



St. Benedict September 2024 Newsletter

Administrators' Message

Welcome back to another exciting year of Catholic education with Edmonton Catholic Schools! The staff of St. Benedict would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning students and their families. We're glad you're here! We would like to welcome you/welcome you back and let you know that we look forward to a school year where the Division theme is **"People of Hope"** and as students and staff we strive each day to instill hope among all of us.

May God's blessings be upon you as we begin our 2024-2025 school year. We look forward to an excellent year with your child(ren)!

Nadine Guenther and Nicole Maas

On- ice Hockey Academy does not start until September 12, so please do not bring in equipment until more notice from our hockey academy director. Apparel and schedules will be coming soon.

Important Dates

September 3— First Day of Classes grades 1-6

September 18- School Opening Mass

September 23- School Council meeting at school at 6:30- all welcome- please join

September 25— Meet the Staff/ Curriculum Night 6:00

September 27 – Orange Shirt Day

September 30- NO SCHOOL Truth and Reconciliation Day

October 4- Picture Day

October 7-11 – Read In Week

October 14- Thanksgiving Day—NO SCHOOL

Meet Our Staff

TEACHING STAFF 2024-2025	
Kindergarten Kirsten Mangold Grade 1A- Eva Steinke Grade 1B- Anna Slusarek Grade 2A- Connie Pistawka Grade 2B- Georgia-May Thuesen Grade 2C- Britanni Donaghey Grade 3A- Andree Kloberdanz Grade 3B – Leanne Bayley Grade 4A- Bobbi- Jean Robertson Grade 4B- Craig Bialowas Grade 5A- Megan Schmidt Grade 5B- Amy Ciezki Grade 6A- Kristian Brown Grade 6B- Brandy Gelinas Grade 6C- Caitlyn Sly	Music- Michelle Arai Cree- Cree Stoney Literacy intervention- Andrea Roy Hockey Academy- Matt Davidson Administration Administrative Assistant- Debbie Holick Assistant Principal- Nicole Maas Principal- Nadine Guenther
SUPPORT STAFF	
EA	OFFICE
Sandy Alberda; Danielle Albert; Jennifer Boyer; Deborah Denesik; Rebecca Jensen; Brenda Legere; Tina Letki; Lisa Salembier; Chrystal Shupac; Donna Stelte; Krista Wasylyk;	FSLW – Stacy Edgar EBS – Amy Deutschmann TA-BT – Lisa Paul-Mellors TA-BT- Kim Sweeney TAOT- Soumya Joseph TASL - Colleen Tillotson ELLE- Ranjna Dhir
CUSTODIANS	
Head Custodian – Mario Trivino Light duty Custodian – TBA	

Attendance and School Hours

Regular and punctual attendance is critical to student success.

It is of critical importance that students attend school regularly and on-time. If a child is not here, they are missing out on curricular instruction and their learning is being impacted. As well, arriving late interrupts the learning time of all students.

Conscientious parents know the importance of getting their child to school each day before the bell rings. We take attendance very seriously. We have a legal obligation to monitor attendance and to do what we can to enforce it. In those rare instances when attendance becomes a serious problem, administration will act accordingly, including making referrals to the Provincial Attendance Board.

You can use School Messenger through PowerSchool to put in your child's absence- this is new this year.

Please note the first school bell rings at 8:43 am to start the day. Lunch is from 12:18 – 12:55. The day ends at 3:27 pm. The exception to this schedule is Thursday, on which we dismiss all students at 12:18.

Morning supervision for students does not start before 8:30 am. Please be aware that we are not able to provide supervision before this time and students will not be able to come into the school. After school supervision ends at 3:40 pm. Please ensure that your child(ren) are picked-up between 3:27 pm and 3:40 pm. Students are not able to wait in the school after 3:40 pm as there is no supervision. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that all our children are safe before and after school. Students are asked to wait outside the school before and after school and will only be allowed to wait in the main entrance if it is colder than -20C.

We are finding that many families are calling at the end of the day to tell us bussing arrangements. If you have a change in pick up- can you please let the office know in the morning or prearrange with your child before school. Due to the late call time, we often miss getting the message to your child.



Designated Entrances/Exits

All grades have been assigned a designated entrance/exit that they are required to use to enter and exit the building. Students are not to use the front door due to the traffic that results, and it is just not possible to accommodate over 400 students to use the front door as an entrance at the start of the day or as an exit at the end of the day. We are asking parents to support their child(ren) in following this procedure by having a meeting point, whereby students exit through their own door and then meet their parents at the designated meeting point. If a student has a younger sibling to pick-up at the end of

the day, they may meet their younger sibling outside their door. If you need to enter the school, please come to the front office.

Office Hours

Our school office is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Parents who call the school after these hours are asked to leave a clear message and we will return your call as soon as we are able to.



Please remember that we will be happy to relay a message to your child at recess, lunch, or at the end of the day. We thank you for your understanding of our wanting to protect learning time for all students by not interrupting classes for messages.

