



Newsletter

St. John Bosco Catholic School

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October 2023

Administrators' Message



Autumn has arrived as we can feel the morning chill and take in the beautiful and colourful signs that surround us! With Autumn we experience mixed emotions of sadness, blessings, and potential. It also affords us the opportunity to celebrate the harvest of seeds we have sown throughout the past months and braces us for colder days to come. October as the month of Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to reflect on and express gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. Gratitude is taking a

moment to reflect on how blessed you are when something good happens, whether it's small or big. With that said, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our SJB school family for what has been a smooth and very positive school start-up, which speaks to the wonderful community that we are blessed to be in.

Firstly, we would like to thank our parents, who entrust their children to our care and to an incredible team of professionals who are committed to honoring that trust by enhancing the academic, spiritual and social development of your children. Thank you for the fantastic turnout at the School Council Annual General Meeting and the Meet the Staff Night; it was standing room only and we were thrilled to welcome back our parents.

As always, we encourage parents to visit our [school's website](#). On the top bar of the website's homepage, parents will find a tab "Student Life" and then on the pull-down menu you will see "Classroom Websites", click on your child's specific homeroom to access their classroom website, which includes all the latest information and upcoming events, as well as learning projects and assigned homework on a weekly basis for that particular class.

Finally, we thank our staff and students who have settled into their school routines and are assuming their responsibility as learners and as leaders, ensuring success for all. Our

beautiful SJB community is a community that celebrates God and Youth. We are a community that is culturally rich, embracing people from all over the world. It is in the beauty of that diversity that we see the promise of tomorrow.

We have been blessed with an incredible combination of parents, staff and students all working collaboratively. Visit us on X/Twitter [@StJohnBoscoYEG](https://twitter.com/StJohnBoscoYEG) for up-to-date news about events, as well as reminders.

May each of our families continue to be blessed with the Lord's bountiful goodness and abundant love.

Ms. A. Esposito-Brady
Principal

Ms. D. Kowalchyk
Assistant Principal

PRAYER



Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all you do, and for all you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us

with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!

REFLECTION

Take time to reflect on all you have and all you are. Take time to meet with family and friends. Breathe and take time to have peace for yourself, everyone needs a time to rest. Be grateful for the season of fall and the bounty given to us.

Gratitude is always a powerful weapon. Only if we are able to contemplate and feel genuine gratitude for all those ways we have experienced God's love, generosity, solidarity and trust, as well as his forgiveness, patience, forbearance and compassion, will we allow the Spirit to grant us the freshness that can renew... our life and mission.

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->

STUDENT ILLNESSES/ DAILY HEALTH AWARENESS

Parents play a key role in keeping not only their child well but also all children at our school healthy. We ask that when your child is not well, that you keep them home so they can rest and give their body time to deal with symptoms.



We have learned a great deal over the past few years about health and wellness, especially our standard of care related to student illness and attendance at school or other public places where germs can spread quickly.

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms daily before coming to school. This is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of illness. Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of illness, including fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, new or worsening cough, or shortness of breath, should remain at home until their symptoms have improved and they have been free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and they feel well enough to resume normal activities. If your child becomes sick at school, parents/guardians will be called to pick them up. If your child is away from school for any reason, please call the office to let us know. At our school we are,

- Encouraging students to wash and/or sanitize their hands regularly. Hand sanitizer is available at our school.
- Prioritizing frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.
- Ensuring proper ventilation is extremely important to us. We have installed the ASHRAE-recommended MERV 13 filters in our school, and our HVAC systems are running for extended periods of time. We continue to reference and implement ASHRAE guidance where practicable within the limitations of existing infrastructure across the Division.
- Respecting individual choice regarding masks. Our priority is supporting a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment.
- Reporting illness to Alberta Health Services when school-wide student absentee rates are over 10% due to illness so they can investigate and advise. This has always been our practice.

Parents are reminded that students who are ill are to remain at home to ensure that germs, which ever type of germs they may be are not spread to others. Today more than ever, staff and parents have excellent information and tools to help stop the transmission of germs. The importance of being at home and resting to get well at home is essential in considering and protecting the general school population; this has always been and will continue to be very important for all.

Any students who are manifesting signs and symptoms of being unwell will be sent to the office and their parents called for pickup.

ENTERING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE IN PS PARENT PORTAL

To report your child's absence, please log in to the Parent PowerSchool Portal and enter their absence directly;; use each tab for your children to report each respective child that will be absent from school.



***Attendance must be entered prior to 8:00 am to avoid an Unexcused Absence call for the morning and by 11:30 am for the afternoon. ***

A reminder that **when entering your child's attendance and they are absent all day** - please be sure to go in and **enter the absence for both the morning & the afternoon.**

Use the instructions below to keep your child's attendance up-to-date and avoid attendance calls from the school.

Parents are asked to log into the parent PowerSchool portal and follow the steps indicated in the instructions below: [Instructions for Entering Your Child's Absence in PowerSchool.](#)

This is quick and easy and will remove the need for you to call in the absence.

