



YCS Notes

September 2026

Superintendent's Message

Dear YCS Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope your summer was filled with rest, joy, and memorable moments with loved ones. As Superintendent of Yellowknife Catholic Schools, I am thrilled to welcome our returning families back and extend a warm greeting to those joining our community for the first time.

This month, our system leaders had the privilege of meeting with Fr. Mick, our parish priest, to reflect deeply on the Catholic virtue of Hope and its place in education. It was an inspiring dialogue that set a meaningful tone for the year ahead. We are launching this school year anchored in the belief that every YCS students can succeed.

We know that our teachers make the greatest impact on academic achievement. To support them, our commitment this year is centered on collective effort: our staff will not work in isolation, but as collaborative teams, and our school leaders will ensure our educators have the exact structures and support they need to thrive.

We have a huge reason to celebrate before the first bell even rings! Our very own YCS Tundra Tots Daycare graduated 22 students this August. We are extraordinarily proud of this program and excited to watch these 22 little ones step into Junior Kindergarten this fall.

Important Updates & Upcoming Events:

- **Registration:** If you have not yet completed registration for the upcoming school year, please visit your school office or complete the online forms as soon as possible to help us finalize class placements.
- **Outdoor Soccer (Hay River):** Mark your calendars for September! Our student-athletes will be heading to Hay River for the annual outdoor soccer tournament. Details on schedules and permission forms will be shared by school coaches soon.
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 30):** YCS remains dedicated to walking the path of Reconciliation. Our schools will participate in Orange Shirt Day activities and reflection throughout the month to honor survivors, their families, and communities.
- **Trustee Election:** School board elections are approaching. We encourage all eligible community members to stay engaged, learn about the candidates, and exercise their vote to shape the future of our Catholic school system.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Together, with faith and hope, we are going to make this an incredible year.

God bless, Adam

Find Us



www.ycs.nt.ca



info@ycs.nt.ca



867-766-7400



[@yicsnwt](https://www.instagram.com/yicsnwt)



[Yellowknife
Catholic
Schools](https://www.facebook.com/YellowknifeCatholicSchools)



[@yicsnwt](https://www.twitter.com/yicsnwt)

5124 - 49th Street
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P4



Adam Murray
Superintendent

Board of Trustees: Tina Schauerte, Susan Waddell, Christine Lewandowski, Alex Mulooki, Steven Voytilla,
Gerri Whiteford, Melanie Williams

Senior Administration: Adam Murray, Superintendent/CEO; Alicia Larade, Assistant Superintendent of Learning; Angelique
Rossouw, Secretary Treasurer

Meet Trustee Schauerte

Learn a little about our members!

Tina Schauerte - YCS Trustee 2015 to present.

Tina was born in St. John's, NF and lived there until her family moved to Yellowknife, NT in 1981. Tina attended Yellowknife St. Patrick's School from grade 1 until graduation in 1993. Tina went on to receive a Degree in Kinesiology and returned to Yellowknife. For 25 years Tina has made a career with the Canadian Forces in Morale and Welfare Services. Tina and her husband Gary have been blessed with two children Matthew, 20, in his 3rd year of University at UBC and Katie, 23 who is working and making Yellowknife her home.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the YCS district and serve as the YCS Board Chair. YCS is a very important part of my life and I believe in the Catholic school system and what it offers our community."



The next Board Meeting will be held on **September 16th** at 7:00 pm.

Board Meeting Highlights
June 2026
August 2026

A Note from Our Trustee

Welcome Message from the YCS Board

On behalf of the Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) Board of Trustees, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning staff, students, and families as we begin the 2026-2027 school year.

YCS is ready to welcome our community with open arms, and together we look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, growth, faith, and connection. As your Trustees, we are excited to begin a new school year with you and it is an honour and a privilege to support our students, staff, and families on their educational journey.

We wish everyone a successful and rewarding year ahead and look forward to celebrating the many accomplishments and milestones that will be achieved together.

A Prayer for the School Year

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the gift of a new school year. We ask for Your blessing and guidance as we begin this journey of learning, growth, and discovery.

