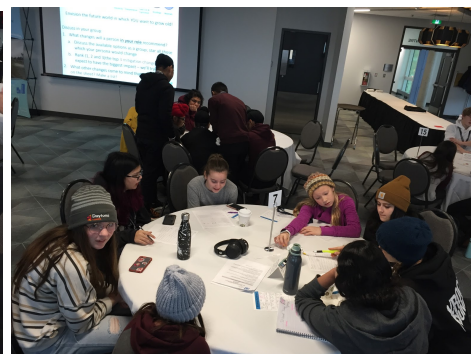
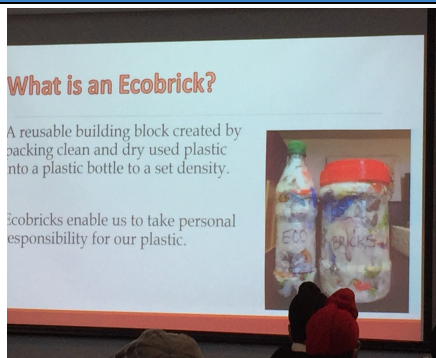
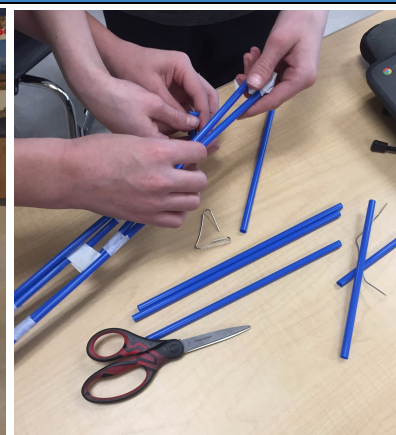
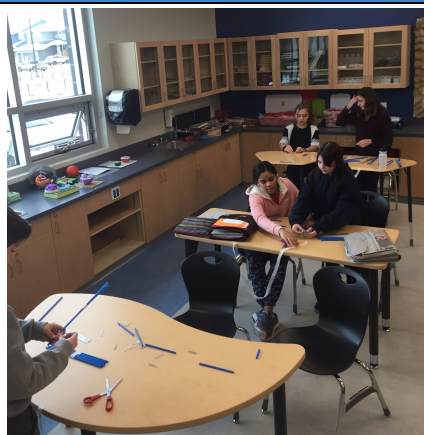




Junior High students were able to explore the concept of Energy Efficiency at the E3 Summit on Dec. 4-5



Students in grade 7 science build a bridge in 40 minutes with a specific set of materials to allow a golf ball to cross a 30cm span! What great critical thinking skills they displayed!

