

Newsletter

St. John Bosco Catholic School

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March 2024

Administrators' Message

For us Catholics, Feb 14th, Ash Wednesday marked the start of the 40 days of Lent that leads up to Easter. Lent invites us to prepare for Easter, to examine our Christian roots, to experience renewal and conversion, to look inside and change our hearts, to be present as the church prepares new member for initiation. We are called to focus on our own Baptism and to consider whether we have lived up to our Baptism into God's Spirit and to see what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Lent is a time to repair, rebuild and strengthen our relations with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

After many years of hard Alberta climate, it's almost hard to believe the winter we have had this year and that we will be officially welcoming the season of Spring this month. With anticipation, we look forward to the signs of Spring that will bring us sunshine, puddles of water after much needed melt off of snow. We are hopeful that the many signs of new life will soon inspire us to once again go forth and grow anew in spirit, mind and body as we celebrate Easter on Sunday, March 31.

As we all gear up to welcome much needed sunshine, we are reminded that March is a short but busy month. We thank all our parents for their quick responses in stating their intentions for the upcoming school year. Our thanks and appreciation to the vast majority of parents who have already submitted their intentions for next year. This information allows us to better understand how we need to plan and prepare for the return of our students. Our planning for the upcoming school year is well underway! Parents are reminded that students do not have school on February 29 & March 1 due to Teachers' Convention. On March 15 we will once again be celebrating our Terrific Kids as part of a school-wide student recognition assembly. A reminder also that we will be having our second Scholastic Book Fair of the year and encourage buying books for the upcoming Easter season. Demonstration of Learning afternoon and evening for parents on March 14. This time is for parents to come and see what their children have learned and celebrate their growth and development. There is no school during Spring break from March 25-29. As well, please note that the Thursday before Spring break is a full day of school, and the Friday becomes the early dismissal day for all students in Edmonton Catholic Schools. School will resume on April 2, 2024 following Easter Monday, which is also off for staff and students.

We wish you a great month ahead as we continue our Lenten journey in preparation for Easter and especially wish you a restful and fun filled Spring break!

Ms. A. Esposito-Brady Principal Ms. D. Kowalchyk Assistant Principal

REFLECTION

Lent is a sacred time of the year. On the surface, many cringe at the thought of Lent approaching, but deep down, faithful Christians anticipate this holy time with hopefulness that it will produce good fruit in their lives. Facing our sins requires a depth of honesty and humility.

Since Lent is the most important time of year to consider our sins, spend time looking at your own failings from various perspectives. Do not get discouraged in the process. Ponder sin with hopeful anticipation of freedom from those sins. Lent concludes with the beginning of the Easter season. Keeping Easter in mind is essential as you walk through Lent, make sacrifices, examine your conscience, and confess your sins.



Why do we fast?



Here are some ways Christians think about fasting:

▶ As penance. Throughout the Old Testament, people covered themselves in ashes, took off their fine clothes, and fasted in order to express their repentance from sin. Fasting serves a similar purpose today.

A Lenten Reflection...

Give up complaining; focus on gratitude Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts Give up worry; trust divine Providence

Give up discouragement; be full of hope

Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness

Give up hatred; return good for evil Give up negativism; be positive

Give up pettiness; become mature Give up jealousy; pray for trust

► Making room for God. By

emptying ourselves, even if just a little bit, we make room for God to enter our lives more fully. When fasting and abstinence are hard, we are moved to turn to God in prayer for help.

- ▶ Strengthening the will. Fasting is a spiritual discipline; just as physical exercise makes our body stronger, fasting strengthens our will. Practicing self-denial in small things strengthens our will to resist sin in other areas of our lives.
- ▶ A preparation for mission. For Christians, fasting imitates the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert. Just as Jesus used this time to prepare for his public mission, fasting prepares us to continue his mission in the world.
- closer to the suffering Christ—and all the people who suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and abuse on a daily basis. From Teaching Catholic kids. Com

▶ Solidarity with the suffering Christ. Whatever small suffering we experience when we fast brings us

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

A reminder that we post SJB calendar and event dates directly onto our website for ease of access from wherever you are. Please click on the links below and place into your favorites list for easy access each month.

To access the school's calendar of events, click on link below: https://stjohnbosco.ecsd.net/calendar

To access the school's newsletters, click on the link below https://stjohnbosco.ecsd.net/newsletters-

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR NEW FAMILIES REGISTERING AT OUR SCHOOL

For information about our registration process for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, visit our school website at https://www.ecsd.net/1024.

To learn more about what we offer your child at St. John Bosco School, click here.

