



ST. ALPHONSUS Catholic Elementary/Junior High School

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER | 2024

IMPORTANT DATES in DECEMBER

02	Advent Liturgy of the Word
06	Volleyball Pep Rally
11	JH Boys Basketball Tryouts
13	Pancake Breakfast
16	Spirit Week – PJ Day
17	Spirit Week – Dress like elves and reindeer Day
17	Christmas Concert
18	Spirit Week – Dress like a teacher Day
18	JH Boys Basketball Tryouts
19	LONG DAY
19	Spirit Week – Grinch Day – movie in gym
20	SHORT DAY
20	Advent/Nativity Liturgy
20	Spirit Week – Wear a Christmas/Winter hat Day
20	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
December 21 – January 5 Christmas Holiday	
25	Christmas Day
26	Boxing Day
January 2025	
01	Happy New Year!!
06	Classes Resume

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.](#)

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,

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Advent is a time of hope, reflection, and joyful anticipation. At school, our students are learning about the true meaning of this season, and we are reminded of the importance of faith, kindness, and generosity.

This month is filled with excitement and community spirit! We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming Christmas Concert, where our students will share their talents and celebrate the joy of the season. In addition, many festive spirit activities are planned throughout December, bringing fun and a sense of togetherness as we prepare for the holidays.

In the world of sports, our volleyball season is wrapping up, and we want to congratulate all our athletes for their dedication and teamwork. Basketball tryouts will soon begin, and we look forward to another exciting season ahead.

As we journey through Advent and approach Christmas, may we all take time to reflect on our blessings and the light Christ brings into our lives. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our faith-filled school community.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas!

Sincerely,

Joan Woodlock
Principal

Michele Wilson McCune
Assistant Principal





Christmas Concert



Our music students have been hard at work preparing for our Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m.

We are excited to celebrate the hard work of:

- ❖ Kindergarten to Grade 6
- ❖ Junior High Band
- ❖ Junior High Musical Theatre

To ensure that all families have a chance to see their children in the concert, and to ensure we meet fire code regulations, we will use the following process for tickets:

- Each family will receive 2 tickets for the evening performance.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

- Elementary students will meet their teachers in the classroom.
- JH students will meet their teacher in the band room.
- Family may proceed to the gym to find a seat.

We encourage extended family members to come to our dress rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. on December 17.

Grade Nine Transition to High School

High school registration season will begin soon after the Christmas break. 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

WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather is around the corner, 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



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.

Have your say in Catholic Education!

The ECSD Annual Survey is here! St. Alphonsus families will receive a paper survey sent home with their child. Your feedback helps shape the future of Catholic education. Please complete one survey per child and return it by mail or to our school using the provided envelope by January 10, 2025. Learn more: ecsd.net/survey

ECSD Annual Survey



1. Complete the paper survey
2. Fill out a survey for each child registered
3. Return by January 10, 2025

Visit ecsd.net/annualsurvey for more information

As December begins, Chief Superintendent Lynnette Anderson reflects on the themes of goodness, truth, and beauty in this month's Chief Superintendent's Message. From celebrating the Feast Day with Christ the King Catholic Elementary/Junior High School to preparing for the hope-filled Advent season, there's so much happening in our ECSD community. Don't miss updates on Division-wide surveys and how your feedback helps shape the future of our schools. [Read the full message](#) and join us in this season of gratitude and joy!



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/



PowerSchool

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.

School FEES

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.