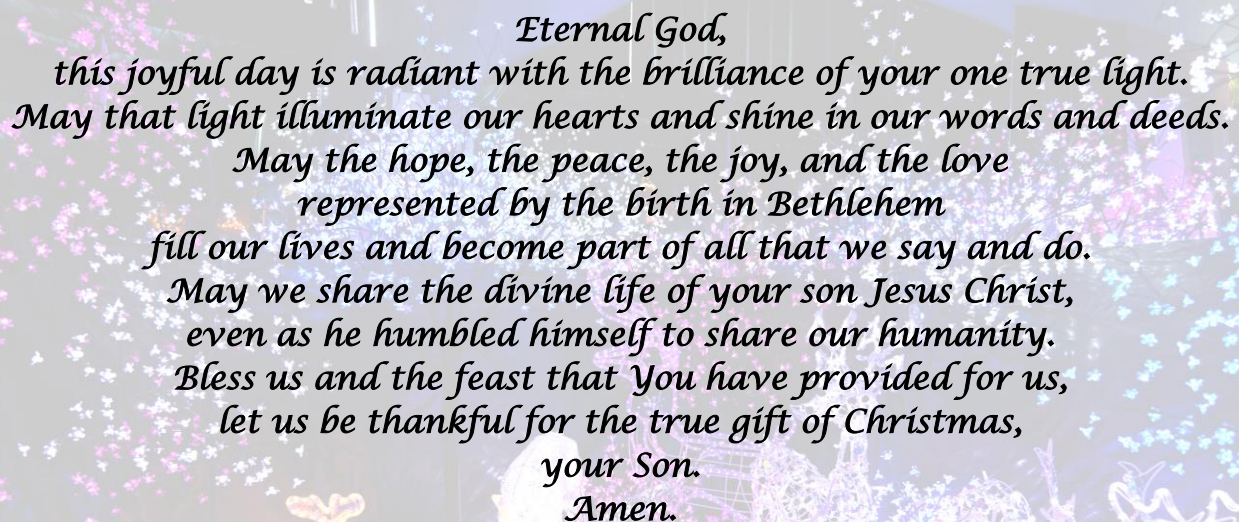


# ST. ALPHONSUS' NEWSLETTER December 2021

Mrs. MacGregor, Principal --- Mr. Begoray, Assistant Principal



*Eternal God,  
this joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light.  
May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds.  
May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love  
represented by the birth in Bethlehem  
fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do.  
May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ,  
even as he humbled himself to share our humanity.  
Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us,  
let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas,  
your Son.  
Amen.*

## Message from School Administration

November has been an active month at the school. On November 8<sup>th</sup> we had our Liturgy of Commemoration for Remembrance Day that inspired students to consider the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers for freedom, peace, and democracy. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, we had our Demonstration of Learning/ Parent-Teacher Interviews, which were positive.

November 28<sup>th</sup> we began the season of preparation in anticipation of the birth of Jesus—Advent, which means “coming”—reminds us of our Lord and Savior coming into our world. At St. Alphonsus our focus during this Advent Season will be to help students remember that God loves us so much, and He gave us the greatest gift - His only son, Jesus. While we are looking forward to the joys of the Christmas holidays, we want our students to spend some time reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas through their Advent journey.

In December we will have many events taking place at the school. We are busy getting our K-6 Virtual Christmas concert together which will be taking place over the next couple of weeks. Our last two classes will be attending St. Alphonsus Mass on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be creating a new schedule in the new year for all staff and students to attend mass at St. Alphonsus parish. On

behalf of the staff, I would like to wish all students and their families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

### A Time for Prayer and Celebration



Staff and students gathered on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> for a very powerful and impressive liturgy commemorating Remembrance Day. Thank you to Mrs. Savrtka, Mr. Sdao and Mr. Lafleche with the 4A, 5A and 8B classes for leading this liturgy for our school community. On November 30<sup>th</sup> we gathered for our Advent Liturgy to begin the season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Savior—Jesus Christ. Thank you to Fr. Glenn for presiding over the celebration, Mrs. Avison and Miss Francisco and the kindergarten and Grade 8A students for leading this dynamic and spiritual liturgy. For both liturgies we appreciated the involvement in our 4,5,6 and Junior High choir led by Mrs. Burrows and Band students led by Mrs. Gaudry.

### Advent Begins November 30<sup>th</sup>

Advent is a season observed in the Catholic Church as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" which in turn is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Catholics, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming. Advent is the beginning of the Catholic liturgical year and commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.

### Christmas Concert 2021

This year, our Christmas concert will once again need to be virtual. The recording of the concert will begin on December 1,2,3 and then on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Burrows will then put it all together and it will be uploaded to your child's google classroom on the December 15<sup>th</sup>. All classes will be watching it together the morning of December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will then take it down on December 18<sup>th</sup> for copyright reasons. We do ask that you respect our wishes and not record any part of the play and share it on your own social media for those same reasons.

