



ST. ALPHONSUS Catholic Elementary/Junior High School

NEWSLETTER | JANUARY | 2025

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday

8:00	JH doors open for breakfast program
8:15	Supervision in the Playground starts
8:15	Elementary doors open for morning meal
8:25	First Bell
8:30	Classes Start
10:00	Elementary Recess
11:50-12:23	Lunch
2:59	Dismissal

Thursday

8:00	JH doors open for breakfast program
8:15	Elementary doors open for morning meal
8:25	First Bell
8:30	Classes Start
10:00	Elementary Recess
12:03	Dismissal



Administrators' Message

Dear St. Alphonsus Families,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, we are filled with hope, excitement, and a renewed commitment to learning and growth. January is a wonderful time for fresh beginnings, and we look forward to the opportunities this year will bring for our students and school community.

In sports, the boys' and girls' basketball season is underway, and we are thrilled to see our athletes demonstrate teamwork, determination, and school spirit on the court. We wish them a successful and fun season ahead!

For our grade 9 students, this is an especially exciting time as they begin to explore high school options and think about the next chapter in their educational journey. We will be working with students and families to ensure they feel supported and well-prepared for this important transition.

January also provides a valuable opportunity for focused academic learning as students settle into their routines after the holiday break. Teachers are planning engaging lessons and activities to help students deepen their understanding and skills. At the end of the month summary reports will be available on PowerSchool, providing a snapshot of each student's progress and areas for continued growth.

As always, thank you for your partnership and support in creating a vibrant, faith-filled learning community. Let us keep the spirit of the New Year alive as we work together to nurture the growth and success of every student.

Sincerely,

Joan Woodlock
Principal

Michele Wilson McCune
Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES in JANUARY

01	New Years Day!!
06	Classes Resume
07	Fluoride applications
14-15	Gr 1, 6, & 9 Immunizations
30	PD Day – No School
31	January Summary Reports Available in Powerschool

NEW!!! Reporting Student Absences

ecsd.net/reportingabsences

OR

1-833-525-9071 and follow the prompts. This number will only work if you call from a number listed in your child's PowerSchool. Call the office for assistance.



WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather is here, and we want to be sure that everyone is prepared to embrace the elements and temperatures for the many months ahead. Edmonton Catholic School's standing policy on inclement weather is to restrict outdoor activities when the temperature, combined with wind chill, is -20 degrees. Our division uses [this link](#) to determine temperature.

For our students to enjoy the winter weather, please be sure to send children to school with warm boots, a warm winter coat, mitts or gloves, and toques. All children will be expected to go outside regardless of if they dressed for the weather. If your child is too sick to go outside for recess, please keep them at home.

If you require support ensuring your child(ren) have the warm clothes they need, please e-mail:

FSLW: Danielle Novikoff

E-mail: danielle.novikoff@ecsd.net

Roots & Wings: Heather Casselman

E-mail: heather.casselman.ta@ecsd.net

Supporting Wellness in our Schools and Families

Alberta Health Services is proud to offer FREE online programming for parents and caregivers who support children and youth, as well as sessions for adults looking to support their own wellness. Sessions are live and interactive. Our aim is to increase awareness and reduce the stigma around addiction and mental health challenges, provide participants with evidence-based information, and offer strategies that promote health and resilience. [Click to learn more.](#)

Grade Nine Transition to High School

High school registration season will begin this month. If you have a child in grade nine, we will be providing them with information about course selections and registration processes starting in January. Our transition coach will meet with each grade 9 student to ensure they understand this exciting process!

If this is your oldest child, or you are new to Canada, and you have questions about high school, we will be hosting a parent information session for Grade nine parents:

- January 16, 2025 at 8:30 am
- January 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm

An e-mail with more information will be sent directly to all parents of grade 9 students.

Take and Eat: Family Activities

Take and Eat: Family Activities is a video series where faith, family, and food come together in the kitchen. Through simple yet meaningful cooking activities, ECS Division Chaplain Father Glenn McDonald inspires families to gather, find joy in shared meals, and reflect on Catholic values in everyday life. Each episode offers step-by-step recipes, creative ideas for sharing food, and reflections to deepen connections with family and community.

In the first episode of *Take and Eat: Family Activities*, Father Glenn invites families to discover the art of making Patience Baguettes. This recipe highlights the importance of patience both in baking and in life. Families are encouraged to enjoy their freshly baked bread together and consider sharing it as a gesture of love and gratitude. The episode concludes with a special prayer and blessing for all families.

Please [use this link](#) to watch the first video.



ST. ALPHONSUS
Catholic Elementary/Junior High School

Morning Drop-Off

Morning Drop-off Reminders:

When dropping off students in the morning, **please do not enter the staff parking lots**, as this poses a safety risk to our students - students may be dropped off in front of the school along the field and north parking lot sidewalk.

Please do not park in the bus zone at any time during drop-off.

Parents/caregivers, please say goodbye to your child(ren) before they enter the school.

All parents entering the school need to check in at the office.

We thank you sincerely for your cooperation in our continued efforts to keep our students and staff safe.

JH Locks & Lockers

This year all junior high students will be provided a school owned lock for their locker. The replacement fee will be \$9.50.

VACATIONS

We know that learning happens both inside and outside the classroom, and vacation trips can offer valuable experiences for children. However, when students miss school for extended vacations, they miss out on important instruction and collaboration with their classmates. These in-person interactions are key to deeper and more effective learning.

Our school calendar includes scheduled vacation breaks, and we encourage families to plan trips during those times. Teachers are not required to provide assignments for vacations, but some work may be completed and submitted online. If submitted on time, teachers can provide feedback.

Please remember that classroom learning is carefully planned to meet government guidelines, which emphasize in-person instruction. To ensure your child gets the most from their education, we ask that you plan vacations around the school calendar.



ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ALPHONSUS



ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ALPHONSUS

Contact St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish at: 780-474-5434

For information about Sacramental Preparation for First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation, email: dawn.nowicki@telus.net

For further Parish information visit: www.stal-stclare.caedm.ca/



Parents are reminded to ensure they have their credentials to Powerschool to access a broad array of student information. Parents are able to pay school fees, track attendance, and review their child's academic progress through this application. Please be sure to visit: powerschool.ecsd.net

If you are having difficulty accessing your account or have forgotten your credential, please contact the school office.



As we turn to a new month, families are reminded that all school fees are past due. Payment can be made using your PowerSchool Account.