



# Newsletter

## St. John Bosco Catholic School

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### September 2023

### Administrators' Message

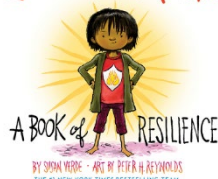
**Welcome SJB Family to the start of the 2023-24 school year!** We hope that this summer you enjoyed moments with family and friends!

**With our highest enrollment count of over 600 students and over 50 staff to date, we ask that our families help to support us by ensuring they read our monthly newsletters and calendars as a reference to what is going on in our school.** With our continuing increase in student enrollment, it will be challenging for our front-line office staff to take calls about information that can be found in our newsletter, calendars, school website, X and classroom websites. Please ensure that your notifications for general information and newsletters is toggled 'on' to receive all Swift communications that we send out. If you have not yet connected to our school X, we encourage you to do so as often we post reminders and highlights of events going on throughout the school building.

We look forward to an exciting school year! **"Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true."** From Ephesians 5.1, 8-9 is the scripture passage to inspire us to reflect on how we act daily towards spreading light to others. This passage also reminds us to reject the power of the adversary and to choose daily to follow the Light of Christ. The phrase "children of light" describes a people in whom the light of the gospel shines brightly. It describes a people who seek the light and are drawn to that which is virtuous, clean, and pure. Why light? What is the spiritual significance of light? It is the spiritual and the divine. Christ teaches us in scripture that faith keeps the darkness at bay. Just as Christ's light will not leave us, neither does the darkness. The good news is that Christ's light gives us life, and in turn we can share Christ's light with others when their light grows dim or darkness overwhelms someone close to us.



### I AM COURAGE



Our theme book for the year is, **"I Am Courage: A Book of Resilience"**, by Susan Verde and Illustrated by Peter Reynolds. The book focuses on how we encourage kids to find their inner strength and invites us to each consider how we model for them as the adults in their lives what it means to move ahead one breath at a time as well as how we act with bravery when faced with challenges and most of all how we gain courage and build resiliency one step at a time with courage. When we picture someone brave, we might think they're fearless but real courage comes from feeling scared and facing what challenges us anyway. When our minds tell us "I can't," we can look inside ourselves and find the strength to say, "Yes, I CAN!"

From the I Am series comes a triumphant celebration of everyday courage: believing in ourselves, speaking out, trying new things, asking for help, and getting back up no matter how many times we

may fall. Grounded in mindfulness and awareness, *I Am Courage* is an empowering reminder that we can conquer anything.

As those who have been with us for years understand and appreciate, St. John Bosco School maintains high standards of academics and discipline. We have high expectations of our students, and we provide them with the tools necessary to experience success on spiritual, academic, and social levels. **As always, our intention is to foster and develop a close working relationship with our parents and the greater community.**



We encourage parents to be involved with their child's education. Research indicates that parents who are involved in their child's academic life contribute greatly to their child's progress in school. As such, Involvement in your child's school life can happen in a number of ways; through volunteering in daily or special event activities such as, one to one reading with children, field trip assistance, or involvement with the school council.

**"Celebrating God and Youth", our school's motto is what we at St. John Bosco School work towards each and everyday.** Our school logo depicts what we believe in; the cross reflects our Catholic faith and our Christ-centeredness, which celebrates Christ as our model. To learn more about what we are focused on within our school, we encourage you to review our School Plan for Continuous Growth, located on our school's website at <https://www.ecsd.net/1024>. click on 'About' tab/ 'School Information' tab/'School Assurance Dashboard' on the left side bar.

We have a dedicated staff focused on learning and collaborating to best serve the needs of our students and their families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. N. Sousa our school secretary on her past 3 years of service to our school community. We welcome Ms. M. Sousa who will be our new secretary. We remain committed to providing the children of St. John Bosco School with a quality Catholic education. We believe children are at the center of our work and are grateful to be working in such an outstanding learning community.