For any families with Kindergarten age children entering school, click on the link to get more information about our half-day Kindergarten programming <u>Kindergarten</u>.

For any families with children in grades 1 to 6 and are interested in registering at our school, click on the link to learn more about what we offer for our <u>Grades 1 to 6.</u>

The registration process begins with the parents going online and completing the registration process. Click on the link to complete an online registration form at https://stjohnbosco.ecsd.net/register.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, NOR PROCESSED UNLESS ALL YOUR DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN UPLOADED.

Students outside our catchment area may be accepted if there is space and program, however, transportation will be the responsibility of the parents.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION FOR 2024-25

Transportation Services will begin routing for the 2024-25 school year starting in April. The **deadline for** <u>ALL</u> transportation applications, for September 2024 is May 23, 2024. If you would like your child's transportation to be effective September 5, 2023 – you must submit your application online prior to May 23, 2023. Applications are received throughout the year on an ongoing basis.

All CURRENT REGULAR yellow bussing students will be rolled over from this current school year to the 2024-25 school year based on the address information from this current year. (This includes half day and full day kindergarten students.)

If there are any changes to your child's transportation address for the 2024-25 school year, a Notice of Change must be submitted online in order that the corrections are made.

The students that are required to APPLY online for transportation for the 2024-25 school year are:

- New students Gr. 1-6 that require bussing and qualify based on their home address.
 (home/transportation address)
- Kindergarten students (providing the home/transportation address qualifies for transportation)
- Students that are moving from their current school and are eligible for bussing to their new school for the 2024-25 school year,
- Students that have a new home address and/or secondary address (ie: daycares, day homes, etc.)

The first date of transportation is September 3, 2024 (Regular bus and curb service). The first day for Kindergarten noon hour bussing is September 6th.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Saving Time Begins on **Sunday**, **March 10**, **2024**, **at 2:00 A.M**. On Saturday night, clocks are set forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to "spring forward."



ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING/REPORT CARDS



Sound assessment practices are based on the principle that assessment of the academic performance of our students is an on-going process through the collection and grading of student work that is both formative and summative. Teachers assess student growth and development in various subject areas through classroom participation, oral and written work, collaborative projects, test results, quality of assignments produced,

homework completion and notebook maintenance. As done in the past prior to online reporting through the Parent Portal, teachers we will share your child's progress through a variety of means such as student work sent home, student portfolios, home/school conferences, and demonstration of learning, to name a few.

Report Cards:

Student progress will be formally reported to parents two times a year in the form of a summary report card in both January and June.

September - January Report Card on January 31 February- June Report Card on June 26

Parents will be able to go into the PowerSchool Parent Portal and see their child's summary report card for the term. **Parents can choose to view it in digital format or print a hardcopy as they wish.** Should you have any questions related to your child's progress, we encourage you to reach out to their teacher.

Demonstration of Learning:

Demonstration of Learning: **November 23, 2023**Demonstration of Learning: **March 14, 2024**

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING - MARCH 14, 2024, 1-4:30 & 5-7 pm



Our Demonstration of Learning takes place on MARCH 14, 2024, 1-4:30 and 5-7 pm. Our goal is to give your child the opportunity to demonstrate their learning, as well you can book a time should you have any questions about your child's progress. We use an online booking system for our Demonstration of Learning. Please watch your swift email communications which will include details, as well as the online booking link.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR -MARCH 14, 2024, 1-4:30 & 5-7 pm

St. John Bosco School will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair on **Thursday**, **March 16**^{4h}. **The Book Fair will be open from 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., 1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M., and 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. in the gym**. Students will be able to preview the books on Wednesday, March 13th. Payment can be made with cash, debit, or credit card. Money raised from sales at the Book Fair will go to the purchase of books for our school.



SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICE LEARNING-WE CARE MARKETPLACE



Each year we visit Clansman Park for the We Care Market to share our love with our city's most vulnerable. This year it took place on Sunday, February 25. Thank you for all your donations, our bins were overflowing and to the staff and families who joined us at for this worthwhile project. With the support of every homeroom class, students collected donations and dropped items off into bins located within our foyer. Again, thank you for contributing to this worth cause.

We would like to thank all those who came out to help because this was certainly a team effort. The driving forces behind the "We Care Marketplace" are members of the Sherwood Park Alliance Church, who show up weekly, every Sunday of the year, along with some other denominational groups to minister to the less fortunate. This event happens every weekend. If you are interested in getting involved in the We Care Ministries contact, Zane Nykiforuk at znykiforuk@gmail.com. Modelling the different stages of Social Justice to



our children is a determining factor that they too will grow up wanting to contribute to society and "Make a Difference" - exactly what we are called to do! As you know, together we can all make a difference through our social justice service-learning projects.

