



EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights



Winter weather finally arrived in late November — much to the joy of these St. Nicholas Catholic School students and all other students across our division who were patiently waiting to play in the snow.

Board Highlights

Trustees reflect on faith through the Gospel of John

FAITH FORMATION

The November EICS Board of Trustees Public Meeting began with the second session of this year's Rooted in Christ faith formation series, led by Jody Seymour, EICS Director of Student and Staff Formation.

This session continued the exploration of the Gospel of John, focusing on the prologue (John 1:1-18), which proclaims Jesus as the eternal Word of God and reveals His divine identity.

Reflecting on the transformative encounters within John's Gospel, Seymour emphasized, "Our goal is to use John's Gospel to encounter Jesus as we reflect on the transformative moments or signs that reveal His divinity and invite us into a deeper, personal relationship with Him."

She asked Trustees to reflect on the Gospel's "I AM"



Inclusive Learning Services Director Bonnie-Lynne Boehm highlights the services her department provides to the division, students, and staff during November's EICS Board of Trustees meeting.

statements, Christ's miracle of turning water to wine, and Mary's intercession in that event then and intercession in our lives now.

These reflections serve as a reminder to remain rooted in Christ, allowing His life to flow through us and inspire us to bear fruit as His disciples.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING SERVICES

Bonnie-Lynne Boehm, our Director of Inclusive Learning Services (ILS), highlighted her team's effort to serve students, families, and staff through a range of supports that integrate the Catholic faith.

"I love teaching, I love

people, and I love being able to integrate our Catholic faith into helping all those we serve not only to belong but to truly shine," she shared.

Boehm emphasized ILS' leadership in advancing how our division addresses diverse learner needs, and enhances early learning and transition supports for students with complex needs. She also highlighted her team's work in mental health, crisis intervention, and wellness, all of which reflect the team's dedication to meeting the needs of the whole person.

"The heart of our ILS team is found in our profound Catholic calling to help create environments where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds," she said.

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ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Board Highlights

Audited financial statements, curriculum pilots, and more discussed

BOARD from Page 2

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS APPROVED

After hearing a report from Secretary-Treasurer Tracy Leigh, the Board voted to approve the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements. Highlights include:

- A total of 8,384 full-time equivalent students were enrolled to attend an EICS school in-person or online, up by 6.1% over the previous year. This is due in part to new partnerships with St. John Choir Schola and Calgary Classical Schola in Calgary, and our Cogito and Sports academies.
- Total division revenues were \$85.6 million and expenses were \$84.7 million.
- Operating Reserves are \$4 million, within Alberta Education's maximum reserve mandate.

The full report is [available on our website](#).

TRUSTEE ASSURANCE PLAN UPDATED

The trustees approved their 2024-2025 Trustee Annual Assurance Plan, which is focused on Faith Integration and Community Engagement. These are two of the four key pillars of the division's assurance plan, which is the north star for all

schools and departments when creating their plans for each school year.

Faith Integration emphasizes trustees building a meaningful connection with families, parishes, and Catholic organizations to be advocates and witnesses for the success of our Catholic schools.

Community Engagement places an emphasis on transparent and timely communication with schools, families, and community stakeholders.

Click on the following links to view our [Trustee Annual Assurance Plan](#) or our [division assurance dashboard](#).

TEACHERS AS DISCIPLES

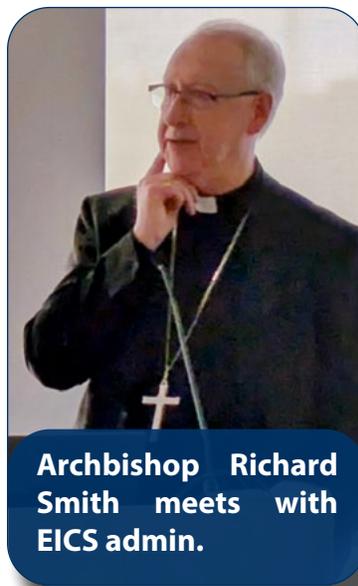
Trustee Dean Sarnecki recently oversaw the creation of the report *Teachers as Missionary Disciples: Forming witnesses for Catholic Schools on behalf of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association*.

The full report is available from the [ACSTA website](#).

BISHOP'S ASSURANCE CONTINUES

Archbishop Richard Smith and his senior staff have been attending various EICS events as part of the ongoing Bishop's Assurance pilot project.

His Grace joined our division administration



Archbishop Richard Smith meets with EICS admin.

They also discussed the Bishop's Assurance project, Catholic Education Week, and Bill 27: *The Education Amendment Act, 2024*.

