

September 2013



ST. ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

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*Dear Parents,*

*Welcome to St. Elizabeth Seton School, the home of the STING! A very special welcome goes out to our new staff members and all of our new families. We are looking forward to a good startup and a wonderful fall. It is our firm desire to continue to strive and grow in our commitment in building on the strengths and potential of each individual by fostering a caring, respectful and positive environment.*

*Once again, we plan to use this newsletter as an opportunity to inform you about what's happening at St. Elizabeth Seton and to provide information about upcoming events and activities. Newsletters will be distributed during the first week of every month. We hope that all families will provide us with an e-mail address so we may send out the newsletters each month. The newsletter will also be available on our school website.*

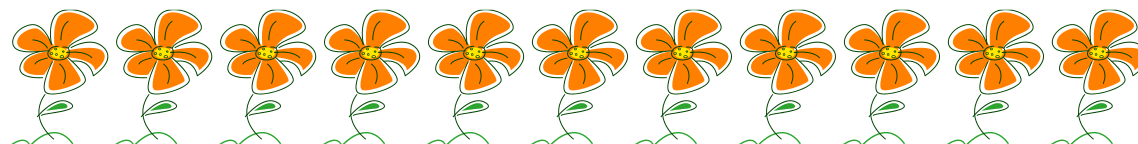
*Until exact figures are confirmed over the next few weeks, the possibility exists that some adjustments will have to be made regarding grade distribution, class size and/or teacher allocation. In some cases children may be required to change homerooms and teachers. If such is the case, we ask for support and understanding in this process. Please be assured that the staff will make every effort to make any transitions as smooth as possible.*

*Throughout the course of the year we will have presentations, celebrations and masses that are held at the school. We hope you join us for these events. Our opening mass will take place in our gym on Friday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am for the Elementary students and 1:15pm for the Junior High students. Our first family event will be our Welcome Back Barbeque on Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at St. Elizabeth Seton School. Please join us for a wonderful evening.*

*Deneen Nolan  
Principal*

*Tina Madden  
Vice Principal*

*David Crooks  
Assistant Principal*



## ST. ELIZABETH SETON'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Over the past year and a half, as a staff and school community we have been working on developing a mission and vision statement. At the end of last year we finalized a statement that we felt encompassed who we were as a school community. We shared the statement and asked for input from School Council as well. Our new mission statement will be visible in our building as well on our letterhead.

*Together as a Catholic family we will develop the spiritual, academic, and exceptional gifts of our diverse learners. We are a safe and caring community that values the contributions made and listens to the unique voice of every child and adult.*

*Strive*

*Engage*

*Succeed*

## DISTRICT ACADEMIC AND FAITH THEMES

Every three years the District introduces a new faith theme and a new academic theme. This year's academic theme, aligned with Alberta Education's *Inspiring Education*, is, **Engaging Success for All Students**. The faith theme for our school district: is **"Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God"**.

Both of these themes will be promoted throughout the next three years and will be reflected in our school plans.

## WELCOME BACK BBQ

We are hosting a welcome back BBQ on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. All of our St. Elizabeth Seton families are invited to join us. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the school by Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

## PARKING

Parents are reminded that parking and student drop off is not permitted anywhere in the school parking lot. All parking stalls have been assigned for teacher use and are at capacity. It is very tempting to quickly pull into the parking lot and park in the reserved handicap stalls or fire lane to drop students off or quickly come into the school. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated. Parents are reminded that double parking on the side streets is illegal and the Police will be patrolling the side streets. Thank you for choosing safety over convenience when you drop off and pick up your children to and from school.

## Message from the Calgary Parking Authority

For the safety of our children, please be courteous and consider the following when dropping off or picking up children from the school:

- Double parking is illegal
- Watch for signs indicating 'No stopping' and 'No parking zones'
- Leave 5 meters between your car and any crosswalk markings. This will ensure children are visible when they enter the crosswalk.

## ANNUAL GENERAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

St. Elizabeth parents are invited to attend the first School Council meeting on Tuesday September 10, 2013 at 6:30pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome!

## SCHOOL OPENING MASS

Our School opening mass will be held in our gym on Friday, September 20, 2013 at 10:30am for the Elementary students and 1:15pm for the Junior High students. All parents are welcome to join the entire school for our first mass of the year. Hope to see you there!

\*\*Please note that we are holding two mass times due to our high student enrollment and limited space.

