



Students at Sister Alphonse Academy take part in Christmas Spirit activities throughout the week. (Landmark Theatre, Red and Green Day, 12 Christmas Activity Stations, Ugly Christmas Sweater, PJ Day, caroling, Christmas crafts, We've Been Elfed and pasta lunch together). Bottom picture, Mr. Horning has help from leadership students loading up all the items that were donated to Catholic Social Services for the Welcome Baskets.









## School News - Take a look at what's coming up on the first week back! Jan. 7 - 11

Monday (7)	<b>Happy New Year - Classes begin for all students K - 7</b>
Tuesday (8)	Volunteers needed in the Learning Commons
Wednesday (9)	Junior Basketball practice(boys and girls in grade 5-7) 3:05 to 4:00 pm
Thursday (10)	<b>SAA Spirit Wear Day</b> - Have your child wear their SAA Spirit Wear or Blue and/or Green clothing Junior Basketball practice(boys and girls in grade 5-7) 3:05 to 4:00 pm
Friday (11)	Volunteers needed in the learning Commons

### Merry Christmas - Happy New Year

**Thank you for entrusting us with the precious gift of your children. Every day they inspire us to do our very best for them. Enjoy your holidays with your families and if you are travelling over the break we wish you safe travels. From all the staff at Sister Alphonse Academy, a blessed and peaceful Christmas, wishing you all health and happiness in 2019.**

In the region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over the flocks by night. Then the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified, but the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2: 8 - 11

### **Merry Christmas**



### School Closed - Christmas Vacation

A reminder that the school will be closed and there are no classes for students in kindergarten - grade seven, Dec. 24/18 - January 4/19.

### Classes Resume

Classes will resume for all students in kindergarten - grade seven on Monday, January 7/19.

### Mark Your Calendars - Ski Trip

We are currently planning a ski trip for all students in kindergarten - grade seven on Wednesday, February 6 at Rabbit Hill. Students in Rec Academy will also be attending with the school on this day. In order for any child to attend payment must be made on School Cash by January 24/19. More information will be coming early in January.

### January Hot Lunches

The next two hot lunch days in January are Jan. 17(Subway) and Jan. 30 (Hot Soup day). Please order on school cash before January 8 for Subway and Jan. 28 for Hot Soup Day.

### Thanks for Your Generosity

The Caring Crates were full for Catholic Social Services to create the Welcome Baskets for immigrant or refugee families when they were picked up this morning. Mr. Horning thanked the kids and promised the baskets and the funds (cheque in the amount of \$244 generated from concert ticket sales - \$1 of every ticket) would be used to supplement the baskets which would be provided to welcome these families.

### Activities During the Break

Sometimes parents ask what they can do during the break to support their children in their learning. Most importantly it is our recommendation to give them time to play, rest and enjoy their families. Everyone needs a break and so do our kids. Second, lots of quality time reading with your children or playing board or card games is wonderful. Finally you can encourage your children to write a short paragraph or journal about their favorite part of a day or adventure they had during the holidays. This can be a great deal of fun if you respond to them or keep a journal yourself. Perhaps share your entries or respond to one another at the end of the day.

### Volunteers Needed in the Library

Some volunteers are needed in the library to stamp books on January 8 and 11. Volunteers can come in at whatever time they are available. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Gamache in the library, either by email (lgamache@gsacrd.ab.ca) or by telephoning the school. Thank you so much!

### **No Milk**

Please be advised that there will not be any milk available until Tuesday, January 8.

### **Donations Needed for the Learning Commons**

Our library is seeking donations of crafting material and recyclables to use in makerspace activities. One specific material we need for a future activity is corrugated boxes. If you happen to have such materials and are willing to donate, then contact the library at lgamache@gsacrd.ab.ca or by contacting the school.

### **Mark Your Calendars - GSACRD Kindergarten Expo**

If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten next school year you are invited to attend the GSACRD Kindergarten Expo on Thursday, January 17 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at St. Albert Catholic High School. Click on the [Kindergarten Expo Link](#) for more information.