DIVISION WELLNESS SURVEY

Our staff wellness project focused on the underlying causes for staff feeling overwhelmed or burnt-out continues. A total of 575 staff participated in an initial survey, and now division leadership will gather to review the results and discuss next steps.

PLANNING BEGINS FOR 2025 ELECTIONS

The Board approved Bylaw 2-2024 - Contracting Elections, enacting the appointment of municipal returning officers to conduct our 2025 School Trustee Election on behalf of the division:

Our division will rely on 13 municipalities to collect and count ballots for the October 2025 election

CURRICULUM PILOTS

Division leadership is beginning to lay the groundwork to pilot the province's new Grade 7-9 Mathematics and Social Studies, Grade 7-10 Physical Education and Wellness, and Career and Life Management.

ARCHBISHOP MEETING

EICS Board of Trustees Chair Le-Ann Ewaskiw and Superintendent Paul Corrigan met with Archbishop Smith to discuss feedback received from the Archbishop's Student Advisory Committee, which includes students from all 10 school divisions within the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

INSURANCE RATES INCREASE

Division administration is anticipating a net increase of 6.3% on insurance premiums for the 2024-2025 school year.

POLICY REVIEWS

The Policy Committee reviewed and approved revisions to:

- [Policy 7 - Governance Budget](#)

Board Highlights

EICS Board of Trustees update advocacy positions

The Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustees finalized and updated its assurance plan and refined its four key advocacy positions in November as part of its ongoing effort to address the evolving needs of our school communities.

The Board remains dedicated to creating an environment where all students can thrive academically, in their faith, and in their personal well-being.

Actively meeting with and engaging our school communities, local parishes, municipal and provincial elected officials, and neighbouring school divisions throughout each



ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Seeing Christ in Everyone

year are a few of the ways that our trustees advocate on behalf of our division.

The four positions are:

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Board remains steadfast in its commitment to publicly-funded Catholic education in Alberta.

This year's plan

emphasizes the importance of non-partisan support for Catholic schools as an integral part of the province's educational and cultural diversity.

INSTRUCTIONAL FUNDING

Ensuring sustainable and predictable funding is essential to meet the needs of students and staff.

The Board is advocating for funding that keeps pace with inflation, supports the recruitment and retention of skilled staff, and addresses the diverse needs of students in each of our classrooms.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Safe and healthy

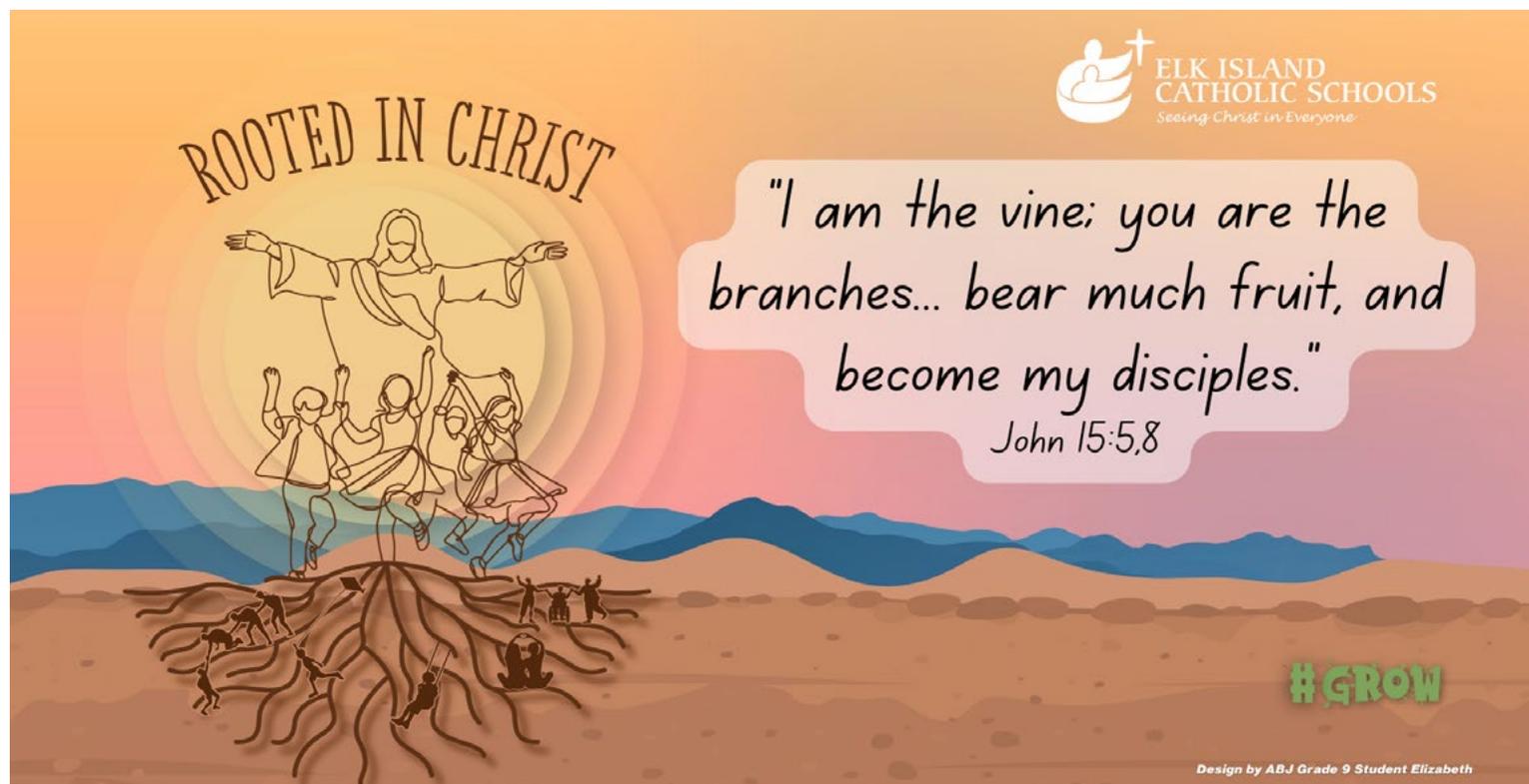
learning spaces are critical for student success.