ALBERTA EDUCATION SURVEY FOR INPUT

Alberta Education is asking for your thoughts on what you think students should be learning in the new social studies curriculum. A survey is now open, and the results will be used to inform a draft curriculum before it's released for further engagement. The survey closes on October 16. Learn more here: ecsd.net/news/have-your-say-on-the-draft-k-6-social-studies-curriculum-1695308192875.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parents are asked to click on the link below to access information about our crisis management plans in the event of a lockdown, an on alert or the need for an evacuation. Please be reminded that the intention of this brief parent information sheet is to simply highlight and provide you with a general overview of our processes, as well as key terminology that you might hear within the context of school crisis management.

Please take the time to read and understand that it would be essential that all parents cooperate and remain calm as well as watch for communications via swift emails for updates in the event of a lockdown and/or evacuation.

We practice throughout the school year and staff are well trained to follow processes with the priority of your children's safety in min. [CMP Parent Information Sheet](#)

POWER SCHOOL PARENT PORTAL



If you do not have access to the Power School Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/> please call the school for assistance and we will provide you with log in information. If you did not receive an automated message named "Back to School Information for Parents" on August 19th it is because we do not have your email address in our database. Please contact the school right away so that we can assist you with getting your Power School Parent Portal Log in Account set up. Once you receive your Parent Portal Log in User ID and Password from our office, please click on each link below to assist you in completing the process.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

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.

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM (PARENT VERIFICATION for ACCURACY)

In September, parents received a notification online to complete and verify the information on your children's registration forms. Each child's information had to be verified and corrected to reflect the most current information. This is especially important for both contact phone numbers, emergency contacts and medical information.



Further to this, it will be imperative that every parent log into and register on the parent portal if you have not already done so. Most of our families already have their log in as it has been in place for many years, however, new kindergarten parents or families new to our school and the district may not have it.

If you do not have a username and password, please call the office and we will email it to you.

We ask that all parents log in and set up your own password so that you can pay school fees as well as update any important contact or medical information for your child.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION & MEDICAL TREATMENT TO STUDENTS AP # 316

In keeping with ECSD Administrative Procedure #316, the School Administration receives a signed request from the parent and physician (if for an extended period) indicating the type of medication to be administered, required dosage, and action to be taken in the event of serious side effects. The information and forms required are available from the office and are kept on file in the office after signatures and information is obtained.

- A record of the medication instructions and arrangements will be retained in the school office.
- A record of the medication administered (time and dosage) will be kept in the school office.

Instructions for Parents

1. **A form must be filled in each school year and updated as soon as changes occur.** Forms are available at the school office.
2. **Parents are asked to provide the school with:**
 - a. a recent picture of your child and your child's name, or we will use the life touch picture on file
 - b. identification of the substance to which the child is allergic or the type of medical condition, symptoms of the allergic reaction or medical condition,
 - c. detailed emergency procedures to be followed in the event of an attack or reaction
 - d. if medication is to be administered, the name of the medication, dosage, method of administration, possible side effects and time frame in which it must be received
3. For the safety of your child and others, **please bring the medication to the office** and speak with both, the teacher and office staff about administration of the medication.
4. Administration of non-prescription drugs such as aspirin, Tylenol, cold remedies, etc., may be given with the written permission of the parent, if the drug is provided in the original container. **Please do not send medicine of any kind for your child to take on his/her own.** For the safety of all the children, medication of any kind must be kept in a safe place at school.
5. **Some students are required to carry medication on their person** for extreme allergies, asthma, diabetes, etc. Students must not keep medication in their desks or lunch kits, with the exception of EPI-pens and inhalers. Medication must be kept in a secure location.
6. **Parents are responsible for picking up all unused medication at the end of the school year.**
7. **Please inform the administration of** any emergency procedures required by students who have been identified with **life-threatening medical conditions.**

ECSD TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INFORMATION



ALL TRANSPORTATION MATTERS THIS YEAR ARE DONE DIRECTLY THROUGH OUR ECSD TRANSPORTATION OFFICE. Please visit their website at <https://www.ecsd.net/transportation>.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is improving student safety on our yellow school buses with a new bus pass and scanner system. All students riding a regular school bus are issued a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) bus pass, which students use to scan when entering and exiting the school bus. No personal information is stored on the bus pass itself as the card cannot hold any data. The process

is quick and easy and allows our transportation staff to identify whether a student is on the bus, missed the bus, or got off at the wrong stop. It is important for students to always carry their bus passes and scan on and off every time they enter and exit the bus. Your child will receive one bus pass that will be used for the entire school year, replacing the monthly pass. RFID bus passes are not applicable to Kindergarten Noon Hour and Curb Services Routes. Our website has more information about the new Bus Pass Scanner System and a video explaining the process.

Should you require more detailed information regarding bussing, please contact the District Transportation office at (780) 441-6078. Students requiring ETS bus passes are to inform the Transportation department in advance to ensure that ETS bus passes are available.

Bus Planner Information

Transportation Services uses a routing software suite called Bus Planner. Bus Planner has various components that our Division will utilize to ensure the most efficient and safe transportation system. The suite includes Bus Planner Web, the portal to access routes, seating plans, transported students, delays and other vital details. <https://busplannerweb.ecsd.net/>

Bus Delay Notifications - When Transportation Services sends a delay notification, emails go to the affected schools, delays show on the alerts website, and the Bus Planner Delays App immediately after posting.

