SEPTEMBER 'WELCOME BACK' NEWSLETTER



St. John Bosco Catholic Elementary School

7411-161 A. Ave. NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5Z 3V4 Ph: 780-471-3140



Prayer for the Start of a New School Year

Lord, We pray that our children will develop a passion for the things of God. We pray they will hunger and thirst for You and Your Word and will love You with all of their heart, soul, and mind. Give them compassionate and generous hearts to love others as much as You love them. We pray they will always work and study with excellence, but that You will help them desire a servant spirit of greatness, rather than a worldly lust for success. We pray they will fall in love with Jesus over and over again.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!

We hope that everyone had a great summer. The students and staff are so excited to see each other. We would like to formally welcome all of our new families to the St. John Bosco School family! Additionally, we would like to welcome all of our new staff members to our school.

Our Division theme for this year is again "People of Hope." At St. John Bosco, this theme is supported by this year's book "A Voice Like Yours" by Frank Murphy and April Groman which shares the message that each of us has a unique voice and that how we use that voice matters. From the Catholic context we are blessed to be able to be understanding and welcoming of each individuals' unique qualities in an inclusive and multi-cultural environment.

A voice LikIf you ever have questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact us at the school. We are very excited to be starting this fantastic year!

Mr. Mark Sylvestre - Principal

Mrs. Tracey Sauer - Assistant Principal

Mrs. Marta Prystasz – Assistant Principal

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Parent Council Annual General Meeting Sept. 18, 2025 6:00 PM

All Parents Welcome!

School Hours

Grade 1 to Grade 6

Monday, Tuesdo	ıy, Wednesday & Friday	Thursday			
8:05 am	Entry Bell	8:05 am	Entry Bell		
8:05-8:13 am	Registration	8:05-8:13 am	Registration		
8:13-10:06 am	Instructional Time	8:13-10:07 am	Instructional Time		
10:06-10:21 am	Recess Break	10:07-10:22am	Recess Break		
10:21-12:12 pm	Instructional Time	10:22 -11:40 am	Instructional Time		
12:12-12:32 pm	Lunch Time	11:41 am	Early Dismissal		
12:32-12:49 pm	Lunch Recess		-		
12:49 pm	Entry Bell				
12:49-12:52 pm	Registration				
12:52-2:50 pm	Instructional Time				
2:50 pm	Dismissal				

Kindergarten

At times, students in both the morning and afternoon classes may be asked to attend class together in the morning for a combined field trip or for special presentations. There are no classes held on Thursdays for Kindergarten students.

'	ay, Wednesday & Friday . M. Class	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday P.M. Class			
8:05 am 8:05-11:12 am	Entry Time Instructional Time	11:43 am 11:43-2:50 pm	Entry Time Instructional Time		
11:12 am	Dismissal	2:50 pm	Dismissal		

Picking up Children at School and Students arriving Late to School

In order to ensure security and safety of all our students at St. John Bosco, we ask that you kindly call the office when picking up your child during the middle of the day. For example, if your child is leaving early due to an appointment, call the office to advise the office staff. Your child will be called to meet you at the office. Additionally, if you arrive late with your child in the morning, please ensure that they check in with the office. We will be "cracking down" on our students that arrive late on a continual basis, and the attendance board may have to be contacted. BE ON TIME every day, the loss of instructional time accumulates to your child's disadvantage. School doors are open from 8:05-8:10. Students arriving after that need to use main front doors.

Home Contact Information

A gentle reminder that if you have recently changed any of your <u>home contact information</u>, please provide updates to the office as soon as possible. This includes <u>e-mail address</u> so that you may receive important school communications. Additionally, if student <u>emergency contact information</u> has changed, please update this information as well. You will receive a Student Verification email early in the school year to update your personal information.

Pickup After School and Bussing

Please note that if you are picking up your child after school, and they are regularly scheduled to take the bus, please ensure that you let the office know of this change before you pick up your child. Not doing so often creates confusion and worry for both bus drivers and school staff in that when your child does not show up for his or her bus, we do not know of their whereabouts. The end of the day is not the time to make these calls as the office is very busy.

