

SAA Bulletin #3 - September 14/2020

Serve Achieve Aspire

Take a look at some of the learning that took place last week in our school!

Students in Grade 1 are busy learning about patterns. We took our learning outside to enjoy the weather and learn about patterns in nature.



In Grade 2 we are reviewing patterns and building increasing patterns. Our family portraits will be hung in our classroom to remind us who gives us strengths during challenges.



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope that you had a blessed and happy weekend with your family as we start this new week of school! As a new school we are so blessed to be able to have larger spaces for learning which supports physical distancing safety protocols. Our students have been working on spending time outside while having the opportunity to take part in some exciting learning activities.

We continue to work together on persevering, experiencing joy, and Arising! We are called to Arise! Get up! In this Sunday's message, we are called not to harbour anger against others. We

are called to have mercy, to forgive and let go of anger. We hear more about this message through Archbishop Richard Smith's Homily during this Sunday's mass: [St. Joseph's Basilica Mass](#). Lord, help us to understand and live your message this week. Amen.

Superintendent's Update - Week ending September 11, 2020:

Please click on the link below to read the latest update from Dr. Clint Moroziuk, Superintendent of Schools.

- [COVID-19 Update - Sept. 11, 2020](#)
- [Student Illness - Guidance to Health](#)

Students in grade 3 are also investigating patterns. Only now, instead of repeating patterns, we are building increasing patterns. Check out these cool patterns they are creating with online manipulatives!



Daily Health & Safety Protocol Information:

- Before coming to school each day, all staff and students must complete the Alberta government's [COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire](#), which is available in [multiple languages](#), to determine whether they **can attend or must stay home**. The form does not need to be submitted to the office. If your child has any symptoms, contact your school office to let your child's school know. Everyone who enters a school will see a sign that reminds them to complete the daily COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire before entering the building.

Quick Links for Parents/Guardians:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire - Daily questionnaire for safe arrival at school each day. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSACRD Transportation• GrACE (Graceful Advocates for Catholic Education) |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSACRD District School Re-Entry Updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Gabriel Education Centre - Online Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Handbook *UPDATED SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-6 Mental Health Resources

Sister Alphonse Academy is excited to announce that we were granted some funds to kick off our plan to create an Edible Learning Garden space. Thanks to the City of St Albert for providing the opportunity to enhance our outdoor space with the Environmental Initiatives Grant. SAA strives to build a learning environment that is inquiry based and that fully supports the whole child (mental, physical, social and spiritual). We have deep, conceptual learning at the very core of our learning framework. We are WONDER driven and can't wait to take more of our learning outdoors. Check out the plan diagram below!

Thank you to Mrs. Shmyr for her interest and leadership in bringing this opportunity to SAA!



Faith Filled Fridays are back!

Faith Fridays are back! Last Friday we had the opportunity to visit our new faith in addition to learn about the importance of prayer and community! Through prayer we enter into a relationship with God. Prayer is our response to God's love.

Opening School Liturgy

Parents and friends of SAA are invited to attend our School Opening Liturgy via Google Meet on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020** at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to virtually attend our Opening

celebration, please contact Mrs. Samson at csamson@gsacrd.ab.ca. We shall give thanks to God for a wonderful start to the school year and ask for his blessings throughout the school year. We will be introducing the Faith theme: Arise! Get Up, to the students and families.

Welcome Back Spirit Week!

"Who has school spirit?" Knights DO! This week we will be having a week long school spirit week. This would have been in place of "Welcome Back Spirit Week" activities we would have hosted with the school wide spirit teams for the last two years. Since we cannot gather as "cross graded house teams" we are going to show our school spirit in our homeroom classes. Everyday this week we are going to have a challenge among the homerooms to see which class has the MOST SCHOOL SPIRIT! For every student in the class that participates in the spirit activities your class will get a tally to go toward points for the week. The class that has the most points at the end of the spirit week will be awarded an ADDITIONAL recess break outside covered by the Admin.

Here are the events for Knights Spirit week:

MONDAY - Crazy Hair Day

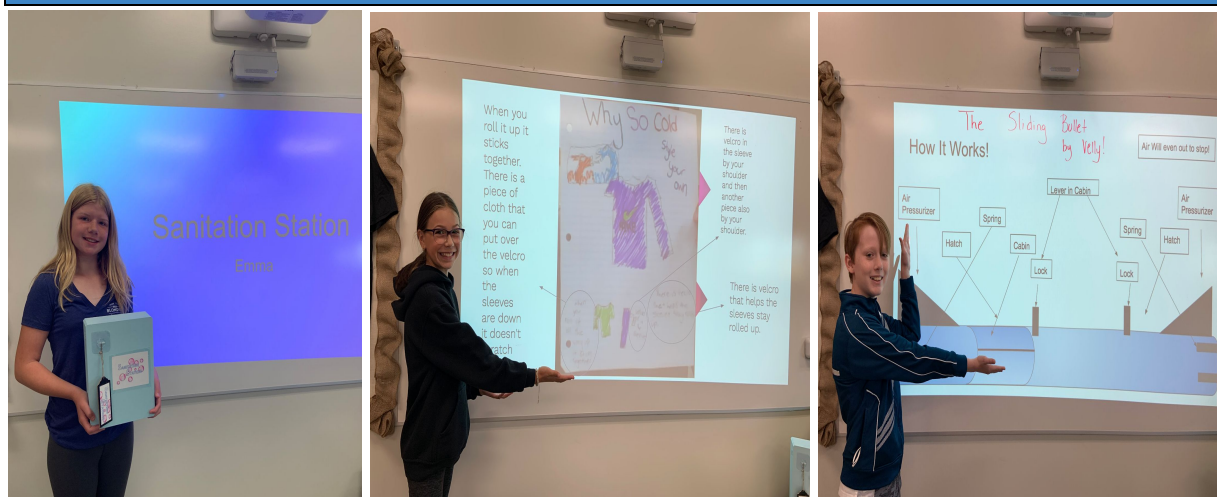
TUESDAY - Sporty Tuesday

WEDNESDAY - Wacky Wednesday

THURSDAY - WEAR your KNIGHTS COLOURS (BLUE & GREEN DAY)

FRIDAY - HAT DAY

Grade 4 - 9s worked on creating some unique business ideas during Genius Hour this week! Here are some fantastic ideas by three of our Grade Seven students!