- Alerts: <https://busplannerweb.ecsd.net/Alerts>

Bus Planner Delays App: <https://www.ecsd.net/page/34228/transportation-services-bus-delay-notifications>

SCHOOL WEBSITE & X ACCOUNT - @StJohnBoscoYEG

Parents and community members are asked to use our school's website to stay up to date on the latest going on in our school. The school website is filled with information related to the school's academic and extracurricular programs, special student services and support, registration and hours of operation information, monthly newsletters and calendars highlighting school events. This is also a great tool to tell your friends and family about should they be interested in registering their children at our school. The website also allows you to email the principal directly and provide suggestions and/or inquire about school programs and/or events.

To visit our website, click on the following link, [St. John Bosco School Website](#)

Our school has a **SJB X account @StJohnBoscoYEG**. The SJB X account has been a great

way to share updates, reminders and even highlight school wide events. We have had many positive comments and are happy to say that our number of followers continue to increase daily. We have begun to include video clips and picture collages of the many school events as a way of celebrating our terrific staff and the students that make the school come alive with their positive energy and amazing school spirit.

CLASSROOM WEBSITES



Classroom websites are valuable communication tools between the school and the home. They provide important information such as upcoming events, reminders for students and parents, and links to educational websites. They also provide a shared space to celebrate learning in the classroom. As a staff we will be working towards the preparation of classroom websites so that parents have direct information related to their child's homeroom activities, homework, projects and

To access your child's classroom website, you can visit the St. John Bosco School website where they can be found in the menu under the **"School Information"**, on the left side of the page. You can also access them directly on the icon on the main page or by clicking on the following link: <https://stjohnbosco.ecsd.net/classroom-websites>

NATIONAL DAY TRUTH & RECONCILIATION DAY IN LIEU MONDAY, OCT. 2 – NO SCHOOL

The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten. **September 30th** is a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. **This year, the school will close on October 2 as the day in lieu.** This day provides an opportunity for each Canadian to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event

SJB SPIRITWEAR ONLINE SALES AND SJB SPIRIT DAY- Sept. 5- Oct.8th

Demonstrate your school spirit by purchasing spirit wear online effective Sept. 5- Oct.8th. **All students, parents and staff are invited and encouraged to show their SJB School Spirit by wearing your school spirit wear and school colors on Sept 22!**



TO PURCHASE YOUR SPIRITWEAR, ONLINE SALES WILL RUN FROM Sept. 5- Oct.8th. To order online, click the link below: <https://sjb2023fall.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION – Friday, October 6th



Thanksgiving is a special time to spend with family and friends. It is a time when we are encouraged to reflect on what we are thankful for in our lives. As a school community, we will be participating in our Thanksgiving

Celebration on **Friday, October 6 at 9:30 am**. The celebration will be led by our Gr. 1 staff and students. Division 1 will be in the gym, while Division 2 participate using live stream in their homeroom. Parents of students in grades K-3 are welcome to attend the celebration in the gym. **We ask families attending the celebration to bring 2 items for the food bank in support of the Edmonton Food Bank.**



A **reminder** to our parent community that **due to our increase in enrollment, and maximum capacity limitations within our gym, we now switch off being in the gym during the celebrations.** Division 1 (K-3) and Division 2 (4-6) will switch off for each celebration held at our school with one division participating in the gym while the other division will participate using a livestream format. **Listed below is the schedule for the year to show when your child will participate in the gym.**

Celebration	Date Time	Classes in the Gym	Classes using livestream in class
Opening Celebration	Friday September 8, 1:45 pm	Div 2 (4-6)	Div 1 (K-3)
Thanksgiving	Friday October 6, 9:30 am	Div 1 (K-3)	Div 2 (4-6)
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 8, 8:30 am	Div 2 (4-6)	Div 1 (K-3)
Advent Week 1	Monday, December 4, 8:30 am	Div 1 (K-3)	Div 2 (4-6)
Advent Week 4	Friday, December 22, 10:30 am	Div 1 (K-3)	Div 2 (4-6)
Epiphany	Tuesday, January 9, 1:45 pm	Div 1 (K-3)	Div 2 (4-6)
St John Bosco Feast Day	Tuesday, January 31, 8:30 am	Div 2 (4-6)	Div 1 (K-3)
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 14, 8:30 am	Div 1 (K-3)	Div 2 (4-6)
Easter Celebration	Friday, April 5, 1:00 pm	Div 2 (4-6)	Div 1 (K-3)
Year End	Tuesday, June 26, 1:45 pm	Div 1 (K-3)	Div 2 (4-6)

FOOD BANK FUNDRAISERS



The St. John Bosco Student Leadership Team is leading our first Social Justice project by collecting and donating nonperishable items and monetary donations to the Edmonton Food Bank and the Veterans Association Food Bank for the month of October. Please consider donating, as any small bit will make a huge difference in the lives of those that are going hungry. The Food Bank helps 20 000+ people

each month. By donating to the Veterans Association, you can help support and enrich the lives of Veterans and their families.