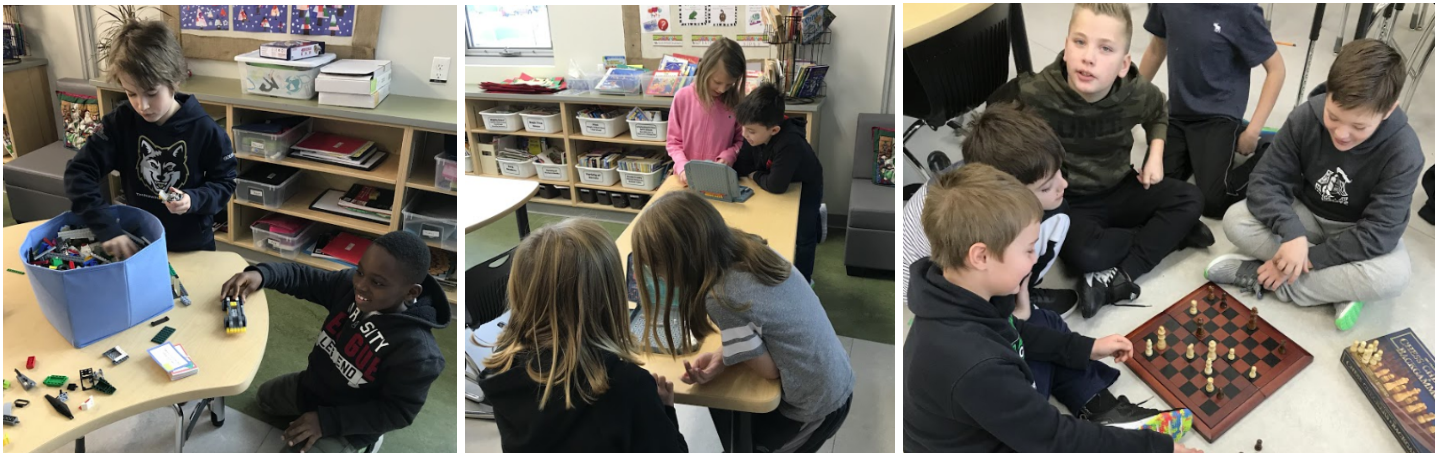


Students in 4/5 use their creativity to create beautiful birch tree artwork for our new "Let It Snow" Showcase! Be sure to check it out at the concert on Monday!





When the weather is cold and there is "inside recess" students play games, build, create and design.



Concert preparations continue. The stage and risers are up, the students continue to practice. All is calm, all is bright.



Gr. 4,5,6 Math/LA Booster students are finishing their cardboard arcade. Students have used the design process to plan, test, and create. They are also responsible to keep a budget to ensure their game comes in under the limit.

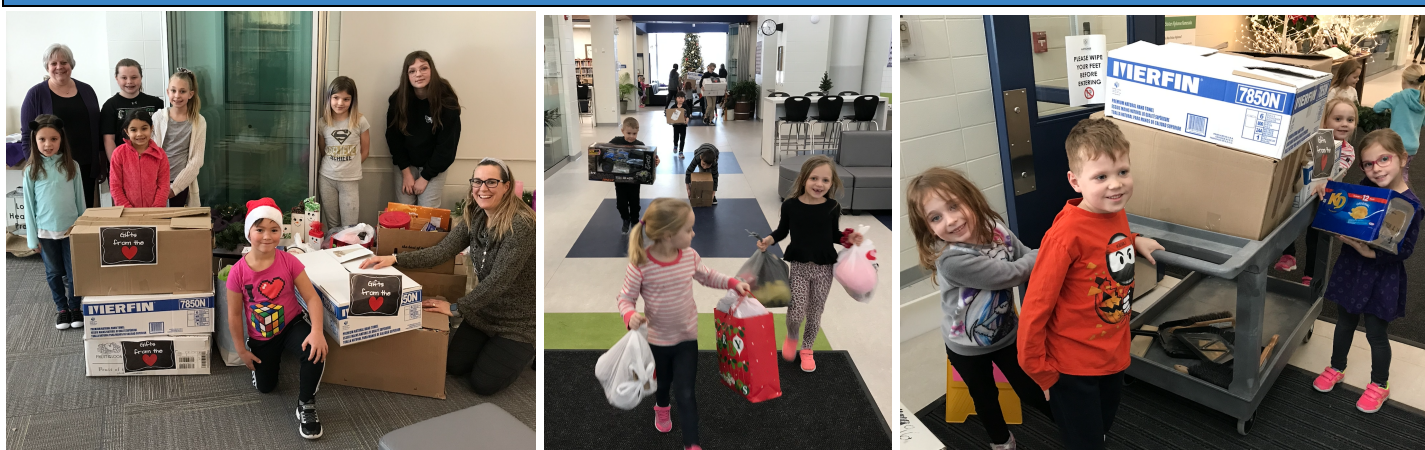




Gr. 4-6 Fit Option participated in a "Smoothie Challenge!" Students were challenged to create a tasty and nutritious smoothie with vegetables and fruit. Some of our Gr. 7 and 8's tested smoothies and provided feedback.



**"Give From The Heart"** - Representatives from Catholic Social Services were here to pick up the donations for our Caring Crates. We thank you for your generous support. Kindergarten kids helped to load two vehicles with donations.