The Board is advocating for new school construction, modernization projects, and funding for ongoing maintenance to meet the growing needs of our communities.

MENTAL HEALTH

Recognizing the vital role of mental health in student success, the Board is advocating for direct funding to assist with access to mental health professionals in each one of our schools.

Learn more about how the EICS Board is working to address these priorities, on its [Advocacy page](#).



Division News

Parent info night provides Blessed Carlo Acutis update

An early November parent information night about the upcoming Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic High School (BCA) in Camrose provided a sneak peek and update for families who are excited about the school. Currently, it's slated to open in September 2025 as long as one final major hurdle is cleared.

Speaking to parents at Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School (OLMP), on Nov. 5, Superintendent Paul Corrigan noted that construction on the building is nearing completion, with the building expected to be finished in early 2025.

An announcement regarding the new school's principal is planned to be made in December, while staff and program announcements will happen before the end of the current school year. That said, the new school does include spaces for woodworking, food studies, performance arts, and technology studies. The school also includes two learning commons, a chapel, and a gym with a workout room.

The primary access to the school, which is located in the Valley View development in southwest Camrose, will be off of 26 Avenue. There are some complications, however,

as the final stretch of road for bus access and student parking remains unpaved. Additionally, water service connections to the site have not been finalized, and there are also some water drainage concerns that need to be addressed.

Road and utility access to the school along 26 Avenue requires utilizing land owned by the subdivision's developer, but the city and developer are at an impasse in terms of completing the road and connecting utilities.

While EICS remains a neutral party in this situation, as the school is being built by Alberta Infrastructure, the Board is obviously highly interested in seeing this situation resolved as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Corrigan told parents that he has been meeting with the developer, city, and the provincial government in an attempt to find a solution that's agreeable to all parties.



ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Seeing Christ in Everyone

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
AT A GLANCE



PROPOSED ACADEMIC LOGO



PROPOSED ATHLETIC LOGO



QUICK FACTS

- Grades: 9 - 12
- Student capacity: 460
- 4,720-square-metres in size
- Dedicated woodworking and performing arts spaces
- Energy efficient with open and flex spaces

VIRTUAL TOURS

Scan the below QR codes with a phone to view 360-degree renderings!

LEARNING COMMON NORTH



LEARNING COMMON SOUTH



GYM



CHAPEL & FLEX SPACE



ABOUT BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) is known for his Catholic faith, devotion to the Eucharist, and early use of technology to share religious messages.

Born in London and raised in Milan, he began attending daily Mass and praying the Rosary at a young age.

A kind and compassionate soul, he defended bullied classmates and helped



leukemia at age 15 and offered his suffering for the Pope and the Church.

In 2020, he was beatified by Pope Francis after the Church attributed a miracle to his intercession: a boy was healed from a rare pancreatic disease after praying to Blessed Carlo.

