



mid-September Newsletter 2024

St. John Bosco Catholic School

7411 - 161A AVE NW, Edmonton, AB T5Z 3V4

Phone: (780) 471-3140 Fax: (780) 471.3293

Thank you parents and families!

We had a great first week and the students are settling into their new grades and making new friends quickly. Thank you for all your support to get the students ready for a successful day of learning with water bottles, indoor shoes, school supplies, and positive attitudes.

Some news that is coming up quickly this month is included below.

Terry Fox

On Thursday, September 19th we will be participating in the St. John Bosco Terry Fox Walk/Run. To celebrate and show our respect to the legacy of Terry Fox, we ask for your support by having your children wear red and white.

In addition, please consider supporting the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research by donating to our school's online fundraising page

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/StJohnBoscoElementary>

Thank you for your supporting our school in the fight against cancer and keeping Terry's dream alive! #terryfoxschoolrun #nomatterwhat @terryfoxfoundation

All donations go to the Terry Fox Foundation to support cancer research

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/71451>

Operation Christmas Child Runs September 20th – November 13th

Help us build a tower of boxes to give others "HOPE" during the Christmas season. There is a long-standing tradition of Social Justice Service Learning here at St. John Bosco School. **Students will receive Operation Christmas Child boxes, and we are asking that as a family you participate by filling the box with various items.** Bring your filled boxes to St. John Bosco School as we are tallying and creating our tower in the foyer for all



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students to see our generosity. In advance, we thank all of you for contributing! The last day to bring in completed boxes will be **Nov 13** and we will be delivering the completed boxes to the church depot.

Ideas on what to pack can be found below:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.ca/pack-a-shoebox/>

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Decks of standard playing cards (other card games such as UNO are allowed)
- Food or candy: Including gum, no chocolate or fruit snacks (due to customs regulations)
- Used items (due to customs regulations)
- Toothpaste (due to customs regulations)
- Liquids or items that could leak, melt, freeze, or break - Shampoo, creams, lip balm, bath gels, mirrors, or glass, etc. (these can damage other items in the shoebox).
- Items that can scare or harm a child - War-related toys, knives, and toy guns, etc.

Shoebox Labels: Complete the label to show what age group your box is suitable for.

MAKE YOUR MINIMUM \$10 DONATION- Please donate a minimum of \$10 for each shoebox you prepare to help cover project costs--including shipping. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued for donations of \$15 or more.



School Opening Celebration

We are happy to start our school year off with a Liturgy of the Word with Father George from St. Dominic Savio Parish. This celebration is led by the grade 6 teachers and students in the gym. Parents of students in grades 4-6 are welcome to join in person. Space is limited so younger grades will participate online from their classrooms. Next month, we will invite parents from Division One classrooms to join us in the Thanksgiving Celebration. Thank you for understanding fire safety codes as our school population increases.

BACK TO SCHOOL



*We have everything you
need to succeed!*

||||| epl.ca

Information from the EPL

Hello,

Welcome back to another school year! My name is Rianne Rayment and I am the Community Librarian at the Clareview Branch of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL). EPL has lots of services to offer students, parents and teachers and I would love to collaborate with you on offering some of these for your school.

Coming soon:

[Family Gamer Night](#) - Tuesday, September 10, 5pm-9pm. Stanley Milner (Downtown) Branch.

[Epl2go Afterschool](#) - Tuesday, September 17, 3:30pm-5pm. Evergreen Youth Centre.

[Grade 4 Bible Celebration](#)

On Monday, September 16th at 2pm the gym, the grade 4s will receive their personal copy of the NRSV Bible. Father Glenn will be in attendance to bless the bibles. Parents of these children are invited to join in this very special moment in the children's lives. The Bible will remain at school for use in Religion class until they leave St. John Bosco School in June of their Grade 6 year.



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC CHURCH

14406 62 ST NW, EDMONTON, AB T5A 2E9

PHONE: 780-473-4259. EMAIL: STDOMINICSAVIO.EDM@CAEDM.CA

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM – 4 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY (CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS)

SACRAMENTS REGISTRATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION & 1ST HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) is "the source and summit of the Christian life," around which the other sacraments and ministries are oriented.

The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament in which Jesus Christ gives His Body and Blood (His very own self) for us so that we might give ourselves to him in love and be united with Him in Holy Communion. In this way we are joined with the one Body of Christ, the Church (CCC. 1322, 1324, 1409, 1413).

Children 7 years of age or older are invited to Register and prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion (Eucharist).

REGISTRATION OPENS: MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

First Holy Communion is for any baptized child in Grade 2 and above

Registration fee: \$50

For more information, or to register, please visit parish website or contact the parish office on 780-473-4259 Ext 2 or email stdominicsavio.sacraments@caedm.ca

REGISTRATION CLOSES: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

FIRST COMMUNION DAY: June 22, 2025

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi Sunday)

Sacraments preparation classes at St. Dominic Savio Parish is guided by the Archdiocese of Edmonton Standards.



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton



Learn More:

<https://stdominicsavio.caedm.ca/>

CONFIRMATION

The sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace, for it is by this sacrament that the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are the true witnesses of Jesus Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed to those around us. (CCC. 1285).

Young people aged 12 or older are invited to Register and prepare to celebrate Confirmation.

