

## MONTH AT-A-GLANCE

### DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022



#### THE SEASON OF ADVENT IS UPON US!

As we enter the season of Advent, we are provided with the opportunity to reflect on God's love and mercy for us. "The season of Advent restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty." (Pope Francis)

As this Christmas season approaches, we anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus - a time when we can share with others in return for all the gifts God has given us, especially the gift of Jesus. This Holy Season of Advent offers us a chance to slow down, to think about what the meaning of Christmas really is - to come closer to God. Now, and always, we need to strive to accept each other with full hearts, to welcome the outsider, heal family divisions, and spend quality time with family and friends. It is through Jesus' birth that we experience the joy of the season and hope for the future.

While we are unable to have a Christmas Concert at school this year, a great deal of work is happening to prepare for a virtual concert showcasing the gifts and talents of our amazing students. Although we cannot gather in person, we can still certainly appreciate having our children showcased this Christmas Season!

*On behalf of the entire St. Pius X staff, we wish to extend our best wishes to our families for a safe and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, love, joy, peace, and good health. May the blessings of this holy season be with you always.*

Mrs. T. Sauer – Assistant Principal  
Mrs. P. Binassi-D'Amours - Principal

#### COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Please ensure that you are aware of, and adhere to, the [COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST \(FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18\)](#).

#### ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING:

Thank you to all who participated in meetings with their child's/children's teacher(s) on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Although not in person, this valuable time provided both families and teachers an opportunity to discuss student successes and areas for growth. Please continue to access PowerSchool throughout the year to oversee your child's/children's academic progress. There will be another opportunity to celebrate your child's learning in March.

#### Please Note:

It is essential that parents/guardians track their child's/children's learning as the year progresses, as well as to have open communication with their child's/children's teacher(s). There will be no formal report generated in PowerSchool until the end of June. Please use these helpful links to assist you in gaining information about your child as a learner.

[Parent Guide to Assessment & Reporting](#)  
[Assessment And Reporting For Parents | Tracking Your Child's Learning \[UPDATED VERSION\]](#)  
[How to View Report Cards in the Parent Portal](#)

#### BUS PASSES/FEES

Reminder: bus pass fees are **\$36.75 per child due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month**. Please note that all fees are to be paid through PowerSchool.

#### CHANGES TO DATES AND TIMES

- Thursday, **December 16<sup>th</sup>** is a **full day** of instruction – dismissal at 3:00 P.M.

- Friday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>** is a **half day** of instruction – dismissal at 12:02 PM.
- \* Classes resume **TUESDAY, January 4, 2022**

### **GO AUTO FUELS THE SCHOOLS**

We are very grateful to Go Auto for supporting our school community through the provision of delicious **free lunches for our students every Monday**. Lunch menus vary from week to week. Should you want to send additional or alternative lunch options for your child, please do so as there are no provisions or substitutions for students with food allergies or food preferences.

### **ECSD FOUNDATION - CONQUER HUNGER FUND**

The Conquer Hunger Fund provides financial assistance so schools may offer a healthy school snack program to students in need. We are very grateful to receive financial support from the ECSD Foundation as this allows us to provide healthy snacks, and often breakfast and lunch as well, to many of our children in need.

### **PC CHARITY**

President's Choice Children's Charity is an independent, registered Canadian charity. Their dual purpose is to remove hunger as a barrier for a happy life, and to educate children about food and nutrition. Their national signature program, Power Full Kids, reaches children and youth in approximately 1,100 communities everyday. We are greatly appreciative for their support of St. Pius X School.

### **FLEX WEDNESDAYS**

Our Kindergarten to Grade 3 students participated in a series of Social Emotional Learning sessions put on by our MDT team on November 24. Various topics were explored such as social skills, play skills, problem solving and exploring how different students communicate as well as cultural awareness of

each other. All sessions were targeted to the age group presented to. Grades 4-6 students will have their sessions put on by MDT at the end of January.



### **PANDA EATS HEALTHY TREATS**

St. Pius X has established a Student Wellness Leadership Team, led by Mrs. Passmore and Mrs. McCormack. The Leadership Team determined that their focus for this year will be promoting healthy eating habits for our students and school community. For example, every Friday we will have a healthy eating tip and a recipe. During the month of December, we will be having a classroom challenge whereby classes will tally all the healthy GREEN and RED foods (fruits or vegetables) found within student lunches. Way to go Student Wellness Leadership Team!