**School News** - Take a look at what's coming up this week! **Dec. 16 - 20**

<b>Monday (16)</b>	Third Monday of Advent Liturgy - 8:35 am - 8:50 am Advent Take Joy Home Kits Continue all week <b>Christmas Concert</b> - 6:30 pm - <b>The school will be opened at 6:00 pm.</b> Please have your children here by 6:20 pm.
<b>Tuesday (17)</b>	
<b>Wednesday (18)</b>	Red and Green Day(have your child wear these colors to school)
<b>Thursday (19)</b>	Tacky Christmas Sweater Day (Have fun with this!) Christmas Stations Student Activity <b>School Wide Christmas Pasta Lunch - No charge - All students Welcome</b>
<b>Friday (20)</b>	Christmas Sing Along in the Gym to end the day! Jr. High Field Trip to Landmark Cinema - Movie(AM) <b>Last Day of School prior to Christmas Break - Regular Dismissal Time</b>

### [Our School Goals](#)

We have two primary school goals at SAA:

### **Our Learning Goal - TO PROVIDE MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO DEEP LEARNING**

- Fostering authentic relationships and connections with students and parents
- Differentiating instructional practices
- Learning Attribute Planning
- Leveraging Technology

## **Our Faith Goal - TO BUILD A CULTURE OF FAITH AND SERVICE WHERE EVERY CHILD AND FAMILY FEEL WELCOMED**

- Continue to build and expand connections with parish, CSS and D&P
- School Chaplain will continue to work to build capacity with staff to know, model and witness Jesus Christ
- Continue to ensure that our faith is prominent within our school
- Develop further awareness of connections between our faith and spiritual beliefs/practices of Indigenous brothers and sisters

### **Christmas Concert**

**Please be advised that doors to the school will be opened at 6:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 16th.** Parents will send their children to their classrooms and then take a seat in the school gymnasium. There is NO RESERVED SEATING. Students will be performing on an assembled 32" stage in the gymnasium. We plan on starting the concert at 6:30 pm sharp and we would expect that the concert will run about 60 - 75 minutes. **We would ask all parents/family to please stay for the entire concert so that all children have the opportunity to perform for an appreciative audience. Students will stay with their class during the evening. They all have a chance to see the concert during the day. Seating is for parents and guests. Upon completion of the Concert parents will pick up their children in the classroom or at a prearranged spot.**

### **Concert Parking**

Parents may park in the following areas during the concert: Visitor Parking, Bus Drop Off Zone, Passenger Drop Off Zone, residential areas around the school that do not have parking restrictions. We would very much appreciate if all families that are close to the school would consider walking to save parking for those that need to drive.

### **Monday Advent Liturgy Gatherings**

We will gather on Monday as a school community for our third Advent Liturgy right after announcements. Parents are welcome to join us during these short liturgies which last about 10-15 minutes first thing every Monday morning. On all other days during December classes will have short Advent reflections and prayer to begin their day.

### **Advent Take Joy Kits- Home Activity**

A letter was sent home at the end of November detailing our Advent "Take Joy" initiative that happens throughout the 3 weeks of school leading up to Christmas. Each kit contains items to give your family a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Children have begun taking the kits home and you should receive one if you returned the slip indicating interest. We hope you will enjoy this activity as a family and ask you to promptly return the package the next day so another family can enjoy!

### **Christmas Spirit Week**

Check out the calendar below with special emphasis on spirit activities coming up this week.

### **2019/20 SAA School Yearbook**

We have now officially reached an agreement for a yearbook. The 2019/20 yearbook will have 40 pages (up from 28) and will be hard cover. All for a price of \$30. Please support our yearbook by purchasing a yearbook on School Cash Online as soon as possible. Thanks to those who have already purchased a book.

### **Junior Basketball(Gr. 6-8) Update**

At this time we do not have enough students to participate in the GSACRD Junior Basketball league. We will evaluate this after Christmas as well. It's likely that we will play some exhibition games against other St. Albert Schools.

### **SAA Spirit Wear Clothing Store - LAST WEEKEND TO ORDER!!!**

We have reopened the SAA Clothing Store. It will remain open until **Monday, December 16** with an expected delivery date of late January or early February, 2020. Click on the [SAA Clothing Store Link](#) to order.

