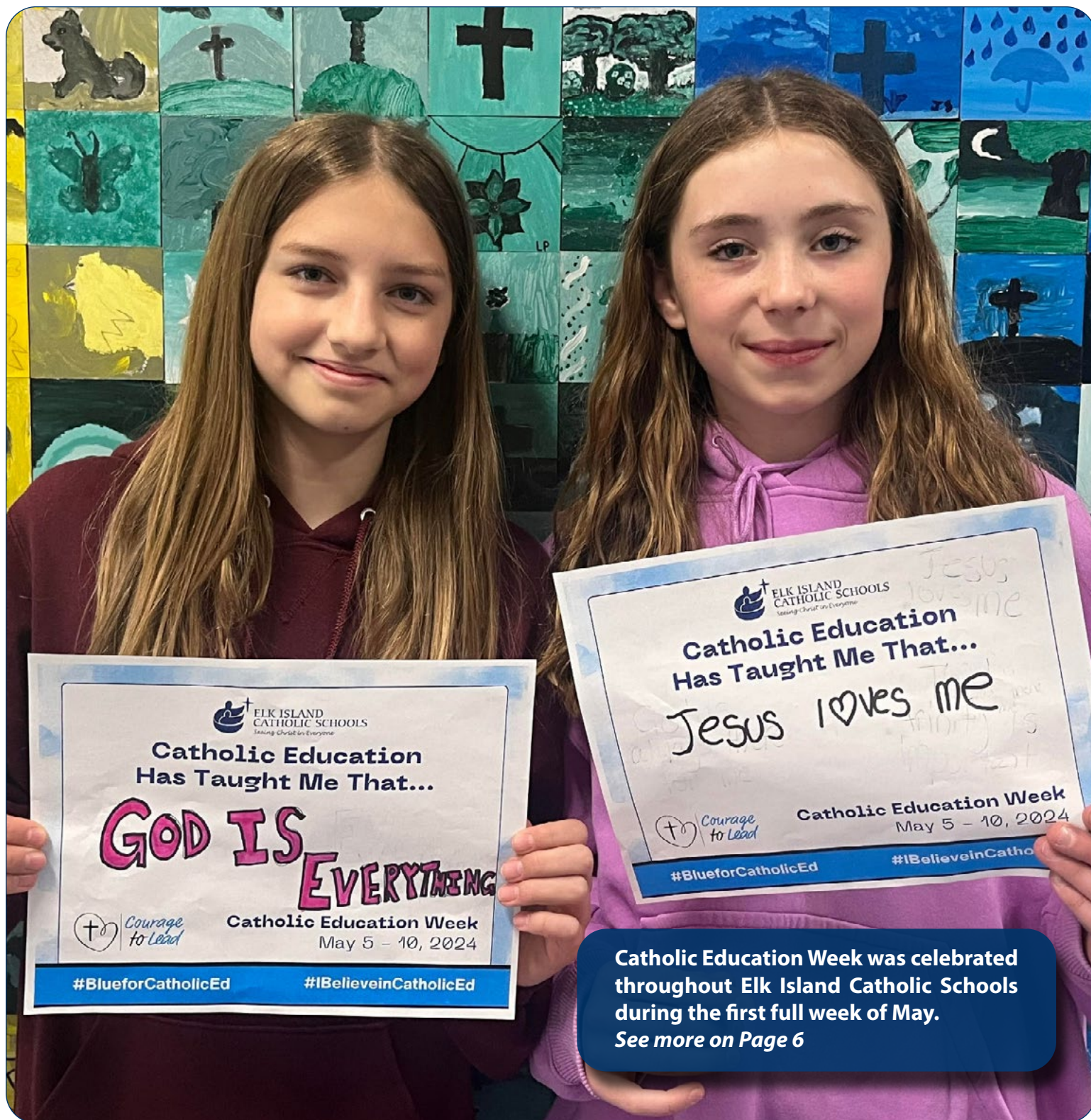


EICS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Highlights



Catholic Education Week was celebrated throughout Elk Island Catholic Schools during the first full week of May. See more on Page 6

Board Highlights

Highlights from the May 29 Public Meeting

FAITH FORMATION

During its monthly faith formation, EICS Board of Trustees members were asked to consider their individual moments when God revealed Himself to them — where they were spiritually, emotionally, and even physically in that moment — and how that initiated the beginning of a lifelong journey, not the end of one.

“We do not become disciples overnight. A relationship with Jesus may happen in an instant, but learning to listen to, surrender to, and follow His will is a much longer process,” she said.

“That is why the Church initiates us into the sacraments over many years. The church is set up to accompany people through the different stages of their journey.”

