

April 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have completed our first week of online learning and there has been a great deal of learning for students, our faculty, and for our parents and guardians. As a school, it is crucial that we maintain ongoing supports for our students and their parents/guardians as we continue on the journey of online learning. As further support for families in the transition online learning, there are a number of additional supports that we have compiled for parents and guardians and their families to access.

Website Update:

In order to facilitate communication as we finish off the school year, we have added an additional tab on our school website at www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca that reads “**Online Learning Resources.**” Under this drop down menu, we will have:

- All school communications related to the programming
- Link to our District communication.
- Links to support Parents and Guardians with online learning at home.
- Recreational reading opportunities at home
- Community and provincial resources to support parents, guardians, and students in the areas of basic living needs, income support, health and well-being, and mental health supports.
- Supporting Faith Formation
- Public Health and Safety Recommendations

The intent of this new tab is to have all pertinent information in one location so that parents and guardians do not have to search through the entire website or locate previous emails for further reference. If there are any specific subject-based learning websites pertaining to what your child/ren is/are learning in class will be shared by their homeroom teacher.

Recreational Reading and Interactive Resources:

In order to support students with recreational reading at home, we were able to compile a list of online e-book and read-along resources for students to access while away from school and while the public libraries are closed. Some resources will require parents to sign up to (no payments are required) or students will need to enter their teacher’s name for others.

- Pearson Mathology - <https://www.pearsoncanadaschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS3e1i>
- Storyline - <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- Scholastic (reading and ‘watching the story’) - <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>
- Epic: <https://www.getepic.com/> (note, homeroom teachers will sign up in the week of April 6th to get free access to over 40,000 titles until the end of the year. Students will only need to enter their teacher’s name).



WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

- St. Albert Public Library eBooks - <https://sapl.ca/elibrary.html> (Requires a St. Albert Public Library Card).
- Audible - <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> (Literature for all ages in 6 different languages, including adults)

Interactive Resources:

- Starfall (Pre-k- Gr. 3): <https://www.starfall.com/h/>
- My Storybook: <https://www.mystorybook.com/>

Families Requiring Internet:

As a school, we were looking for a Canadian Internet Service Provider to provide free internet service for students and their families to access in order to complete their studies online; however, there are no free internet services in our area at this time.

The TELUS Internet for Good program has been around for some time now but due to recent developments the minimum level for qualification have been eliminated. Internet for Good (IFG) – opening up to all families in need identified by the School Boards, regardless if they currently qualify for IFG and the program available immediately. This program offers low cost internet at \$9.95 per month with no minimum term. Families are able keep that rate for up to 2 years. If you are interested, please contact the District can forward you a code. Families would then make arrangements for installation.

If you are interest, please contact the school and we will place you on a the list for a code.

Chromebooks:

Initially, we had placed a limit of one Chromebook for each requesting family so that we were able to ensure that one device was made available for every household that required one. This week, we will reach out to families who requested more than one due to multiple children requiring devices in the home to complete their studies.

We will still require the same sign out process for our parents and guardians to complete in order to obtain the second device.

School Counselling Services

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools cares for our students and remains committed to supporting their well-being. We will continue to provide support during this unprecedented and evolving situation. Our counsellors have been connecting with students and families already on their caseloads. In order to provide counselling supports in a ‘virtual’ community, our district has purchased a subscription for a secure online counselling platform. We are anticipating to be "live" by later in the week.



If students require emotional or social support, you can reach out to our School Counsellor Mrs. Chyzowski by email: (hchyzowski@gsacrd.ab.ca). Emails will be checked and responded to during regular school hours.

Additional support services you can also reach out to include:

Kids Help Phone - text 686868 or call 1-800-668-6868 or visit www.kidshelpphone.ca

211 Alberta – text 211, call 211 or visit www.ab.211.ca

Distress Line (24/7) 780-482-4357

Mental Health Help Line (24/7) 1-877-303-2642

Alberta Health Services [Help in Tough Times](#)

Faith and Religion:

1. Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ:

We are very blessed to have the Pearson “Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ” instructional resources for our students and parents to access. There are a wide range of songs, videos, interactive stories and activities in addition to the text book for students to use. To access this resource:

Web address: <http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/school/growinginfaith/student-home/>

User name: -----

Password: -----

Note: User name and password letters are case sensitive

Due to copyright provisions, we will not be able post the User Name and Password our website.

2. Online Masses:

Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton: Online Masses led by Archbishop Smith. **You are invited to join each Sunday, as they will livestream Archbishop Smith’s celebration of the Sunday Mass from St. Joseph Basilica to your computer or mobile device.** Videos will begin streaming on this page a few minutes before Mass begins. You can also find the livestream on their Facebook page [@archedmonton](#). (You do NOT have to sign up for Facebook to view this. Just ignore Facebook’s prompts and scroll down until you see the livestream).

Click here for more information: <https://caedm.ca/>

3. Archbishop Smith's Message of Hope:

Archbishop Smith was at our school on February 27th and had the chance to connect with all of the students in our school. He has shared a message to all members of the Edmonton Archdiocese.

Visit the following link for Message of Hope Amid Pandemic Fears: <https://bit.ly/2JAGffS>



4. Holy Week at Home – Archdiocese of Edmonton

What are your plans for Easter 2020? Since many Catholics are not able to gather in their parishes during Holy Week this year, Liturgical Press has made **Holy Week at Home** available for individuals and families to use. This is a resource, adapted from the liturgies of Holy Week, with prayers for Palm Sunday and the days of the Triduum for families that wish to come together more in-depth prayer and reflection. *Please note that this is pretty comprehensive and may not be for all families.*

Most Teachers are Working from Home:

As per the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta, most of our teachers and educational assistants are working from their homes as they are delivering and supporting programming to students. Consequently, when teachers are making calls to student residences, there will be “Unknown caller,” “No Caller ID,” “Blocked,” or “Private Number.”

If parents and guardians are needing to reach their child’s teacher, you can either email them, contact the school at 780-459-4478 and a message will be relayed to them, or reach out through Google Classroom or SeeSaw.

District Calendar:

The school and District will still be following the District Calendar that was approved by the Board of Trustees last year. As Friday April 10th is Good Friday and Monday April 13th is Easter Monday and thus non-operational days.

We would like to thank all of our parents and guardians who have reached out to their child/ren’s teachers and the school administration in the last few weeks. We recognize that this has been a big change for you and your family and are appreciative to the patience and support as we instituted online learning opportunities for our students. 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

