

# St. Benedict Catholic Elementary School



## SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome back to a new school year! A special welcome to all of our students who are new to St. Benedict! We also welcome many new staff members. The school, home and parish work closely together for your child's education.

Consider being involved by volunteering on School Council, helping with special events, or volunteering in the classroom or for field trips. Parents can help their children be successful at school by ensuring there is a quiet space for homework at home, checking with their children about homework completion, reading all information that comes home from school, and reading every day with your child at home. Be sure to ask your child what he/she learned each day. Regular communication with your child's teacher is important. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher whenever you have a question or concern. By working together, teachers and parents can ensure each child will have a successful year.

### **SCHOOL HOURS HAVE CHANGED!**

#### **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:**

8:45 AM: First bell  
8:50 AM to 10:30 AM: Classes  
10:30 AM to 10:45 AM: Recess  
10:45 AM to 12:15 PM: Classes  
12:15 PM to 12:35 PM: Lunch  
12:35 PM to 12:57 PM: Recess  
1:00 PM to 3:23 PM: Classes (5 min. break)  
3:23 PM: Dismissal

#### **Thursday:**

8:45 AM: First bell  
8:50 AM to 10:30 AM: Classes  
10:30 AM to 10:45 AM: Recess  
10:45 AM to 12:15 PM: Classes  
12:15 PM: Dismissal



### **MEET THE STAFF NIGHT**

**Please join us for our Meet the Staff Evening**

**Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.**

**An opportunity to see your child's classroom and meet the staff.**

### **ABSENCES AND LATES**

**If your child will be absent (illness, appointments, special occasions or holidays) or late for school, we ask that you please call our school office at 780-487-2733 or leave a message on our answering machine.**

If we are not advised of an absence or late arrival, directly following classroom attendance, SCHOOLCONNECTS, our automated system, will phone home to verify the whereabouts of children who have not yet arrived for safety purposes.

All students arriving late (AM after 8:50 a.m. and PM after 1:00 p.m.) **must report to the school office to get a late slip.**

If you are picking your child up before the end of the school day, please sign out at the office.

## **SCHOOL ENTRANCES**

Your child's safety is of the highest priority. To ensure security within the building, all entrance doors are locked. To enter the building during the day, all visitors will need to come to the front door and ring the buzzer. Office staff will open the door.

Students are to enter and leave the building through their designated entrances.

## **PARKING AT THE SCHOOL**

There is parking available for parents on the street across from the school and outside the bus zone on the school side of the street. The parking lot is for staff parking only. Do not use the staff parking lot for dropping off or picking up your children.



## **AMA SAFETY PATROLLERS**

Our grade 6 students are trained as AMA Safety Patrollers. They will help students and adults cross the street at the designated crosswalks. Please follow their directions. Please do not stop or park on the crosswalks. There are large fines for driving through a crosswalk when people are crossing the road.

**PLEASE USE THE CROSSWALKS TO CROSS THE STREET. DO NOT JAYWALK AND WALK BETWEEN THE BUSES.**

**FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS PLEASE REMEMBER THE SPEED LIMIT IS 30 KM/HR IN SCHOOL ZONES. PLEASE PROCEED WITH CAUTION THROUGH THE SCHOOL ZONE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.**

## **SCHOOL FEES**

This year our school fees will be as follows:

Grade 1 to 6: \$47

This \$47 includes the agenda, communication envelope, headphones, software licenses, computer/laptop user fee, Dance Residency, and Alberta Opera presentation.

Kindergarten fees: \$27

This \$27 includes communication envelope, visual journal, computer/laptop user fee, Dance Residency and Alberta Opera presentation.

Other costs will include recorders in grade 4, visual journals for some grades, special craft projects such as Father's Day or Mother's Day, field trips for all grades.

This year on-line payment is possible for a fees, bus passes, field trips, Hockey Academy and all other costs. We do not accept personal cheques. If paying at the school, cash or certified cheques/money orders will be accepted. We are encouraging you to use the on-line payment option as much as possible.

