Welcome to ECCS! 2026-2027 School Year



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians of English Catholic Central School:

Welcome back to School!

It is my belief that a successful school community is one that works together as a team to help our students achieve the best of their abilities. This year, I pledge to work in collaboration with the ECCS team to ensure that the 2026-2027 school year is a fantastic one for everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful custodial staff for ensuring that the school looks its best for our staff, students, and parents to enjoy throughout the year. They have done a fabulous job this summer, and I have no doubt they will continue to do so throughout the school year!

I would like to thank our school secretary for all the hard work she has done in preparation for the school year, and all the work she will continue to do over the coming months.

I would like to thank our team of educational assistants, our child and youth workers, and our early childhood educator for caring so much about children and working with our teachers to give our students the best possible education.

I would also like to thank the teaching staff of ECCS. They are a phenomenal group of educators who work tremendously hard to give students the best in what Catholic education has to offer.

I would like to thank you, the parents and guardians of the ECCS community. Your role in the ECCS community is a pivotal one. Whether it is by joining the Catholic School Council to help in the decision-making process of school improvement planning, sitting down with your child to ensure that they are understanding and completing homework, or even by reading over our various posts on our school Facebook page to keep yourself up to date with what is happening at ECCS. You belong to the ECCS team, and for this reason, I invite you to be an active participant in your child's experience at school. Feel free to make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher or myself to discuss matters that are important to you. I urge you to support our fundraising endeavors which include our student activities fund. I also invite you to join us during our Masses, school assemblies, parent-teacher interviews, and much more! If we work together, our students, your children, will succeed. They will gain the self-confidence, skills, and faith required to be moral and, responsible citizens in our local and global community. Best wishes for a wonderful 2026-2027 school year, and may God guide you in your journey as loving and caring parents.

Let us walk in the light of Christ, together.

Mrs. Cheryl Ricco

ECCS School Staff

Mrs. Ricco	Principal
Ms. Whelan	Secretary
Mrs. Cull	Teacher JK/SK
Ms. Box	Early Childhood Educator JK/SK
Mrs. Brown	Teacher Grade 1
Mrs. Ettles	Teacher Grade 2
Mrs. Duquette	Teacher Grade 3
Ms. Heroux	Teacher Grade 4
Mrs. Williams	Teacher Grade 5
Mrs. Nawrocki	Teacher Grade 6
Mr. Morin	Teacher Grade 7
Ms. Wittmaack	Teacher Grade 8
Mrs. Jolette	Core French and Prep Relief
Ms. Gagnon	Prep Relief
Mrs. Desmarais	Resource Teacher/ Literacy and Numeracy Teacher
Ms. Major	Resource Teacher
Ms. Alicia Fader	Junior/Intermediate Division Child Youth Worker
Ms. Kaitlyn Mackey	Primary Division Child Youth Worker
Mrs. Miron	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Dessureault	Educational Assistant
Ms. Tessa Peddie	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Krissy Lajoie	Educational Assistant
Ms. Melissa Peddie	Educational Assistant
Ms. Natasha Seaton	Educational Assistant
Mr. Venne	Custodian
Mrs. Godmaire	Custodian
Mrs. Watson	Lunch Monitor
Ms. Johnston	Lunch Monitor

Fundraising

During the school year ECCS will hold various fundraising endeavors, in which students are asked to participate. Our fundraising benefits all students directly, as the funds are used to finance class trips, special performances, sports equipment, and other school activities. Fundraising information will be sent home prior to each endeavor, and we will be using School Cash for all fundraising activities.

School Photos



This year, our photographer will be Photografix. The dates for our school photos will be October 19th and October 20th. More information is forthcoming.

School Day Schedule

A copy of the daily school day schedule is included for your information:

English Catholic Central School

Basic School Day Schedule

2025-2026

8:40 am 8:45 am	Student Entry Classes begin
9:55 am– 10:10 am	Outdoor Recess
10:10 am– 10:20 am	Announcements, O Canada and Prayers
11:30 am– 11:55 am	Lunch Recess
11:55 am– 12:25 pm	Lunch in classrooms
1:40 pm– 1:55 pm	Outdoor Recess
3:10 pm	Warning Bell
3:15 pm	Dismissal

Reminder: Please call the school before 2:00 pm if you wish to pick-up your child at the end of the day.

School Entry/Exit Policy

This year, students will be entering the school at 8:40 am.

In keeping with Board policy, the doors to the school will remain locked at all times. Any forgotten lunches, school bags, messages, etc. will be distributed by the office. Parents will be asked to leave these items at the front entrance for retrieval by the office and to inform the office by using the buzzer located at the right-hand side of the doors or by calling 705-647-4301.