SJB 'WALK FOR HOPE' WALKATHON (March 22 to April 1, 2024) ONLINE PLEDGES OPEN ---SEE LINK BELOW

We are happy to say that this year we will once again host our St. John Bosco School "Walk for Hope" Walk-a-thon. The walkathon runs from (March 22 to April 1, 2024) beginning on Holy Thursday and ends on Easter Monday.

This year, our St. John Bosco School "Walk for Hope" Walk-a-thon will support Catholic Social Services 'Sign of Hope' Campaign. This very important local Catholic organization that helps those in need. As a Catholic social services agency, they are guided by faith to care for and bring hope and offer a variety of services to people in need with humility, compassion, and respect.

We are calling on all our SJB families and the extended SJB Community to come together in unity to participate in this social justice call to action. With our participation, we express our thankfulness for our own personal blessings by giving back to those in need with grace and gratitude in our hearts.

This event will also highlight and foster active local citizenship and engagement, health, and wellness through physical activity and best of all, fun family time towards helping other families in need. Using

the 3 A's (Awareness, Acceptance and Action) approach towards increased social justice learning, we will work as a school community to teach and foster an understanding of the need for social justice.

To participate during the week, we encourage you to walk as a family each day/evening for a minimum of 30 minutes; logging your total time over the course of the week. As you consider how much you and your family want to pledge, consider this, you could pledge \$1 per minute/kilometer, or a flat rate per week or day, the choice is yours. For example, if you choose to pledge \$1 per minute here is how that might look for your family, (30 mins. /day x \$1 each minute = \$30 per day x 7 days = \$210 in total for the week). Some families may choose to only walk 3 times per week, then the that would look as follows, (30 mins. /day x \$1 each minute = \$30 per day x 3 days = \$90 in total for the week). If families prefer, they could simply donate a total amount. Regardless of the amount, it is the idea of social justice service through active citizenship and engagement, physical activity and quality family time that is at the heart of the **St. John Bosco School "Walk for Hope" Walk-a-thon.**

Important Information:

- Please use the pledge form to track your time, this will be further used by your child/ren as we complete some cross-curricular learning activities in support of this school wide social justice initiative to help raise awareness while also teaching important academic skills in math, social studies, science, and other curriculum areas of study.
- Capture photos of your walk as a family and email them to 1024web@ecsd.net, so that we can share the good news via twitter, our school website and school newsletter.
- Commit to make your walk happen RAIN or SHINE from (March 22 to April 1, 2024)
- Donate to St. John Bosco School "Walk for Hope" Walk-a-thon in support of Catholic Social
 Services, 'Sign of Hope' Campaign using the link, https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/98259

Thank you for your participation in our SJB Walk-a-thon in support of Catholic Social Services, Sign of Hope!

SJB SOCCER TEAM 2024

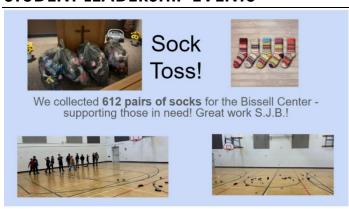
Congratulations to the SJB Co-ed Soccer Team, who participated in the recent St. Nicholas Soccer

Jacob R.	Nathan K.	Danijela Z.	
Andre A.	Tudor B.	Alexa C.	
Joy N.	Michael P.	Julianna F.	
Milan J.	Nathan T.	Ariana M.	
Jad K.	Giuliana Z.	Brielle S.	

Tournament. The team did a fantastic job showing sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The hosting school was impressed with the level of skill our team displayed and awarded three SJB students as MVPs from the tournament. Way to go SJB!!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS



"SNOWBALL" SOCK TOSS (FEBRUARY 12 - 16)

Throughout the month of February, students were asked to bring in socks to donate to those in need. As a school, we collected 612 pairs of socks that will be donated to the Bissell Center. Students participated in a sock-toss game in their Phys-ed classes if they brought a pair of socks to donate.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY- ROCK YOUR SOCKS (THURSDAY MARCH 21ST)

On March 21st, we celebrate World Down Syndrome Day by advocating for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome around the world. Wear fun, wild, or miss-matched socks to show your support and create awareness this World Down Syndrome Day!

HEART & STROKE JUMP ROPE FOR HEART EVENT

St. John Bosco is excited to be holding our fifth annual **Heart & Stroke Foundation JUMP Rope/ HOOPS for Heart Kick-Off** The event will run from **Monday, February 26 to Wednesday, February 28** in individual Phys. Ed. classes!

