



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK OLA!

It has been great seeing everyone's enthusiasm for the beginning of the school year.

After a very successful 2025-2026 school year, we are excited to be entering into the second year of being an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP) school. Please see Ms. Swark's monthly messages regarding our continued IB-PYP journey.

September is always a busy time and we have a few important upcoming dates. We had some big changes

School Council is a parent and community group who advises and supports the school community. Our first School Council meeting was held **at the school on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00pm**, the next one will be held on October 6th @7:00. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Also, we have our Welcome Back Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Tuesday, September 22 at 9:15am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our Meet the Teacher evening will be held that same evening, September 22 at Our Lady of Assumption School. The evening will begin with our Welcome Back Blessing at 5:30pm with celebrations for the 70th birthday of OLA School, stay for cake and the opportunity to meet our amazing teachers and the members from the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. Everyone is welcome

Please see the attached calendar for other monthly events.

We look forward to an amazing school year!

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Click on this [link](#) to open Mrs. Swark's blog.

WELCOME

Mr. Matthew New, Principal



I am a father of three and part of a family of educators. My wife teaches Kindergarten at St. Kateri, and our children are entering Grades 4, 7, and 9. This is something that feels like it is happening far too quickly! I have taught students from Kindergarten through Grade 12, with my background rooted in early childhood education. I am especially looking forward to spending time in our classrooms and getting to know our students throughout the year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Supervision

Morning supervision begins at 8:30 am and our first bell rings at 8:42 am. Students are asked to meet their teacher at their designated place outside each morning. Students will be dismissed at 3:47pm Mon – Thurs, and 12:42pm on Friday. We ask parents to pick up their child promptly as there is no supervision after school.

Bell Times

Grades 1 – 6 - Monday – Thursday: 8:42 am – 3:47 pm

Friday: 8:42 am – 12:42 pm

Kindergarten - Monday – Thursday: 8:42 am – 3:47 pm

Early Learning - Monday – Thursday: 8:45 am – 11:45 am

Attendance

If your child(ren) will be absent from school for any reason, please contact the office at 403-327-5028 to let us know. You can leave a message or email olaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca. All unexcused absences are followed up with a phone call.

Medication

If a student requires medication to be administered at school proper documentation must be completed by a doctor and parent. The forms are available in the office. These forms must be on file before any medication can be given. The school does not give out any over the counter medication such as Tylenol or cough medicine and we do not use antiseptic cream such as polysporin.

Contact Information

If there are any changes to your child's data, i.e.: address, phone number, emergency contacts, email address, etc. please inform the office. This information is vital so that the school can contact you in case of an emergency.

Nutrition Breaks

All students eat in their classrooms during nutrition breaks. There are **no microwaves** available so please pack lunches accordingly. Please ensure you send enough food for both breaks. If you send food that requires a spoon or fork, please send them. We **DO NOT** supply these items.

As part of our city's guidelines, we need to sort all organic waste into separate bins. However, with the heat in our building, the challenge of managing waste for 200 people, and the worry about bad smells, we won't be able to dispose of organic waste at school.



To tackle this, we have a "Pack In, Pack Out" program. This means students should bring home everything from their lunch, including any leftovers. This will not only help

us with waste management but also give parents a better idea of what their kids are eating. To make this a little easier, please consider sending your child with a ziplock bag or a small plastic container for any lunch waste. Thanks for your help and support in keeping our school environment clean and efficient

Food Allergies

In our school community there are students who have potentially life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to certain foods. It is important to be aware and respectful of those who may have food allergies. Please inform your teachers and school staff about any allergies your child may have. Before bringing food items to the classroom, check with the homeroom teacher if there are any items to avoid. By being mindful and considerate of food allergies in the classroom, we can create a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

School Fees

All school fees for the 2026-27 school year are due by the end of September. All payments can be made on [School Cash Online](#). If you prefer to pay by cheque or cash, you can always do so by visiting our office. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Transportation

This year we have 3 buses. Please check the bus maps to confirm which bus your child(ren) will be riding. Information about bussing can be found [here](#).

Permission Click

There will be 2 permission forms sent to you via email. One is our Digital Citizenship and the other is our yearly permission form. Please complete both forms and submit your response.

Cell phones and wearable devices

All cell phones and wearable electronics (Apple watches, etc) must be turned off remain in the student's backpack throughout the day (including break times). Smartwatches will need to be silenced and in watch mode only when worn to school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next Parent Council will be October 6th, all parents who have a child registered at OLA are members at large. Everyone has a voice and is invited and encouraged to attend the meetings. School council is where the parents can advocate for our students and staff as well as planning fundraising, hot lunches and social events.



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 First day of school  Kindergarten Open House 9:00 – 12:00 (last name A – C)	2 Kindergarten Open House 9:00 – 12:00	3 Kindergarten Open House 9:00 – 12:00 (last name D – Z)	4	5
6	7 LABOR DAY 	8	9 School Council AGM 7:00 pm In person 	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Terry Fox Run 	19
20	21	22 Opening Mass 9:00 am Blessing & Meet the Teacher 5:30pm  OLA 70TH	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Orange Shirt Day  IB Day	30 No School 			