To make payments on-line, you will need to activate your PowerSchool Account. Information on how to do this will be sent home this week.

If you are having difficulty paying fees due to financial hardship, please contact the principal.

## **MEDICAL INFORMATION**

The school office must be informed of any students with medical concerns who require some form of medication during school hours whether it be a prescribed medication, EpiPens, inhalers, etc. or an over-the-counter medication (headache, insect bites, seasonal allergies). It is imperative that the appropriate forms be completed in full and submitted to the school office together with the medication. Where it is a prescription medication, the child's doctor will need to complete and sign the form. Medication will be administered by the office staff.

Students are not allowed to have over-the-counter medication (cream, pills, etc.) on their person or in their backpack. It must be kept in the office area and administered by the office staff.

### **Medication will only be accepted with fully completed forms.**

EpiPens – Capital Health recommends that children who have severe allergies and require an EpiPen carry these EpiPens with them at all times. Many children carry an EpiPen with them in a “fanny pack”. We would like to see all children carry their EpiPens with them; however, some parents prefer that the EpiPens be stored in the office area. If your child will not carry his/her EpiPen, we ask that you provide two EpiPens: one for the office and one for the classroom. If you are only supplying one EpiPen, please submit a letter indicating this.

Students may carry their inhalers in their backpacks or store in the office.

**\*\*Please note that all medication must be received with completed forms before students are allowed on fieldtrips. Forms are available at the office.**

## **NUT ALLERGIES!**

***A number of students at our school have life-threatening allergies to nuts/peanuts. Please refrain from sending peanut/nut products to school for lunch or snacks for your child or whole-class treats for classroom events.***

***Please check with your child's teacher about other allergies in the classroom before sending whole-class treats.***

## **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

We will use a variety of ways to communicate with you:

- Monthly newsletter
- Email and phone messages
- Classroom newsletters
- Website

Please ensure that the school office has your most recent contact information: Address, phone numbers, emergency contacts.

## **MILK PROGRAM**

Milk is available for purchase for lunch, starting Wednesday, Sept. 11. Milk cards are available for \$6.50 for 10 milk or \$13.00 for 20 milk. Milk cards can be purchased at the office. Any milk cards left from last year can still be used.

## **SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATION**

Our first school celebration will be on Thursday, September 12 at 10:45 a.m. Parents are welcome to join us in our celebrations.

## **Staff List**

Principal: Mrs. Dombroski  
Assistant Principal: Ms. Maas  
KA: Mrs. Steinke  
KB: Miss Riske  
1A: Miss Debler  
1B: Miss Tardi  
2A: Miss Pistawka  
2B: Miss Stuart  
3A: Miss Juba  
3B: Mrs. Bayley  
4A: Mrs. Fedori  
4B: Mr. Bialowas  
5A: Mr. Wawrykowicz  
5B: Mrs. Lastiwka  
6A: Mrs. Robertson  
6B: Mr. Davidson  
Music: Mrs. Hobden  
Learning Coach: Ms. Maas  
Literacy Support: Mrs. Andrews  
Cree Instructor/Literacy Support: TBA

### **Office Staff:**

Mrs. Ploof  
Mrs. Holick

### **Educational Assistants:**

Mrs. Alberda  
Mrs. Lefebvre  
Mrs. Jensen  
Mrs. Legere  
Mrs. Lukshits  
Mrs. Letki  
Mrs. Stelte  
Miss Starr

**Library:** Mrs. Holick

**FSLW:** Mrs. Edgar

**Custodial Staff:** Mr. Trivino  
Mrs. Onog

## **MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP SMITH**

Dear Friends,

With summer now starting to fade, a new academic year begins. Students and teachers who are looking ahead must inevitably feel some combination of hope and fear.

When we consider these coming months, we can learn something about the Christian life.