She added: “God does



Paul Corrigan, EICS Superintendent and CCSSA President, presents teacher Elizabeth Esposito-McLean with the CCSSA’s Excellence in Catholic Education Award at Blueprints in May.

the work internally on our hearts. Then, by our own encounter we become convinced of His love and invite and encourage others to an encounter. While we cannot provide the revelation, this is God’s work, He does work through us.”

place to address our four key assurance pillars of Faith Integration, Learners and Learning, Systemic Wellness, and Community Engagement.

Learn more about our annual assurance process and planning by **visiting our website.**

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Karen Antoniuk (Principal) and Melissa Damur (Assistant Principal) at St. Isidore Learning Centre (SILC) are two recipients of the Alberta Teachers’ Association’s Alberta Distinguished Leadership Award.

2024-2025

EDUCATION ASSURANCE PLAN APPROVED

The Board of Trustees approved the 2024-2025 Division Education Assurance Plan, which outlines the strategies schools and division departments have in

Superintendent Paul Corrigan, who is also the president of the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA), presented EICS teacher Elizabeth Esposito-

See BOARD on Page 4

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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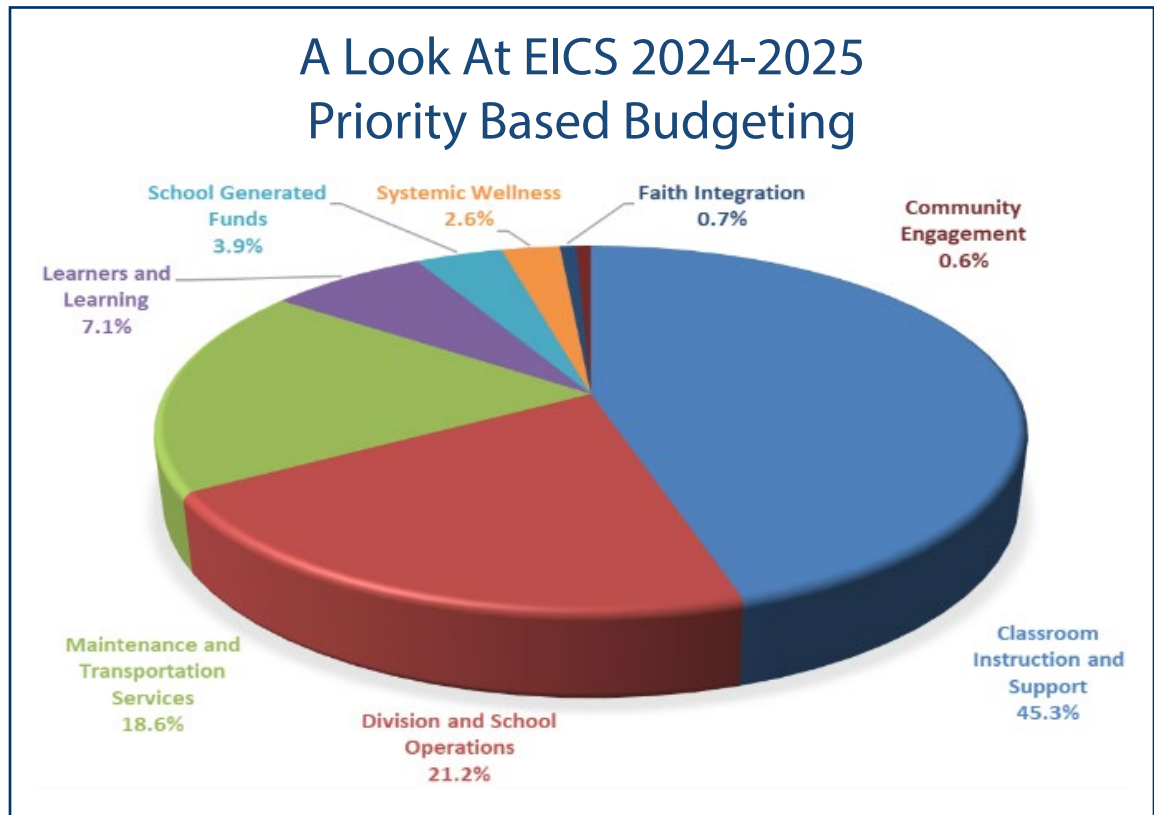
Board Highlights

2024-2025 EICS school year budget approved

The Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) Board of Trustees approved a budget of \$84 million for the 2024-2025 school year at its May 29 public meeting. Inadequate funding from the province will require the division to utilize a portion of its reserves to cover increased student enrolment and inflationary costs.

