

# *Challenge Accepted*



*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I, send me!”*

*Isaiah 6:8*

*Jean Vanier Catholic School*



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*“Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated”.”-Jean Vanier*

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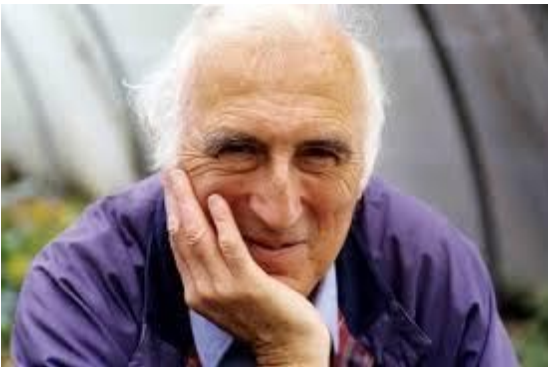


## ***Welcome Students and Parents of Jean Vanier Catholic School***

***Welcome to Jean Vanier Catholic School!*** We are very grateful for the opportunity to share in your child's faith and learning journey. Together, we share the blessing and responsibility of helping our children grow into faith-filled and responsible citizens who celebrate their gifts and skills with our world. Our dedicated staff will strive to bring out each child's potential and assist them to grow academically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

The student agenda book has been assembled to clarify for parents and students the programs and expectations of JV School. This agenda is designed to assist students in developing **organizational** and **self-management skills**. We ask that parents reinforce their child's use of this book and show a genuine interest in the school activities. Parents are encouraged to use the agenda as **one** of the means of communicating with the teacher on a regular basis.

### ***Jean Vanier Catholic School***



Jean Vanier Catholic School opened in 1974. It was named in honour of Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche movement, and the son of former Governor General of Canada, George Vanier.

In 1964, Jean Vanier, a philosophy teacher and theological student, decided to share a home in the village of Trosly-Breuil, north of Paris, France, with two mentally challenged men. In welcoming them, he wanted to give them a home where they could live in dignity and grow in every spiritual and human dimension. At that time it was not foreseen that a worldwide movement would develop from the tiny home that he had christened L'Arche, or "the ARK". L'Arche is now a network of more than one hundred communities in thirty countries, inhabited by people with disabilities and their caregivers. Their goal is to achieve **a sense of community and dignity** not possible within an institution. Today, we continue to welcome and celebrate our connection with L'Arche, welcoming and inviting our friends from L'Arche as often as possible to our school community.

Jean Vanier Catholic school is an English and Ukrainian Bilingual K-4 elementary school within Elk Island Catholic School District. All students learn and grow together in our inclusive classroom environments. Our Learning Support teams are committed to providing quality learning environments for all; including any of our students who require additional support, accommodations, and programming for their learning needs.

Our school also houses Little Orchard Sadochuk ([little.orchard.sadochok@gmail.com](mailto:little.orchard.sadochok@gmail.com)) which offers preschool programs for both English and Ukrainian preschool children. Happy Day Childcare (780-912-1167) offers before and after childcare at the school as well.

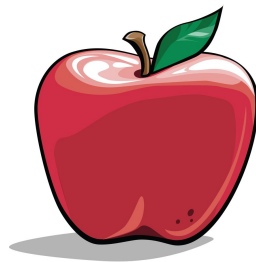
## Our School Saint: Saint Nicholas



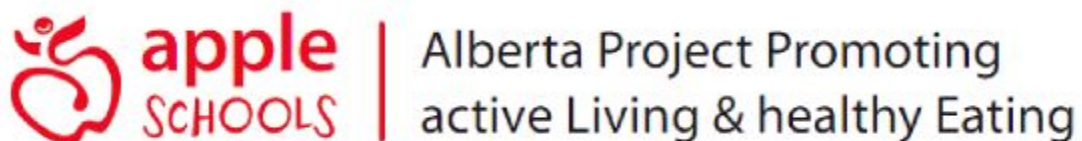
In our 2015-2016 school year, our school community chose **Saint Nicholas** as our school's Patron Saint. St. Nicholas, also known as the Bishop of Myra, is well known for his patronage of children, sick, afflicted, suffering, and disabled people. He is a prompt healer and a true consoler.

St. Nicholas day is venerated in Roman tradition on December 6 and in Ukrainian tradition on December 19. Every year at Jean Vanier all of our students are blessed with a special visit from Saint Nicholas in December. Our students can identify and connect their compassionate care, prayer, and love with our namesake, Jean Vanier and our school Saint, Saint Nicholas. Both, sharing and modelling a love of humanity and compassion for all.