### **Junior High Stuff**

The second term for Gr. 4-6 and Junior High Options begins this week. **On Friday, Dec. 20 our Junior High students will be walking to Landmark Cinema to see the Movie "Jumanji: The Next Level". All students must provide consent and make payment for the movie on [School Cash Online](#) by Thursday, Dec. 19.**

### **Mark Your Calendars - Important Dates Coming Soon!**

**Dec. 16 - SAA Christmas Concert@6:30 pm - Doors Open at 6:00 pm**

Dec. 16 - SAA Spirit Wear Clothing Store Closes

Dec. 16 - 20 - **Christmas Activity Week**

- **Dec. 18 (Red & Green Day)**
- **Dec. 19 (Tacky Christmas Sweater Day)**
- **Dec. 19 - School Wide Pasta Christmas Lunch For All Students - No Charge paid by Student Activity Fee**
- **Dec. 20 - Jr. High Field Trip to Landmark Cinema(am)**
- **Dec. 20 - School Wide Sing-a-Long(Each class leads the school in a favorite Christmas Karaoke Song)**

Dec. 17 - Term 2 Options Begin

**December 21/19 to Jan. 5/20 - Christmas Vacation - School Closed No Classes K to 8**

Jan. 6/20 - Classes begin K-8

**Jan. 16 - GSACRD Kindergarten Expo@SACHS 5:30 - 7:00 pm**(for parents who are enrolling children in kindergarten next school year)

**Jan. 17 - No Kindergarten Classes**



Jan 20-24 - Zoo School - Gr. 1-2-3  
Jan. 30 - School Ski Trip  
Jan. 31 - No K-8 Classes - PD/Staff Meeting Day  
February 6 -7 - Teachers Convention - School Closed K to 8

To check dates well in advance click on our [SAA School Web Calendar](#).

### **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 in the new 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.

### **Thanks to the Current Sponsors of our SAA Field Trip Fund**



### **School Council**

Wishing all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020! A reminder that our next Council Meeting is Wednesday, January 15/20.

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

#### **How Can I Have A Good Advent Season?**

That's a great question! The Advent Season is a time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We also celebrate how He comes to us in both great and small ways each day and we look forward to His promise to come again in glory. The best way to prepare and motivate ourselves is to make the changes necessary to welcome Him into our hearts; to cultivate love. We are called to prepare a way for the Lord in our hearts. Are you ready to meet with God? How can I make this Advent Season a special one?

- \* Strive to attend daily Mass more than usual - put the day and time of Daily Mass in your calendar! Mass is held from Tuesday to Friday at 8am at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

- \* Go to confession - Schedule when you are going to go right now! Our Advent Penitential Service will be December 5th at 7pm and confession is held every Saturday morning from 9:30-11:00am in the Church.

Read the daily Mass readings, even if you cannot attend Daily Mass.

- \* Read an Advent reflection each day. Advent reflection booklets are available in the church foyer.

- \* Spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which is held of the First Friday of every month at the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

(December 6th 8:30-5 pm)

- \* Create a prayer space in your home. Have an advent wreath and use it for daily prayer.

- \* Spend more time in silence - consider turning off the radio in the car, the television, smart phone, etc.

- \* Take part in evening prayer at the Church (Vespers). Held on Dec 3, 10, 17

- \* Pray a Daily Rosary and reflect upon the Joyful Mysteries (Rosaries are available at the back of the church)

- \* Allow the Feasts and Dates of Advent to influence your daily life.

- \* Wear rose to Mass on December 14/15 for Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday.

- \* Look for opportunities to make the season about Jesus and not about excess gifts, food, and obligations.

- \* Give to the poor and those in need If we truly love God then we will try to prepare the way for Him into our hearts and lives. We will wait for Him with the same attention and devotion that spouses have for each other and that parents



have for their children. Let us ask Him to teach us how to love as He does. Then we will see lasting change born of love in our life.

Have a blessed season of Advent.

### **Parish – Getting Ready for Christmas!**

The busy, happy time of Christmas is almost upon us. We hope you will be able to attend our celebrations. Please mark your calendars! Christmas Eve and the Children's Pageant Our first Christmas Eve Mass is at 5:00 pm on Tues., December 24th. This Mass is widely attended so arrive at least an hour early to get a parking space and seats for your family. Once the main church is filled we will be seating people in the parish hall where the upstairs Mass will be projected on the big screen. There will be two special moments during the Mass, involving young children – the bell ringing during the Gloria and the Children's Pageant. If you have some jingle bells at home, please bring them for your children. We will also be handing out bells before Mass.