Bussing begins Sept. 2 for students in Grade 1-6. Kindergarten bussing begins on Sept. 8. You need to check your Powerschool account for pickup and drop off times. Please download and sign up on your mobile device the BusPlanner App. Follow the directions to link your child's bus routes for am/pm and Thursday's bus schedule. This will keep you informed of late busses.

St. John Bosco School Staff

Our total student enrollment to date is 650 students. As students continue to register, minor class changes may occur in order to accommodate the needs of our school and the needs of our students. It should be noted that enrollment fluctuates somewhat at all grade levels during the month of September. Our funding is based on the enrollment count on Sept. 29. Staffing therefore is not finalized until the final enrollment count.

Principal Mark Sylvestre

Assistant Principals Tracey Sauer

Marta Prystasz

Instructional Coach Lisa Hailes

Administrative Matilda Sousa

Secretary

Administrative Benita Boyko

Clerk

EBS Suzanne Kahler **TA-BT** Evelyn Hartard

TA-OT Linda Blanchard TA-SL Alexis Hansen

Educational Assistants

Vicki Dickson

Melissa Vandenberg

Rabiaa Jomaa Dume Ipaa Iriola Latifi

Natsnet (Mimi) Mender

Josephine Aljecera
Vickie Beaudoin
Rosemary Evans
Rochelle Simeon
Sondes Abda

Maria Alicpala

Kindergarten 0A, 0B Carrie Mastronardi Kindergarten 0C, 0D Heather Conroy Grade 1A Desiree Brownlee Grade 1B Carol Strilchuk Grade 1C Alison Romano **Grade 1D** Isabella Costa Grade 1E/2A Samantha Chuback Grade 2B Melissa Carnovale Grade 2C Alexandra Welsh Grade 2D Megan Hennessey Graziana Caramia Grade 3A Grade 3B Katrina Molzahn Grade 3C Amy Williams Grade 4A Brianne Corcoran Grade 4B Lynda Zolcinski Diane Bergevin-Tran **Grade 4C**

Grade 4D
Grade 5A
Grade 5B
Grade 5C
Grade 6A
Grade 6B
Grade 6C
Grade 6C
Jackie Small
Carly Hannay
Daniela Kingsley
Kimberly Craig
Lillian Aguilera
Matthew De Santis

Grade 6C
Music
Math Int. Educator
EAL Lit. Support

Amy Pereira
Sheena Newbury
Alexis Kostura
Lana Garcia

Head CustodianHarnek BainsSenior CustodianMaria DrapalaLight DutyMartha Lestari

At this time, we are very pleased to extend a special welcome to the teaching staff at St. John Bosco School as well as the large number of wonderful support and custodial staff that help to serve our kids! We are blessed to have each of you!



Weekly Newsletters/Communications

Edmonton Catholic Schools has a new communication system called School Messenger. This system is designed for quick, paperless messaging to our schools. It is important to note that all school communications (i.e. Weekly Newsletter and important information) will take place via School Messenger so no paper copies will be sent home. Please don't unsubscribe as you will then not be able to receive information.

With this in mind, in order for you to receive School Messenger messages it is important that the school has an updated e-mail address AND an updated phone number.

If you've accidentally unsubscribed and are not receiving regular updates every Friday, please contact the office to enable this tool. Thanks!

Student Agenda Books – Lates and Communication

Each student from Grade 1-6 receives a student agenda. The agenda is to be signed and returned to class each day. This is an excellent means of communicating between home and school and it's where you can let us know of changes in routines like appointments, busing changes or in-person pickups. Our students love using the agenda to let you know what they need to focus on or upcoming events.

Please Note: Students are to bring their agenda to the office for a **late stamp or slip** when they come to school late. In the interests of future citizens that contribute to our society, please don't be late.

Security – "Visitor Access Policy"

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, entry in and out of the building for individuals who are not staff or students is closely monitored. St. John Bosco school has a 'Visitor Access Policy'.

- ✓ We are asking that all approved visitors please enter our building through the front door only.
 - If you are here early to pick up your child, after calling the office we are asking that you please wait at the front. We will call your child down to the office for you.
 - Parents/Guardians, are welcome to access the school as a visitor, please call to book an appointment.
 - If you are granted access as a visitor, We ask that you sign in at the front desk and to wear a visitor pass/nametag. You will then need to sign out when you leave.

Once again, these policies are in place to help ensure the safety and security of our entire school community.