REGISTRATION OPENS: MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024
For Grade 6 and above who have received First Holy Communion (Holy Eucharist).

Visit parish website to Register or call the Parish Office.

Registration fee: \$50

REGISTRATION CLOSES: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

CONFIRMATION DAY: SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2025
(Holy Mass presided by Archbishop Richard Smith)

RCIA

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
& RCIA – Adapted for Children**

Want to become Catholic?

Have you been wondering what it means to be Catholic? Do you want your child to become Catholic? Find out more about RCIA Programs in the parish website.

RCIA Adapted for children/Youth is open to anyone 7 – 13 years of age who has not been baptized.

Accompanying RCIA Inquirers

If you would like to spend a little time sharing your faith or simply being present to someone who wants to know more about Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, contact the parish office.

REGISTRATION OPENS: MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024
Also, for anyone 7 years of age and older who has been baptized and not yet received First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

Registration fee: \$50

Class starts Sunday September 8, 2024.

Visit parish website to Register or call the Parish Office.

REGISTRATION CLOSES: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

REGISTER TODAY

To speak to someone, Contact St. Dominic Savio Parish Office.

Phone: 780-473-4259 ext. 2. Email: stdominicsavio.sacraments@caedm.ca.

**SCAN HERE TO VISIT
PARISH WEBSITE**





*Office of the Minister MLA, Calgary -
Bow*

September 5, 2024

Dear parents,

As the summer winds down and a new school year begins, I want to take a moment to share updates you may hear more about as your child returns to the classroom.

As Alberta's Minister of Education, my mandate is to ensure our students are receiving a world-class education that sets them up for success. An important piece of this work is building an inclusive and comprehensive curriculum that reflects our modern world and inspires a passion for learning.

Since the 2022-23 school year, school authorities have implemented new curriculum in six Kindergarten to Grade 6 (K-6) subjects through a phased approach. This school year, all students in Grades 4-6 will be learning from new French first language and literature, French immersion language arts and literature and science curriculums. We continue to support school authorities and elementary teachers as they implement new curriculum by providing a variety of learning and teaching resources.

I am pleased to share that 62 school authorities have also chosen to pilot new draft K-6 social studies curriculum in classrooms across Alberta this school year. The new draft curriculum, which was developed after nine months of consultation with education partners, teachers, parents and Albertans, focuses on building students' critical thinking skills and empowers them to be engaged citizens. Throughout the piloting process, school authorities and teachers will provide valuable feedback to help Alberta Education finalize the new K-6 social studies curriculum.

This is just one change parents can expect in Alberta's schools this fall. When students return to class, their smart phones will not. In April 2024, we asked Albertans to tell us what they thought of cellphone use in schools. More than 68,000 educators, parents, and other stakeholders shared their thoughts. The feedback was clear: Almost 90 per cent of respondents were concerned about student cellphone use at school and 85 per cent said they believe cellphones have a negative impact on student achievement.

My government felt it was important to respond quickly to this feedback and has been working with educators and other stakeholders over the last several months to introduce restrictions on personal mobile devices and social media use in schools.

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These changes come into effect on September 1, with school authorities having until January 1, 2025, to formalize their policies and procedures for implementing the restrictions within their schools. This means that, beginning immediately, students are asked to keep their devices silent or powered off during class and stored out of view, unless a valid exception is in place. Parents and guardians should reach out to their school or school authority if they have questions regarding how restrictions will apply to a particular student or child.

Restricting personal mobile devices and social media use in Alberta Early Childhood Services and kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms will reduce distractions, maximize learning time, support student mental health, and reduce opportunities for cyberbullying. This is one of many things we are doing to support our children's mental health.

I recently announced an additional \$6.7 million to extend 59 Mental Health in Schools pilot projects across the province to ensure students can get the supports they need, when they need them. This is in addition to the Budget 2024 investment of \$1.5 billion for learning support funding, which includes funding that allows school authorities to provide students with psychological and social-emotional supports, and access to mental health workers and other wellness supports, as needed.

As you know, Alberta's population is growing, and school enrolment is too. Our government recognizes this growth comes with challenges, which is why we made a funding commitment over the summer to invest an additional \$125 million for operational costs associated with enrolment growth and inflationary pressures.

And, we have invested \$2.8 billion over three years to maintain, enhance, plan, and build new schools. Our capital plan advances 43 priority school projects across Alberta, including 28 new schools, 10 replacement schools, and five modernizations, which will create 35,000 new and modernized student spaces! We recognize these advancements will not be realized immediately and space is needed now, which is why we are also putting \$90 million toward the purchase of up to 100 modular classrooms and the relocation of up to 50 more, for the communities of greatest need. This will help address emergent enrolment pressures and urgent space needs.

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge our hardworking teachers, educational assistants, principals, and other school support staff. Their work is at the heart of Alberta's education system and is deeply acknowledged and appreciated by Alberta's government.

Finally, I want to thank you, Alberta's parents. As a father myself, I know that a child's education does not start and end in the classroom. Parents are busy behind the scenes packing lunches and schoolbags, helping with homework, and cheering our kids on at their school concerts and sporting events. Thank you for all you do to support your children, their teachers, and the larger school community to which you belong.

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I am wishing you a wonderful year ahead!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education