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE FORMS

Industrial Alliance Pacific will continue to offer student optional additional coverage to parents at an additional cost. For this optional coverage, Industrial Alliance Pacific Life Insurance Company enrollment forms will be sent home to all students. Alternately, enrollment for the extra coverage can be completed by telephone (1-800-556-7411) or on-line at: [www.kidsplus.ca/en/buynow](http://www.kidsplus.ca/en/buynow)

It is recommended that all students in competitive sports (Jr. High) purchase additional insurance coverage to participate in these activities.

Parents are asked to mail the completed forms **directly** to Industrial Alliance Pacific Life Insurance Company.

**NOTE:** Forms are mailed directly to IAP by the parents.

## AMBULANCE CALLS

Parents, please note that EMS will be called when a student's health is at risk (injury, illness, etc.) and the Principal (or designate) determines if this is an appropriate step. All efforts will be made to contact Parents / Guardians or Emergency Contacts. Parents / Guardians are eligible to claim for the cost of EMS services (whether or not the patient is transported). Claims for coverage under the Accident Insurance policy are made directly by the parent / guardian. Claim forms can be downloaded from Industrial Alliance Pacific's website at [www.kidsplus.com](http://www.kidsplus.com)

## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION MEETING

Parents planning on volunteering in the school or with school activities outside of the school are asked to complete a Parent Volunteer Orientation.

This year, we will be posting the forms on-line for parents to complete and bring in to the school. **This should be available by mid-September.**

## CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES WANTED

Being a Classroom Representative is a fun and rewarding way to connect with the families in your grade and stay connected with your school. Class Reps are parents from each grade that are required to foster information sharing and communication between administration, School Council, and parents. Ideally, there will be a Class Rep for each class. Duties would include, but would not be limited to:

- Creating a volunteer email tree for the class;
- Being approachable to parents in the class to bring forward ideas on behalf of parents to the School Council;
- Attending School Council meetings

If you are interested in representing your classroom, please talk to your teacher.

## TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

According to School District Policy, only those elementary students living beyond 1.2 km from the school and junior high students living beyond 2.4 km from the school are entitled to District transportation.

The Calgary Catholic School District has implemented a Transportation User Fee for all elementary students accessing District provided transportation. The annual fee is \$215.00 per student to a maximum of \$430.00 per family per school year. Forms were sent home in the spring and payment was due by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

A reminder to parents that the monthly newsletter and all school notices are sent home electronically and posted on our website. All literature will still be available for pickup at our office for parents who prefer a paper copy.

Parents emails will be requested in the Start Up Package for the newsletter. Junior high teachers will be requesting parent email addresses in the year start up packages as well to establish a TA contact list.

Teachers will also be collecting email addresses during Oral Interviews, for any families who did not return their sheets. Please make every effort to ensure we have an updated email address for you.

Please feel free to call the school at any time to provide or edit this information!!

## PERSONALLY OWNED DEVICES

We are living in a digital world and we want to promote responsible digital citizenship. As such, junior high students at St. Elizabeth Seton are welcome to bring their own digital devices from home. Students may use these devices at the discretion of their subject teachers. Students who are not following the school and/or teacher's guidelines will have the device taken away and a parent will be called to pick it up.

Students will be given a POD agreement to be, Parents can view the agreement on our website.

**\*\*Elementary students may only bring in electronics when the weather dictates an indoor recess. (-18°C)**

**Students and parents are minded that the school is not responsible for personally owned devices.**

## SCHOOL FEES: ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION

A reminder that parents now pay a number of mandatory and elective school fees online.

The Calgary Catholic School District (CSSD) fee management and online payment system is an easy and secure way to pay school fees from the comfort of your own home or office. Payment can be made by credit card and debit card.

**\*\*Please refer to the On-Line Payment form and information included in your child's start up package.**

## STUDENT ABSENCES

Student success is directly related to classroom attendance. The Alberta School Act is clear about the importance of regular school attendance. Any student with more than ten unacceptable absences can be referred to the district social worker and court action may be initiated. We require all absences and lates to be reported by a parent or guardian. Please use the following procedures:

A parent or Guardian must notify the office before 8:30 am or 12:30 pm when a child is late or absent. The school phone number is 403-500-2105.

If a parent has not informed the school, an office staff member will call you to ensure the student's safety. It is most helpful when a parent calls the school. Feel free to use the school answering machine to leave a message, but be sure to state a reason for the absence. Thank you in advance.

When the student returns to school, please ensure that he/she has a written, dated note to confirm the absence (if telephone contact has not been made).