Parking/Student Drop-Off – Student Safety

Please note that for the <u>safety</u> of staff, students and community members in general, we require that you NOT park in the school parking lot OR drop off OR pickup students in the parking lot. In addition, our bus lane is not for student drop off or pickup. Please use the crosswalks and teach your children to follow the rules. We had some work completed over the summer Our layby has been extended back to the west cross walk. It will be for parents to "kiss and drop" not park, with our daycare vans/bus taking priority near the front. Our buses will be on the main roadway. We appreciate your patience and insist on your cooperation in keeping all our students safe when arriving at school, following bylaw rules and expectations.



PowerSchool Reporting/Summary Reports

Edmonton Catholic Schools provides summary reports which will be available at the end of January and June.

You will need to have established a 'PowerSchool' account. Most parents already have an account and they are easy to set up. Through PowerSchool you can monitor your child's attendance, pay school fees and carry out a host of school-related functions. To set up an account please use a computer website and not the App.

Instructions - Logging In To PowerSchool For First Time - Click HERE PowerSchool Log In - Parents - Click HERE

Recess Expectations

Good health is necessary for effective and optimal learning. Recess is important in that it is a vital time for socialization, exercise, the opportunity to eat a snack/drink a beverage, and to recharge mentally. If your child has come to school, it is expected that they participate in recess breaks. Parents are asked to keep in mind the following guidelines, when deciding whether to send their child to school.

- All students are expected to go out for recess. Students must come to school dressed appropriately for the Canadian outdoors.
- Recesses will always be outdoors unless inclement weather conditions are in place, at which point we follow the respective inclement weather guidelines.
- Students who become ill during the day are to inform their teacher directly. Our practice is to call parents and ask them to pick the student up or give the student permission to go home.
- Please be reminded that if a student is too sick to go outside, they are too sick to attend school and should be at home resting to prevent the spread of germs as per direction from AHS.

PowerSchool Fees and Fieldtrip Payments

St. John Bosco is entirely cashless for payments. To see a listing of all school fees please go online to the Parent Portal at https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/. There on the left side bar you will see a complete listing of all fees.

When a field trip comes up for your child, you will receive a Fieldtrip Form from the homeroom teacher that must be returned signed by the legal parent/guardian. At the same time, you will be required to pay the cost of the fieldtrip online.

For Online Payment Instructions – See our school website or Press Here

Parent Advisory Council

Our PAC is made up of wonderful volunteers who meet about once a month with the school administrators to discuss school related matters and plan activities. We have a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Casino coordinator and Members at Large as well as classroom representatives. We need Casino Volunteers, Christmas hamper volunteers, organizers for our Family Dance in May, classroom volunteers and more. Please help your child out by becoming involved with this group. We'll be hosting an in-person Annual General Meeting on Sept. 18. 6-7 pm. Our Casino is on Nov. 13&14, 2025

School Pictures

Our Picture Day is booked for Sept. 17 and all our students will participate. More info will be coming closer to the date. We'll have retakes offered on Oct. 15.

Meet the Staff

We will be hosting a presentation on September 18, 2025 to introduce our staff to all our parents and guardians starting at 6:00 pm in the gym. You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher (s) following the presentation and sign up for volunteer roles with our Parent Advisory Council, events and special activities. This is also the time you will be able to see your child's classroom! Please note, children won't be able to attend this event due to Fire restriction capacity in the gym.

CASINO Fundraiser

On Thursday and Friday, Nov. 13&14, 2025 we will be needing volunteers for our Fundraising casino. It is held at Century Casino Fort Road. Please fill out this form to support the school. <u>Press HERE</u>. Funds support our Music, Technology, Gym Equipment and other areas. Sign up for a shift or two!

