

We are busy preparing for the start of the 2019/20 school year. With the help of Mr. Dewald some of our students in Construction 7 built the garden boxes. Mrs. Trenchard and student helpers planted the seeds. Over the summer the flowers were tended and the vegetables grew. We look forward to a bountiful harvest and a great school year.



<b>Monday (26)</b>	<i>School Office Open - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</i>
<b>Tuesday (27)</b>	<i>School Office Open - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</i> <b>First Riders Night@6:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday (28)</b>	<i>School Office Open - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</i> <i>Staff Meeting/Planning Day</i> <i>School Office Open - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</i>
<b>Thursday (29)</b>	<b>Meet and Greet - 4:30 - 6:30 pm</b> <i>Staff Meeting/Planning Day</i> <i>School Office Open - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</i>
<b>Friday (30)</b>	<b>School Closed</b> - Blueprints Faith Development Day for all GSACRD Staff.

## Welcome!!

We certainly hope that you and your family have enjoyed a restful, relaxing summer break. If your children are returning to SAA welcome back! If your child will be new to SAA welcome! We are busy getting ready for our second year at Sister Alphonse Academy. Our staff is excited about the activities we have planned. We shall continue to put out a Weekly Bulletin that will provide you with important information about the week ahead and some information about the week that has passed.

## Living Like Jesus; We Are Shepherds

This year the theme in our School District is Living Like Jesus; We are Shepherds. Throughout the year we will discuss the qualities and attributes of a good shepherd.



## Registration Update

We continued to have enrolment changes over the summer. We predict that Sister Alphonse will be around 170 students, this is up considerably from the 97 students we had in September of 2018. Our numbers have created some different possibilities in regards to class configurations. We believe it is prudent to wait as long as possible before we make final decisions regarding this so that we can make the most informed decision possible. It may be that we will have some changes early in September once we have had the first day of school to verify enrolment. Thanks for your understanding.

## Home to School Information/Communication

We do our best to provide as much information as we can about school events through a variety of methods. This includes: [SAA School Website](#) and [Web Calendar](#), email, [SAA Facebook Page](#), [@Sister Alphonse Twitter](#), [SAA Instagram](#) [sisteralphonse\\_gsacrd](#) and our SAA School App. **As long as your email address is current you will receive our weekly bulletin on the last day of school each week.** If there is the rare occasion where we need to send home paper correspondence we usually try to do it on a Monday. The [SAA Weekly Bulletin](#) is also posted on our school website.

## SAA School APP

The SAA App for iOS and android is available. Just search for "My School Day" on the app store. When you run it, it will guide you through selecting Sister Alphonse Academy - this only needs to be done once. The app will be used to send out news and notifications from our school. Another excellent way to stay connected to our school.

## First Riders Night

Parents who have children that will be riding a bus for the first time are encouraged to take advantage of a Free Bus Ride with Mom and/or Dad. Families will gather in the Gym at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 27 in St. Albert at SAA or August 28 in Morinville at Notre Dame Elementary for a short presentation by the Transportation department and then board a bus for a short trip (about 5 minutes) in the community. This may help your child on their first day to school on the bus. Plan for about 30 minutes. To register Email [transportation@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:transportation@gsacrd.ab.ca), indicating which event you are attending and number of children that will participate.

## Meet and Greet - Thursday, August 29

We invite all parents to bring their children to SAA anytime between the hours of 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm for our Meet and Greet. At this time tentative class lists will be posted, students and parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher and students may catch up with friends or meet new friends. Students will also get the opportunity to have an ice cream treat. Representatives of our School Council will be there to welcome back all of our returning and new families to SAA. We also hope to have SAA Spirit Wear sizing and clothing samples on hand so families can place an order that night.

## SAA Spirit Wear

We have now entered into an agreement with Sportfactor to provide our school with Spirit Wear. We are hoping that parents will once again consider purchasing SAA Spirit wear for your children. If you choose not to do this we would ask that

you consider having your child(ren) wear blue or green on our Formal/Spirit Wear Days. Generally, this is every Thursday during the school year but check our calendar for dates. Clothing will be ordered online and then delivered to the school. The first clothing deadline is September 16. We hope to send out the link to for clothing orders next week.

### **Used SAA Spirit Wear Clothing Swap/Sale**

Have your children grown out of their SAA clothing? If you would be interested in swapping or selling your Spirit Wear that is in good condition please contact Mrs. Jillian Bourgeois at [jillbmail@gmail.com](mailto:jillbmail@gmail.com). If there is enough parent interest she may coordinate a sale which could occur during the Meet and Greet.

### **School Office Closed on Friday, August 30**

Our school office will be closed on Friday, August 30 so that all staff can participate in the annual Blueprints Faith Development Day.

### **Please Notify Us If Parent/Guardian Contact Information Changes**

A reminder that it is a parent's responsibility to update the school if your contact information has changed during the summer. It is critical that we have accurate phone and email contact information for our parents. This will ensure that you receive important information from the beginning of the school year.