### **The New Curriculum is Coming**

Have you heard that a massive school curriculum change will be occurring in Alberta in the near future? It's massive because it involves a change in curriculum in nearly every subject area at the same time. Click on the [GSACRD Curriculum Link](#) for more information.

### **GSACRD Education Foundation Fundraiser**

The GSACRD Education Foundation will be hosting a **Sweetheart Soiree** at Holy Family Parish on Feb 9th, 2019, which includes a dinner, silent auction, and the amazing entertainment of Martin Kerr for \$50 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at our school office. Cheques should be made payable to the **Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation**. **The Foundation raises funds to provide scholarships and enhance student learning opportunities throughout the District.**

### **Thank you to Our Parent Volunteers**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent volunteers who have contributed in many ways. Starting with parents who unpacked and put books on the shelves in our Learning Commons to the parents who helped with our Christmas Concert, supervision at our movie on Tuesday and everyone in between, we appreciate all your help!! A big thanks also goes out to those parents on the executive of our School Council, to the parents who have been regulars at our meetings and to the parent who has volunteered to organize our yearbook. Volunteers on field trips to a number of locations, helping Miss Gamache in the Learning Commons and help with all things knitting. Finally, thanks to the parents of our Playground Committee who began volunteering almost a year ago with the goal of having a playground completed when the school opened. Mission accomplished, there is much we will need help with in the second half of the school year and we know that we can count on you.

### **Jr. Basketball(Grade 5 - 7)**

We have had a few practices before the Christmas Break to determine interest but still require players(boys and girls) in order to have viable teams. We are looking for 8 -10 kids in grade 5 - 7 who can commit to one or two practices per week and an exhibition schedule of games. If we do not have enough kids who can commit on a regular basis we will run weekly skill development clinics and scrimmage games for interested players throughout January and February. The first two practices in January will determine our program for this first year. If your child is interested in making the commitment to play it is vital that they are at the practices on Wednesday, Jan. 9 and Thursday, Jan. 10 from 3:05 pm to 4:00 pm in the school gym.

### **Pass the Pasta**

A big thank you to Mrs. McKinnon, Mrs. Kleparchuk and the Foods Option 4-6, Foods Option 7 and our staff who prepared and served a wonderful pasta lunch to the entire school right before Christmas. It was great to all sit down and have a hot meal together as a school community!

### **SAA School Council**

#### **January 16 - Google Classroom for Parents**

At our next School Council meeting on January 16th we will be starting with a short presentation(15-20 minutes) on Google Classroom for parents at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to join us. Please call our office if you are planning on attending so we know how many parents to expect. Immediately following the presentation we will have our January School Council Meeting

### **St. Albert Parish News**

#### **Christmas Eve Masses**

5:00 pm (featuring the Children's Pageant), 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, Midnight

#### **Christmas Pageant - 5:00 Mass**

This Mass features a pageant, special gifts for the kids and all parish families, and we hope to have a strong showing of singers to lead the Music Ministry as well. Unlike in years past for the Children's Choir **Gr. 3 and up children are welcome to sing... no practice necessary!** The songs are all familiar carols, so everyone can sing along! We would need the **singers to arrive at 4:30pm** and as usual, they come to the music area and sit together with the Choir Leader, Anne-Marie Switzer. The last 3 monthly Children's Masses have averaged 10-15 kids in our choir each time, but we'd love to have more join us.

The songs we'll be singing if you would like to practice at home are:



Entrance: O Come All Ye Faithful

Candle Lighting: [Jesus Come to Us](#) (by David Haas) – refrain only

Offertory: The First Noel

Communion: Away in a Manger; Silent Night; We Three Kings

Exit: Joy to the World

**Christmas Day Masses**

9:00 am, 11:00 am

Click on the [SAP Parish Link](#) to access the weekly bulletin for St. Albert Catholic Parish.

**Holy Family Parish News**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 9:30 pm, Midnight

**Christmas Day Masses**

9:00 am, 11:00 am

Click on the [HF Parish Link](#) to access the weekly bulletin for Holy Family Parish