Transportation

Our Transportation department has been working through the summer to get our student pick-up and dropoff times set for your children. In addition, bus drivers will create seating plans that your children will be asked to follow. You must have an active PowerSchool Account to find out your child's pickup and drop off times. Messaging about delayed buses will be accessed through the BusPlanner Delays App. (Download on your device and select all your child's bus runs)

2025-2026 Student Transportation Fee Schedule:

- 1. Kindergarten to Grade 12 students taking ETS: \$60 per month
- 2. Kindergarten to Grade 12 students taking the yellow bus: \$50 per month
- 3. Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 students who access inclusive curb services: \$0 per month
- 4. For more information: https://www.ecsd.net/student-transportation-fee-schedule

Eligibility: Effective September 2025, the transportation eligibility distance criteria for students in grades K through 6 will be 1.6 km instead of 1.0 km from their designated school. The requirements for students in grades 7 to 12 will remain unchanged at 2 km. Elementary students who currently ride the bus and live between 1.0 and 1.6 km from their designated school will be permitted to continue using the bus and will be grandfathered in for the 2025-2026 school year. However, new families must adhere to the 1.6 km eligibility criteria for the 2025-2026 school year.

Bus Passes: Starting in September 2025, students will no longer be required to have a yellow bus pass. Due to low adoption and compliance with bus pass scanning (less than 5%) over the past three school years, the pilot will conclude at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Students are listed on the student listing report for their respective routes, which yellow bus carriers and schools can access for weekly route changes.

Lunch and Snacks

Send your child healthy snacks and lunches and a labeled water bottle. Please include cutlery for your children as we will not be providing them at the school. Sign up for our HealthyHunger.ca hot lunch days in advance. Birthday treats – fruit and small cupcakes are welcome – let the teacher know if you are bringing treats for your child's birthday so they can plan. (This is not the venue for your Birthday party)

If you fail to order your lunch through HealthyHunger.ca, we do not want you ordering food and having it delivered. Send a normal lunch with your child, and next time order through the program. Kindergarten won't be ordering lunch through HealthyHunger.ca, please ignore those reminders.

Which Class is My Child In?

Students have been placed into classes based on many different factors. Please do not contact the school to make a specific change or to request a certain teacher. You are able to access your PowerSchool account to see which homeroom your child has been assigned starting at 3:30 on Thursday, August 28. You will need this information for school start up on Sept. 2.

If you do not have a PowerSchool account, you need to contact the office to obtain that information. If you need to add a child to an existing account, you are able to do that from your own account. Call 780-471-3140

Our office is closed for meetings on Thursday, Aug. 28 all day and Friday 29th in the morning and opening after lunch from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Google Classroom

All our teachers will maintain a Google classroom. This is to ensure that learning is ongoing for students who may be absent for longer periods of time. Parents will be expected to refer their children to their google classroom to retrieve and complete assigned work if a child has an extended absence. Click for a <u>Parents</u> <u>Guide to Google Classroom</u>

Entry for Students

All Grade 1-6 Students begin on Tuesday, Sept. 2. Our bell schedule is 8:05 for 1st bell and AM Kindergarten. Students need to come to their designated doors that are indicated on the attached map on the last page of this document. On the first day of school, students will gather in the back field and find their teacher, joining their line with their supplies and everything they need for the day. Parents will wave them off and wish them a great first day. This is only on Sept. 2. Thereafter, students will line up at their designated doors.



Kindergarten Immunization

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio Booster Second dose Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella Vaccine

Immunizations protect your child from serious childhood diseases. Diseases spread more easily when children are together in a group. Ensure your child is protected from vaccine preventable diseases by having his/her immunizations up to date. Kindergarten immunizations are given at the Public Health Centres.

After their 4th birthday most children should have:

- A booster dose of DTaP-IPV (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio) vaccine
- 2 completed doses of MMR-Var (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella) vaccine

If immunization is needed, call your local Public Health Centre for an appointment. If you have any questions, please call:

- Health Link Alberta at 811.
- Northgate School Team at 780-342-2775

ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

July 2025					August 2025						September 2025									
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				
		Арі	ril 20)26					Ma	y 20)26			June 2026						
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		100	1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													



First Day of Operation August 28, 2025 First Day of Instruction September 2, 2025 Last Day of Instruction June 23, 2026 Last Day of Operation June 24, 2026

Sept 1
Sept 30
Oct 13
Nov 10-12
Dec 22 to Jan 2
Feb 16
Feb 25
Feb 26-27
Mar 30 to Apr 6
Apr 3
Apr 6
May 15-18

MONTH	Operational Days	Instructional Days
August	2	0
September	20	20
October	22	22
November	17	17
December	15	15
January	20	20
February	19	16
March	20	20
April	18	18
May	19	19
June	18	17
Total	190	184