**We are an APPLE School** (Alberta Project Promoting active Living and healthy Eating):



*CRRNG'Uej qqu* aim to make the healthy choice the easy choice by changing the school environments. Apple Schools create and sustain supportive physical and social environments that foster lifelong health and learning. Home, school, and community work together to improve a child's health. Our school staff and families are committed to supporting a healthy and active environment for our students.



## ***Important Dates:***

### **2017**

August 28-29

August 30

September 4

September 15

October 6

October 9

November 10- 17

December 25 - January 5

Opening Days for Staff

First Day for students

Labour Day – No School

PD Day- No School

PD Day – No School

Thanksgiving Day – No School

Fall break: School Closed

Christmas Break



### **2018**

January 8

January 31

February 8-9

February 16

February 19

March 2

March 23 - April 2

March 30

April 2

April 3

April 27

May 18

May 21

June 28

June 29

Classes Resume

PD Day – No School

Teachers' Convention – No School

PD Day – No School

Family Day – No School

PD Day-No School

Spring Break – No School

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Classes resume following Spring Break

PD Day - No School

PD Day – No School

Victoria Day – No School

Last Day of Classes/ Report Cards Out

PD Day – No School



## ***Agenda Guidelines: Building Organizational Skills***

In order for the student agenda books to work successfully, we require the cooperation of all stakeholders: students, parents, and staff to take an active part in implementing them.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Make a home plan for a daily routine for unpacking and sharing your agenda.

Make sure learning news and tasks are written in agenda books.

Take agenda book home daily.

Complete any home tasks, gather materials, or share information as required.

Ask the teacher for clarification if you don't understand the homework or information.

Make sure the agenda book is returned the next day.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

Together, with your child, make a plan for a daily routine for unpacking and sharing the agenda.

Read through the introductory pages of this booklet.

Check the agenda daily for communication, information, and home tasks.

Initial the book each night **when students have completed** their tasks.

Assist your child as necessary.

Have a discussion with your child if the agenda book is not coming home, and then contact your child's teacher.

Communicate regularly with your child's teacher.

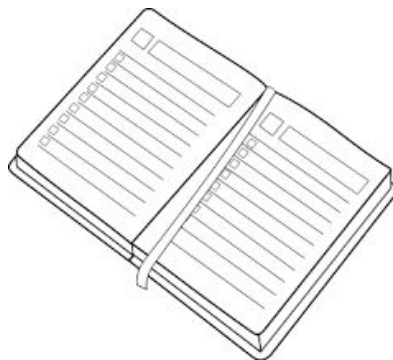
### **Teacher Responsibilities**

Set a daily routine for agenda practice; when, where, why, how.

Make sure information, tasks, and any communication is updated daily and students are given an opportunity to use their agenda for organization and sharing their learner with their families.

Check books for parent signature.

Contact parents if, after discussion with the student, there are any challenges with using and bringing the agenda to and from school.





## *General Information*

### **1. School Hours**

Morning: 8:38 a.m. – 11:36 a.m.  
Afternoon: 12:16 p.m. - 3:13 p.m.

First Wednesday Early Dismissal: 2:13 p.m.

#### **Early Dismissal days for 2017-2018 are:**

September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6

Kindergarten Start and Dismissal:	Morning:	8:38 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.
	Afternoon:	12:32 p.m. - 3:13 p.m.
	First Wednesday:	12:32 p.m. - 2:13 p.m.

### **2. School Office Hours**

Jean Vanier Office Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

### **3. School Website**

Check out our website for additional information. The address is: [www.jv.eics.ab.ca](http://www.jv.eics.ab.ca)

### **4. Emergency Numbers**

Please ensure that the school has an emergency telephone number on the registration form that you will be verifying at the beginning of the year. These are very important in the event that there is an urgent need that requires your notification. If there are any changes, please inform the school **immediately** to update your records.

### **5. Attendance and Punctuality**

Law requires students, unless exempted by the Minister of Education, to attend school regularly until the full age of sixteen. Regular attendance and punctuality is often directly related to success at school.



**Parents are expected to inform the school either through a phone call or note, whenever a student is going to be absent.** We use an APP called Safe Arrival to report student absence. You can download the App from Google Play or the App Store. You are now able to report planned absences in advance. You are still able to call the office to report your child's absence.

**Child Check** - When a student is absent, and the parent has not contacted us, the school will phone home. This is done to ensure that children who leave home, arrive safely at school.

## **6. School Visitor Policy**

Parents and visitors are required to report to the office upon entering the school where they can sign in and obtain a visitor pass.

## **7. Communication**

Communication is an ongoing process that involves all the key stakeholders; students, parents/guardians, staff, and administration. We use a variety of communication tools to share and celebrate the learning and important information from our school community. Phone calls, Meet the Staff, Emails, our weekly Communication Corner, website, agendas, Twitter, Electronic Student learning portfolios, etc. Please stay informed and communicate any information, celebrations, and/or questions with our staff.