### **Children's Pageant**

During the reading of the Gospel, at the 5:00 pm Mass, children, in costume, will enact the nativity story. If your children would like to participate in this pageant, please sign up at the back of the church. There will be a practice on Sunday, December 15 following the 11:00 am Mass.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve - 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 pm & Midnight

Christmas Day - 9:00 - 11:00 am

New Years Eve - 7:00 pm

New

### **Advent Evening Prayer Vespers December 3, 10, 17 at 7 pm**

Join us for these three Tuesday evenings of Vespers in the main church. There is no better way to prepare for the coming of Christ than to participate in these beautiful, solemn musical devotions. Following Vespers on Tuesday, December 17 we will have a reception in the parish hall.

### **Church Decorating Help Needed**

The Arts and Environment group will be decorating the church for Christmas on 22 Dec from 12.30pm. Help is always needed as it's a huge task so please let Debbie at the parish office know if you can volunteer for an hour or two. A light lunch is provided immediately after Mass in the Lacombe room so, for catering purposes, we do require numbers by 19 December.

### **Help Needed at 5pm Christmas Eve Mass**

We are in need of a few people to give out gifts to the children after Mass. We also need someone to advance slides during the Mass in the parish hall. If you are able to help, contact Darryl at the parish office or email

### **New Year's Eve Mass at 7:00 pm**

Come for our special New Year's Eve Mass on Tuesday, December 31st at 7 pm and stay for hot chocolate and fireworks! Hot chocolate will be served in the parish hall and in the parking lot for those who will be watching the spectacular fireworks display across the street from the church. The fireworks begin at 8:30 pm and you can watch them from the church balcony or from inside your warm car. We hope to see you there!

### **Advent Mass at the Cemetery**

Will you be missing a loved one this Christmas? Join us for our annual Advent Mass with Archbishop Richard Smith, at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 21, at Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum, 14611 Mark Messier Trail. Light refreshments after Mass provided by Park Memorial.

### **Did you Know? What Liturgical Colors Are Used in Advent?**

Particular days and certain types of celebrations can have their own colors (e.g., red for martyrs, black or white at funerals), but the normal color for Advent is violet. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal provides: The color violet or purple is used in Advent and Lent. It may also be worn in Offices and Masses for the Dead. In many places, there is a notable exception for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday: The color rose may be used, where it is the practice, on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and on Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

### **RCIA**

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Please contact Darryl at the church office or email: Darryl.Tymchuk@caedm.ca

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

### **Holy Family Parish News**

### **Christmas Hampers**

Holy Family Parish will be collecting donations for the Christmas hampers on the weekend of December 7th and 8th, to give ample time for Sacred Heart Church to assemble them. For monetary donations, cheques can be made payable to



Sacred Heart Parish. Please give generously to our fellow Catholics. The hampers will be delivered on Saturday, December 21st, 2019. Please contact the office for more information on how to donate to this worthy cause.

**Sunday, December 15th**

KofC Children's Christmas Party after 9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses

**Christmas Mass Times**

December 24th Christmas Eve 5 pm, 7:30 pm, 9:30 pm, Midnight

December 25th Christmas Day 9 am, 11am

December 31st

Mary, Mother of God Vigil 5:00 pm

January 1st

Mary, Mother of God 9 am, 11am,

**Youth Activities**

Do you want to meet youth your age who share your faith? Do you want to play amazing games with amazing people? Do you want to have great discussions about the faith? Unite and Verve are youth groups for you! Hope you all had a great weekend. On Monday, at Unite, we will be hearing a talk about St. Jude, our saint of the month. On Wednesday, we will be having an All Saints' Day party from 6:30—8:30 pm at St. Albert Parish. This event is for youth in grades 4-9. We will be doing a cemetery scavenger hunt, a saint emoji game, and lots more! Please email Noëlle if you are attending so that she and Rebecca can plan accordingly.

Unite: Mondays from 7:00—9:00 pm for grades 9-12

Verve: Wednesdays from 7:00—8:30 pm for grades 6-8

If you are interested, or have any questions, please email Noëlle at [youthprograms@holyfamilyparish.ca](mailto:youthprograms@holyfamilyparish.ca)

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