### **2019/20 School Supply Lists**

Click on the link to access [School Supply Lists](#) for the 2019/20 school year. Parents who chose to take part in the Staples School Supply Program can pick up their child's supplies at the office beginning on Thursday, August 29 during the Meet and Greet or anytime after that date.

### **School Fees**

Early in September you will receive information about payment of 2019/20 School Fees in September. School Fees for the 2019/20 school year for students in grades 1-9 are \$68.

### **Robust Device**

Just a reminder to all parents that we would ask that students in grade 4 - 6 and Junior High come to school with their own Robust Device(laptop, chromebook, iPad) for use at school. If you are unable to provide a device we do have some extra units at the school that can be borrowed.

### **Volleyball Tryouts**

Junior High students are welcome to try out for our Junior Volleyball teams beginning the first week back in school. Tryouts/practices will occur on Sept. 4, 5 and 6 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

### **Absence Reporting – SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM**

Please be advised that our District uses the SAFE ARRIVAL absence reporting system. This absence reporting system will allow the school to verify student attendance, and quickly notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

### **Report your child's absence in advance with 3 convenient methods:**

1. On a mobile device, install the District App (search "Greater St. Albert Schools" in the Apple App or Google Play stores). Select SafeArrival - Attendance - Report an Absence. (Please note, to sign up for the new School Messenger SafeArrival it is best to use a computer)
2. On the SAA website select REPORT ABSENCES or SafeArrival website, [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca). Sign Up to create your account, then select Attendance followed by Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-844-502-5100 to report an absence using the toll-free system.

### **Anxious Child**

You may be noticing that your child could be experiencing some anxiety or anxiousness as the start of school is near. Not to worry, it's a very regular emotion that many children/students experience. From an adult point of view, it's kind of like starting a new job, your excited but nervous. You want to do well, you're hoping your colleagues will like you and you them. Your not quite sure you will know how to do everything and you're hoping your boss will be happy with your work. That's what it can be like starting a new school year, in a new class with a new teacher. The big thing is to reassure your child that feeling nervous or anxious is normal and that things will go well.

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

One of our goals at Sister Alphonse Academy is to provide authentic learning opportunities for our students which we believe can lead to Deep Learning and Conceptual Understanding. Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 734 believes that the formation of educational partnerships or sponsorships from individuals, businesses, or community partners provides an opportunity for educators to work collaboratively with the community in an effort to support learning and growth opportunities for students in the District. Thus principals may work with partners or sponsors with the intention of assisting students with ongoing activities and/or events while ensuring that the primary goal for the partner or sponsor is to provide valuable resources.

Our school is looking for individuals, businesses, or community partners that would be willing to assist/sponsor some of the costs associated with providing our students with these incredible learning opportunities. Our staff has already applied and been accepted for some activities for next year but they are costly. These costs could include transportation and or registration costs. Our District Administrative Procedures allow for some public recognition of sponsors via newsletters,



banners, etc. If we have individuals, businesses or community partners that would like to discuss this opportunity please call Mr. Lamer at SAA at your earliest convenience.

### **2019/2020 Junior High TRAVEL CLUB**

We have started to organize a Junior High Travel Club and plan a trip to the Canadian Maritimes for the upcoming school year, tentatively in the spring of 2020. Students will travel for approximately one week with teacher supervisors and a travel guide from EF Tours to experience New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. **We had a preliminary meeting in June but still require more students to make the trip viable for this spring. If you are interested and your child will be in Junior High, you are invited to a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 pm or you can contact Mrs. Trenchard at [natrenchard@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:natrenchard@gsacrd.ab.ca).** Come and find out more details (flights, accommodations, possible itinerary, costs) about this exciting opportunity. A trip like this would cost approximately \$2800 to \$3300 per student depending on the final itinerary. The tentative travel date being considered is May 17 - 24. Twenty students would be required in order for the trip to move forward. All trips outside of Alberta require tentative approval from the Superintendent or designate six months in advance of the trip and require final approval two months before the intended date of the Field Trip.

### **Student Support Fund**

Occasionally there are some families that would have some difficulties in paying for hot lunches, field trips or extracurricular activities at our school. We would never want to have any of our children miss out because of this. At SAA we do have a fund that has been created through donations by parents or friends of SAA that helps to offset the cost for these activities. If you would like to contribute to the fund please contact Mrs. Despina at our school. Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for Tax Receipts. Thank you for your support.

### **School Council News**

Please be advised that we are accepting nominations for the Executive of the Sister Alphonse Academy School Council. Nominations will be accepted for the position of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary until the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 11 when elections will be held. If you would like to nominate a person please call Mr. Lamer at the school or email him at [glamer@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:glamer@gsacrd.ab.ca). Parents are invited to attend our meetings that occur once a month. All parents who have children attending SAA are members of our School Council.

Mark your calendar. We are tentatively planning a Family Movie Night on Friday, Sept. 13/19. It will be a good way for new families to meet returning families from our school. More details to come.

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

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

### **Holy Family Parish News**

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

