

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

# B.E.A.R. NECESSITIES

June 25, 2015



## Key Dates

*Friday, June 26 – School Closed at 11:30 a.m.*

*Wednesday, August 19 – School Office Opens*

*Thursday, August 27– Back to School BBQ & Meet 'n' Greet 5-6:30 p.m.*

*Monday, August 31 – First Day of Classes*

*- Kindergarten Staggered Start –*

*Green Group only attends*

*-Sports Academy Orientation 7 p.m.*

*Tuesday, September 1 – Kindergarten Staggered Start – Purple Group Only Attends*

*Wednesday, September 2, All Kinder students attend*

*Monday, September 7 – LABOUR DAY – NO SCHOOL*

*Thursday, September 10 – Opening Celebration & Gr. 4 Bible Presentation @ 10:45 a.m.*

*Friday, September 18 – PD Day - NO CLASSES for students*

*Monday, September 21 – Picture Day*

## YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS

We marked the end of our school year with a couple of special school-wide events. On June 24, our Talent Show, gave our students an opportunity to showcase their abilities in a variety of areas. We enjoyed their musical, artistic, comedic and athletic talents as we watched a variety of sets including; a gymnastics routine, piano selections, violin, raps, singing performances, a drama skit and a comedy routine! It was great to see the students display the courage to share their passion with us in a large group setting! Thank you to Mrs. Michael and Mrs. McLeod for working with the students on their performances.

On June 23, Father Mike joined us in our Year-End Celebration. He commended our students for their efforts to be BEARS: to show Belonging, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Safety. In Father Mike's great storytelling tradition, he shared some great tales to illustrate the importance of making a Total Commitment to living the best life possible! We also recognized our Grade 6 students who are moving on to new horizons in junior high--you have given us great satisfaction as we watched you grow in confidence, skill and stature! We are proud to call you BEARS and wish you well in the future!

At both events, we were blessed by the presence of our AL extended family, our parents, grandparents, and older siblings. It is always great to have you celebrate with us!

## **STAFFING UPDATES**

It is the time of year when staffing changes are made in Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. Changes are made throughout the school division, of which Albert Lacombe is a part, to accommodate enrolment trends at various schools, to honour collective agreements and contracts, and to provide new growth opportunities. Here are some of the staffing changes made to date:

- ❖ Retiring from Albert Lacombe after 30+ years of teaching each are Mrs. Alannah van Bryce and Mrs. Joanne Cole. We thank them for being a big part of AL's history, for sharing their dedication and gifts with a few generations of students, and for being great mentors of learning and faith!
- ❖ Due to the completion of temporary contracts, we are saying farewell to Mrs. McLeod, Miss Yaremchuk and Mrs. Palidwar
- ❖ Leaving us is a very talented and dedicated group of Educational Assistants: Mrs. Jess, Mrs. Fizzard, Mrs. Clayton-Newton, and Mrs. Crothers. They have been wonderful partners with our teachers in serving students with diverse learning needs!
- ❖ Transferring to share their gifts and talents at other schools are: our Counsellor, Mrs. Grinder to Morinville Community High School and Mrs. McDougall, our Speech and Language Pathologist, is moving to Bertha Kennedy Catholic Community School.

We have been blessed by the service of all of these wonderful educators. Their dedication and caring for our students has been exceptional and their legacy will live on in our students.

- ❖ Joining the Albert Lacombe staff team for 2015-2016, will be: Mrs. Kerri Fedunyk, from Legal School, to teach in the primary grades, Miss Lesley Kenyon will be our new Preschool teacher and Ms. Emily Belke will be joining our Sports Academy team as our Elementary Gymnastics, Cheer, Dance coach. Educational Assistants joining us from other GSACRD schools are Mrs. McConkey, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Demers.

We look forward to a great year, combining the gifts and talents of our current staff members with these new members, all working for the benefit of your children.