**We are looking forward to a happy and productive school year!**

Ms. A. Esposito-Brady  
Principal

Ms. D. Kowalchuk  
Assistant Principal

## REFLECTION/PRAYER

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Dear Lord, we give you praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful, for everything which holds promise and brings us joy. Bless us as we start this new year with our students, families, and teachers. Help us to make the most of every chance we have to share our light. Shine brightly before others, allowing attitude, words, and actions to reflect hope and new beginnings. Pray that you, Jesus, would use me to spread light, that all my good deeds

will glorify You. Amen

### What Does it Mean to Let Your Light Shine?

What does that mean? It means that if you are a good example, if you "let your light shine," this means you intentionally go out of your way to help others, even without the cost of expecting something in return. Being there to help others makes you happy and it's what makes you the light to others.

Everyone has special gifts and talents to share and by sharing we build a community of hope, love, and encouragement. We look forward in sharing together this year.

Simple ways to share your light in our St John Bosco Community.

1. Laugh with a friend.
2. Reach out and welcome a new classmate.
3. Talk and welcome to a new family.
4. Be patient.
5. Send an email or call a loved one.

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

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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->

## **STAFF LIST 2023-24**

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We are excited to begin a new school year and much of that excitement is because of our dedicated and dynamic staff. Their dedication continues the long-standing tradition of our strong academics and wonderful school culture here at St. John Bosco. To see our staff list, [click here](#).

## **DESIGNATED DOORS BY GRADE LEVEL**

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Parents are asked to ensure that they bring their child to their designated door each morning and we ask parents to stand back from the doors and where the children line up to avoid congestion. Each morning the children are picked up by their homeroom teacher at their designated door. Students will exit from their designated door at the end of the day. For optimal safety and security of children, staff and the building as a whole, doors remain locked. Parents who arrive late are still required to go to their designated door to enter where there are designated staff at each door to let children in.

Parents are to carefully read the section in this newsletter on attendance and lates and understand that attendance and lates will be monitored very closely as mandated by Alberta Education. For more details read the section below.

[Designated Doors Map](#)

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

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Our hours of operation can be viewed in the link provided [Hours of Operation](#)

## POWER SCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

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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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PARENT INSTRUCTIONS-ENTERING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE IN POWERSCHOOL

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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.**

## ATTENDANCE AND LATES

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We ask that all parents carefully read the student agenda book which contain important procedural information to ensure the smooth operations of the school. With 600 students enrolled, it is essential that all parents respect and comply with procedural directions to help support the school in ensuring the smooth operations of the school.

**As per Alberta Education mandate attendance and lates are closely monitored and if necessary, reported.** Please appreciate that lates are considered an attendance matter and issue as much instruction time is lost for the child, as well as disruption to the teacher's instruction and smooth learning transitions within the classroom.

**Listed below are important reminders to all parents regarding attendance/lates expectations:**

- Please note that **parents coming late must direct their child to their designated door** as noted in the map above.

- Parents are not to drive them through the layby and drop them off at the front. The child will be directed back to their designated door and will be expected to enter through their designated door. **All doors and as such, it is an expectation that the child use their designated door.**
- A reminder also that parents dropping children off at their designated door are not permitted to enter the school building. They are to direct their child to enter and leave them at the door. **If parents wish to come into the building for school/office business, they must enter via the front door.**
- **Parents who habitually bring their children late will be called by administration as a verbal warning, at which point the child's attendance will be closely monitored.** If attendance and lates continues to be a problem, the asst. principal/principal will begin with tracking and reporting and referral to the attendance board through formal means. Arriving late is a concern as the minutes of instruction missed adds up and it is as if the child missed days of school.
- Please be aware and reminded that it is a legal responsibility that parents with children under 16 years of age attend school and on time daily.

## STUDENT ILLNESSES/ DAILY HEALTH AWARENESS

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**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 at home so they can rest and give their body time to deal with symptoms.

**We have learned a great deal during the pandemic and things will never be the same, especially our standard of care related to student illness and attendance** at school or other public places where germs can spread quickly.