Also note: The school is responsible for the students from the time they arrive at school until they are dismissed. We insist, therefore, that all students remain at school during the lunch hour. Exceptions will be made only if the student brings a note, signed and dated by a parent/guardian or if we are called by a parent/guardian to give permission for the child(ren) to leave the school grounds. Students leaving the school during the lunch hour must have permission from their parent/guardian.

Drop-Offs and Pick-Ups

At 3:10 pm, students will gather their personal belongings and prepare for home. At 3:15 pm, students who walk home will be dismissed and students who are picked up will be grouped together at the loading zone in the Primary playground. The loading zone for pick-ups will require parents and guardians to enter school property from the South entrance of the school parking lot. We ask that you enter the South parking lot, park your vehicle, and inform the supervisor who you are collecting. A supervisor will ensure that your child/children will be prepared to be collected. To exit school property, parents and guardians will leave the parking lot and exit school property from the South entrance. Please do not exit via the bus route.

Please note: there will be no pick-up times between 3:00 pm and 3:15 pm at the main entrance. This area will not be accessible at this time of the day. **Should you wish to pick-up your child/children earlier, you must contact the school <u>prior to 2:00 pm</u> and make arrangements to do so.**

Personal Belongings

All students are required to have a pair of indoor shoes to wear in the school. For the students' safety and for hygiene purposes, shoes must be always worn. Indoor shoes will remain at school however; all other personal belongings should be kept to a minimum. School bags are permitted, but items such as toys or personal electronics etc. should stay home.

Electronic Devices

The Ministry of Education has set expectations about personal mobile devices for students and staff while at school. This provincial strategy is intended to directly address the alarming rise of cellphone distractions in schools. The rules will help to ensure our focus is on teaching and learning with the goal of improving academic achievement, mental health and physical well-being.

These new provincial expectations mean that your child's cell phone, smartwatch, and any other mobile device need to be silenced and out-of-sight for the entire school day. Cell phones will be kept in a bin in each classroom. Should students keep any electronic devices in their lockers, they do so at their own risk. *The school is not responsible for lost or stolen property.* It is advisable to keep all electronic equipment at home.

All communication between parents and students during a school day will take place via the Office. We ask for your help and partnership in making this happen. Grade 7 and 8 students will have an opportunity at 3:15 pm to access their cell phones once they have been dismissed.

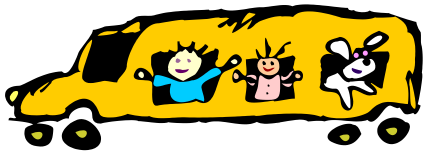
Use of the School Telephone

Many students request the use of the school telephone daily for various reasons. Please ensure that your son/daughter remembers his/her lunch, school bag, homework, etc. in the morning. Social calls will not be permitted. Students are reminded to plan sleepovers, birthday parties, etc. prior to coming to school. The school telephone is to be used by the students for emergency purposes only.

Litter-Less Lunch

We are encouraging all our students and staff to become environmental superheroes by trying to bring zero-waste lunches to school. We are encouraging everyone to use reusable containers and refillable water bottles (labelled). Students have access to microwaves.

Please note that we will also be limiting the number of phone calls home for student lunches. Should a student not have a lunch, a jam sandwich will be prepared for the student to eat along with healthy options from the school snack program.



Transportation Policy

At no time is it possible for a student to have permission to ride on a bus other than his/her regular bus or to be picked up or dropped off at an alternate location other than his/her regular location (the rule is one pick-up and one drop-off location only). Please do not request bussing changes for birthday parties, sleepovers or for occasional babysitting purposes as these requests will be denied. Requests for changes should be for *permanent* changes only and be completed by contacting the school office directly.

Please also note the following information with regards to bus reports. Students may be given a bus report by the school bus driver for any of the following reasons:

- Fighting on the bus
- Throwing objects
- Yelling or talking loudly
- Using inappropriate language or gestures
- Disobeying the driver's instructions
- Teasing or harassing others (verbally or physically)
- Entering/exiting bus in a disruptive manner
- Standing/moving about the bus while it is in motion
- Blocking the aisle
- Playing with distracting toys
- Carrying objects such as hockey sticks, ski equipment
- Smoking/vaping/lighting matches

- Eating or drinking on the bus
- Being late for pickup
- Possessing and/or using alcohol or drugs
- Littering the bus
- Projecting parts of body out of window
- Bumper hitching
- Throwing snowballs at, in or from bus
- Sitting in an unauthorized seat
- Talking unnecessarily to the driver while the bus is in motion
- Unauthorized opening of doors, windows, or emergency equipment
- Entering/exiting at an undesignated stop without permission
- Other

The following outlines the consequences for each incident report:

1st Infraction: Warning

2nd Infraction: Loss of Privilege of bus Travel for 3 school days

3rd Infraction: Loss of Privilege of bus Travel for 8 school days

4th Infraction: Loss of privilege of bus travel - Indefinitely

Snack Program

The Snack Program will be available to all students, free of charge daily. We thank the Canadian Red Cross for the funding and support they provide. It will begin later in September, and all foods will be pre-packaged items and/or fruits and vegetables as per the THU recommendations and guidelines.