Important Message for Online Learners and Bus Transportation:

Please note that if your son/daughter is participating in online learning and **does not require bus** transportation, a bus **cancellation form must be filled out** through the [Transportation parent portal](#) - online forms and requests. Without this cancellation form being submitted, the fees will still be applied.

Emergency Evacuation Drills

We will begin practicing our emergency procedures over the next two weeks (weather permitting). We will always notify our students that we are running a drill. As per District Administrative and Hour Zero Emergency Procedure we shall complete Emergency Evacuation drills (Fire Drills), Lockdown, On-Alert, Hold-Secure, and Shelter-In-Place drills during the year. Our Evacuation drills will still be meeting COVID-19 School Re-Entry Plan requirements:

Students in grades 4-12 should wear masks.

- It is recommended that students in K-3 wear masks for evacuation drills, although it is not mandatory at this time.
- Drills may be conducted in a variety of ways to incorporate physical distancing such as in small groups using various exits or one class at a time.
- It is critical to ensure students are familiar with the proper exit to use and the proper exiting procedures and gathering procedures.
- LIVE EVACUATION: Should a live evacuation be required, student safety should take precedence and physical distancing would be of secondary importance.
- Physical distancing can be planned at the prescribed meeting place following an evacuation drill.

If you require more information about our emergency procedures, please do not hesitate to call the school.

Protocol for when students become ill at school:



As part of keeping students and staff safe, office staff will be donning Personal Protective Equipment when caring for a child who may become sick during the school day. Office staff will ask the student about the symptoms they are having, will take their temperature and ask them to stay in the infirmary (isolation room) until the parent arrives to pick the student up. To have students become familiar with this procedure, Mrs. Kleparchuk visited classes to show the students what to expect and what the PPE looks like so that they are at ease and will be more familiar with the safety protocols in place.

Severe Medical Conditions

Please ensure that you have updated and reported all information required if you have a child that has severe medical conditions including Anaphylaxis or life threatening allergies. District administrative procedures require students who are old enough(6-8) carry their ep-pens on their person. Where students are not old enough an epi-pen would be provided to the office and a plan developed with parents to ensure that the epi-pen is available and administrable. The administration of prescription medication should be done at home by parents, However, in the event that circumstances require the administration of medication during the day it is done at the office and requires parent consent be completed.

Severe Allergens - No Peanut or Nuts

Some children or staff members may have severe allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please be sure not to send these products or food containing nuts to school. Thank you.

Safe Arrival (School Messenger) – Student Absence Reporting

At Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools we use the Safe Arrival absence reporting process to support families in having their children arrive safely to school. This system will make it easier for you to report, and respond to, school absences for your child. The system also integrates with our notification system, School Messenger. The **student 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:** On a mobile device, install the District App (search "Greater St. Albert Schools" in the Apple App or Google Play stores).

Select **SafeArrival** à **Attendance** à **Report an Absence**. (Please note, to sign up for the **School Messenger SafeArrival** it is best to use a computer)

1. On the SafeArrival website, go.schoolmessenger.ca.
 - **Sign Up** to create your account, then select **Attendance** followed by **Report an Absence**.
1. Call the toll-free number 1-844-818-9908 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

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.

Kind Reminder - Lunches & Water Bottles:

Students please bring a water bottle to school as the fountain is not open to drink water without one at this time. Also, students may want to bring a few extra snacks to school if they find they are a bit more hungry as we do not have the milk program or Snack Shack available at this time. Thank you!

Supporting Mental Health Resources:

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been a challenging time for families all over the world. Communication and support is more important than ever in meeting the needs and challenges that people are facing today. Included here is a resource for supporting mental health and your family: [K-6 Mental Health Resources](#)

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

We have painted some playground games for play on the tarmac at recess. Thanks to Mrs. McKinnon, some of the JH students, and Mrs. Kleparchuk, for their help getting this completed!



School Council News!

Another school year is here! Parents are invited to attend our meetings that occur once a month. Our next School Council meeting is: **Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.** via Google Link. All parents who have children attending SAA are members of our School Council. If you would like to attend, please email Mrs. Samson, SAA Principal, at csamson@gsacrd.ab.ca to receive the link for the meeting. **Thank you to all of the parents who serve the Sister Alphonse Academy community in this way!**

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 first day of school each week.** This is a new change for this school year. 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.



School News - Take a look at what's coming up! **September 14 - September 18**

Monday (14)	<i>Spirit Week Activities all week see above for more details!</i>
Tuesday (15)	
Wednesday (16)	<i>Opening Celebration! 9:00 a.m. via Google Link School Council Meeting 6:30 pm via Google Link</i>
Thursday (17)	
Friday (18)	<i>No Kindergarten Classes</i>

God bless and take care.

Christine Samson
Principal
csamson@gsacrd.ab.ca

Lisa Kleparchuk
Vice Principal
lkleparchuk@gsacrd.ab.ca