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.**

**We are encouraging parents to support their children in wearing a mask as increased protection from RSV, Influenza and Covid. While we cannot mandate, it is our strong recommendation based on the number of illnesses we are seeing.** Students are familiar with the rationale behind such practices, and many have chosen to come with masks on.

## PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

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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)

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Once again as started last year, our division will be having parents complete the verification and updating of information on their child's registration form online. This will be done via the Parent Portal.

**In September, parents will be receiving a notification online to complete and verify the information on your children's registration forms.** Each child's information will have 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. Please watch for this upcoming notification.

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.

## ECSD TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INFORMATION

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**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>

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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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](#)

## SCHOOL WEBSITE & X ACCOUNT - @StJohnBoscoYEG

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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.

## **STUDENT AGENDA BOOK**

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Each student at St. John Bosco School is expected to use an agenda book, the cost of the agenda is part of the school fees and will be itemized as such. Our Agenda Book Program helps to ensure students develop lifelong skills that will serve them well for years to come. Participation in this program will facilitate:

- a) organization & time management tool
- b) clarity about school expectations, procedures, and policies
- c) communication tool between the home/school
- d) awareness about upcoming school functions and activities

The cost of replacement in the event of loss, is the responsibility of the student which is **\$8.00**. Parents are asked to support our agenda book program by sitting down with their child and reviewing key procedural information. Please take a moment to sign the 'Roles & Responsibilities of Student/Staff/Parents' on page 5 of the agenda book to indicate that you have read and reviewed it with your child.

### **SJB Student Agenda Book**

**Parents are asked to carefully read and review with their child(ren) Page 5 of the Agenda** as it is **especially important in understanding all stakeholder responsibilities** towards a caring and supportive relationship between staff, students and parents in the interest of all children within our school. Below is the information on page 5 to highlight it's importance. We ask that you and your child sign the page as an indication that you have read and reviewed the information. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we begin an exciting new year!

### **Roles & Responsibilities Of Student/Staff/Parents**

The primary role of St. John Bosco School is to provide a learning environment wherein students can become actively and productively involved in their own academic learning and social growth. To achieve this, it is important to recognize that students, staff, and parents have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others. Parents, students, and staff must work collaboratively to ensure the success of the student's educational program. As part of our shared commitment towards working collaboratively, we encourage you and ask you to **read, review and sign with your child page 5 of the student agenda**, as a demonstration of your commitment towards working collaboratively. **We have also included the information here for your convenience.**

As members of the St. John Bosco School community, students, parents and staff are expected to model and promote behaviour that contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. As per the Education Act, parents, school staff and students all have responsibilities in ensuring that St. John Bosco School is a positive learning environment. To that end, listed below are responsibilities, although not an exhaustive list, it does establish clear direction of the roles and responsibilities each stakeholder group has towards contributing to a positive school environment and helping students meet their responsibilities.



**Students are responsible for:**

- attending school regularly and punctually
- being diligent in pursuing their studies
- ensuring that their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.
- complying with the rules of the school and respect the rights of others in the school,
- refraining from and reporting and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed towards others in the school, whether it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- being accountable to their teachers and other school staff for inappropriate conduct,
- positively contributing to the school and community
- working on building skills of independence & self-reliance as an essential life skill
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**Parents are responsible for:**

- ensuring that their child(ren) attend regularly, are punctual and come to school ready to learn
- maintaining communication with the staff and their child(ren)
- taking an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with the Education Act,
- ensuring that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.
- maintaining a spirit of collaboration in working with all community stakeholders as referenced in the School Act.
- encouraging, fostering and advancing collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school,
- providing a supportive learning environment in the home
- monitoring and assisting with homework as needed
- reviewing and supporting the school's conduct policy with their child(ren)
- respecting and following the established school procedures and policies.
- updating any changes to their child's contact, medical or custody information in a timely fashion
- assisting their child(ren) in building skills of independence & self-reliance as an essential life skill