EVERYTHING is online! The SJB fundraising page will open on February 10th - March 6th. Click on this link to take you directly there: https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/51097

From this link you can:

- Set-up your child's personal fundraising page
- Share your child's fundraising page
- Start a dialogue with your child about why they're jumping
- Learn life-long healthy habits by practicing the <u>EASY healthy habits</u> every day at school and at home. You can track your habits online!

Make healthy lifestyle choices! Why Jump?

- **Get moving** Doing an activity that gets your heart rate up is great, but even something at a lower intensity, such as a leisurely walk, can help too!
- **Eat well -** Eating a heart-healthy, balanced diet is one of the most important things you can do to help lower your risk of heart disease and stroke.
- Reduce your stress Physical activity can clear your mind, reduce tension and boost your energy. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate- to-vigorous aerobic physical activity per week, in bouts of 10 minutes or more.

All money raised will support the Heart & Stroke Foundation in their mission to promote children's health and fund vital heart and stroke research. This year we are encouraging the students to get active by skipping rope AND shooting hoops!

Students at SJB will be learning about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, while giving back to their community. We are excited to promote the benefits of skipping and making healthy choices for our hearts here at SJB! We will be sharing some *Positive Mental Health strategies* to take care of our minds, bodies and souls. We have a school fundraising goal of \$2000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. There is information, facts, tips, etc on the website www.jumpropeforheart.ca.

If you can fundraise, we thank you and appreciate every dollar! Prizes this year will be in the form of **gift cards** to Amazon, Indigo, Toys R Us, Walmart and will be delivered straight to your home with the address you provide online! Click here for prize info. If not this year, then we hope that you and your family are showing your support by: choosing "Healthy, Just Right" foods, getting active for 1+ hours every day, decreasing non-educational games on screens and choosing water over sugary drinks! It will be a fun event for all our students to jump and raise money for a great cause!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW COMPETITION



Students have been practicing during recess time on Thursdays for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition! **The**Council & District Throw will be taking place on Sunday, March

3rd at 1:00PM at St. Cecilia Junior High. Participants also have

the potential to compete in the District Throw on March 17th at St. Joseph High School. Congratulations to those students that have successfully made the team!

Myles 4B	Kendrick 4C	Andrew 4C	Anastasia 4A	Ava 4C
Naomi 4B	Jeremy 5A	Jude 5A	Royce 5A	Sofia 5C
Victoria 5C	Eugeneca 5A	Nathan K 6B	Alejandro 6C	Apollo 5C
Kasey 6A	Milan 6A	Nathan T. 6B	Jett 6C	

HOME READING PROGRAM - BRADY BUNCH PIZZA LUNCH WINNERS



We are very excited to celebrate our ongoing monthly 'Brady Bunch Pizza Lunch' Home Reading Program. We are happy that the monthly winners will be having a pizza lunch with Mrs. Esposito-Brady.

It has been a wonderful experience to witness the excitement from all our St. John Bosco students as they enter their names into a monthly draw for **PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL!** Over the past few years, our SJB Home Reading Program has proven to be a GREAT SUCCESS and we look forward to continuing to watch the enthusiastic attitude and love for reading.

BRADY BUNCH PIZZA LUNCH MONTHLY RECIPIENTS Congratulations to the following students whose names have been drawn for **February's** Pizza With The Principal:

OOA: Matteo C.	1A: Kayla R.	2A: Amelia M.	3A: Aiden R.	4A: Marc G.	5A: Anjola L.	6A: Grace D.
OOB: Tadmor S.	1B: Merry M.	2B: Jaida N.	3B: Andrej P.	4B: Evelyn I.	5B: Martina L.	6B: Brielle S.
OOC: Iverson M.	1C: Willow P.	2C: Alex J.	3C: Samantha C.	4C: Shandi C.	5C: Sofia M.	6C: Mihai B.
OOD: Hannah G.	1D: Mateo G.	2D: Joyce A.	3D: Lyla A.	4D: Sara F.		

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ART WALK



On February 4th, two St. John Bosco grade 6 students had their artwork featured in the annual Edmonton Catholic Schools Art Walk. Their pieces stood out as cross-curricular projects that seamlessly integrated science and art.

Tasked with creating a constellation of their choosing, the students embraced the freedom to explore and experiment with various materials. Through this project, they delved into the realms of astronomy and mythology, intertwining scientific knowledge with artistic expression.

As our St. John Bosco community celebrates their achievements, these students serve as ambassadors of the collaborative spirit that fuels innovation and discovery across disciplines.