### **CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE**

In support of the ECSD Foundation, we will be raffling two Christmas Baskets, one themed for grades K-3 and the other for grades 4-6. Tickets will be on sale December 13-15, with the draw being held on December 16. Tickets are \$2.00 each or three tickets for \$5.00. Tickets will not be sold online.

### **VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Our Virtual Christmas Concert will be taped on the following dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 7: KA, KB, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B

Thursday, Dec. 9: Choir only

Friday, Dec. 10: 1A, 1B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5/6, 6A

Please encourage your child/children to dress up for their performance date. The virtual concert will be shared on December 16.

### **PAJAMAS AND PANCAKES!**

The students and staff of St. Pius X will be treated to a 'pancake brunch' on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Milk will be provided, and allergies will be accommodated. Please ensure your child also has a lunch for this full day of school. Thank you to our SC for covering a portion of this cost.

### **2022-2023 NEW REGISTRATIONS**

Registrations are to be completed online for the upcoming school year. **Please locate the new 2022-2023 registration document at [ecsd.net](https://www.ecsd.net) in January 2022.**

Note: Kindergarten students must turn 5 on or before December 31, 2022.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, and also ensure that outer clothing and boots are labeled. The staff at St. Pius X Catholic School is attentive to changing weather conditions and adheres to the ECSD Weather Policy which suggests that students remain indoors if the temperature is -20° C or colder, or if the temperature and wind chill factor are **-20° C or colder**. Please ensure that your child is properly dressed for inclement weather.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

**Meeting:** Next meeting is February 9, 2022.

**Fundraiser:** Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser for early 2022. Orders will be taken until January 31<sup>st</sup> with pizzas/kits being delivered the week of February 14<sup>th</sup> to Sherbrooke Community League for parent pick-up. Further information will be sent home on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Services for Newcomers

The Settlement Workers in Schools Program (SWIS) provides various settlement supports and services for newcomer students and their families in schools.

The program's culturally diverse staff provide the following services:

- Facilitate communication between home and the school.
- Connect newcomers with community services such as ESL/Language Classes
- Assist with immigration related issues.
- Facilitate or provide interpretation/translation services
- Advocate on behalf of family's needs.
- Organize group information sessions on various topics that are of interest to newcomer parents and children.



## Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Program

Staff Name	Phone	Email	Languages Spoken
<b>Abdoul Toure</b> ● Holy Trinity High School ● St. Catherine Elementary/Junior High School ● Holy Family Junior High School	780-918-6668	AToure@eisa-edmonton.org	French Spanish, Bambarar
<b>Gabriel Ephrem</b> ● St. Joseph High School	780-918-6398	GEphrem@eisa-edmonton.org	Arabic
<b>Gonzalito Javier</b> ● Blessed Oscar Romero High School ● St. Justin Elementary School ● H.E. Beriault Elementary School	780-918-6269	Gjavier@eisa-edmonton.org	Tagalog
<b>Grannie Ann Masangkay</b> ● St. Francis Xavier High School	780-918-6286	GAMasangkay@eisa-edmonton.org	Tagalog/Bisaya Cebuano
<b>Kesete Weldegebriel</b> ● St. Cecilia Junior High School ● St. Pius X Elementary School ● St. Mark Junior High School	780-918-6320	KWeldegebriel@eisa-edmonton.org	Tigrigna
<b>Mihiri Witharana</b> ● St. Elizabeth Elementary School	780-918-6296	MWitharana@eisa-edmonton.org	Sinhalese
<b>Zipporah Greenslade</b> ● Cardinal Leger Junior High School ● St Philip Elementary School	780-289-6002	ZGreenslade@eisa-edmonton.org	Swahili Kikuyu

To learn more about services provided by Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA), please

- Call us: **780-474-8445**
- Email us: **info@eisa-edmonton.org**
- Visit our website: **www.eisa-edmonton.org**

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

## HELP WITH VACCINES

If you are looking to get your COVID-19 vaccination we can help:



**FREE TRANSPORTATION TO YOUR APPOINTMENT VIA UBER**



**ANSWER QUESTIONS THROUGH TOWN HALLS & MULTILINGUAL SUPPORTS**



**BOOK YOUR VACCINATION APPOINTMENT**



**CONNECT YOU TO POP-UP CLINICS IN YOUR AREA**

Call 1-833-738-7727 & press "0" to speak to an operator anytime.

## COVID-19 SUPPORTS

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been required to isolate anytime in the last two months, we can help with:



**FRESH FOOD HAMPERS**



**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS & CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

Call 1-833-738-7727 | Mon-Fri: 9:00am to 5:00pm

**33 LANGUAGES | CONFIDENTIAL**



**1-833-738-7727 www.ecrrc.ca**