How can I participate? Click on this link to view a list of the Food Bank's most needed non-perishable items: https://www.edmontonsfoodbank.com/documents/141/Most_Needed_Items_Full_Page.pdf

Food items can be brought to school and placed in one of the Food Bank boxes until Friday, October 31, 2023

How else can I help? **Click on these links if you choose to make a monetary donation to the Edmonton Food Bank or to the Veterans Association:**

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/st-john-bosco-food-drive/>

<https://veteransassociation.ca/give-food>



READ IN WEEK OCT 2-6

Literacy is a life skill and is essential towards ongoing academic success. Research tells us that an enriched reading environment for children results in significant gains in achievement. It is a common understanding that all tests are reading tests. In other words, reading to, or with young children increases their chances of academic success. Families can create such environments with older children by setting aside quiet reading times (for all family members, by discussing "good books" and/or by asking children to talk about something they have read.

A number of guest readers and reading activities are planned for the week. Please watch your children's agenda or swift messaging for details to come.

YEARBOOKS 2022-23 HAVE ARRIVED

For those who purchased yearbooks last year, **the yearbooks have arrived, and we will be sending them out on October 20th.** For those whose children are no longer at our school and have moved on to junior high we will be forwarding them to the respective junior highs via an internal mail system. Please contact your child's Jr high school applicable.

OCTOBER 18



A reminder that **our picture re-take day is on Wednesday, Oct.18** for any students who wish to have their picture retaken.

Class pictures will be constructed in the composite format as done in the past.

LITERACY NIGHT FOR PARENTS OF GRADE 1 STUDENTS

Calling all parents of Grade 1 students!!! Have you ever wondered what literacy activities you should be doing at home with your child? Do you want some tips for assisting your child to read the books that he/she brings home in his/her home reading bag? Do you constantly find yourself telling your child to "sound it out" and then realize this strategy is not helping your child to read? We would love for you to join us on **Wednesday, October 18th from 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.** for a Parent Literacy Night designed just for you!!! This dynamic and informative session for parents will answer many questions you may have about your child's literacy development. You will also be provided with strategies to assist your child read his/her home reading book, as well as, activities to do with your child to increase comprehension skills. The session will be held in the music room and is only for adults. Thank you for understanding that we are unable to accommodate children at this session. We hope to see you there!!!

HOMEREADING PROGRAM BEGINS OCT. 3

One of our school goals continues to be building literacy in our students, as it will serve them well into their future. With our continued efforts towards building literacy in our students, we would like to share with you some information about our school-wide Home Reading Program.

Both, you and your child are invited to be a part of this reading incentive program that will complement their current home reading. Essentially, the program provides an opportunity to make reading a special time for you and your child.

We will be kicking off our **Home Reading Program on October 3, 2023**, which also marks the start of Read-In Week, an annual event towards the promotion of Literacy development.

How the Home Reading Program works:



📖 Each student will receive a “**Home Reading Program Pouch**” in which they can carry their books to and from home.

📖 Each student will receive “**Incentive Sheet**” **with strips on it**. After your child has read, and met their specific minutes/goal each night, a parent or guardian is asked to initial one box on the incentive sheet. *Only one box can be initialed each night, regardless of the amount of time spent reading.*

📖 **As your child completes one full strip** they are to **hand the strip in** to their homeroom teacher, whereby the teacher will tear off the strip and submit their name into a jar.

📖 On the **last Friday of each month**, during morning broadcast there will be **one name drawn from each classroom jar**.

📖 **If your child's name is drawn you will have** a free pizza lunch with our Principal, Mrs. Esposito-Brady.

READ-A-THON WEEK OF OCT 23-27

Our annual Read-a-thon will kick off on Oct 23rd through to the 27th. Details about the Read-a-thon will follow in a separate package that will be sent out in the Friday October 13th in the student agendas along with the pledge forms. Please follow the instructions carefully and thanks for supporting this fundraiser. Monies raised will be used for student program enhancements. Pledge forms and monies collected are due back Nov. 6th.

The Read-a-thon event takes place will take place the week of October 23-27th at school during homeroom literacy time in the morning.

Parents are asked to help encourage a love of reading and to convey the importance of literacy as a life skill. Through your participation, collaboratively we stress this as an important life skill and help to raise funds to be used towards student program enhancement.



ONGOING REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Learning/Report Cards/Power Teacher Pro

Edmonton Catholic Schools uses an ongoing assessment reporting system. Assessment serves several different purposes, depending upon the needs of the student and teacher. It may be diagnostic, used to find out what students already know and can do. It may be formative, used to help students improve their learning, and to help inform teachers' next steps in planning. It may be summative, letting all stakeholders know what students have learned in reference to the outcomes of the program of studies at a specific time and/or within a prescribed time period.



Assessment is planned and purposeful with both instruction and assessment aligning to the programs of studies. Teachers construct and develop plans by beginning with the end in mind. Teachers identify criteria using rubrics and exemplars to indicate what proficiency/understanding of a concept, skill, process and/or procedure looks like, in reference to relevant grade-level outcomes. Ongoing assessment and communication of assessment is critical to the learning process. For assessment to be helpful to students, it must inform them in words – not numerical scores or letter grades – what they have done well, what they have done poorly, and what they need to do next in order to improve. Assessment is a collaborative process that is most effective when it involves self, peer, and teacher assessment.

Report Cards

Student progress will be formally reported to parents two times per year in the form of an online report card in January and a final report card in June which will be posted to PowerSchool where the next grade level placement recommendation is made in June.