TERRIFIC KIDS WITH GIFTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM



We will be celebrating with our second Terrific Kids with GIFTS recognition assembly on **Friday**, **March 15**. Div. 1- (K-3) 10:30 am Div. 2 – (4-6) 2:15 pm.

These **presentations** will honour, celebrate, and acknowledge students who have nurtured their GIFTS by sharing the virtues taught throughout the months of December, January and February: **CHARITY**, **COURAGE and LOVE**.

Each student will receive a **certificate**, **pencil**, **treat and bumper sticker or magnet** which is graciously supplied by Edmonton Southwest **Kiwanis Club** and spearheaded by **Mr. Dan O'Keefe** who generously volunteers his time. Our winners for the program will be posted in next month's newsletter.

SJB SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

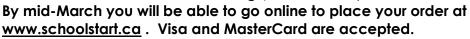


St. John Bosco School student supply lists will be posted to the website under School Information tab. Please click on the following link to take you to that Supply List Page where you can shop for your own school supplies.

To order click on the link: SJB Student School Supply Lists

'SCHOOL START' SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

St. John Bosco School will once again be offering the opportunity for parents to pre-order student school supplies for the upcoming school year. This is not a mandatory program; however, it is a school fundraiser, with the school receiving \$5.00 for every kit sold.



To order click on the link: SCHOOL START Supply Lists



Supply kits will be delivered directly to your home. Here are the benefits for Home Delivery:

- ✓ You can pre-label your child's supplies
- √ You can add supplies to your order for your child in another school
 Please note that there will be no school pick-up option, only home delivery* If you have any
 questions, please contact

School Start: info@schoolstart.ca Ph: 1-800-580-1868 Fax: 1-800-580-1890

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 17, AT 6:30 PM



Our next School Council Meeting is on April 17 at 6:30 pm. Parents who attend are asked to use the staff parking lot door on the east side of the school.

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents following this month's school council meeting we are hosting a parent information session on TELUS





the future is friendly

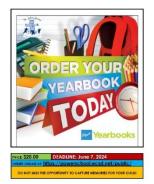
INTERNET SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

AT 7 PM Presenters from the Telus Wise family will be giving the presentation.

PARENT NIGHT FOR KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1 is an exciting time for families. There are many ways that parents can prepare their child for Grade 1. If you would like some helpful information about Grade 1, we invite you to join us on **Wednesday**, **April 24th from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.** for an informative evening specifically designed for our families of English Language Learners. We will discuss the full-day routine of Grade 1, how to promote independence in your child, using the agenda, the hot lunch program, homework expectations, literacy, resources within and out of school, as well as many other topics of interest. We will also take a walk to the Grade 1 classrooms and to the doors your child will use next year. We encourage you to bring any questions you may have about the changes from Kindergarten to Grade 1. The session will be held in the Music Room and is for **adults only**. If you have any questions about this information night for parents, please call Mrs. Garcia at (780) 471 – 3140.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION AND ORDERS



A reminder to parents wishing to order a yearbook as a keepsake for this year are asked to log in to the parent portal and under the fees/optional tab, order how many copies you wish. The cost of a yearbook is \$20.00. June 7th is the deadline to order. **Look for the icon below on parent portal site under fees.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

To access the Chief Superintendent's monthly message please click on the following link: <u>Superintendent's Message</u>



DISTRICT SPIRITUAL MESSAGE



Each month, we are committed to sharing religious, spiritual news and information through our Archbishop Smith, as well as our District Chaplain. To view that message <u>click here</u>

Catholic Education November 5, 2023, English Letter from the Edmonton Archdiocese

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO PARISH INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Welcome to St. Dominic Savio Parish! Please visit our website at http://stdominicsavio.ca/ to learn more about our parish community and the ways we can serve you. Come back often to be kept up to date.

Grade 6 Student Information for Confirmation

Is your child over the age of 13 and has not yet been confirmed? Consider registering them in the RCIA Adapted for Children process.

Yesterday was the registration day. However, don't worry if you missed it. You can do so through the St. Dominic Savio Parish website stdominicsavio.sacraments@caedm.ca, or contact Michael, Pastoral Assistant, at 780-473-4259 ext 2.

ST JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL STUDENT GAZETTE

We are happy to say that due to an interest in writing within our school, students expressed an interest in establishing a writing club whereby students would write articles for their very own student newspaper. Led by the help of Ms. Garcia, students gathered, wrote and are now ready to publish their very own paper. Click on the link to read <u>SJB GAZETTE</u>.