Statutory Holiday - Office/School Closed

Named Holiday - Office/School Closed

Early dismissal

Cancellation of early dismissal

ecsd.net

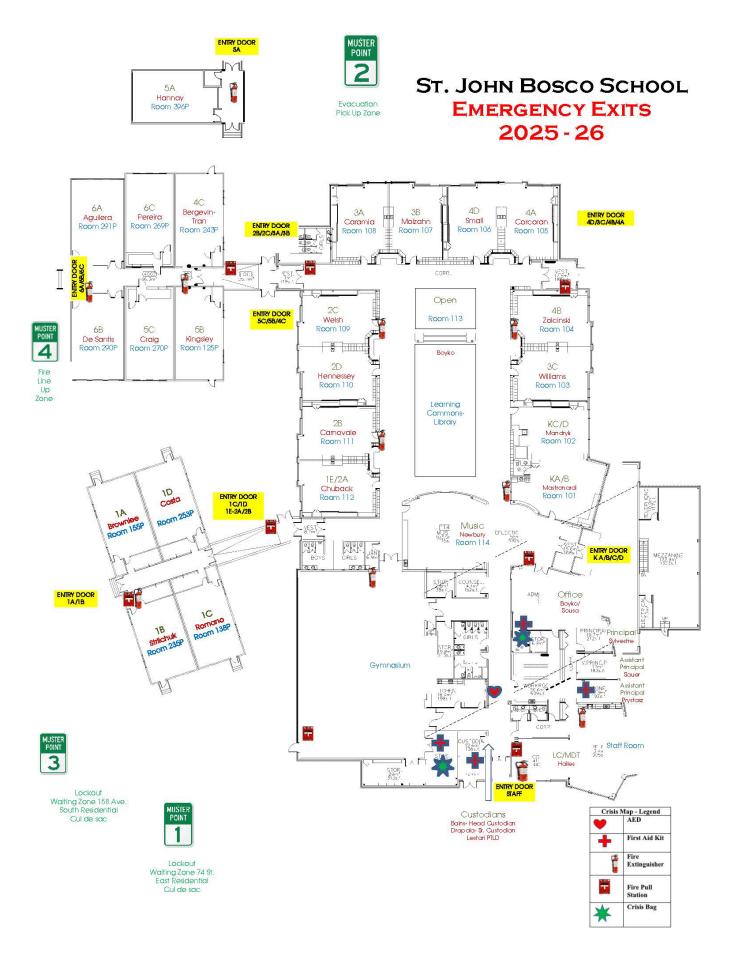
Non-instructional day

Non-operational day

FEBRUARY 2025

Celebrations at the school. Please check your Weekly News for updated date/time. GRADE 4 BIBLE CELEBRATION