Demonstrations of Learning

The demonstration of learning is a student-led conference with an emphasis on celebrating the child and his or her growth as they demonstrate their learning, understanding and skills developed throughout the term. Demonstrations of learning will take place in mid-November and again in mid-March. Parents are asked to register for their preferred time slot for each child using the online booking system.

Reporting Terms Timelines Schedule 2023-24

Reporting Timelines	Demonstration of Learning
September 5-January 31	November 23, 2023 1-4:30 pm & 5-7 pm
February 1-June 26	March 14, 2024 1-4:30 pm & 5-7 pm

VOLLEYBALL TEAMS- Boys and Girls

St. John Bosco School is excited to announce that volleyball tryouts have taken place and we have selected our boys' and girls' volleyball team members. Our boys' and girls' volleyball teams will be practicing on Mondays from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the gym. Both teams will be participating in a tournament. The JJ Bowlen Elementary Volleyball Tournament is on Thursday, December 7th. If your child has made the team, further information regarding tournaments will be sent home closer to tournament dates. We look forward to another exciting year with our St. John Bosco Volleyball teams. Our congratulations to all the kids who are participating and to the coaches, Ms. Pereira, Ms. Vaduva, Ms. Migadel and Ms. Puznak.



GIRLS TEAM

London A.	Natalia J.	Khalia R.
Hanaa A.	Jazzlyn K.	Brielle S.
Ella F.	Dana M.	Miriam V.
Sabrin G.	Camila O.	Layla Y.
Emerson H.	Sofia P.	

BOYS TEAM

Meron A.	Mason H.	Angelo S.
Andre A.	Milan J.	Caleb Y.
Tudor B.	Myles S.	Tyrone Y.
Lorenzo F.	Jude S.	
Adam G.	Andrew S.	

TERRY FOX SCHOOL WALK/RUN



It was a great day during our annual Terry Fox Walk/Run held on September 21st. We are blessed to have our school's running team lead the charge as students walked or ran around the school some student chose to run 5 times around in support of Terry's cause. Let us always remember his leadership, strength and inspiration the Terry Fox Foundation lives on 42 years later for cancer research.

Please consider donating at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/5296>



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD RUNS SEPT. 22 - NOV. 15th

Help us build a tower of boxes to help others by sharing our "LIGHT"

There is a long-standing tradition of Social Justice Service Learning here at St. John Bosco School. This is our 7TH year in working towards supporting the Samaritan's purse, Operation Christmas child Program.

Through our work we model and teach children the importance of service towards others who are in need. This year our goal is to bring in and build a tower that surpassed our numbers before the pandemic. Bring your boxes to St John Bosco, we are tallying and creating our tower in the foyer for all students to see the generosity of our school.



- **Boxes will be distributed 1 per family**
- **For those wanting additional boxes can pick up at meet the staff night event.**

Bring your boxes to St John Bosco, we are tallying and creating our tower in the foyer for all students to see the generosity of our school. In advance, we thank all of you for contributing to this most worthy social justice program. **Last day to bring in boxes will be Nov 15.**

How it works: Each shoebox is filled by Canadians with hygiene items, school supplies, toys and is given to children regardless of gender, race, or religion.

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. Please make one combined donation for multiple shoeboxes. Simply make your donation online or place your cheque or cash donation in an envelope inside your shoebox, on top of the items. If you make an online donation, you do not need to include the donation receipt in the shoebox. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued for donations of \$15 or more.

SJB BROADCAST TEAM



We are happy to hear and see that our morning broadcast is well underway. The dynamic team of kids help to keep us in the loop as to all that is going on in our school. We are happy to see that from time guest anchors participate in various forms as they help to highlight special events and recognize important days. **We would like to thank Ms. Kowalchuk and the students for the startup of broadcast this past month.**



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



The St. John Bosco Student Leadership Team is excited to spread our light and enthusiasm to make this year an amazing one for our SJB community! Thank-you to the interest, dedication and positive spirit from the students' leaders during our first meeting! We are very appreciative of the support from the SJB staff and administration. The SJB Leadership Team is about leadership, wellness and social justice. A leader is a positive role model that inspires change and action in themselves and those around them. Leadership focuses this year will include Social Justice leaders, Physical Education and Wellness leaders, Recess Activity Leaders and Broadcast Announcement Leaders.

The mission of the Leadership Team is to let our light shine forth by sharing our passions, talents and ideas to build school spirit, model compassion, spread joy and help others in and around our community. Our vision is to see all St. John Bosco School students grow as healthy and helpful leaders in our community.

Social Justice: By June 2024, the students of St. John Bosco will experience kind acts towards each other on a daily basis and practice ways to help individuals in need around and outside of the school community through Social Justice initiatives.

Physical Education and Wellness: By June 2024, the students of St. John Bosco will work on being leaders of themselves by practicing self-regulation techniques, problem solving strategies, fueling our bodies with physical activity, healthy foods/drinks and mindful moments.

The Students Leaders will:

- Listen and act**
- Encourage each other**
- Always show a positive attitude**
- Dream big and make a difference**
- Empower others by leading by example**
- Reflect and continue to grow**
- Serve our community**



We look forward to continuing this journey at St. John Bosco School, doing what we can to bring out the leader in ourselves and to help each student be the best they can be. Stay tuned for further updates and fun theme days throughout the year!