A second miracle in 2022 was attributed to him following a mother's prayer

for her daughter at Blessed Carlo's tomb in Assisi. The daughter had sustained a life-threatening head injury with a low chance of survival. On the day her mom prayed at Blessed Carlo's tomb, her daughter began to make a full recovery.

Blessed Carlo is due to become the first millennial saint in 2025.

Click on the above image to view the handout provided to parents who attended the information night.

Earlier in November, the Board requested a meeting with Alberta Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis. Corrigan called the school an amazing See BCA on Page 6



The main entrance to Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic High School is in the recess of the archway just beyond the flag poles in the above photo.

Division News

About Blessed Carlo Acutis, our new school's namesake

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A kind and compassionate soul, he defended bullied classmates and helped the poor. He also created a website

to track Eucharistic miracles to help others see the importance of the Eucharist.

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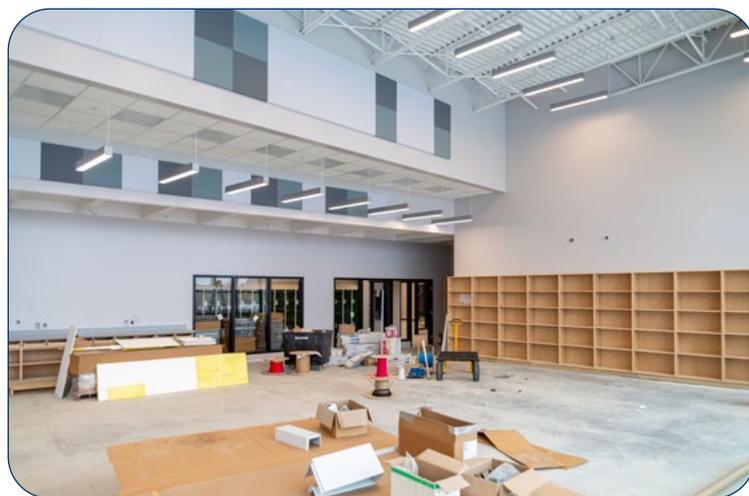
Blessed Carlo Acutis

November tour of BCA shows construction nearing completion

BCA from Page 5

opportunity to provide expanded Catholic education in Camrose, and a great way to offer programs that OLMP's building isn't capable of providing. For its part, OLMP will change to a Grade 5 - 8 junior high when BCA opens. The current Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 4 offering at St. Patrick Catholic School isn't expected to be affected.

When Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic High School does welcome students, it will be under a different name. It was announced by Pope Francis in mid-November that the school's namesake will be canonized into sainthood in April 2025. Once that happens, the school will be renamed St. Carlo Acutis Catholic High School. Until then, the current "Blessed" name remains in place.



More images of Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic High School. Clockwise from top right: An interior section of the primary Learning Commons; the large windows of the primary learning commons from the outside; and the food technology room.

Division News in Pictures

In mid-November the EICS Board of Trustees attended the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association AGM and the Alberta School Boards Association Fall AGM. Each convention presented opportunities to advocate on behalf of our division with elected officials, including Camrose MLA Jackie Lovely and Hon. Nate Glubish. Trustees also attended sessions that featured a conversation with Premier Danielle Smith and Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis, and an inspiring presentation on Catholic governance by Archbishop Richard Smith.



School News in Pictures



Remembrance Day ceremonies were held on Friday, Nov. 8 prior to the following week's Fall Break. We continue to be thankful for the veterans who have protected Canada and inspired by their words and actions.



School News in Pictures



St. Martin's Catholic School students in Vegreville enjoy the challenge of keeping bubble wrap afloat during a wellness workshop presented by PEPY: People Empowering People. Our partnership with PEPY is one of the many ways we are seeking to address student and staff mental health and well-being throughout our division.

Trustee Event Calendar for November

November 5

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School parent information session.

November 8

School Remembrance Day celebrations across EICS.

November 11

Local Remembrance Day ceremonies.

November 15 - 17

Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees' Association Fall Annual General Meeting.

November 17 - 19

Alberta School Boards Association Fall Annual General Meeting.

November 21

EICS Board of Trustees Audit Committee meeting.

November 23

Alberta School Councils' Association Virtual Engagement.

November 25

Trustee Assurance work plan Meeting

November 27

Public EICS Board of Trustees meeting.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 18

1 p.m.

EICS CLS Office

310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta

**Visit our website for
meeting agendas and
minutes.**



Catholic-integrated education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in the communities of Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, and Vegreville.

CONTACT US

310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8H 1A4
780-467-8896
eics.ab.ca

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