Alberta Education is providing \$78.8 million; the balance is supported through fees and other division resources. Although the government's funding increased by \$769,000 compared to the 2023-2024 school year's budget, it is only funding enrolment growth, not the more than \$3 million in inflationary costs that EICS has experienced.

"The reality and evidence are clear and show that we are not being sufficiently funded, and force our hand into having to make difficult decisions once again," said Le-Ann Ewaskiw, Board Chair of the EICS Board of Trustees. "We will continue to advocate for equitable funding that addresses inflationary costs and also introduce a request to provide full in-year funding adjustments based on actual enrolments, not out-of-date information. Funding that accounts for these two factors will have a clear and direct benefit on our students and staff."



"I am appreciative of our secretary-treasurer, our administrative teams at our Central Learning Services and our school admin as we find our way through next year's budget," said EICS Superintendent Paul Corrigan. "They have been diligent in finding ways to minimize the impact of this budget on our students."

Under the province's Weighted Moving Average funding model, 50% of funding for the next school year is based on an enrolment projection school districts provide in January. Another 30% of the funding is based on student enrolment for the current school year, and 20%

is based on enrolment for the prior year. When actual enrolment is higher than what is projected, the province provides an in-year funding adjustment that assists in offsetting the challenges of changing enrolment, but it is only a fraction of the total grant for a full-time student.

In January, EICS was projecting 8,419 full-time equivalent students for the 2024-2025 school year – down 1% from the current school year. However, enrolment numbers at the end of May suggest a student enrolment increase – due in part to the popularity of the division's Cogito Academy in Sherwood Park and

Fort Saskatchewan, which launched this year.

The vast majority of budget dollars in Elk Island Catholic Schools are used on staffing teachers and educational assistants in the classroom. The inflationary costs include benefits and utilities, and cannot help but put pressure on the division's ability to hire sufficient staff. The EICS board of Trustees has dedicated itself to continued advocacy to the provincial government to address these funding issues.

For more information about the 2024-2025 budget, visit the [**EICS Budget and Financial Statements web page**](#).

Board News in Pictures

Blessed Carlo Acutis canonization expected in 2025

BOARD from Page 2

McLean with the CCSSA's Excellence in Catholic Education Award at the Blueprints Retreat in early May.

A number of EICS schools have signed up to pilot the new Social Studies curriculum in the fall of 2024.

CAMROSE HIGH SCHOOL NAMESAKE TO BE CANONIZED

Blessed Carlo Acutis, for whom our new high school in Camrose will be named after, is expected to be canonized in 2025, making him the first millennial saint.

The school remains under construction and will officially open its doors for the first time in September 2025.

SECOND SCHOOL CODE FOR SILC

To help accommodate SILC's online students in southern Alberta, Trustees unanimously approved the school obtaining a second school code to assist with taking diploma exams.

Once obtained, the second code will enable these students to conduct diploma exams at a specific location in Calgary where they will be under direct supervision from a member of SILC's staff.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL REVIEW

St. John Paul II Catholic School has recently completed its Catholic School Review. The full review for the school (and all other EICS schools) is available through our **EICS Catholic School Review dashboard**.

CORRESPONDENCE OF NOTE

Two EICS students were presented with an honourable mention certificate from the Alberta School Boards Association's 2024 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards.

To show their appreciation for our work with Wolf Creek Public Schools on helping to develop its numeracy and phonological literacy assessments, the division has offered to donate to a charity of EICS's choosing on its behalf.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee reviewed the following policies during May's public meeting:

- **Policy 15: Hearings on Teacher Transfers**
- **Policy 16: Recruitment and Selection of Personnel**
- **Policy 9: Board Representatives**



EICS Trustee Jean Boisvert is presented with a Friend of Catholic Education award by Jocelyn Mouyois of the REAL Foundation in recognition of his commitment to Catholic Education. Trustee Boisvert received the award following the foundation's annual golf tournament on Wednesday, May 22, which raises money to support our division's faith formation initiatives.



EICS Superintendent Paul Corrigan speaks with members of the public regarding our proposed two-for-one solution to consolidate Our Lady of the Angels and St. John XXIII Catholic schools into one brand new school. This plan has not been finalized, no time line is set, and needed funding is still pending. [Learn more online.](#)

Division News in Pictures



EICS held its annual Staff Recognition ceremony on May 27 for those who are celebrating 20-, 25-, and 30-year long-service milestones, and also those who are retiring at the end of the school year.