Medical Alerts

Upon occasion, parents request that staff members administer medication to students who are not sufficiently mature or reliable enough to care for their own needs. In order to administer medication to a student, we require a **new** "Request for Administration of Medication/Medical Treatment Form" to be completed at the start of every year and kept on file in the office. A copy of this form may be obtained from the school office. It is the parents' responsibility to keep us informed of medical conditions and to provide correct information regarding treatment and emergency contact information. If a parent/guardian feels that there is a concern with the student carrying the EpiPen on them, then a written letter is required stating that they do not wish to have the individual carry an EpiPen on them, but would rather the EpiPen be located elsewhere, such as in the main office, teacher desk, etc.).



Bus Passes

Bus passes are available to students who live in the bus catchment area. Bus Planner is used. Please see this how-to Video about how to use the app. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltoTZ8SQwTE>

Lunches

St. Benedict is an Apple School. Please send in lunches for students that are healthy. Apple Schools supports healthy lunches, nutritious snacks, daily physical school environment that supports healthy lifestyles. In APPLE everyone works together to improve a child's health. For this you not to send in fast food lunches for your child(ren). This is a major disruption to the school day as well as is resulting in inequalities in the classrooms during lunch. Have your child assist you in making lunch remembering to use the Canada Food Guide as a guide to create a healthy lunch. **We ask that you not drop off fried fast food lunch for your children. Since St. Benedict is a closed campus, this interrupts the day of the office staff as well as the teaching and learning of the students. Please**



activity and a healthy schools, reason, we ask

prepare lunches ahead of time, if needed, please only send in healthy food from outside restaurants. We also have the Healthy Hunger Program for lunches.

We have a number of students with life-threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products at our school. In some cases, these allergies are so severe that just a trace of or even the smell of peanuts or nut products can send the child into anaphylactic shock. If this happens, the child's throat tightens and swells and he or she may stop breathing. This type of severe allergic reaction can be fatal. Please do not send in any type of nut product with your child for lunch or snack.



Hockey Academy

Hockey academy does not start until the second week of school. Mr. Davidson will send out more information this week regarding the academy as well as field trip forms. Field trip forms **MUST** be signed and returned in order to participate in the hockey academy. The fees will be able to be paid beginning on September 15.

Field trips

The field trips students are taken on are educational and allow students to see the way that the world works outside of the classroom. Field trips give students the opportunity to see how what they are learning will apply to them when they are out of school. It can give them an idea of things that they may want to do when they have completed school and can also give them an opportunity to see how other people live their lives. **We will only accept signed field trip forms- phone and email approval will not be accepted, thus your child will not be able to attend the field trip unless a signed form is sent in prior to the field trip.** All school field trips are paid through PowerSchool - Debit, Visa, Mastercard, are all accepted!



*Students may be prohibited from attending fieldtrips due to behavioural, or academic concerns. All field trip permission forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian, along with the field trip fee, for students to attend. In the instance of hardship cases, please contact the school office or administration – we will be happy to assist and discuss a payment plan.

No Parking in the Staff Parking Lot

The staff parking lot is a no parking or drop off zone or walk through area.

Parents are asked please not to drive into the staff parking lot to drop off or pick children up. Our staff parking lot is completely full and there is no extra parking or room for cars to turn around. Please do not cut through the parking lot to drop your child off either. It is a dangerous area, and we need to teach the

students to stay out of the parking lot for this reason. We have construction vehicles on site as well coming and going, so please do not use the parking lot.

Meet the Staff/Curriculum Information Evening September 25 at 6:00 pm

Mark your calendars... for a very important evening. We will be hosting our annual Meet the Staff/Curriculum Information Evening on September 25. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about our school, the staff, the curriculum for your child's grade, and to see the classroom your child will be learning in. It is also your opportunity to ask the teacher any questions you might have regarding your son or daughter's education. More information to follow.

Protocol for Parent Concerns

Edmonton Catholic Schools recognizes the freedom of all members of the school community (students, staff, parents and neighbours) to voice their concerns in an appropriate manner to the appropriate school personnel. The principle of "first contact" needs to be followed. This means that the person(s) who have the concern, have the responsibility to begin addressing the concern directly with those persons with whom they have the concern before taking their concern elsewhere. Parents who contact school administration prior to speaking with the persons with whom they have a concern will be directed to that person first. If resolution is not found, please then involve school administration as needed. All parties will deal with concerns in a manner that is consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

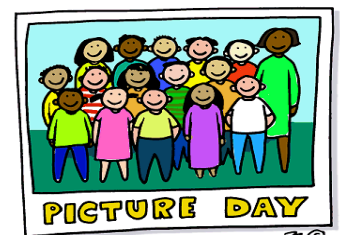


School Council

Parents who would like to be more involved in their child's education and in the decision-making process at the school are invited to join the School Council. New members are always welcome! The SAC meets approximately seven times per year. Our first SC meeting of the year will be on Monday, **September 23 at 6:30 pm**. However, parents will be notified through the outdoor sign. Meetings take place in the library. Please plan to attend!