Fill our hearts and minds with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a love of learning. Grant us the wisdom to seek knowledge, the courage to face challenges, and the kindness to support one another. Help us to grow in faith, compassion, and understanding as we learn and work together throughout the year.

May Your presence be with our students, staff, families, and Trustees, guiding us in all that we do.

Amen.



INSPIRING THINKING



CULTIVATING WELL-BEING



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Board of Trustees: Tina Schauerte, Susan Waddell, Christine Lewandowski, Alex Mulooki, Steven Voytilla,

Gerri Whiteford, Melanie Williams

Senior Administration: Adam Murray, Superintendent/CEO; Alicia Larade, Assistant Superintendent of Learning; Angelique

Rossouw, Secretary Treasurer

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wondering what goes on during Non-Instructional Days? Let's take a peek!

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope your children had a wonderful first week of learning and reconnection.

In this first *YCS Notes* of the year, we would like to highlight the meaningful work our teachers and leadership teams engaged in during our professional learning days before the beginning of the school year.

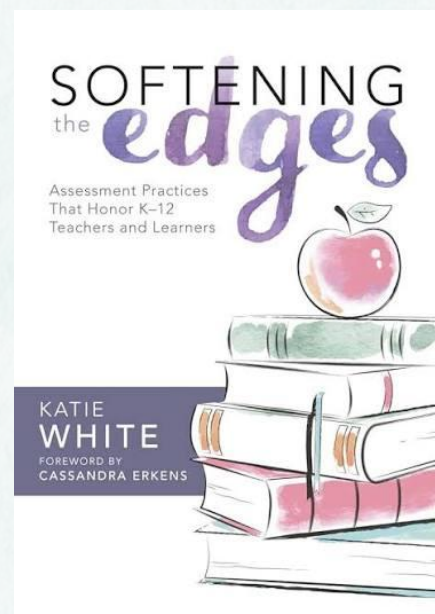
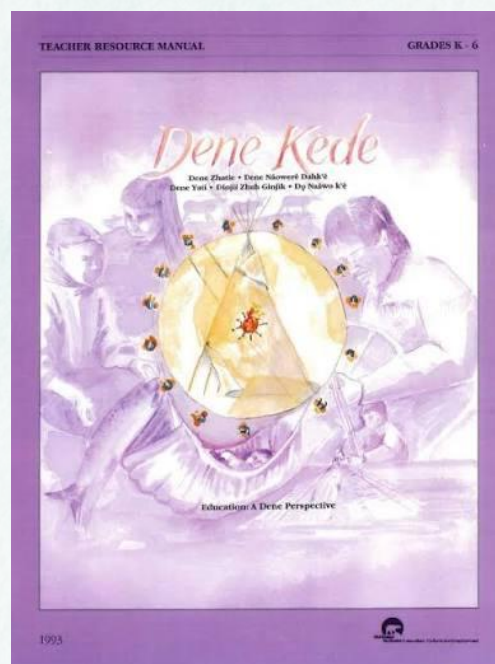
Our teaching staff spent time aligning competencies from our NWT curriculum with *Dene Kede*, our foundational document. Together, teachers explored ways to weave local cultures, traditions, and the stories of NWT Elders directly into daily classroom learning, ensuring our Indigenous language and culture remain central to our schools.

During our professional learning days, staff also worked with Kurtis Hewson to launch our second year of Collaborative Response. This framework centers on the belief that *all* students can learn at high levels when educators work together. Through structured collaborative team meetings, teachers engage in responsive data cycles to assess student progress, establish a clear continuum of supports, and design targeted instructional strategies to ensure every student receives the support they need. Our teachers will continue working alongside Kurtis throughout the year to advance this important work.

Alongside these initiatives, our teachers will continue their work with Katie White throughout the school year, focusing on competency-based assessment to support student growth and meaningful feedback.

These combined professional development efforts across our schools bring our strategic plan to life in ways that directly support student learning, growth, and well-being.

Alicia Larade, Assistant Superintendent of Learning



WELCOME BACK HIGHLIGHTS



2026/27 ESJS Staff



WCS Nezi note winners



ESPHS Feeding of the Fire Ceremony



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

ÉCOLE ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL + KIMBERLITE CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTRE



✈ Ready to take your future to new heights?