This next year, there will be flourishing, strengthening, learning and maturing, happening all around us and also within us. Hard times are going to come and go, and then come back around again. Alberta will experience a dark season stretching on for months, with bitter cold and harsh weather. There are many tests ahead of you, and assignments and reports and group projects as well.

And then all at once, when hope seems nearly gone, the sunlight will break through again. The warmth you now feel will come back to us, the trees will burst into green, and on some happy day you and your teachers will step out the doors of your school into a summertime of rest.

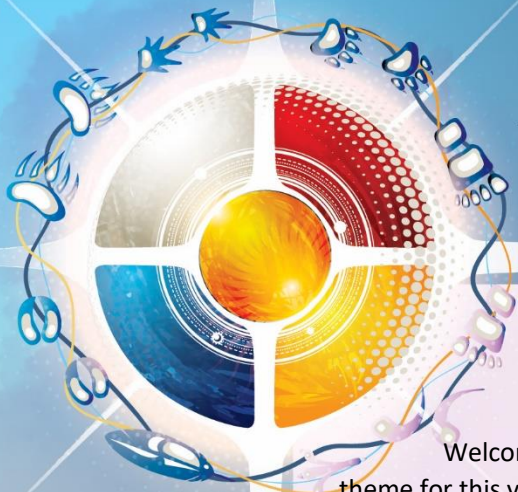
The Christian life can follow a similar pattern.

A person's entire time on earth, however long it may be, is a chance to learn in the school of virtue and sanctity. It is our time for growing close to Christ Jesus. You are now preparing for an eternity of freedom and friendship with God.

There will be hard times and tests in our lives. But if we are willing to learn and grow in love, then in the end, through the grace of God, we can be restored to the light and peace that God made us for. As Christ says in Matthew's Gospel, "the one who endures to the end will be saved" (10:22).

Let us set out into this year, then, and into the rest of our lives, with our eyes fixed on the everlasting joy of the gospel.

Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton  
August 2019



# Walking TOGETHER in the Light of Christ

*...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works... (Matthew 5:16)*

August 2019

Welcome back to the exciting 2019-2020 school year with Edmonton Catholic Schools! Our theme for this year, *Walking Together in the Light of Christ*, provides us with a beautiful image of the learning and relationships that your children experience daily as part of their Catholic educational journey. The verse of scripture shared above, which will guide us throughout the year, comes from a passage in the gospel of Matthew where Jesus is telling his disciples what the role of his followers is to be. He tells them, "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). In Jesus' time, salt was vital not only to improve the taste of food, but also to preserve it. He is telling his disciples that they are, through their actions, to enhance and preserve the lives of others. Those actions should serve as an example for others, as a light to guide their way in this world. In turn, when we let our light shine before others so that they can see and emulate our good works, we give glory to God. Our wonderful journey this year will help lead our students to become salt and light for the world.

As we live out our mission to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another, we have established our [District Plan for Continuous Growth 2019-2022](#) to guide the work of our schools. We begin with our faith foundation as a Catholic school district, followed by five goals that focus on teaching, learning, and student experiences. I invite you to visit our website to learn more about our goals and the key strategies that we will be implementing to achieve them by clicking [here](#).

*Edmonton Catholic School District Goal: Live and enhance the distinctiveness of Catholic education.*

*Goal One: ECSD students are successful.*

*Goal Two: ECSD supports First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students' success.*

*Goal Three: ECSD respects diversity and promotes inclusion.*

*Goal Four: ECSD has excellent teachers, and school and school district leaders.*

*Goal Five: ECSD is well governed and managed.*

New to our work this year is the establishment of our Catholic Identity Plan, which is an appendix to the District Plan for Continuous Growth. This plan provides us the framework to better understand, articulate, and live our Catholic identity as members of the Body of Christ.

I wish each one of your families an exciting and rewarding year where you experience the abundant joy that comes from walking together in the light of Christ with your school community!

Sincerely,  
Joan Carr  
Superintendent

**LUMEN CHRISTI**  
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