## **8. Monday Assemblies:**

We gather as a school community most Monday mornings and some afternoons, where we pray, celebrate, move, and share upcoming information. Please come out and join us whenever you can. It's a GREAT way to start our week together!

## **9. Footwear**

All students are required to have two pairs of shoes at school; one pair for inside and gym use, the other pair for outside use only. All students must wear shoes while inside the building. This helps promote a healthy lifestyle and makes the children aware that emergency drills can occur at any time. Flip-flops are not considered proper footwear for school.

## **10. Milk Program**

We offer a milk program at the school where parents can order milk to be delivered to their child daily at lunch. As you know, milk contributes to the development and maintenance of healthy bones and teeth. Order forms are sent home at the beginning of each month.

## **11. Lunch Promises**

As Healthy Champions, we encourage both parents and students to pack a healthy lunch. They will eat lunch in their classrooms, with adult supervisors circulating to help children, as needed. Children are expected to eat lunch and behave in a safe and responsible manner during the lunch period. Children who have frequent challenges with this expectation may be asked to eat their lunch in the office. Students go outside for the noon hour recess prior to having their lunch.



## **12. Student Transportation: Please see District guidelines for transportation information:**

[www.eics.ab.ca/transportation](http://www.eics.ab.ca/transportation)

## **13. Playground Expectations**

Students are expected to:

- a) use school and playground equipment appropriately and safely.
- b) play safe games that will not harm or potentially endanger themselves or others.
- c) respect the rights of participants in organized games and not to disrupt the activity.
- d) gather and play in the designated playground area.
- e) follow the directions of the supervisors
- f) stay on school property unless excused by parents (e.g. note from parent or guardian) or through consultation with school personnel.
- g) **Buddy Bench:** We have a Buddy Bench at Jean Vanier. The concept of a Buddy Bench is that if you don't have someone to play with, you can sit on the Buddy Bench and someone can invite you to play.

## **14. Communicating Student Learning**

Report cards are only one piece of the communication system. It is a summary document that communicates student achievement that should have already been shared in some way. ***There should be no surprises for the student or parent.*** Alternate forms of communication may include:

Feedback on student work

Evidence of student learning: FreshGrade, Google Classroom, Writing portfolios, Portfolios, Growth as a Learner Booklets or checklists, etc.

Three-way conferences

Phone calls

Emails

Meetings

Notes in agendas

Student reflections

Meet the Staff Night

Celebrations of Learning, Faith Celebrations, Assemblies

## **15. Report Cards Issued**

Report cards are records of ***student performance on curriculum outcomes*** over a period of time. Report cards will be available on PowerSchool. These will be available:

January 2018

June 2018



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## **17. Parental Involvement**

### ***Parent School Council - PSC***

At JV School, we have a school advisory council made up of parents, teachers, and the school administration. This council advises the school administration, supports school procedures, plans activities, supports our divisional priorities, shares information, and fund-raisers to help support the various school programs and initiatives. There is an executive made up of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer who are elected. Classroom representatives are parents who sign up at the beginning of the school year, generally one per class, and are asked to attend the regular PSC meetings and provide representation of all grade levels. They may be asked to contact or phone other parents using class lists and phone numbers supplied for use in school fan outs, to seek volunteers, and so on. Meetings are advertised in the school communication and are open to all parents. Minutes are shared via our school website. To contact our PSC, please email [jvpac1009@gmail.com](mailto:jvpac1009@gmail.com)

***Bilingual Ukrainian Catholic Parents Society - B.U.C.P.S.***  
(Website: [www.spukrprogram.ca](http://www.spukrprogram.ca))



The Bilingual Ukrainian Catholic Parents Society, also known as B.U.C.P.S., has been active in Sherwood Park since 1980. It resulted from a group of parents who wanted their children to have an opportunity to learn the Ukrainian language in their own community instead of having to go to an Edmonton school. As a parent group today, they recruit prospective parents with children entering kindergarten or Grade 1 to assist the teachers of the program with various tasks and cultural celebrations, and fundraise to provide funds to enhance the cultural aspects of the Bilingual Ukrainian Program. This council is very active and meets once a month. There is an executive made up of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer who are elected. Meetings are advertised in the school and B.U.C.P.S. newsletters and are open to all Bilingual Society parents. All B.U.C.P.S. parents are also P.S.C. members.

### ***Volunteers***

Jean Vanier has always been fortunate to have a large number of volunteers providing numerous services to our students, staff, and generally to the benefit of our total school. Should you wish to volunteer your services in some way, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the administration.