Registration is now open for the **ESPHS Aviation Program**, where students can begin working toward their **Private Pilot Licence (PPL)** while earning high school credits.

Offered in partnership with **Summit Air and Super T Aviation**, this two-year program combines ground school, flight training, simulator training, and hands-on aviation learning, all based at the **Summit Air hangar**.

Students will learn about principles of flight, radio communication, navigation, meteorology, airspace regulations, human factors in flight safety, and risk management. They will also acquire their **radio licence!**

And the opportunities don't stop with your PPL. With an **optional third year focused on commercial licence preparation**, the program can be the first step toward a career as a professional pilot, while also introducing students to the many other careers and opportunities that make up the aviation industry

👁 Watch our video [HERE](#) to see what the ESPHS Aviation Program has to offer!

If you've ever dreamed of becoming a pilot or are curious about where a future in aviation could take you, **this is your opportunity to get started.**

✉ For more information or to apply, contact Cindy Kimove at aviation@ycs.nt.ca.

ST. PAT'S LIFEGUARDING COURSE

Interested in becoming
certified as a Lifeguard and
Swim Instructor?
Sign up now!

Earn credits while you train!
Thursday afternoons at the
YK Aquatic Centre



SAVE THE DATE



YOU'RE INVITED TOURS!

Meet the Teachers!

A night to tour our school, get connected with the staff, and have all your questions answered!

SEPTEMBER 10TH 5-7PM

PRIZES!

INFO!



St. John Ambulance

ESPHS Students Helping Others, One Paw at a Time

Does your dog love people? If they're friendly, calm, and ready to make new friends, learn how you and your dog could become a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog team — bringing comfort and connection to your community.

Don't have a dog? Come anyway! Staff families have dogs looking for a partner to join.

Questions before the meeting? Connect with Ms. Nichols.

Join us for a fun information session and find out what it's all about!

Location: room 225

Date: September 15th 2026

Time: Lunch Meeting



DISCOVER YOUR PATH

POST-SECONDARY FAIR

CHECK OUT COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND POST SECONDARY PATHWAYS!

 **8 September 2026**

 **10:30-12:30PM**

 **ESPHS Gymnasium**



Naòwo Nàtso, Enghł'èkq`Nàtso

STRONG CULTURE, STRONG SCHOOLS

PD Culture Day: Weaving the Dene Kede into all Curriculum

On Friday, August 21, all YCS staff came together for a meaningful day of Cultural Professional Development. Our day began with a beautiful Feeding the Fire Ceremony led by Verna Crapeau, alongside some of the YKDFN drummers to start the school year in a good way. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate, listen, learn, and honour the cultural teachings shared with us.



We were also blessed to hear from Dene National Chief George Mackenzie, who shared his knowledge and stories with us about his



Our learning continued with our ECE staff, who shared thoughtful lessons and strategies for weaving the Dene Kede and curriculum together to create meaningful, culturally grounded learning experiences for our students.

It was a powerful day of learning, connection, and reflection. We are grateful to everyone who shared their knowledge and teaching with our staff.

Mahsi Cho to Dene National Chief George Mackenzie and his team from Dene Nation for joining us for the morning.

Also a big Mahsi Cho to Judy Whitford, Janessa Kerr, Susan Catlin and Tyler Edlinger from ECE for collaborating with us that morning.

"We come from one Creator. We are one family and people on this Earth. Commit yourself to your students you are teaching, and they will commit themselves to you."

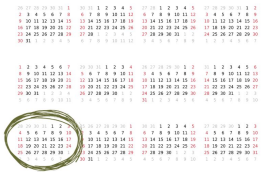
- Dene National Chief George Mackenzie



Naòwo Nàtso, Enɣht'èkq`Nàtso

STRONG CULTURE, STRONG SCHOOLS

łiwedahtè Zà



The month when the
Dene put up stick fish
for the winter.