## **CLASS CONFIGURATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR**

In our last newsletter, we shared some possibilities for class configurations for the 2015-16 school year. As you can appreciate, our enrolment numbers are changing daily and these student numbers change the classes we will be preparing for next year. Please know that we expect more changes to enrolment in August and, within the resources we have in our school district, will be working to create the best possible learning environments for our students for the upcoming year. We look forward to sharing more information with you in late August. We hope to see you all at our Welcome Back BBQ on August 27!

### **Back to School BBQ & Meet n Greet**

#### **Please Join Us!**

Please join us for Albert Lacombe's Back to School BBQ on Thursday August 27, 2015 from 5:00 PM till 6:30 PM. This will give your child a chance to meet his/her teacher and see their classroom. The directions to order a hotdog or hamburger are below (and also on our website), and you must preorder if you want food. If you are not ordering food you are most welcome to attend to meet our staff and see your child's classroom.

Go to [seeals.hotlunches.net](http://seeals.hotlunches.net), code: ALSHL Please login to your account and from the home page go to Customers - insert/add First Name "Family" and last name should pre-populate. Then (again from main page) go to Manage Orders, you will see Welcome Back BBQ and place your order for your family there. You can also sign up to volunteer there too :)

If you need the link or userid, let me know and I'll email it to you. Any other questions email Natalie at [natalie.monette@yahoo.ca](mailto:natalie.monette@yahoo.ca) or call/text 780.984.8182 Order Deadline is August 20.

\*Please note, this event replaces our previous Meet & Greet and Parent Orientation.

### **LUNCH SUPERVISORS NEEDED**

We are in need of some additional people willing to work on a casual basis as lunch hour supervisors. Days of work are negotiable; we will accommodate your availability. The rate of pay for lunch hour supervisors is \$20.40 per day. The position of lunch hour supervisor is an important one as our supervisors work hard to help our children enjoy a safe and enjoyable lunch hour. Having a great break at lunch time helps our students be at their best for their afternoon classes.

Benefits:

- fresh air and exercise
- opportunity to get to know our wonderful students and support them as they learn the important skills of cooperative play and problem solving
- opportunity to work cooperatively with our great staff
- satisfaction of contributing to students' safety and well-being

A Criminal Record Check and Child Welfare Check are required for the position. Current first aid qualifications are an asset! If you have questions about the position or would like to apply, please contact Mrs. Tod or Mr. Hayes at our school office.

### **St. Albert minor Hockey & Raiders Hockey Club**

#### **Female Hockey Fun Day**

\*A free on-ice introduction to female hockey for the first-time player of all ages.

\*Male & Female Equipment swap 9- noon

**Sunday 30 August 2015**

**Servus Place, St. Albert @ 10-1 p.m.**

Want to know what's going on and when next year? Please visit our calendar on the school website at:

<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/a/about/calendar>

## **BYORD – A Buying Guide for Parents**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Albert Lacombe, we are seeing first hand the power of technology to enhance learning for students. The use of technology is allowing students to engage in learning tasks that promote greater understanding and that were previously inconceivable. Today, devices can be personalized for each child adding special support to learning as needed. With this in mind schools are developing plans to encourage students to Bring in their Own Robust Devices (BYORD). Our education on Digital Citizenship will also continue to be at the forefront as we work to educate our students on responsible and acceptable use.

Albert Lacombe envisions beginning with Gr 5 & 6 classes in September 2015, with Laptop and Chromebook devices.

It will be our plan to expand into other classes the following year. We will be utilizing classroom Google accounts and student gmail accounts. Some of our staff have already been designing tasks and assignments on their classroom Google accounts as well as through student G-mail accounts. This has worked well for students to have access to their material at home and to assist students to catch up on items they have missed while they are away.