**Staff are responsible for:**

- Modelling mutual respect, Catholic values and conduct that contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe learning environment,
- Educating students by fulfilling the mandate of the Alberta Education Program of Studies,
- Meeting the needs of all students and assisting them to be successful,
- maintaining open communication with students, parents and other staff
- maintaining a spirit of collaboration in working with all community stakeholders,
- establishing and maintaining classroom routines and expectations,
- disciplining consistently, while recognizing individual differences; maintaining dignity and respect,
- maintaining order and discipline among the students while they are in the school, on the school grounds, and while they are attending activities sponsored or approved by the school district
- reviewing and following the school's conduct policy with their students,
- respecting and following the established school procedures and policies.
- providing consequences for inappropriate behaviour based on a continuum of supports to correct the inappropriate behavior,
- supporting individuals impacted by inappropriate behavior or discrimination using school resources such as Emotional Behavior Specialists, or others as needed,
- assisting students in building skills of independence & self-reliance as an essential life skill
- abiding by the Professional Code of Conduct

## **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!**

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**Research indicates that students experience success in school through the ongoing support of their parents and collaborative partnership between home and school.** Consistency between the school and home related to the importance of skills of independency such as organization, time management, emotional self-management and focus on schoolwork are key towards building positive, healthy, diligent and conscientious habits. Highlighted for your reference, is a brief listing of several ways that parents can help their children remain focused, while staying informed about their child's school day:

**Talk with your kids--** Ask them every day about their activities at school and have them show you what they have been doing.

**Look at their agenda book each day--** This is an excellent way to learn about what is happening at school. The student agenda book can also become a key communication tool between you and your child's teacher.

**Read the monthly newsletter/calendar--**The monthly newsletter and calendar is posted to our school's website on the last day of each month for the upcoming month's information.

**Visit our website** at [www.stjohnbosco.ecsd.net](http://www.stjohnbosco.ecsd.net)-- There you will find several details related to our school's academic and extra-curricular programs, school policies and procedures, upcoming calendar of events, school council information, agenda and minutes as well as, learning and programming initiatives for the students. To access the information simply click on the left side tool bar on the website and click on the scroll down menus for the specific information you wish to have.

**Visit the Classroom Website online through our School website--** This is an excellent way to learn about what is happening in your child's classroom and the specific learning projects and assignments they are engaged in. Teachers may also post specific projects and events going on in their Google Classroom at their discretion. Google Classroom is not mandatory for teachers; however, they may use it from time to time.

**Follow us on X @StJohnBoscoYEG** This is an excellent way to learn about what is happening at school and see all the great learning that is happening in our school. Teachers also post specific projects and events going on in their classrooms.

**Log onto the Power School Parent Portal at --** Within PowerSchool parents can monitor their child's academic ongoing growth throughout the school year allowing them to view their child's on-going progress at the time of student assessment with Level of Achievement marks related to curricular outcomes; in addition, comments and/or assignment information can be seen online. Parents will be able to access information about their child's progress during the learning process, as well as at key points during the year when summary information about achievement is posted. There will also be a student progress summary report available online in June.

**& Read 'Swift' Automated Messages --**This tool is used regularly to fan out important District and/or school information, school events and reminders. If we do not have your email on file, as the automated system is set up to deliver messages via email and/or text, please call the school. **This is a great system and I encourage all parents to use the system as it keeps all parents in the loop.**

**Attend and volunteer for events at school--** Special events such as: Meet the Staff Night; Celebrations; Fundraising; Demonstrations of Learning; Book fairs; Music Concerts; Fun Day; Fieldtrips and cultural events are an important part of your child's school life. If your child is involved with special events, performances, sports teams, or a school club, we encourage you to attend and see them in action -- -this will make a difference to their level of commitment.

**Get involved with School Council--** Become a partner with us as we work towards meeting the needs of all our students. Help us by sitting on school council as a classroom representative, connect with your child's homeroom teacher to see how you can support their work at home and assist us with fundraising, so that we can supplement and enhance student programs.