Division News in Pictures

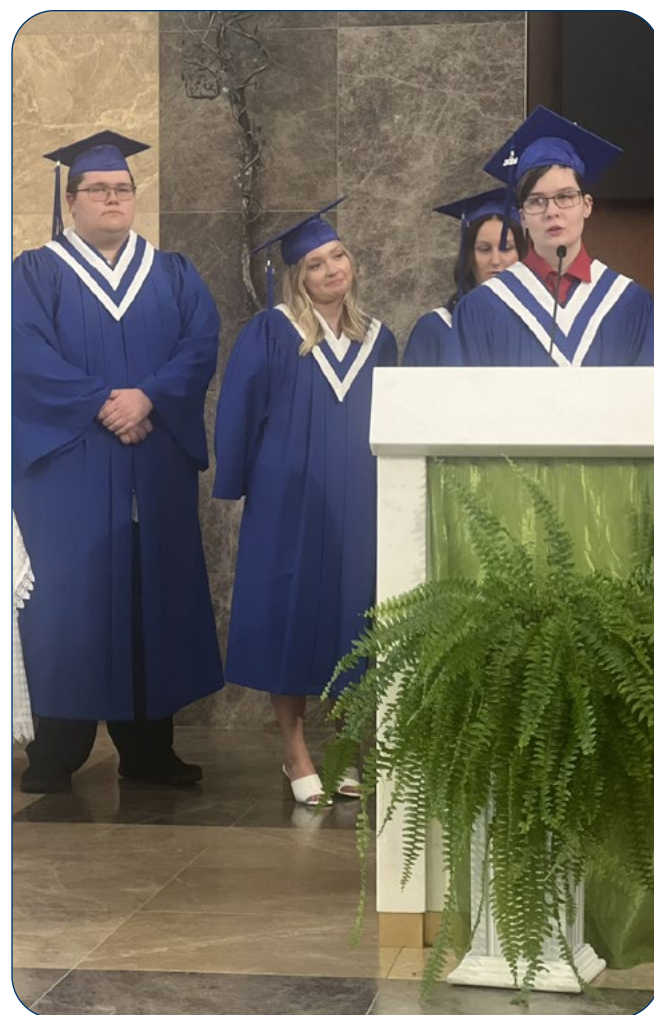
During Catholic Education Week in early May, we celebrated the faith and artistic talents of some of our students alongside Archbishop Richard Smith and representatives from nine other Catholic school divisions. This celebration was part of the Archdiocesan Art Project, which encourages students to express their faith through art. Many EICS schools also celebrated Catholic Education Week in their own unique ways.



School News in Pictures



Congratulations to all of our graduating students from (clockwise from top) St. Mary's, Our Lady of Mount Pleasant, Archbishop Jordan, and St. André Bessette Catholic schools! May God bless them all on their next journey!



School News in Pictures



Madonna Catholic School hosted A Story for Every Child on May 7, welcoming EICS Trustees, staff, and members of the public who volunteered their time to read books with students. Some readers included (clockwise from top image) Director of EICS Student Transportation Mike Hayden, EICS Trustee Teresa Makowecki, EICS Board of Trustees Vice Chair Ted Paszek, St. Isidore Learning Centre Principal Karen Antoniuk, and Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frank.



School News in Pictures



Holy Spirit Catholic School's inaugural Musical Theatre Jr. production was a huge success for the elementary school. The school worked with Crescendo Music Studios on its production of *The Big Inning*, a story about a group of kids who gather to play a game of baseball. The musical seamlessly blends baseball terminology with the Good News and the Bible's own Hall of Fame, from Moses to Jesus.



School News in Pictures

Trustee Event Calendar for the Last Month

May 6

Bus Driver Appreciation Day recognition.

May 7

Archdiocesan Art Project Mass and ceremony.

A Story for Every Child at Madonna Catholic School.

May 8

ASBA Zone 2/3 MLA engagement evening.

May 10

GrACE Summit.

May 15

Indigenous graduation blessing for Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School.

May 16

Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Government Update Forum.

May 21

Graduation Mass for St. Mary's Catholic School.

May 22

REAL Foundation Golf Tournament in support of EICS.

Indigenous graduation blessing for St. André Bessette Catholic School.

May 23

Public Engagement Session: Planning for the Future of Fort Saskatchewan.

May 24

St. Mary's graduation banquet.

ASBA Edwin Parr Zone 2/3 awards banquet.

May 26

Graduation ceremony at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School.

May 27

EICS Staff Recognition and retirement celebration.

May 29

EICS Board of Trustees public board meeting.

May 30 - June 1

Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association AGM and Convention.

May 31

Graduation Mass at St. André Bessette Catholic School.

Graduation ceremony at Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic School.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 19

1 p.m.

EICS CLS Office

310 Broadview Road
Sherwood Park, Alberta

Visit our website for meeting agendas and minutes.



**ELK ISLAND
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Seeing Christ in Everyone

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

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