

# ST. ALPHONSUS' NEWSLETTER January 2022

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

Help Us Enter the New Year

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,



- *Vinita Hampton Wright; Offered by Douglas Ruschman*

## Message from School Administration

December had many events taking place at the school. We were busy with our K-6 Virtual Christmas concert. Our last two classes celebrated Mass with Fr. Glenn at school, which was so nice. We had the Fetter family and friends, trustees and ESD foundation here on the last day making pancakes for all students and staff. It was a wonderful way to end the year before Christmas break.

A New Year brings us new hope and a new energy! We look forward to all of the surprises that January will bring. Our Division has sent out a message to all parents who have children in the online school providing them the opportunity to come back for February 1<sup>st</sup>. We are looking forward to welcoming back those students. Our boys basketball team has started up and their first game will be in that second week of January. We were unable to have a girls' team, but we will start intramurals and open gym for them in the New Year.

## Clubs and Intramurals

We will be opening up opportunities for students to become involved in clubs and intramurals in the New year. We have heard from the students and what they are interested in creating clubs over lunch like, chess, knitting, GSA, debate, anime and so on. We have been advertising them all month throughout the building and the staff will be in leading these at lunch hour.

## Room 104- Circle of Support

We have our ECSD supports, Cindy (FSLW) and Breanne (CSW) who work in the room along with several community agencies working in conjunction with the United Way, who are partnered with St. Alphonsus school to provide supports to students and families. Their staff are on site working alongside our staff and are an integral part of our community. The partners are; The Family Centre, E4C and Boys and Girls Club/Big Brothers Big Sisters

Please meet the staff-

Ebyan Firin- Success coach  
Rachael Spears- Mental health Therapist  
Karah Pegg- Roots and Wings  
Elizabeth Reekie- Out of school time coordinator

## 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  
CISN FM 103.9  
FRESH FM 92.5  
INEWS 880 AM  
The Bounce FM 91.7

AM 930 The Light CJCA  
SHINE 105.9 FM  
TSN 1260  
95.7 CRUZ FM  
The Bear 100.3 FM

CBC  
CHFA (CBC Fr.)  
CFCW 840  
CAPITAL FM 96.3  
K97 97.3

UP! 99.3 FM  
HOT 107 FM

SONIC 102.9 FM  
104.9 VIRGIN Radio FM

102.3 NOW! Radio

**TV STATIONS**

CITYTV

CTV Edmonton

GLOBAL Edmonton

CBC TV

**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.

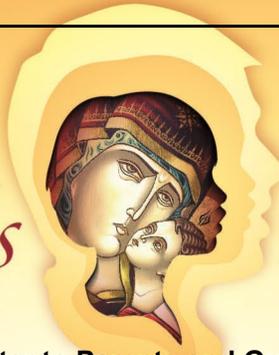
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**Upcoming events**

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>- First day back  
Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>- Early dismissal  
Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>- Early dismissal  
Jan.20<sup>th</sup>- Early dismissal  
Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>- Early dismissal

Please visit our website at [www.stalphonsus.ecsd.net](http://www.stalphonsus.ecsd.net)  
Also please see the open house posters that are on the website for St. Joe's and Arch  
Bishop MacDonald

# God Calls Us



# EACH BY NAME

## Letter to Parents and Guardians from Trustee Alene Mutala, Ward 75 Winter 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Trustees for the Edmonton Catholic School Division are honoured to be returning for a four-year term (2021-2025). By serving on the Board of Trustees, they show their commitment to serving our students, families, and community and will continue to champion Catholic education issues on behalf of the Division. The Board looks forward to connecting with you regularly through our Board of Trustee letter and the *Board Messenger* to keep you informed about what topics and actions we are focusing on. We encourage you to read the most recent edition of the [Board Messenger](#), which highlights the initiatives and work undertaken by the Board towards its goal of providing a quality Catholic education for our students.

### Leadership, Staff and Academic Excellence

The Board is proud of the exceptional educational outcomes that our schools continue to demonstrate. The results reported in the *ECSD 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report (AERR)* are directly related to the strong administrative leadership in our schools and the excellent work of teachers and support staff. Throughout the pandemic, our Board has been continually impressed by the innovative ways staff and students have been able to develop an effective learning environment, even from afar. We acknowledge the perseverance and resilience of our school communities, and we applaud the efforts that everyone puts into prioritizing educational success. We acknowledge the hard work demonstrated by our students, who provide a daily reminder as to why we have accepted the call to the vocation of Catholic education.

We encourage you to review the [AERR](#), which provides an overview of all of the work that is done each year for our students towards our mission to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and serve God in one another.

## Understanding and Responding to Needs

Supporting the mental health of our students remains an advocacy and budget priority for the Board. We were excited to have the opportunity to host a parent information session on the topic of **Mental Health: Parents as Partners** on November 22, 2021. A panel consisting of two mental health specialists

and ECS D Chaplain, Fr. Glenn McDonald provided the audience with suggestions and support on nurturing resiliency, forming trusted relationships, and promoting positive mental health. Please click [here](#) to view the recorded presentation.

## Board Advocacy

One of the key roles as an elected Catholic School Board Trustee is to advocate to municipal, provincial and federal governments for funding and services to support the Division's work in meeting the needs of our students and



### LUMEN CHRISTI Catholic Education Centre

9807-106 Street NW | Edmonton AB T5K 1C2 | T: 780 441-6000 | [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net)

I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS THE LORD,... PLANS TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE.  
(Jeremiah 29:11)

staff. The Board of Trustees is actively communicating with government to raise awareness of the needs of the Division.

Below is a partial list of the Board's advocacy priorities:

#### **Adequate supports for Student Learning:**

- restored funding for pre-kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year high school students
- continued or increased funding for pandemic recovery and specialized services
- faster access for students to access mental health and crisis care
- continued review and rigorous revision to the new curriculum
- opportunities for students to access post-secondary pathways

#### **Investing in Learning Environments:**

- funding for new schools, modulars and major modernizations of older schools
- funding for outdoor play spaces and playgrounds

## Home-School-Parish Connection

This past November, the Board of Trustees was honoured to receive a blessing from Archbishop Smith on Catholic Education Sunday. This annual event provides an opportunity to reflect on the important role that Catholic schools play in Alberta's publicly funded school system and reaffirms the home-school-parish connections that support our children and their families. It also challenges each one of us to step forward as advocates to ensure that the future of Catholic education remains a choice for parents.

The Art of Advent is back for its second year, celebrating the amazing creativity exhibited throughout our Division in the area of Fine Arts! The [virtual calendar](#) launched on the First Sunday of Advent has already attracted views from around the world.

Each week, for the four Sundays of Advent, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops will release a video recording of a Bishop reflecting on the Gospel Reading for each Sunday. This year's reflections were inspired by the Indigenous Delegation travelling to Rome to meet with Pope Francis from 17-20 December 2021.

In English: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-throughadvent/>

In French: <https://www.cccb.ca/fr/evangelisation-catechese-et-education/ressources-video/cheminer-ensembledurant-lavent/>

In closing, I would be honoured to attend one of your school council meetings to update you on these and other Board initiatives, and to answer any questions that you may have. I can be reached at 780-242-5926 or [alene.mutala@ecsd.net](mailto:alene.mutala@ecsd.net).

We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and God's blessings for a joyous and prosperous New Year!



Alene Mutala

Alene Mutala  
Trustee, Ward 75



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