### Student Attendance

If your son or daughter is absent from school because they are ill, on vacation, at the doctor, or for some other reason, it is very important you phone the school and let us know. This will help us to keep track of student absences.

### Extended Vacations

Many families take their children away from school for extended vacations of two, three or more weeks. These types of vacations are very disruptive to student learning. Please know that if you are planning on doing so, you must request the permission of the principal for an extended absence from school registration. In addition, if your child is going to miss multiple weeks of school, you must request work from the teacher and your child must complete the work during



the absence. Since children under the age of seventeen are required to attend school by law, parents, choosing to remove their children from school for extended periods, are required to request permission and ensure that schoolwork is completed prior to or during the absence.

## Student Health

If your child is ill, your child should stay at home until he/she is healthy enough to participate in all school activities. Parents need to be aware that if a child is well enough to come to school then the child is well enough to go outside for recess. If your child needs to stay inside for medical reasons, then the school needs a doctor's note stating the specific conditions or temperature for which the child needs to be kept inside.

## Students Dressing Independently

We are at the time of the school year when all students regardless of age should be able to dress themselves for recess and at the end of the day. We want to foster student independence and one of the first ways for this to happen is for students to put on their own winter clothing before going out for recess and at the end of the day before going home. While teachers and EA's will assist students with doing zippers or finding mittens, all students by this time of the year should be able to dress themselves. If this is not the case, then parents need to work with their children at home so that they can foster independent dressing habits for school.

## Winter Means Cold Weather



We would like to remind parents to dress students appropriately for winter weather. Toques, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and a warm coat are a necessity as students will be outside for morning and lunch recess. Decisions regarding outdoor activities at St. Alphonsus will take into consideration that inclement weather may result from the following conditions: continuous rain or snow, extreme wind, and extreme cold. Please note if the temperature and wind chill are  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  or colder, students will remain indoors during recess. If you need assistance with providing winter clothing for your children, please see Mrs. Makhoul at the office as they can assist you with winter clothing.

Please be advised that the following Radio and TV Stations will carry announcements with respect to transportation cancellations due to inclement weather conditions. Ensure you download the Busplanner APP which will provide you notifications on late busses.

### RADIO STATIONS

630 CHED	AM 930 The Light CJCA	CBC
CISN FM 103.9	SHINE 105.9 FM	CHFA (CBC Fr.)
FRESH FM 92.5	TSN 1260	CFCW 840
INEWS 880 AM	95.7 CRUZ FM	CAPITAL FM 96.3
The Bounce FM 91.7	The Bear 100.3 FM	K97 97.3
UP! 99.3 FM	SONIC 102.9 FM	102.3 NOW! Radio
HOT 107 FM	104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM	

### TV STATIONS

CITYTV	CTV Edmonton	GLOBAL Edmonton	CBC TV
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## Snack

Snacks for Kindergarten through Grade 6 are provided to those students that have filled out the form. If you want your child to receive snack, then please ensure this form has been completed and has been handed into your child's teacher.

Junior High students will continue to receive a free breakfast if they need one. Homeroom teachers will now have a snack in their rooms to hand out to those who want snack. A sandwich and snack are provided to those students who may not have a lunch.

## Parent Advisory Council News

If you are interested in being a classroom representative or partaking in conversations about what happens at St. Alphonsus, please email administration and we can provide you information about being a part of our Parent council.

## Christmas Surprise Bag raffle

This year to help our ECS Foundation raise money, we are raffling off three Christmas surprise bags. Tickets have been selling for \$1.00 each and sales will continue until December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The draw will take place on Monday afternoon, December 6<sup>th</sup> and the lucky winners will be called down to the office to get their winnings!

## Christmas Fun Day Friday

Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> is early dismissal, and, in that morning, we will be watching the Virtual Christmas concert and then each classroom will watch a Christmas movie. Our leadership team will be taking orders for popcorn and juice that will be delivered to the classrooms that day for the movie festivities! Popcorn sells for \$2.00, and the juice is \$1.00. Last day to order popcorn and juice is Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds for the sale are going towards Grade 9 Farewell.

### Upcoming events

- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Early dismissal
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - Winners of the Christmas bags announced
- Dec. 1,2,3- Christmas concert sound recording
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - Christmas concert recording- dress in your Sunday best
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> - Early dismissal
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - Virtual Christmas concert released
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - Full day
- Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - Popcorn/Christmas movie day! Early Dismissal



Please visit our website at [www.stalphonusus.ecsd.net](http://www.stalphonusus.ecsd.net)

