAL FM 96.3 Kiss FM 91.7 The Bear 100.3 FM K97 97.3UP!
99.3 FM SONIC 102.9 FM 102.3 NOW! Radio HOT 107 FM 104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM

TV STATIONS

CITYTV CTV Edmonton GLOBAL Edmonton CBC TV



The Next Couple Months

December

December - Start of Advent

December 8 - 14 - Hour of Code

December 10 - Ben Stelter Presentation

December 15 - Wear a festive hat day & Pancake breakfast

December 16 - Dress as your best Snowman & Christmas Sleigh Day (pending weather)

December 17 - Dress in Red and Green Day

December 18 - PJ/ Comfy Dress Day / Full Day of School

December 19 - Half Day of School

December 22 - January 2 Christmas Break

January

January 5 - Classes resume

January 16 - Photo Retakes

January 19 - Grades 4 - 6 Ski Trip

January 23 - Dress as a Teacher/ Student Day

January 29 - Professional Development Day – no school for students

January 30 - Report Cards go home

January 30 - St. Leo Spirit wear day/ Dress in Blue and Yellow or Blue and White

Save the Date

March 19 - Demonstration of Learning

April 16 Professional Development Day – no school for students

[School Calendar for all upcoming dates can be found here](#)