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND SCHOOL POLICIES**

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In the interest of clarity, we wish to highlight for you some District Administrative Procedures and School Policies that are directly or indirectly related to our school operations, procedures, and logistics. We trust that the information will provide you with a understanding and appreciation for why some things are done in the manner in which they are within a school setting.

Please be sure to review them with your child. To read the details of each procedure or policy please review your child's agenda /parent handbook. Some key policies and procedures are:

School Conduct Policy

School Homework Policy

AP 110: School Councils

AP 152\*: Dealing with Parent-School Conflict Management

AP 260\*: Field Trips

AP 316\*: Administering Medication and Medical Treatment to Students

AP 322: Guardianship, Custody or Access Rights

AP 330: Attendance of Students

AP 349: Standard of Student Dress

AP 490: Volunteer

## **ADMINISTERING MEDICATION & MEDICAL TREATMENT TO STUDENTS AP # 316**

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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.**

## SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION

As a school, we will be celebrating in community throughout the school year as we follow the Catholic liturgical year. Due to our increase in enrollment, and maximum capacity limitations, we will continue to switch off between divisions being in the gym during the celebrations this year. 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. Parents will as always be



| 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)                       |
| Grade 6 Farewell        | Wednesday, June 14, 1:15 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)                       |

invited; however, we encourage you to participate when your child's division is in the gym. Parents will not be able to be within the classrooms to take part in the celebrations, only in the gym, should they choose to participate. Listed below is the schedule for the year to show when your child will participate in the gym.

## SCHOOL PICTURE DAY – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Edge Imaging will be our photographer and will be taking your children's pictures on **Sept 20**



Please refer to the flyer below of what to expect and how to prepare and also see the sample ordering proof package with QR code, as well as the ordering online information.

## SCHOOL PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY – WEDNESDAY,

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.

## SCHOOL PATROLS



We are very excited to have our school patrols return for the year! As part of Traffic Safety Week at St. John Bosco, our Grade 6 school patrols will begin hands on training during the month of September which will focus on specific steps to take to cross the road safely and

how to cross others in a safe manner. Our SJB school patrols look forward to helping you and your children cross the street safely!

## TRAFFIC SAFETY WEEK SEPTEMBER 4-8 Th



Traffic Safety events are held Week is held in September, which is Back to School Safety month on the Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar. For drivers, they also provide a reminder to use extra caution as children annually to increase awareness about how to ensure children return home safely each day return to school and school buses return to the road. Traffic Safety

### Slow Down for School Zones

At Edmonton Catholic Schools, the health and safety of students is always our first priority! School zones are in effect around elementary and junior high schools throughout Edmonton. Motorists are required by law to slow down to 30 km/h between 8:00am and 4:30pm on school days where school zone signs are posted. Please slow down and ensure the safety of students near elementary schools.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### “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 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 the surrounding community. **Parents are asked to show RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT AND REASONABLE CONDUCT.** It is imperative that we all understand that 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.

## STOP AND GO STUDENT DROP OFF

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Best way to drop off your child each morning is to follow our stop and go drop of zone procedures. 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.



Parents are asked to coach and train children to have their coat, gloves and backpack already on their body to make their exit out of the car fast and efficient and to help ensure that the flow of cars coming in and out of the zone is



maintained. This will be especially important with our increase in enrollment.

## SCHOOL PARKING INFORMATION & ENFORCEMENT

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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 taught 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.

**Common parking infractions around schools include:**

- Parking in a designated accessible parking space (zero tolerance)
- Parking in a school bus zone
- Parking within 5 metres of stop signs and yield signs
- Parking within 5 metres of intersections and crosswalks
- Parking within 5 metres of a fire hydrant
- Parking in an alley



When dropping off or picking up your children, please park legally and walk to the school.

### **SCHOOL PARKING**

Parking or dropping off children in front of grade schools is not allowed at most schools in Edmonton.

This no parking/no stopping zone ensures that drivers passing the school can clearly see anyone crossing the street.

