

December 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are one week before a well-deserved break for our students and faculty. I am writing to all parents and guardians to share an important message not to be concealed within our newsletter. Today, I am writing to you from multiple perspectives. I am writing as a principal, caregiver, son, brother, and a God-father. I know the pandemic has been challenging for all of our families. With increasing positive cases in Alberta, this Christmas is going to be very different. Our students and faculty will not have the opportunity to see extended family members outside of their household and close family friends resulting from the most recent health restrictions.

As stated by our Superintendent of Schools on December 11:

On December 8, Premier Jason Kenney announced new and stronger province-wide public health restrictions, which will be in place until at least January 12, to protect the health-care system and slow the spread of COVID-19. A ban on all indoor and outdoor social gatherings, as well as mandatory mask-use, became effective immediately, while all other measures come into effect on Sunday (December 13). The announcement did not include any changes for schools; thus, programming and protocols will continue as previously directed.

Although we have these restrictions in place, we still have the gift of family members in our immediate households to share the Christmas season. However, this can change should a child, parent, or staff member have to isolate and socially distance in their own home because they were identified as a close contact or become symptomatic. Then one questions if they can sit at the same table to enjoy a meal as a family or be together next to one another to open gifts on Christmas Day? If they can hug their child or sit together on the sofa to read a story without increasing risk to other family members? We do not want additional obstacles and uncertainty for our students' families and faculty by mitigating close contact, symptomatic, and positive cases within their homes over the break with already many barriers to overcome.



WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

Our families have been excellent at ensuring there is an adherence to health recommendations. At this time, there is a further need to continue our vigilance as we approach the Christmas break to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. As we have one week left, I am imploring all parents and guardians to continue respecting and following all health restrictions in place, particularly refraining from gathering with others outside of your household. Second, complete the [daily checklist](#) for your child (and yourself if you have to come to the school), and if your or your child is symptomatic, please have your child remain at home. Third, if your child is identified as a close contact, please isolate them, contact AHS (8-1-1), and follow their recommendations. Finally, if you are not sure of a circumstance or health-related question about COVID-19, please reach out to AHS (8-1-1).

At Albert Lacombe Catholic Elementary School, we will continue to adhere to essential health protocols. These protocols include frequent cleaning and sanitizing high touch areas, daily screening before coming to work, washing and sanitizing hands, maintaining distances of 2m+, staggering breaks, wearing masks, and staying with our same cohort to keep everyone safe.

As a community, we require everyone's continued assistance to keep each other safe and well as we approach the Christmas break. The administration and faculty of Albert Lacombe Catholic Elementary School thanks you for your continued support. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 780-459-4478.

Yours in education,



Mr. Allan Menduk
Principal
Albert Lacombe Catholic Elementary School