Allergy Alert!

We do have students with peanut, tree nut, fish, sesame, and banana allergies. Therefore, we are asking for the co-operation of students, staff and parents to be conscious of this fact. We are a nut-free, sesame-free, fish-free and banana-free school currently. In addition, eating will not be permitted in the school yard or in hallways. Recess snacks will be eaten in the classroom.

Head Lice

It seems that Fall is the time of year when these pests like to come to school. We are asking that parents check their child(ren)'s head regularly. Information is available at the school and at the Timiskaming Health Unit for those who would like it. Thank you for helping us with this annual challenge. Students who have head lice and/or knits will be asked to remain at home until the issue has cleared.

Behaviour Code

A copy of the ECCS School Code of Conduct will be shared with parents and will be shared on the Board website as well. Please read the Code of Conduct carefully and review it with your child(ren).

Student Attendance

The attendance verification check is a process which enables schools to verify a student's absence or lateness with the parent or guardian. *Parents/guardians are reminded that they must call the school, or leave a message, whenever their child(ren) is absent or late.* Where there are other siblings attending school, a note from the parent is also acceptable. Any students arriving late to school must immediately report to the office upon entering the school. We also ask that parents escort their child/children to inform the secretary.

This year our goal is for every student to attend at least 170 days of school. Everyday counts, so let's make this year count together!

Change of Contact Information

If, during the school year, you move, change your telephone number, place of employment, or emergency contact please advise the school office immediately. It is very important that these records be kept up to date.



Report Cards

Report Cards for all students will be sent home at the end of January and June. Parents are asked to please sign the last page of the report card and return it to their child's teacher. Progress Reports will be sent home in mid-November. If you should have any concerns or questions regarding your child's performance or progress at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Scent-Free School

As the number of people developing allergies to "fragrances" is increasing significantly, we are asking for the co-operation of students, staff and parents to be conscious of this fact and, therefore, refrain from wearing heavy perfumes. Students are not permitted to bring perfumes or sprays (such as Axe) to school. Older students may, however, bring deodorant for use after gym class.

Adverse Road & Weather Conditions

On occasion it is necessary to cancel daily classes. If the weather is threatening, please listen to CJTT, or the ECCS School Facebook Page prior to the start of the school day, or check the NCDSB web site at www.ncdsb.on.ca for bus cancellations or delays. *If school buses are cancelled due to weather conditions, regular classes for students will also be cancelled for the day.* If you choose to send your child(ren) to school on these days, please be aware that some staff members may not be in attendance due to road conditions. Parents sending children to school on these days must provide transportation to and from the school.

Parent Volunteers

We are always grateful for our parent volunteers. Please know that all volunteers must have an updated Vulnerable Sector Check completed by the Ontario Provincial Police online process. Vulnerable Sector Checks are only valid for 6 months and must be submitted to the Office at the school as soon as possible. Please contact Mrs. Whelan for a letter from the school to complete

your Vulnerable Sector Check application. Should you have any questions please contact the school directly. Thank you again for your support of our students.

ECCS Office Hours

8:00 am - 11:30 am
12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

*Please Note:

The Office is **NOT** open during the lunch hour. Please make contact with the school prior to 11:30 am should you wish to pick-up your child during the lunch hour.

Statutory Holidays

P.A. Days

2026 - 2027

September 1st	First Day of School
September 28th	Professional Activity Day
October 12th	Thanksgiving Day
October 26th	Professional Activity Day
November 27th	Professional Activity Day
December 21st – January 3rd	Christmas Break
January 29th	Professional Activity Day
February 15th	Family Day
March 15th – 19th	March Break
March 26th	Good Friday
March 29th	Easter Monday
April 16th	Professional Activity Day
May 24th	Victoria Day
June 11th	Professional Activity Day
June 25th	Last day of School

On behalf of the ECCS Catholic School Council, Welcome Back!

I would like to invite, and encourage, all parents to attend our School Council meetings. The meetings are held at least four times per year. This allows parents to become involved with making the school the best it can be! Please consider this opportunity to serve as a parent representative! It is a chance for you to be a voice for Catholic education and to foster good relations amongst parents, staff, the Parish and the local community.

Our first meeting will be on September 21st at 6:00 p.m. at ECCS



Should you be interested in being an active member of the ECCS School Council, please send an email to Mrs. Ricco at cheryl.ricco@ncdsb.on.ca declaring your interest. Or, fill in the following information below by September 18th, 2026 and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

If you have any questions with regards to School Council, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

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ECCS Catholic School Council

I, _____, (Name) am interested in serving as a parent representative with voting privileges on the Catholic School Council for the 2025-2026 school year.

My current email address is: _____.

English Catholic Central School
Catholic School Council