

Be Part of the Heart



St. Benedict School September 2011 Newsletter

Welcome back! The beginning of the school year is filled with promise, excitement and eagerness. We are pleased to see everyone again, and especially happy that so many new families are joining our St. Benedict School community. Thank you for choosing our school and welcome!

This school year we will continue to work on living our mission statement . . . inspired by the Holy Spirit, dedicated to respecting and helping others, embracing our gifts, achieving academic success, and living in the service of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

The staff is looking forward to journeying with our St. Benedict School family this 2011-12 school year. Have a super year and blessings to you all!

Monique Tellier-Phillips,
Principal

Family Welcoming / Meet the Teacher Night

Please join us on **Tuesday, September 13th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** for some coffee and treats at our Family Welcoming / Meet the Teacher Night. The evening will begin with a brief program; following the program, parents are encouraged to tour the school with your child (ren) and meet their teacher.

BUSSING



Please bear with the bus driver over the next week. With the new route and new stops it will take a little extra time to get the schedule in place. Please have the students at their designated bus stop at least 10 minutes before their bus is due to arrive, until we get the timetable in order. All students who are riding the bus must have a bus pass. Please contact the office for your passes

Important Dates to Remember

Monday, Sept 5th - NO SCHOOL
Monday, Sept 19th- PAC Meeting at 6:30pm
Friday, Sept 16th- NO SCHOOL
Thursday, Sept 8th- Opening Mass at 1:15pm
Tuesday, Sept 13th-Family Welcoming at 6:30-7:30pm
Wednesday, Sept 21st -Terry Fox Run 11am
Thursday, October 6th-Picture Day

PAC

Our first PAC meeting for our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be held on **Monday, September 19th at 6:30pm.** *It would be great to see you come out and be a part of the action at St. Benedict School!*

All parents/guardians of students attending our school are automatically members of PAC and are welcome at all meetings and functions.

PAC is responsible for a number of exciting and rewarding projects and contributions to our school. Some projects from other years include: Hot Lunch, school agenda books, Family Dance, audio-visual equipment, volunteer program, teaching aids, field trips, year-end awards, staff appreciation and many, many others which make our school a wonderful place to be and work in, and which enhance our programs.

PAC meetings are usually scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



Please join us for our school opening Mass at **1:15pm on Thursday, September 8th in the gym.**

Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures



1. As much as possible, please park on adjacent streets when dropping off and picking up your children from school.
2. Please do not park in the staff stalls in the north parking lot (staff stalls are the ones with access to electrical plug-ins). There are spots for parents to park close to the preschool building. However, be aware that vehicles should not be parked for long, as this parking area is primarily for our preschool where class begins each day at 8:35 a.m.
3. If you anticipate that you will be using the bus loop to drop off / pick up your child before and after school, please be aware of the following protocol:
 - In the morning, a no-entry sign is placed at the entrance of the bus loop. The only vehicle permitted to enter the bus loop in the morning is the school bus. After students are dropped off and the bus leaves, the no-entry sign is removed and vehicles are permitted to enter the loop to drop off students at the **white-painted curbs (please do not park along the yellow curbs)**.
 - After school (i.e. 2:53), please do not enter the bus loop until *after* the yellow bus has entered and parked (the bus parks at an angle toward the end of the bus loop; by parking at an angle, the bus driver ensures that no vehicles pass while students are boarding). Once the bus has parked, vehicles are permitted to drive into the loop *behind the bus* and park on either side of the loop along the curbs that are painted white.
 - You should be aware that if you opt to enter the bus loop after school, you will have to wait until the bus leaves to be able to leave the loop (i.e. the bus leaves first).

If there are changes to the number of busses, this protocol may have to be revisited and "tweaked" a bit. Thanks for your understanding as we endeavour to make safety over convenience a priority at our school.

Student Door Assignments

Kindergarten/Bus Students: Front Door
Gr. 1 & Gr. 2M North Door
Gr.2J & 3- North East Door
Gr. 4-5-South East Door
AM Care Programs- Front Entrance

This protocol will ensure that all students can enter and exit the building in an orderly and safe manner. With increased growth and additional classes in our primary classes we have had to make this adjustment.

SCHOOL SAFETY and SECURITY

To maintain the safety and security of our students and staff, please remember that all entrance/exit doors are locked after 8:30 a.m. each day with the exception of the main entrance, which is open all day long.

Now that the students have settled in, please be aware that parents and visitors are asked not enter the hallways to drop off / pick up children. When you need to pick up your child during the school day, please come to the office and we will be happy to call your child to meet you there. We are concerned about disruptions to class time so if parents have to drop off something for their child, please leave it at the front office and we will get it to your child. Thank you - your cooperation is most appreciated.

REGISTRATION REMINDERS

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools has set the annual mandatory registration fees at \$70/student plus a \$5 technology fee for Grades 1-5 and \$75/student for ECS. There is an additional fee of \$50 for the ECS Field Trip and Kindergarten Supplies are \$30. That is a total of \$155. If you have not already paid your fees for the 2011-2012 school year, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Bussing fees have been set at \$300/student per year or \$600/family per year for students whose residence is closer than 2.4 km from their **designated** school. Kindergarten bussing is \$150 for one way. We do accept post-dated cheques/visa payments. All students riding the bus must have a bus pass. Drivers will ask to see each student's pass.