If you are dropping your children off for school, please park legally down the street and walk them to the door.

### **PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

Parking Enforcement Officers work with the Edmonton Police Service on several programs to prevent illegal parking around schools:

At the beginning of every school year, the City uses the media and advertising to remind drivers about the no parking and no stopping zones around schools.

- Uniformed Parking Enforcement Officers patrol school zones and issue tickets to vehicles found in violation of the Traffic Bylaw 5590
- You may be ticketed without warning and may also receive a ticket in the mail at a later date
- The City runs an enforcement and education campaign every September after Labour Day. Extra enforcement officers will be on the lookout for illegally parked cars and drivers who park illegally

## EDMONTON 311 APP TO REPORT INFRACTIONS

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The Edmonton 311 App makes it easy to report your concerns while you are on the go. You can also send a photo with your request and use your smartphone's GPS function to pinpoint an issue's location. If you are reporting an issue from a different location, tap and drag the pin to the right location. **Be our city's eyes on the streets and help keep Edmonton great!**

## BE A KIND AND CONSIDERATE NEIGHOUR

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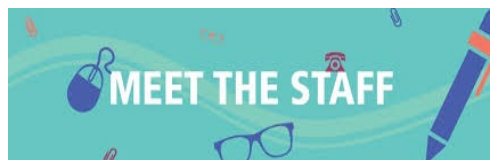
Parents are asked to refrain from parking on our neighbors' driveways or blocking their access to their own homes. We are part of a larger community and while we can appreciate that there is limited parking in front of the school. We are asking that you are mindful of actions that are illegal as they break established parking bylaws. 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](https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/service-311-contact-centre.aspx) to complete a form. **Parents let us all do our part to be great ambassadors of our school.**

## MEET THE STAFF NIGHT - SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7 PM

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Our annual Meet the Staff event will be held in the gym on September 21 at 7 pm. The evening is intended for the parents as information will be provided as well as visit to the classroom to hear directly from your child's teacher information about academic programming, routines and expectations of your children. Please refrain from bringing your children to this evening.



## SJB SCHOOL COUNCIL/PARENT FUNDRAISING SOCIETY

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 6:30 PM

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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 Annual General Meeting will be held on September 21 at 6:30 pm in the gym prior to the meet the staff night.**

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 school year.

| <b>School Council Meeting Dates for 2023-24</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, September 21 -AGM                     |
| Wednesday, October 25                           |
| Wednesday, November 29                          |
| Wednesday, January 31                           |
| Wednesday, February 21                          |
| Wednesday, April 17                             |

We would like to extend our appreciation to all our school council members and to especially our Executive Council for 2022-23. 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.

| <b>School Council Executive 2022-23</b> |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Position</b>                         | <b>Name</b> |
| Chairperson                             | Malorie C.  |
| Vice Chairperson                        | Jamie B.    |
| Secretary                               | Vanessa F.  |
| Financial Liaison (Treasurer)           | Kemi O.     |

### **St. John Bosco School Council & Parent Fundraising Executive**

We are actively seeking out parents who may be interested in running for a role as Executive Council or have any questions, please contact Principal, Ms. Esposito-Brady. Listed below for your information are the various Executive Members positions and their responsibilities as members of the Executive:

#### **1. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

##### **A. Chair**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Chair of the Council will:

- 1) Chair all meetings of the Council.
- 2) Coordinate with the Principal to establish meeting agendas.
- 3) Communicate with the Principal on a regular basis.
- 4) Decide all matters relating to rules of order at the meetings.
- 5) Ensure that Council Operating Procedures are current and followed.
- 6) Be the official spokesperson of the Council.
- 7) Be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Council.
- 8) Ensure that there is regular communication with the whole School Community.
- 9) Review any communication to the School Community prior to distribution and include the Principal in the same.
- 10) Stay informed about School and School Board policy that impacts the Council.