**Students who must leave during school time for an appointment are required to sign out through the main office by a parent or with a dated, written note.**

## STUDENT AGENDA AND CODE OF CONDUCT

All families are asked to read the important information regarding the School Code of Conduct for our school in the school agenda, for our Junior High students it is posted on our website.

Elementary students are expected to utilize this booklet to record their homework. This booklet is the primary communication tool between home and school. Parents are asked to review the contents of the agenda and establish some routines and expectations for your child's use of this valuable management tool.

Junior High students are primarily using D2L as our main communication tool between home and school this year. Grade 7 students will be given agendas to help keep them organized for the first month. They will also be using D2L. Homework, assignment information can all be accessed on D2L. more information for parents will follow in the next two weeks.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Please be sure to review our Student Dress Code which is clearly laid out in our School Agenda or on our website. Students who wear unacceptable clothing will be asked to change into their gym strip or will have to go home to change. Our expectations are to be strictly adhered to. Parent support is greatly appreciated.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

All teachers will be sending home curriculum overviews for the grade/subject they will be teaching. Please watch for this important information. Some teachers will ask that you sign this document.

## HOMEWORK

The Calgary Catholic School District recognizes meaningful, carefully-planned homework can support student success and be a complementary part of a student's overall learning program. The district also recognizes:

- The potential impact of homework on family life;
- The role homework may play in supporting students' self-confidence as a successful learner; and
- The benefit of a district-wide, balanced, reasonable approach to homework.

The complexity of the topic of homework also requires conversation and cooperation at the school and classroom level to provide details, to clarify expectations and to support student success with homework assignments.

Please visit this website for greater details pertaining to this policy.  
<http://intranet/files/regulations/i/IKB.pdf>

## MEDICAL CONCERNS

Many questions and concerns about peanut allergies have been brought forward. In consultation with our District and school nurse, we would like to remind you that St. Elizabeth School is a **“Nut Aware”** School.

In other words, we remind all students, staff and parents to avoid bringing nuts and nut products to school. However, we cannot guarantee that a nut product will not inadvertently be brought to school. We do not want to create a false sense of security and must remain vigilant in monitoring students with nut allergies. We have several students who are severely allergic to nuts and carry medication in case of an emergency. Thank you for your assistance in making good choices in the foods you send to school.

Our school nurse has in-serviced our staff on how to administer the Epi-pen medication and on the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions. We are compliant with the number of staff members needed for First Aid Certification. Students are learning about allergies and symptoms of allergic reactions in their classrooms. They have been instructed to notify an adult if they see a classmate suffering from a reaction.

Students who have allergies have had previous medical intervention and instruction from their Doctor or Allergist.

Under their guidance, they learn to avoid identified allergens in their environment. Thank you for your assistance in making good choices in the foods you send to school.

## INTERNET USER POLICY

As all school computers will be Internet accessible, a release letter signed by a parent/guardian and child is required before a student may access any school computer.

## STUDENT POSSESSIONS

The school cannot be responsible for student possessions. Thus, we ask that students do not bring expensive articles to school (I pods, jewelry, etc.) Students will not be permitted to use cell phones or paging devices in the school at any time. Failure to follow this rule will result in the item being confiscated and parents picking the item up at school. Students may access the school phones for emergency purposes only. Students should keep any possessions not in use in their lockers, eliminating the possibility of theft. We always have a large number of unclaimed lost articles each school year.

## PICTURE DAY

Picture day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for Kin to Gr. 3, Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, Grades 4 to 6, and Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> for Jr. High. School photographs will be taken of all students. Even if you do not intend on purchasing the package, we require a photograph for our yearbook.

## D2L: DESIRE TO LEARN

*Desire 2 Learn*, also known as **D2L**, is an online application tool used by our junior high classes in the Calgary Catholic School District. Teachers use **D2L** to post news items, course content and assignments. Students may use **D2L** to submit assignments, receive personalized feedback on their work and check their progress and grades in a course using their secure login and password. Parents can also access **D2L** and check on their child's progress by using their student's login credentials.

Material previously found in the Junior High Student Agenda will also be found on D2L. .