St. John Bosco School	September 24, 2025	11:00 am	Gym						
		11.00 4							
THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION – Father George									
St. John Bosco School	Gym								
Pre Advent CELEBRATION and Wreath blessing —									
St. John Bosco School	St. John Bosco School Nov. 28, 2025 9:30 am Gym								
EPIPHANY CELEBRATION -									
St. John Bosco School	Jan. 9, 2026	9:30 am	Gym						
St. John Bosco FEAST DAY	– Father George								
St. John Bosco School	Jan. 30, 2026	9:30 am	Gym						
ASH WEDNESDAY CELEBR	ATION –	•							
St. John Bosco School	Feb. 18 2026	9:30 am	Gym						
LENTEN RECONCILIATION	– Father George, Fathe	r Julian, Father Glenn , Fo	ather Chinna						
St. John Bosco School	March 23, 2026	9:30 am	Gym						
EASTER MASS – Father George									
St. John Bosco School	April 10, 2026	9:30 am	Gym						
YEAREND FAREWELL –									
St. John Bosco School	June 22, 2026	10:30 am	Gym						
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St. John Bosco School - "2025-2026 Key Dates" August Parents can log into Powerschool available 28th for homeroom designation @3:30 pm 28 September 1 Labour Day No School First Day of Classes for All Gr. 1-6 Students. Bussing for Grades 1-6. Grade 6's 2 2-3 Staggered Entry for Kindergarten 5 Kindergarten classes begin – no bussing today 8 Bussing for Kindergarten Starts today. Opening Celebration 9:30 (in house), Meet the Staff presentation 6 pm PAC 18 School Council AGM Meeting at 6pm Elections/Sign up Volunteers 17 Picture Day with Edge Photography 19 Terry Fox Run today 2:15 23 Cross Country Run Bible Celebration for Gr. 4 students 11:00 am 24 29 Orange Shirt Celebration 9:30 30 Federal Holiday - Truth and Reconciliation Day - No School October 6-10 Read in Week • Thanksgiving Celebration with Father 9:30 9 10 PD Day - No school for students Thanksgiving Monday-No School 13 15 Picture Redo's with Edge Photography Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks. Presentation for parents. Supported by our Parent Council. 16 31 Halloween Morning parade with costumes November 3-7 Veteran's Week 7 Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:30 8-12 Fall Break - No School 13-14 Casino at Century Casino Fort Road Parent Volunteers 19 Grade 6 Immunization 17 - 20Scholastic Book Fair Days COSC Event for Parent Council Chair, Vice Chair and Principal 6:00 pm 18 20 Term 1 Demonstration of Learning 1:00-4:30, 5:30-8:00 Book Fair Kindergarten 9:30-11:00 Book Fair 28 Pre-Advent Celebration and Blessing of the Wreaths 9:30 am with Father **December** 1 Advent Celebration over announcements 1st Advent Candle Terrific Kids Hospitality Gratitude Peace 5 2nd. Pink Advent Candle Celebration over announcements 8 K-3 Concert in the Park 9 10 4-6 Concert in the Park Hamper Pickup am. Staff Luncheon 11 3rd. Advent Celebration over announcements. 15 18 Full Day - with Kindergarten regular schedule 19 Half Day. No Kindergarten. Advent Celebration followed by some Christmas Carols. 20- Jan. 4 **Christmas Break**

13

January

5

10

21

First Day Back for Students

Epiphany Celebration 9:30 am Gr. 4-6 Ski Trip booked

- 30 Alberta Musical Theatre Company Pinocchio 1:30 Presentation
 - Feast Day Celebration 9:30 am
- 31 Feast Day of St. John Bosco

• February

Intention Process for indicating your school for the following year.

- 5 Early Learning Open House @ 6pm Thursday
- 12 JJ Bowlen Open House
 - Cardinal Leger Open House
- 9-13 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- 16 Family Day No School
- 17 Shrove Tuesday
- 18 Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins Celebration 9:30 am
- Feb. 25 Division faith day
- Feb. 26-27 Teacher Convention

March

- 9-13 Scholastic Book Fair Preview Days
- 12 Demonstration of Learning 1:00-4:30, 5:30-8:00 Book Fair Kindergarten 9:30-11:00
- Lenten Reconciliation grades 3-6 starting at 9:30 am Father George and Father Julien Father Glen, Father Chinna
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 20 Terrific Kids Charity Courage Love
- 26 Full Day Kindergarten Here normal schedule
- Half Day before break No Kindergarten
- March 28- April 6 Spring Break

April

- 2 Holy Thursday
- 3 Good Friday
- 6 Easter Monday
- 7 School resumes
- 10 Easter Mass 9:30
- Administration support appreciation day