Ms. Craig, Ms. Melnyk and Ms. Donaghey

HANDBELL CHOIR, SENIOR GLEE CLUB, & JUNIOR CHOIR

There has always been a strong musical tradition at St. John Bosco School and this year is no different!!!

Our Grade 6 Handbell Choir started ringing in our Christmas music on September 25.



Our Senior Glee Club for Grades 4, 5, and 6 have begun rehearsals and are singing and dancing their way into the hearts of the whole SJB community.



Grades 1, 2, and 3 students will be invited to share their voices in the Junior Choir starting October 6.

Music touches the soul of every person, and it will be wonderful to see and hear the many amazing musical talents of our SJB students!!!

HOT LUNCH - HEALTHY HUNGER

SJB Hot Lunch is BACK for another school year! Our hot lunch service provider is called **Healthy Hunger**. This year for parent convenience, all hot lunches will be posted for the year for parents who choose to pre-order and pay all at once. If you are interested in volunteering on our hot lunch days, please email at sjbhotlunch@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of our hot lunch program!

To access the instructions on how to register and use this program, **please see the additional attachment**.

If you haven't already done so, please register on the Healthy Hunger website to order a hot lunch for your child(ren) should you be interested. We will be offering the following hot lunch days for the year, please see the timelines listed in the chart.

Hot Lunch Vendor	Order Deadline	Hot Lunch Day
Edo	October 15, 2023	October 20, 2023
Mucho Burrito	November 19, 2023	November 24, 2023
Carl's Jr.	January 14, 2024	January 19, 2024
Panago	April 14, 2024	April 19, 2024
Pita Pit	May 19, 2024	May 24, 2024

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to the running club! On September 26th, 59 runners participated in the ECSD Cross-Country run. There, students age 7 - 11 ran up to 2km. We had two runners, Jacob Rast (8th) and Ethan Yue (8th), who placed in different race categories. All participants received ribbons and a treat for running. We are so proud of the enthusiasm, positive attitude, and school spirit of our students. They were true ambassadors for St John Bosco. Thank you to all the parents who joined us at the race, it was great to see our own cheer squad. Congratulations to all! Our thanks to Ms. Gelowitz, Ms. Chlebek

and Ms. Romano for coaching and coordinating the running club. As well thanks to those Ms. Garcia and Ms. Kowalchyk who supported on the event day.

Marlhyza Batoon	Rex Ochomma	Kasey Garcia
Evelyn Li	Naomi Niyonkuru	Addison Seida
Caileigh Giron	Jenica Managbanag	Ottavio Antonucci
Isabella Kumar	Thea Kosik	Jett Wegner-Nichols
Makenna Pelletier	Ethan Sugira	Tavius Kerich
Kendra Ochomma	Shandi Cheway	Michael Pelletier
Andrej Pavkovic	Jenevieve James	Ottavio Antonucci
Avery Gameiro	Gibbous Maharjan	Aliya Siffledden
Myla Abu	Tabor Simen	Isabelle Brooks
Chesca Elise Cruz	Mason Hennessey	Apollo Delera
Elise Yue	Brandon Krawchuk	Brody Raimondi
Samantha Chikanda	TeaDora Gjorgjevik	Eli Gameiro
Tallon Karacic	Emmanuel Adeyele	Danika Mantella
Roman Martin	Hailey Clark	Mia Walker
Hannah Atienza	Ethan Yue	Adam Bonar
Harper Babkirk	David Mugosa	Amaris Dwamena
Hendrix Wegner-Nichols	Philip Temraz	Victoria Sampaio
Lyla Aguilera	Caleb Giron	Jacob Rast
Lucas Khamsaysouk	Isaac Bustard	Anastasia Kuziw
Omari Martin	Sofia Bonar	Josh Mugosa
		Rex Ochomma

TERRIFIC KIDS WITH GIFTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

“Live as Children of the Light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is GOOD AND RIGHT AND TRUE. Ephesians 5.1 8-9



We are blessed! At St. John Bosco School, we recognize positive attitude, good character, and responsible citizenship. We count our blessings and celebrate our many gifts and talents three times a year with a recognition

ceremony. We kicked off our fifth year of the 'Terrific Kids with GIFTS Recognition Program' at our first school wide assembly on Friday, September 22nd.

We have infused and embed more intentionally, Indigenous teaching and learning for our students. To that end, we have incorporated the Seven Sacred Teachings in conjunction with our virtues focused on each month. This works to instil the importance of truth and reconciliation efforts across Canada, but also to increase general knowledge and awareness of the Indigenous culture.

As a staff, we will encourage and continue to invite students to share their God-given gifts in service towards others and reflect on how they are sharing their gifts and the message of LIGHT. Each term teachers and students will focus on a Catholic virtue which is highlighted in the agendas each month. Those students demonstrating strengths in the highlighted virtue will be recognized. **This term the Virtues we will focus on are Hospitality, Gratitude and Peace.**

Student growth and sharing of personal gifts and virtues is at the heart of the 'Terrific Kids with GIFTS Recognition Program'. Thank you to Mr. Daniel O' Keefe who shares his personal gifts and virtues with us. He volunteers his time each term to ensure that our students are honoured and recognized for their efforts by preparing certificates, bumper stickers (magnets), pencils and treats which are donated by the Kiwanis Club of South Edmonton. Thank you, Dan, for being a beacon of LIGHT!