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



Upcoming Events for September

- Plants and Traditional Medicine Camp
- Berry Picking
- Orange Shirt Day September 29th

łt'òq



łt'òq - plants (plants, any kind, general term)

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



plant(s)

łtt'ò



łtt'ò - cranberry

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



cranberries

mòhgwı jìe



mòhgwı jìe - juniper berries

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



juniper berries

gots'agò



gots'agò - Labrador tea

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



Labrador tea

gots'òhji



gots'òhji - spruce cone

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



spruce cone

ts'ı wet'ı



ts'ı wet'ı - spruce bark

Indigenous Language and Culture Education



spruce bark



LIVING OUR FAITH



Jasmin Sumcad

Religious Education Coordinator
Yellowknife Catholic Schools

(867) 766-7400

jasmin.sumcad@ycs.nt.ca



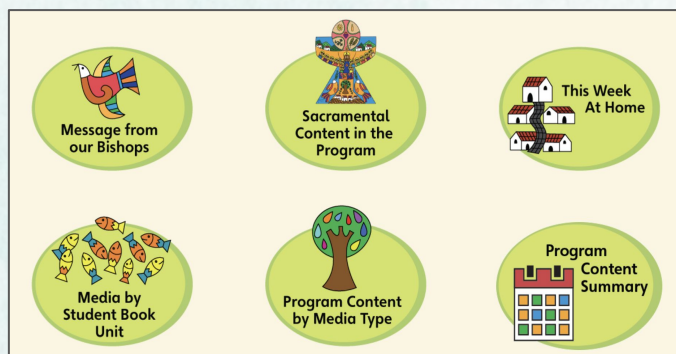
Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another fun, faith-filled year of learning at Yellowknife Catholic Schools! My name is Jasmin Sumcad and I am the new Religious Education Coordinator for YCS. I was born and raised in Yellowknife, and have worked with YCS for over 10 years as a primary classroom teacher. I have served in leadership roles including the school Faith Team co-lead, youth Christian Leadership Team co-lead, Faith Guiding Coalition member, and school division lead. I am really excited to work alongside our schools, faith community at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral, and members of the community to strengthen these important relationships and enrich our Religious Education programming for our staff and students. Mahsi cho for such a warm welcome to my new role in the district and I am excited to witness all the blessings the year ahead will bring!

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ

Religion instruction for Grades JK- 9 students in our schools is guided by the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** curriculum resources. **Did you know . . the district also provides access to a home/parish website?**

This website can provide insight and support to families on topics and discussions occurring in the religion classroom. There are also **games, stories, music and videos** for the whole family to enjoy! Click on the logo or link below and sign into the portal. Select your child's grade level to access a wealth of faith resources and information!



Home Login
Username: ycs_parish
Password: Religion1

Website: https://media.pearsoncmg.com/intl/pec/school/ca_sch_religion_sso/

or click here!

First Communion Preparation

St. Patrick's Parish runs preparation classes for First Reconciliation and First Communion beginning in **October 2026**. Registration is available through the school or parish offices. There will be 12 classes, meeting every **Sunday from 2-3 pm** from October to November (6 classes), and again from January to March (6 classes). Classes take place at St. Patrick's Parish. Parents are expected to attend with their children, as their child's first and primary faith teachers at home.



St. Patrick Co-Cathedral Parish

St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish
5206 - 52 Street
Yellowknife NT X1A 1T9
Phone: 867-873-4880

stpatrickchurchyk@gmail.com
www.stpatrickchurchyk.com

Mass Times

Saturdays: 5:00pm
Sundays: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses: 5:30pm

INCLUSIVE INSIGHTS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Student Services is launching Open Parachute, an award-winning universal mental health curriculum for JK to Grade 12. Dr. Hayley Watson and her team will join us during the September 24th Professional Development day to help implement this new curriculum for staff and students. **We are very EXCITED!!**

openparachute®

Additionally, we have formed a two-year partnership with Dr. Gina Cherkowski and the Werklund Institute to support staff with social-emotional learning and mental health. This collaboration will enhance our leadership in well-being and help staff empower students with essential competencies to navigate the various successes and stressors of their daily lives and relationships. This is critical work as we move forward in the North with Inclusive Schooling.



