



OLMC Bi-Weekly Update

Jan. 7, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School,

Happy New Year! Although we arrive in 2022 with a measure of uncertainty, from cold weather to COVID concerns, we are bolstered by the promise of a fresh start, the opportunity to set new goals, and the enduring optimism of a brighter future, one that is provided by our Faith!

With the delay in school startup after the winter break, school staff have been preparing for next week and the return to learning by all students. At the time of this writing, the message from AB Ed is that we will return to in-person learning at the school effective Monday, Jan. 10th. With this knowledge, and the understanding of the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant of COVID that is making its way through our province, we ask that families continue to screen their children daily before coming to school, to comply with strict mask wearing and other COVID protocols, and to follow the [isolation and quarantine requirements from AHS](#) if symptomatic and/or testing positive. A summary of these quarantine requirements can be found later in this Update. We have been assured by the government that rapid antigen test kits and medical grade masks are on their way to the school for distribution, so we again ask that families use these tools so that we can all ensure a safe return to school in 2022.

Given our current situation, I thought the following prayer most appropriate as we ask the Lord for his blessings in the year ahead. Please share with your family together:

A New Year Prayer

We Pray...

For healing ... prepare us for surprises.
For strength ... prepare us for surprises.
For vision ... prepare us for surprises.
For transformation ... prepare us for surprises.
For messengers and messages ... prepare us for surprises.
For community ... prepare us for surprises.
For acceptance - of ourselves and others ... prepare us for surprises.
For making room at our tables ... prepare us for surprises.
For Truth-seeking ... prepare us for surprises.
For support ... prepare us for surprises.
For Common Ground ... prepare us for surprises.

Walk beside us, O Holy One,
as we question and welcome,
as we challenge and invite,
as we discover and understand,
as we see, touch, taste, smell, and listen for the Newness awaiting us in 2022.

May we, Your Holy People, walk forward together side by side.

Amen

Take Care and God Bless,

Duncan Buchanan
Principal
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Sandra Hartum
Assistant Principal
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Bi-weekly updates replace the monthly newsletter and will be posted on the website after they are delivered by email. The next update will be sent on Fri. Jan. 21st.

Please feel free to contact the school at 780-433-1062 if you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's education.

Daily Screening Checklist

A continued reminder that all students and visitors are required to take the updated [Alberta Health Daily Screening Checklist](#) before coming to school, to determine if they should attend. Please err on the side of caution; if your child is not feeling well, as per the screening checklist, do not send them to school until they are symptom free. Thank you for helping keep our students and staff healthy and safe!

Government Provided PPE & Rapid Test Kits

As was indicated by the provincial government and Alberta Education, all students and staff of K-12 schools will be provided with Rapid Test kits and medical-grade masks. It is expected that every student and staff member in our schools will have access to two five-test kits, as well as an eight-week supply of medical-grade masks. The distribution of masks and Rapid Tests to the schools is being finalized; however, we anticipate that we will receive our student and staff supply next week. Once we have received them, we will inform parents and guardians that they have arrived and to expect them when their child returns home at the end of the day.

Cellphone Use and Policy - Reminder

A reminder to all our students and families, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School cellphone policy states that students should not have their cellphones out in the classroom or in the hallways throughout the school day, other than the designated times at locker break and the second half of lunch during outdoor recess. Unauthorized cellphone and technology use during class time significantly disrupts instruction and learning. Students are expected to leave their cellphones in their locked lockers throughout the day. If parents/guardians need to contact their child, they should always phone the school so that Admin Support can convey any message to the

student. In case of emergency, students will always be notified and allowed to use the school phone to speak to their caregiver. Finally, ECSD policy states that schools and the Division are not responsible for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of any personally owned student phones or devices. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your cooperation in providing the best possible learning environment for your children.

Athletics Update

At this time, all student athletics, including the current JH basketball season, will be running as usual. COVID protocols that were in place for the past volleyball season still apply to the new basketball season. Unfortunately spectators are still not allowed to attend any JH athletic events.

School Council & Fundraising Society News

School Council

- We need a new secretary to type meeting minutes. If you will, email olmcsac@gmail.com.
- We will see you Tuesday, January 11 to prepare for public consultation of closure. We need to hear from everyone, all citizens of Edmonton are stakeholders in this event

School Fundraising Society

- We'll review financials at our meeting (Jan 11)
- We need a new coordinator for our AGLC fundraisers: 4 hours per event and only when it's scheduled. If you will, email olmcsac@gmail.com

Latest News: OLMC Public Participation and Engagement Plans re: the proposal to close the Junior High Program (Grades 7, 8, 9) at OLMC.

- Please ensure you continue to stay current with all information regarding the proposed closure of the OLMC JH Program. The most recent letter from the ECSD Board outlining the process (including important dates) can be found here:
[Letter to Parents – OLMC Public Participation – Dec 15](#)

All questions and feedback should be directed to engagement@ecsd.net

January OLMC School Council and Fundraising Society Meeting

The Community of School Councils (COSC) meeting with Trustees scheduled for Jan. 18th has been postponed. Given the Public meeting with the Board is scheduled for Thursday, Jan 20 (our usual OLMC School Council Meeting date) we have scheduled a new date for our monthly meeting. The next OLMC School Council and Fundraising Society will be on Tuesday, Jan. 11th. See below for more information.

NOTE: Due to COVID restrictions, OLMC School Council and Fundraising Society meetings are held online, virtually. The next School Council meeting will take place virtually on Jan. 11th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The MS Teams link for the meeting is as follows:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NThkYWE3OTItZWJmYS00OGJmLWJhOGMtOTlmODc4MDM3NzEw%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b18d9f6f-0743-460d-a19b-0b3297eeeb89%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220ea473bc-eb57-4b5f-9a3e-9a43c393c36e%22%7d

Recreation Academy Update – Dec.



High School Open Houses

It is fast approaching the time of the year when High Schools begin advertising their virtual Open House dates for prospective grade 10 students (currently grade 9 students). Please see the attachment included with this Bi-weekly Update for the date and time of Archbishop MacDonald High School's Open House event or visit <https://www.ecsd.net/8403> to pre-register.

COVID Isolation Guidelines

Isolation helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the number of people you could infect if you [have symptoms or test positive](#) by staying home and avoiding others. Effective January 3, Albertans are legally required to isolate as outlined below:

- Fully vaccinated (2 doses or 1 dose Janssen): Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve
- Not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less): Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer.
- If you test negative and have symptoms, you should still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.
- Close contacts of positive cases are no longer required to quarantine for 14 days.
- Household contacts of positive cases: if not fully vaccinated, stay home for 14 days.
- [Federal border measures](#) still apply for all international travellers entering Canada.

Final Words

“The adventure of life is to learn. The purpose of life is to grow. The nature of life is to change. The challenge of life is to overcome. The essence of life is to care. The opportunity of life is to serve. The secret of life is to dare. The spice of life is to befriend. The beauty of life is to give.”

– William Arthur Ward

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!