We have 3 Terrific Kids Assemblies in the Gym

December 8	Div. 1- (K-3) 10:30 am	Div. 2 – (4-6) 2:15 pm
March 15	Div. 1- (K-3) 10:30 pm	Div. 2 – (4-6) 2:15 pm
June 11	Div. 1- (K-3) 10:30 am	Div. 2 – (4-6) 2:15 pm

LET'S BE GREAT NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY OF MAYLEWAN

As you know, we are a #SJBStrong community, and we are happy and proud to be part of the Maylewan community!

#1 Neighbors Driveways & Cul de Sac-Parents are asked to refrain from parking on our neighbors' driveways or blocking their access to their own homes. We are part of a larger community and while we can appreciate that there is limited parking in front of the school. We are asking that you are mindful of actions that are illegal as they break established parking bylaws and are also disrespectful. Anyone who is experiencing these challenges are asked to contact by phone 311 to register a complaint or go online at https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/service-311-contact-centre.aspx

to complete a form. Please follow bylaws and stay clear of driveways and cul de sac. Our neighbors should be able to come and go as necessary on their own property. Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.





#2 Litter on our school grounds is a concern- this is causing a problem with our neighbors, and they have called to complain. We want everyone to be mindful and intentional about throwing away litter and directing their children to ensure they are using the many garbage bins around the school and playground areas.

Collaboratively and in partnership, we can get this problem resolved!! Please talk to your children about littering and please follow traffic bylaws. Thanks for your immediate attention to this!

TRAFFIC SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Cross walks safety <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yAV-oOwDV4>

"Your Children's Safety over Convenience"

Traffic Safety at St John Bosco School continues to be a priority for the staff, parents, and community members of our school. Parents are reminded that bylaw officers and City Police continue to be present at the front of our school looking for people committing traffic infractions.

We ask all parents to consider closely, if convenience is more important than the life of any one child in our school and/or adult from our surrounding community.

Our actions as adults demonstrate our values to the young lives watching us. Demonstrating unlawful behavior teaches children lessons about values and more importantly about respect for the law and one's neighbors. Administration will not tolerate disrespectful conduct and measurables will be taken if any staff at the school are intimidated, threatened or abused verbally. Be sure to consider your own actions and take responsibility for your behaviours as opposed to taking out anger on staff, neighbors or parent volunteers.

STOP AND GO STUDENT DROP OFF



Great news! The drop and go designated zone is working better than ever!

Parents have responded and are working with us to help make this work efficiently and effectively for all parents. Less and less parents are now having to park and walk their children to the doors, as the parents are happy with how fast and efficient the drop and go zone truly is if everyone follows the system.

The drop and go section is between the 2 orange flags.

See pictures below that help to identify the designated zone where parent pulls up to the front of the zone and staff opens door to help child out of the car.



We thank our parents for helping by teaching their children to have their coat, gloves and backpack already on their body to make their exit out of the car fast and efficient.



LAYBY OFF LIMITS TO ALL PARENT VEHICLES. IT IS A BUS ZONE AND HEAVY FINES ARE LEVIED FOR INFRACTIONS.

SCHOOL PARKING INFORMATION & ENFORCEMENT

Illegal parking around schools causes congestion and visual obstructions that make it hard for drivers to see pedestrians, especially children, crossing the street.

There is absolutely **no parking in the staff parking lot**. Signage clearly states that to the left of the entry gates and is clearly marked. Please respect the staff as they work hard for your children.



Handicap parking is provided at the front of the school and fits 3 cars, if everyone is mindful about how they park.

Parents should not be sitting idle in the parking spots available in front of the school.

Older students from gr. 3-6 should be coached and trained to meet at a meeting spot further away from the high traffic areas to connect with the person picking them up.

Older kids should be walking home whenever possible to promote daily physical activity and build good physical habits.

To help prevent problems around schools, the **Edmonton Police Service and Parking Enforcement Officers** work together to ensure students, parents and staff members of local schools know where to park safely and legally.

INTERNATIONAL WORLD TEACHERS' DAY – OCTOBER 5

World Teachers' Day 2023: Empowering the Architects of Future



In the tapestry of life, few threads shine as brilliantly as those of educators. On World Teachers' Day 2023, we, at SDG Resources, dedicate this piece to them, the heroes behind the chalkboard.

When one mentions World Teachers' Day 2023, a wave of respect and gratitude fills the air. After all, each year, this day underscores the critical role teachers play in society.

World Teachers' Day 2023 is not just another annual event. It's a global nod of appreciation, a symphony of claps, and a celebration for those who dedicate their lives to the noble cause of education.

The Genesis of World Teachers' Day

Before delving into World Teachers' Day 2023, it's vital to understand the origins. Established in 1994, it honours the signing of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation. This document sets benchmarks for teachers' rights and conditions worldwide.

The resonance of World Teachers' Day 2023 echoes the strides we've made since that significant year. It's an occasion to re-evaluate, reassess, and rejuvenate our commitment to education.