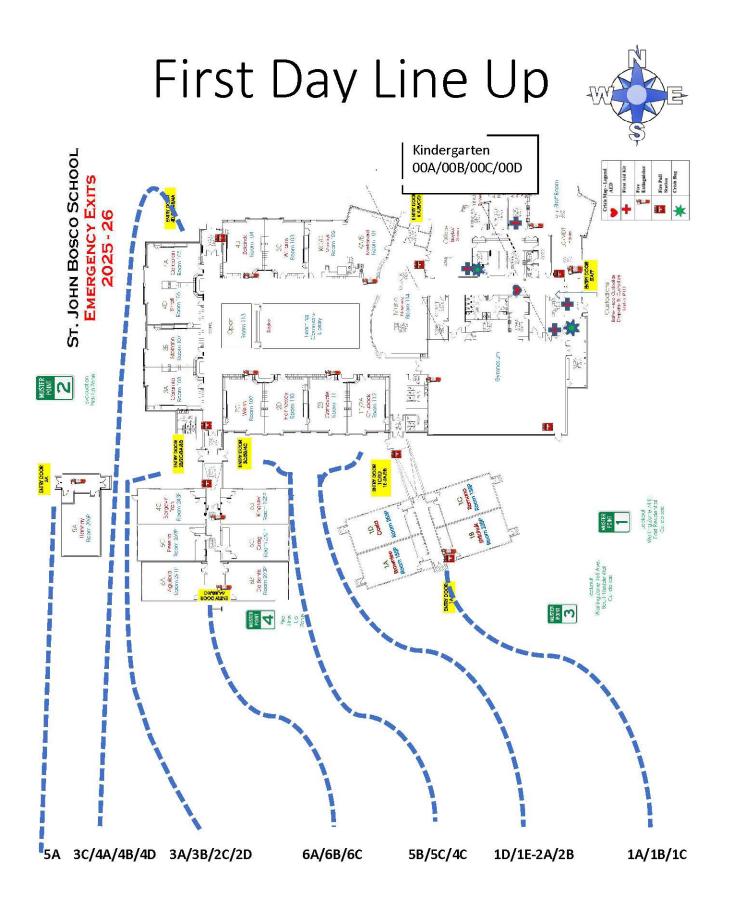
May

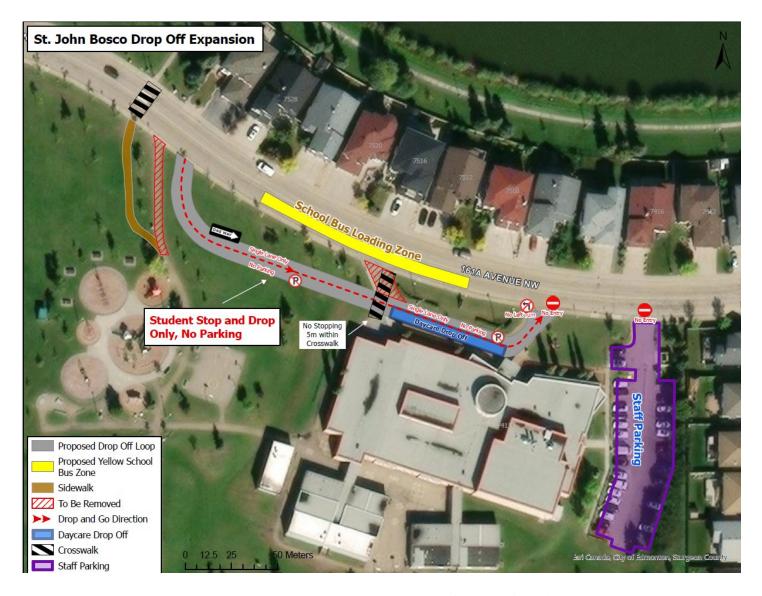
- 1-31 Month of Mary
- 4 Bus driver appreciation day
- 6 Camp Warawa Day Trip Grade 6's
- 7 Kindergarten here for Mother's Day Activity
- 8 Family Dance
- 10 Mother's Day
- 14 ELAL Writing Assessment (K) ELAL Write On (1-5)
- 15-18 Victoria Day Weekend No School
- 21 Kindergarten New Student Orientation Day.
- 22 Last Day for Library
- 22 PAT Gr. 6 ELA Part A 9:00-11:00 am,
- 27 Immunization for Grade 6's
- 29 All Library books due

June

- 5 Terrific Kids Forgiveness Justice Compassion Faithfulness
- 5 Family Picnic lunch
- 4 ELA Part B PAT 9-10 (TBD)
- 11 Social Studies PAT 9-10 Kindergarten here morning Father's day activity
- 12 **Science PAT 9-10**
- 15 Math Part A PAT 9-9:20

- 18 Math Part B PAT 9-10:10 Year End Staff Luncheon
- 19 Fun Day at school Kindergarten Gr. 6
- 21 Father's Day/ National Indigenous Peoples Day (Sunday)
- 22 Celebration for Gr. 6 Farewell 1:30
- 23 Last Day for All Students, Kinder last day Regular Morning and Regular Afternoon Year End Celebration 10:30
- 24 Wednesday: Staff Only Day





Please note that you are not allowed to park in front of resident driveways and there are areas that are marked as Handicap that are for vehicles with the appropriate licensing.