How to choose the best device for your child? Products like the iPad Mini, the Microsoft Surface, various Android tablets like the Nexus and the Galaxy, netbooks, Chromebooks, and laptops, are adding a lot of choices and confusion. Choosing the right device begins first and foremost with the question "What tool will best support my child in achieving the learning outcomes that are presented in class?" This means that what might be best for one student might not be best for another. We thought it would be helpful to outline some specifications about what device you buy your children, should you like them to use it for schoolwork. Although we won't recommend specific models or kinds of devices, we encourage you to buy a device that features the following for best learning results.

- Wireless networking capability (the district provides filtered wireless access in all buildings for students)
- A microphone
- An external keyboard for entering text
- An audio output for earbuds or headphones
- A minimum of 6 hours of use from one battery charge (Chromebooks hold charge for 8 hours and more)
- A full-functioning, recent Chrome web-browser that will allow access to Google Apps for Education tools and documents.
- A sturdy carrying case that will protect the device
- An integrated camera that takes both still photos and video
- If considering a Windows device please ensure the device is virus protected.

We envision that students would be able to easily take their device from school to home and back on a daily basis. With our access to Google Drive, Google Apps for Education, and Gmail for students, learning can truly become Anytime, Anyplace, Any Pace. Students can share their work with peers, collaborate on projects and assignments, and hand in their work electronically to their teacher for feedback or for final assessment.

We would work to provide secure storage for student devices when they are not being used.

Our staff will also commit to organizing and planning their instruction and lessons so that students are using technology, in a collaborative fashion, as often as is practical and valuable.

## **Technology Purchase Plan for Students**

For the upcoming school year, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools wishes to support students in providing an opportunity to purchase laptops in support of learning in the digital age. The purchase plan would allow families to participate in a bulk order, accessing best pricing and a payment plan to spread the cost over 8 to 10 monthly installments. To purchase either a MacBook Air or an Acer Chromebook for your child sign into your [School Cash Online](#) account. You can also register for an account on the site.

**All orders must be received by August 14, 2015 to ensure delivery for the start of the school year.**

**Orders received between August 14, 2015 and September 4, 2015 should expect delivery in late**

**September.** Inquiries on the Technology Plan can be sent to [dquick@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:dquick@gsacrd.ab.ca)



## Great Beginnings Start Here St. Albert Catholic Schools Preschool Registration for 2015-2016

### About Our Preschool Programs:

- All children are welcome from ages 2-4 (age eligibility depends on developmental needs)
- Specialized supports available for children who have additional needs\*\*
- Children attend 3 or 4 half-days (depending on developmental needs)
- Funding is available to support additional developmental needs, otherwise regular preschool fees apply (\$15 registration fee; \$135/month)

\*\*If your child has additional developmental needs, please contact Rachel O'Brien (Early Learning Coordinator) for more information:

[robrien@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:robrien@gsacrd.ab.ca)

780-459-7711

### Need bussing for 2015 - 2016?

Our transportation forms are now submitted electronically.

Please go to:

<http://www.gsacrd.ab.ca/parents/transportation>

We are still accepting registrations for the 2015 - 2016 Sports Academy year. We have limited spots in some groups so get your registrations in now. Choose from **Hockey**, **Soccer** and **Gymnastics-Cheer-Dance**. Contact Geoff Giacobbo at 780-459-4478.



## ΚΑΛΕΟ (kal-eh'-o): to call, to invite, to summon

Please join us for Kaleo, an evening of prayer evening held at the Apex Casino at 24 Boudreau Road, St. Albert

As believers we know that prayer heals and creates and that the power is available to each of us through the Holy Spirit. The Bible assures us that Jesus longs to restore what is broken, to heal what is hurting. Through God, immeasurably more than we can hope or ask can be done.

Consider this your invitation. Join us the fourth Thursday of each month for prayer and fellowship. Upcoming dates are: June 25, July 23, & August 27.

Experience love, healing and restoration. Kaleo

Sincerely,  
Layna Haley

You can also email prayer requests to [experiencekaleo@gmail.com](mailto:experiencekaleo@gmail.com) or check us out on Facebook & Twitter @ExperienceKaleo