Every year, a theme guides the celebrations, and World Teachers' Day 2023 is no exception. The focus this year is on "Empowering Educators: Strengthening Resilience, Building Sustainability." In these challenging times, teachers have emerged as beacons of resilience, adapting and innovating for their students.

SJB SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING -WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 6:30 PM



At St. John Bosco School, we value the School Council and the Parent Fundraising Society. The roles these groups play in contributing to our school programs is invaluable and we are proud to say we have an outstanding and committed parent community! **The next School Council Meeting will be held on October 25 at 6:30 pm .**

The council works closely with the school, staff, and administration to advise and liaise with us, and to inform both the school and parent community. This includes discussions on things such as new policies, fundraising, and new programs. Parents are encouraged to become active members of the School Council and the Parent Fundraising Society and to attend all meetings as posted on our school's website. In addition, we would like to share with you at this time our scheduled SC meeting dates for the current school year.

School Council Meeting Dates for 2023-24
Thursday, September 21
Wednesday, October 25
Wednesday, November 29
Wednesday, January 31
Wednesday, February 21
Wednesday, April 17

We would like to extend our congratulations to our new Executive Council for 2023-24. School council is vital to the continued life of our school as we have discussed as a group a number of topics and have especially enjoyed having increased perspectives shared with our room representatives for each of the classrooms.

School Council Executive 2023-24	
Position	Name
Chairperson	Erin N.
Vice Chairperson	Waltana M.
Secretary	Vanessa F.
Financial Liaison (Treasurer)	Yetunde L.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT EVENINGS FOR 2023-24

Parents are invited to participate in various evenings being held this year. for topic, dates and times, see the chart below.

ST. JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL PARENT ENGAGEMENT EVENINGS

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTERS
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SEPTEMBER 21 @ 6:30 pm	SJB SC AGM	Malorie C and Admin Team
SEPTEMBER 27 @ 6:30 pm	Kinder MDT Night for Parents @ 6:30 pm	Ms. Ferretti and MDT Team
SEPTEMBER 27 @ 6:30 pm	EAL Information Night for Parents @ 6:30 pm	Ms. Garcia and Admin Team
October 18 @ 6:30 pm	Literacy Night 1/2 for K & Gr. 1 Parents	Ms. Garcia and Admin Team
February 7 @ 6:30 pm	Literacy Night 2/2 for K & Gr. 1 Parents	Ms. Garcia and Admin Team
April 24 @ 6:30 pm	EAL Night for Kinder Parents @ 6:30 pm	Ms. Garcia and Admin Team

LITERACY NIGHT FOR PARENTS OF GRADE 1 STUDENTS

Calling all parents of Grade 1 students!!! Have you ever wondered what literacy activities you should be doing at home with your child? Do you want some tips for assisting your child to read the books that he/she brings home in his/her home reading bag? Do you constantly find yourself telling your child to "sound it out" and then realize this strategy is not helping your child to read? We would love for you to join us on **Wednesday, October 18th from 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.** for a Parent Literacy Night designed just for you!!! This dynamic and informative session for parents will answer many questions you may have about your child's literacy development. You will also be provided with strategies to assist your child read his/her home reading book, as well as activities to do with your child to increase comprehension skills. The session will be held in the music room and is only for adults. Thank you for understanding that we are unable to accommodate children at this session. We hope to see you there!

HALLOWEEN EVENTS 2023 -TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31



As part of our annual Halloween festivities, a costume parade will take place at 8:30 am in the gym. Children from our Kindergarten afternoon program are welcome to join us for the parade with their parents supervising them and then returning home with them.

In the past, pre-covid days, we had an overwhelming amount of parent attendance. We encourage parents to participate by coming dressed in Halloween costumes. This year, we are asking if you plan to attend, plan to dress in costume.

Teachers will have Halloween activities within the respective classrooms during the afternoon. For details as to your child's homeroom activities, please visit their specific homeroom website where there will be more information.

As food will not be served in an open fashion, we ask that parents wishing to do something, may create NUT FREE treats bags. Please note the following:

- The **treat bags must be nut free and sealed.**
- Then **treat bags must be handed to the teacher in the morning** for distribution at end of day.
- Items sent that are not nut free and sealed **will not be distributed** and will be returned to the child.
- **Students are not to open any bags until** first cleared by the parent **at home.**
- We ask that you **review this with your child.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



As we begin the 2023-2024 school year, we also begin a new three-year cycle of strategic work with our Board of Trustees' new priorities: Living our Faith, Learning Excellence, Organizational Excellence, and Embracing Diversity. These priorities form the framework of our [Division Plan for Continuous Growth 2023-2026 \(Year 1\)](#).

Each of our schools will ensure that they are building their own plans for continuous growth within this framework so that we are moving forward together in providing Catholic educational excellence to our community.

At the centre of all that we do in the name of Jesus is ensuring that our students are growing and achieving. This happens in Edmonton Catholic Schools through the collaborative efforts of the home, school, and parish. It is reflective of [the words of Pope Francis](#) during a pastoral visit to Assisi in his early papacy: "I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with our Lord, who walks among us! We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together."

To access the Chief Superintendent's monthly message please click on the following link: [Superintendent's Message](#)

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 [click here](#)

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.