We are thrilled to welcome Carrie Lynn Allan to the District Student Services team as Regional Inclusive Schooling Coordinator. An experienced early childhood master teacher and former Social-Emotional Coach, she has worked at École St. Joseph School and Weledah Catholic School. Carrie Lynn will support staff at Weledah and the high school while contributing to our new Social-Emotional Learning initiative.

We are moving forward in a good way! Liz



Liz Baile

Seana Stewart

Carrie-Lynn Allan

Director of Student Services

Principal of Student Services

Regional Inclusive Schooling Coordinator

FAMILY CALENDAR

2026-2027



OPENING

AUGUST 24 – ESPHS REGISTRATION

AUGUST 25 – ALL STUDENTS
(FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL)

CHRISTMAS BREAK

DECEMBER 21 – JANUARY 1 INCLUSIVE

SEMESTER 2

JANUARY 25 – SEMESTER 2 BEGINS

MARCH BREAK

MARCH 15 – 29 INCLUSIVE

CLOSING

JUNE 17 – LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

STIP DAYS ARE HELD ON THURSDAY
AFTERNOONS
(LUNCH DISMISSAL)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 24

OCTOBER 29

FEBRUARY 11 & 12

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE DATES (LUNCH DISMISSAL)

NOVEMBER 12 – ESPHS

NOVEMBER 26 – ESJS & WCS

APRIL 15 – ESJS & WCS

APRIL 22 – ESPHS

YELLOWKNIFE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

WHERE LEARNING LIGHTS THE SPIRIT

Changed from February 1, 2027, to January 25, 2027

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Welcome to the 2026/27 OSC School Year!

We are excited to start another wonderful year in the **YCS Out of School Care Program!** We have some exciting changes this year:

WCS

All OSC classes will now be located in the **portables at the back of the school**. We have plenty of space at WCS and are still welcoming **new registrations!**

ESJS

We have expanded to **6 OSC rooms this year!** Our new spaces include: The **Stage, Project Studio, Room 212 Upstairs**

We are very excited to have opened an additional class at ESJS! With our growing program, we are now **almost at capacity at ESJS**.

If you have any questions about the program, registration, or your child's care, please email us at yca.care@yca.nt.ca.

Thank you to all of our OSC families. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting year with your children!

Warmly,
Kim von Allmen & Laine Brazeau
YCS Out of School Care Program



TUNDRA TOTS

Welcome back, everyone! It's so wonderful to see both familiar and new faces in the building. 🧡

I'm excited to share some great news! Just last week, we celebrated our first-ever Tundra Tots graduation, with 22 amazing little graduates! 🎓 ✨

We're also thrilled to share that we are at full capacity for the upcoming school year, with a few families already on our waiting list. What an incredible milestone!

And as if that wasn't enough to celebrate, Tundra Tots is turning ONE next week! 🎉 🥳

We're so grateful for all the families, children, and community members who have been part of this journey. Here's to an exciting year ahead!



School PAC Meetings

Please contact the schools for Parent Advisory Council meeting dates and times.

ESJS: esjs@yca.nt.ca

WCS: weledcatholicchool@yca.nt.ca

ESPHS: esphs@yca.nt.ca

**Parent
Advisory
Council**

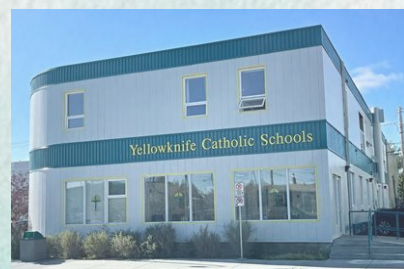
Important Dates

September 16 - Board Meeting

September 18-20 - Aurora Ford Outdoor Soccer Tournament (Hay River)

September 24 - PD Day NO SCHOOL

September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation NO SCHOOL



DISTRICT WEBSITES

yca.nt.ca

esjs.nt.ca

weledcatholicchool.nt.ca

esphs.nt.ca / thekctc.ca

PHONE CONTACTS

Central Services - 867-766-7400

ESJS - 867-920-2112

WCS - 867-873-5591

ESPHS - 867-873-4888



You can also follow all three schools and the district on social media for the latest events, reminders and updates!