School Picture Day ~ October 4

School pictures will be taken on Friday Oct 4. Please mark your calendars! Payments will be online to order pictures.



Illness and Recess

Children who are too ill to go outside for recess are too ill to be at school. This is particularly true in cases of severe colds, infections and headaches. With severe colds, children are unable to function well at school. In addition, they provide a source of infection for other children and would recuperate faster if kept at home. Please keep sick children at home.

Visitors and Volunteers

For the safety of all our students, the doors to the school remain locked during the school day. Visitors and volunteers are asked to report to the office, sign-in, and receive a visitor's badge. Everyone must sign-out in the office as well. St. Benedict, like all schools in Edmonton Catholic Schools, complies with our district-wide volunteer policy. Some of the key points in the policy include: *1. All volunteers shall be required to complete a Volunteer Registration Form annually and prior to commencing any volunteer activities in the school. 2. All volunteers who are to be assisting with school activities on any given day shall register at the school office at the beginning of each day. Schools staff shall be instructed that a volunteer register or log shall be kept and made available to the school principal at all times. The volunteer register shall contain legible names of the volunteers and their expected location or classroom assignment during the course of their duties during the day. 3. While engaged in volunteer activities, all volunteers shall wear appropriate identification.* At St. Benedict, our sign-in and identification procedures have been in place for a number of years. In keeping with division policy, we will also be asking **all parents who would like to volunteer need to complete the Volunteer Registration Form**. This form will remain on file for the current school year. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

School Fees

Supplemental Educational Fees have been set for each level. The Supplemental Education Fee for the 2024-2025 school year is:

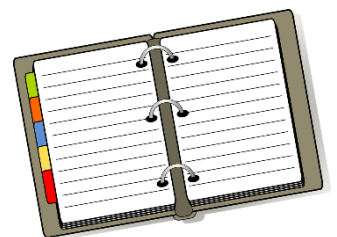
\$30.00 for Kindergarten

\$50.00 for Grades 1-6

School fees can be paid online beginning September 15. St. Benedict will continue to collect additional funds on a strictly cost recovery basis for optional supplemental educational activities in the following categories: Extra-curricular teams/clubs, field trips, and student activities. These fees offset the cost of mandatory, non-curricular or co-curricular activities and resources that enhance the educational experience. School fees can be paid easily from the comfort of your home through PowerSchool using your credit card! Just log-in (with the parent log-in) and click on the School Fees tab on the left-hand side of the screen. Many activities are subsidized by our school council- we thank our school council for their support.

Agenda Books

Student agenda books are included as part of the Supplemental educational fee. The Agenda assists students in keeping their homework assignments well organized and can be an invaluable tool in developing effective time-management skills and communicating



between home and school. This year agenda books have been provided to all students. Lost or needing of replacement will be a cost of \$10.00.

Please note: the first section of the Agenda contains a great deal of information about St. Benedict School. Please be sure to read the first section of the Agenda with your child. Parents are asked to sign the Awareness Confirmation at the front. **All agendas must be signed on page 8.**

Progress Reports and Student-led Conference Dates

Student-led Conferences for this school year are scheduled for: November 28, 2024 and March 6, 2025. Report cards are available on January 31 and June 26, 2025.

If you wish to discuss your child's progress or marks, please feel free to call the school to speak with his/her teacher at any time.

Outdoor Activities During Inclement Weather

The suggested guideline is that students do not go outside if the temperature is -20° C or colder, or if the temperature and wind chill factor are -20° C or colder.

Air quality is to be monitored similar to extreme cold temperatures. The suggested guideline is that students do not go outside when air quality reaches an index of 7 or more. Principals are to carefully monitor the air quality in their area when the index reaches levels of 4-6 which indicate a moderate risk.

A Bite of Health

As an APPLE school, we strive to build a healthy school community focusing on improving students' mental health, physical activity, and eating habits for life.

What is a Healthy School Community?

This month, students are taking part in a campaign called What is a Healthy School? Here is a summary of the learnings.

Healthy school communities promote wellness and strive to create environments that foster lifelong health and overall well-being. The approach used to create active, healthy school communities is an internationally recognized framework called Comprehensive School Health.

Healthy kids learn better and achieve more

Children with nutritious diets and recommended physical activity levels show better academic results. Healthy habits learned early in life often translate to a lifetime of healthy living.¹



Pillars of a healthy school community

The three pillars of an APPLE School focus on positive social behaviour, physical activity, and healthy eating. All three are infused into day-to-day life at school through various initiatives.

The World Health Organization identified these three pillars as qualities of the most effective school-based health promotion programs for changing behaviour.

What is APPLE Schools?

Our school works with APPLE Schools to build a healthy community. The organization strives to inspire and empower school communities to be leaders in their journey to health by recommending and supporting evidence-based, sustainable changes. Go to appleschools.ca to learn more.

¹ <http://www.jcsh-cces.ca/index.php/about/comprehensive-school-health>

www.appleschools.ca

Join our social community for the latest on our project