- 11) Comply with the School Councils Regulation by providing the School Board with an annual report that summarizes the Council's activities for the previous School year by September 30<sup>th</sup>; and
- 12) Have general responsibility for all activities of the Council.

**B. Vice-Chair**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Vice-Chair of the Council will:

- 1) In the event of resignation, incapacity or leave of absence of the Chair, fulfill the Chair's responsibilities until a new Chair is elected.
- 2) In the absence of the Chair, supervise the affairs and preside at any meetings of the Council.
- 3) Work with and support the Chair in agenda preparation.
- 4) Ensure the appropriate management, in compliance with PIPA, of any personal information collected on behalf of the Council.
- 5) Assume responsibility, in consultation with the Council and Executive, for communicating with other Parent groups within the Council and School.
- 6) Promote teamwork and assist the Chair in the smooth running of the meetings.
- 7) Keep informed of relevant School and School Board policies; and
- 8) Assist the Chair and undertake tasks assigned by the Chair.

**C. Secretary**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Secretary of the Council will:

- 1) Act as a recorder at each meeting and ensure that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting;
- 2) Keep minutes, correspondence, records and other Council documents, and ensure that all relevant documents (as per legislation) are available to the public in an accessible location in the School, for a period of 7 years; and
- 3) Distribute, as determined by the Council, agendas, minutes, notices of meetings and notices of other events.

**D. Financial Liaison (Treasurer)**

Unless otherwise delegated, the Financial Liaison of the Council will:

- 1) Present a full, detailed account of receipts and disbursements to the Council as required by the Council, and prepare the financial statements for the annual report; and Work collaboratively with the Fundraising Association.

## YEARBOOKS 2022-23 EXPECTED TO ARRIVE MID OCTOBER

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For those who purchased Yearbooks last year, they have not yet arrived and as such, we will notify families upon their arrival via swift. Yearbooks will be sent home through a child once they arrive.

## TERRY FOX RUN-MARATHON OF HOPE – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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Children from coast to coast will participate in a physical activity that will help to remind them of a person who never gave up and worked his entire short lifetime to raise money for cancer research. He had a single purpose and a single message that asked us to examine our hearts and give.

Terry Fox often said that it would be the youth who would carry forth his efforts. Millions of students across Canada take part in the Terry Fox School Run every year raising funds for cancer research, making it one of the largest fundraising events in Canadian history and one of the largest displays of solidarity this planet has ever seen! By participating, you will help share Terry's example of courage, strength, and hope.

St. John Bosco School staff and students will participate in the National School Run Day on Sept. 22nd.

**We are asking that each family donate online \$5- 20 per family.** This can be done online by clicking on the link <http://www.terryfox.org/schoolrun/> to donate directly to the Terry Fox

Foundation. Unfortunately, we are unable to collect monies at the school this year. To go to the School's fundraiser site click [here](#),

Last year we raised over 2,500.00 towards cancer research. This year we hope to surpass that total and are targeting a goal of \$5000 through the online fundraising system.

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

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The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten. **September 30<sup>th</sup>** 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.8<sup>th</sup>**

Demonstrate your school spirit by purchasing spirit wear online effective Sept. 5- Oct.8<sup>th</sup>. **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.8<sup>th</sup>. To order online, click the link below: <https://sjb2023fall.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

## **CLASSROOM WEBSITES**

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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>

## 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.

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> through to the 27<sup>th</sup>. Details about the Read-a-thon will follow in a separate package that will be sent out in the Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup>.



The Read-a-thon event takes place will take place the week of October 23-27<sup>th</sup> 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.

## HANDBELL CHOIR, SENIOR GLEE CLUB, & JUNIOR CHOIR

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There has always been a strong musical tradition at St. John Bosco School and this year would have been no different!!! More information will be forthcoming in October. Stay tuned for upcoming information.