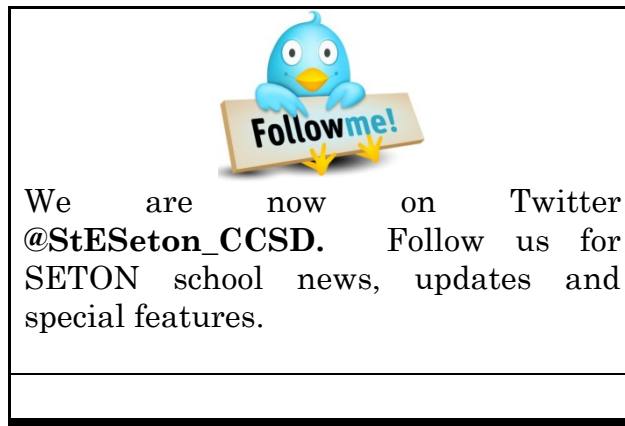


Junior high teachers use a cumulative grading model to generate report card grades for students. This means that student grades will be calculated on a continual basis and marks will show the most current reflection of student performance.

Report cards will continue to be printed at regular intervals throughout the year with student grades, while **D2L** will provide ongoing communication of student progress.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please visit us at <http://www.cssd.ab.ca/stelizabethseton>, for more information about our school and follow us on Twitter!



## SUTP FUNDRAISER

Once again we will be selling SUTP Coupon Books as a **school fundraiser**. Proceeds will be put towards activities and presentations for the students. If you would like to place an order, please return the order form and money to your child's homeroom teacher. Thank you for your support.



## ORAL INTERVIEWS

Oral Interviews will take place on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 4:00 to 7:00pm and Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (no school for students on this day) interviews are from 8:30 to 11:30am and 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Please plan on attending these interviews with your child to assist in goal setting for your child's learning this year. **Interview forms will be sent home this week. You are asked to sign the form and return it to your child's home room teacher.**



The Calgary Catholic School District is holding our fifth annual Run & Walk. Due to the overwhelming success of our past events, this year we have opened the event to all staff, students, families, retirees and friends of Calgary Catholic! The goal of the Calgary Catholic School District Run & Walk is to bring together our Calgary Catholic community and their families to participate in a healthy activity that raises funds for our two charities of choice – the Calgary Catholic Education Foundation and The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Center.

### Details of the event:

**Date:** Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Time:** Warm up at 8:30 AM / Run & Walk begins at 9:00 AM  
**Location:** Glenmore Athletic Park  
**Events:** 5 km walk  
5 km run  
10 km run  
Little Legs race for young children

**How to participate:** simply go online to the district website at [www.cssd.ab.ca](http://www.cssd.ab.ca), click on the Run/Walk logo on the home page, and register! Registration deadline is September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. to get a Run/Walk shirt with your registration package. Online registrations will stay open until 1 p.m. on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for considering this invitation to join the Calgary Catholic School District in our Run & Walk. We'd love for you to join us!

Hope to see you there!





## WELCOME BACK BBQ

St. Elizabeth Seton School and School Council will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Welcome Back BBQ for staff, students and their families. Come out for an evening of fun and meet administration and staff of St. Elizabeth Seton.

When: Thursday, September 5, 2013

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: St. Elizabeth Seton School Tarmac (weather permitting)/School Gym

Cost: Free

**Please bring your own lawn chairs (some tables and chairs will be provided)**

**NOTE: THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT AND ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT**

**Please return the attendance sheets by Wednesday, September 4, 2013 to the school so we can ensure sufficient food is on hand.**

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### Welcome Back BBQ – Thursday, September 5, 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPTEMBER 2013**  
**St. Elizabeth Seton**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 LABOUR DAY (No Classes)	3 DAY 1	4 DAY 2	5 DAY 3 5:30 pm – Welcome Back BBQ for Families/Students of our School	6 DAY 4 Volleyball Ice Breaker	7
8	9 DAY 5	10 DAY 6 Picture Day – Kindergarten – Gr. 3  School Council Meeting – 6:30pm  <u>Jr. High Band Instrument Rental Meeting 6:00pm</u>	11 DAY 1 Picture Day – Gr. 4 to 6's	12 DAY 2 Picture Day – Jr. High's  <b>Parent/Teacher Oral Interviews</b> 4:00 – 7:00 pm	13 <b>Parent/Teacher Oral Interviews (No Classes)</b> 8:30 – 11:30 am and 1:00 – 2:30 pm	14
15	16 DAY 3	17 DAY 4 8:30 – 11:00am PARTY Program Gr 9	18 DAY 5	19 DAY 6	20 DAY 1 School Opening Mass 10:30am – Elem 1:15pm – Jr. High	21
22	23 DAY 2	24 DAY 3	25 DAY 4 Gr. 9 – River Watch Field Trip	26 DAY 5	27 DAY 6	28
29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5