PLEASE HELP US WITH CHILD SAFETY...

If your child is going to be absent from school, please let us know. It is also a courtesy to our secretaries who have to make separate calls home for each unreported absence. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

MEDICAL ALERT

Please ensure that the office has been notified of any special medical conditions your child might have. Parents of students who may require Epi-Pens must fill out a Medical Treatment questionnaire available at the office.

STUDENT POSSESSIONS

We strongly encourage labelling! Please put your child's name on **everything** ... rain boots and snow boots need identification so that students and staff can easily identify who it belongs to. Please remember that all electronic games & valuables are to be kept at home for the student to enjoy there. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.



MILK PROGRAM

Milk will be available for the students, once again this year. A letter will be sent home from our Milk Coordinator early next week.

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, please contact the school at 986-7480 or send a note with your child. For September, everyone will be getting a hard copy.

STUDENT AGENDAS

We thank the P.A.C. for funding the purchase of an agenda for each child in the school. These are important for continuity of communication between the school and home.



We ask all parents to read the family handbook at the beginning of your child's agenda. Most of your questions may be answered by going over this information. If you have any questions or

concerns, please come and see us. If a student loses their agenda, replacement cost will be \$10.

SCHOOL PICTURES



Individual school photos will be taken on Thursday, October 6th. Every student will have their picture taken but parents are under no obligation to purchase any pictures, although we do ask that the proofs be returned.

TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

Our annual Terry Fox Walk/Run at St. Benedict School will take place at 11 am on Wednesday, September 21st. We will follow the Fred Johns Reservoir path if the weather is nice; otherwise we will find a way to do it indoors. There will be a pledge form sent home for this very worthwhile project to aid cancer research but we are asking all students who will be participating in this fun walk/run at school to bring a toonie. Parents are encouraged come out and enjoy the fresh air and exercise with us.



LEDOC & DISTRICT FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER FALL FOOD DRIVE

Our Fall Food Bank drive is set for September 26-30th.

The Food Bank is requesting our support and the St. Benedict family has always been generous. Please keep this in mind when purchasing groceries over the next while. We are all committed to helping those who are in need in any way and this is one of the most important. Items can be dropped off at the office. The Food Bank will be picking up the items on the morning of October 6th.



After School Drop-In Program

The Leduc Boys and Girls Club operate an After School Program for students age 6 -12 years old, out of St. Benedict School. The program runs from 3-6pm. The cost of this program is \$100 yearly membership. For registration or more information please contact the Leduc Boys & Girls club at (780)986-3121.

NOTICE FOR ALL ST. BENEDICT FAMILIES

St. Benedict School will be hosting a "CAT.CHAT" concert on the evening of Friday, October 12th beginning at 6:30 p.m WHAT IS A CAT.CHAT CONCERT?

All Cat.Chat concerts are specifically geared for young families with kids (preK- grade 6). The songs are dynamic and packed with God's Word and Christian teachings that bring children into a refreshing experience. The concert is filled with powerful music, crowd participation, unicycling, juggling, yo-yos, prizes, good humor, prayer times and family fun. After the concert, the Cat.Chat family and Moses the Cat stick around to take photos, sign autographs and "chat".

This event will be tied into a fundraiser for our school by which tickets can be purchased for a variety of gift baskets. This fundraiser will replace the major West Edmonton Mall fundraiser. PAC will determine whether or not further fundraisers will be required, dependent upon how successful this fundraiser is.

More information to follow within the next week.

SUNTREE FIRE

Hi, I'm Eric Jones. I'm sure you've all heard about the families who lost their homes in Leduc because of a fire. The ages of the family members range from babies to adults. I'm collecting certain things for the families. You can donate dvds that work well, books that are in good shape, used game consoles with video games or hand-held games that you don't use anymore. You can donate money too. Any little bit will help. I will be collecting the items next week. There will be a box in the office that the items can be dropped in. I will also be sitting at a table after school every day next week to take donations. Thank you for your help!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Travis Luscombe on the 1st
Emerson Stuparyk on the 1st
Andrey Kovac on the 3rd
Christianna Venus on the 5th
Ethan Rochon on the 6th
Raven Cardinal on the 7th
Alessandra Lopes on the 7th
Ara Bendig on the 8th
Eric Gruber on the 10th
Isaac Rowan on the 12th
Katana Inglis on the 14th
Jessy Hauger on the 15th
Leif Woolgar on the 18th
Karsen Inglis on the 21st
Matthew McEwan on the 21st
Mya Malloy on the 22nd
Thoren Rutter on the 22nd
Logan Dufresne on the 23rd
Adrian Kovac on the 23rd
Rylan Barabonoff on the 24th
Xinen Fallis on the 25th
Izabelle Flynn on the 27th

LATES

The student entrance doors will be locked at 8:30 a.m. when announcements start and our day begins. Any students who are late should go through the front doors and check in at the office so that if they have been marked absent, the school is aware that they have arrived.