## RUNNING CLUB

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This year our Running Club will run during the Month of September as the ECSD run for our school is held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Here is some basic information at this time, so that you can determine whether your child should try out for the running team as there will be expectations for **participation** as well as **a cap of 60 participants**. **Running coaches will select final runners to represent our school for each age category.**

Parents will have to pay a fee and will have to ensure that students are equipped with appropriate clothing and footwear. As per district policy, the fieldtrip form must be signed and returned for the child to participate on the day of the event.

### The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cross-Country Run Race Sept 27, 3:00 pm at Rundle Park

Race categories and order of races are as follows:

1. Boys 8 + under 1200m
2. Girls 8 + under 1200m
3. Boys 9 years old 2000m
4. Girls 9 years old 2000m
5. Boys 10 years old 2000m
6. Girls 10 years old 2000m
7. Boys 11 and up 2000m
8. Girls 11 and up 2000m

Please be advised that parents and staff members that drive to the park use only designated parking areas.

We will provide information for the children at the school and those interested will have a fieldtrip form sent home with all the pertinent details. Transportation is provided to and from the school.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD RUNS SEPT. 8 - NOV. 15th

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There is a long-standing tradition of Social Justice Service Learning here at St. John Bosco School. Through our work we model and teach children the importance of service towards others who are in need.

Operation Christmas Child provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on project of Samaritan's Purse that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ - God's greatest gift. It sends a message of hope to children in situations of despair and need all over the world.

**We will kick off the event with students on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and parents can pick up extra boxes during the meet the staff night, September 21. This year boxes will be dropped off at our school by November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**History:** Operation Christmas Child was started in 1990. In 1993, Operation Christmas Child grew and was adopted by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization run by Franklin Graham. To date, Operation Christmas Child has collected and distributed over 100 million shoebox gifts worldwide. In 2013, Canadians donated more than 664,000 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for hurting children around the world.

**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:**

- **Food or candy:** Including gum, no chocolate or fruit snacks (due to customs regulation)
- **Used items** (due to customs regulations)
- **Toothpaste** (due to customs regulations)
- **Liquids or items that could leak, melt, freeze, or break** - Shampoo, creams, lipgloss, 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.



**St. John Bosco School Goal:** This year is the 7th year that we are working to help the Samaritan's Purse Organization. Our school welcomes as many shoeboxes as possible, filled with new useful articles for children. Please read the brochure that was sent home to determine which age group you wish to fill a box for as well as indicate if it is for a boy or girl.

- **Boxes will be distributed 1 per family before September 21st.**
- **For those wanting additional boxes can pick up at meet the staff night event. Parents can help themselves.**

Each box is to be accompanied by a \$10.00 cash donation to be placed in the envelope provided. Should you have any questions for clarification regarding this project please go to the website noted above which provides detailed information on this program.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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St. John Bosco staff extends their congratulations to Chief Superintendent Anderson. Chief Superintendent is a respected educator with a diverse career spanning over 27 years. She is proud to serve the Edmonton Catholic School Division as its Chief Superintendent. Throughout her career, she has served as a teacher, consultant, assistant principal, principal, division principal, and superintendent. Chief Superintendent Anderson also spent two years on a secondment in the French Language and Education Branch at Alberta Education. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree and a Master of Education degree focused on early literacy, both from the University of Alberta. Chief Superintendent finds strength and support in her family and faith. She is a wife and mother and is active in the St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish in Edmonton. Chief Superintendent is committed to Catholic education and bringing students, staff, and families together to experience the love of God daily.

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

## DISTRICT SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

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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](#).

To learn more about our Catholic identity, click on the link [Religious Services Department](#).

## ST. DOMINIC SAVIO PARISH INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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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

### Sunday Masses:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

### Weekday Masses:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.

### Parish Info

Address:  
**14406 62 Street**  
**Edmonton, AB**  
**T5A 2E9**  
Office Hours:

### Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Office Phone:  
**780-473-4259** or **780-472-2833**  
Fax: **780-472-2833**  
Email: [stdominic@shaw.ca](mailto:stdominic@shaw.ca)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stdsedm/](https://www.facebook.com/stdsedm/)  
Website: <http://stdominicsavio>