



## **2022-23 FAMILY HANDBOOK**

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION IN FULL

web: <https://flcs.starcatholic.ab.ca/>

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# **St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools**

# God is Love!

## WELCOME TO FATHER LEDUC CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### ***Introduction***

A special welcome is extended to all Father Leduc Catholic School students and families. This handbook has been designed for the purpose of providing information to parents and students. Please keep this document on hand as a reference throughout the school year.

### ***Mission***

*At Father Leduc Catholic School our vision is that ALL students will learn at high levels surrounded by Christ's love.*

### ***In Action***

Our mission means that our caring staff will collaborate with your child to create a school environment where they can engage in ways that will optimize their learning. Learning is a journey that is travelled together. We value the relationship between school, student, home and faith and look forward to working with your family on this journey!

Our unique position as a Catholic school invites us to present Christ's message of love as an integral part of our curriculum. We are blessed to put the message of the Gospels into the experiences of the school community. With this focus, all of us will have the opportunity to reflect upon our own call to service in Christ, in our community, in our school, in our families, and with each other.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year we will build a school culture together. Students will have opportunities to engage their world through a lens that encompasses our school rules of **Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible!**

Whether through daily participation in the visual arts, performance arts, sports, student leadership, social justice, or any of the other opportunities presented over the course of the school year we know that there is something for every student of Father Leduc Catholic School.

We look forward to working in service together!

*Darren Schneider*  
Mr. Darren Schneider  
Principal

*Chris Kish*  
Mr. Chris Kish  
Vice-Principal

## **Father Leduc: A Culture of High Expectations**

Within Father Leduc, we take pride in a culture of high expectations for staff and students, framed by excellent behaviour and awesome levels of engagement in learning.

The most basic expectation we have of our students is to follow instructions at all times, from all members of staff. Within Father Leduc, instructions are not optional for our students. When a request is made and we know it is a fair and reasonable one, (meaning we know our students can follow it), the expectation is that it will be followed.

It is without saying that there will be times when a student's action will be in conflict with the boundaries that are communicated, which can damage relationships and lower the culture of expectations. The reality is that no one can be the best version of themselves if expectations are low, and so the approach we are taking at Father Leduc is layered with high expectations.

- We teach the behaviour we want to see, and we seek to direct our feedback intentionally towards positive demonstration, recognizing students who follow the School Rules of *Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible* and placing a shining light on student success will always be a priority.
- The instructions we give our students are fair and reasonable and follow-through is not optional.
- We come alongside students in managing difficult situations and challenging behaviours. Our energy, focus and attention will be directed towards the desired behaviour at all times.
- When students have challenges following instructions, we offer them multiple reminders and opportunities to work with us to make the correct choice. Our teachers keep records of challenging behaviour so that we are always planning for success.
- At times, students may struggle to change their behaviour. At these times, with staff discretion, a student may receive a Direct Office Referral. For an office referral, the student will have a chance to come alongside a member of the School Leadership Team who speaks with them and supports problem-solving so the student can make it to class ready to learn.
- Before a Direct Office Referral is given, staff are clear with the student that the instruction given is simple and it is expected they respond to the request. The Leadership Team tracks Direct Office Referrals and frames them as major behaviour infringements.
- Multiple incidents of non-compliance during the day will result in students seeing the Principal or Vice Principal, as appropriate to the behaviour. In such an instance, parents will be contacted and further disciplinary action may be taken at the discretion of the school administration.

We are mindful that we are implementing a culture of high expectations for our students because we know that they will rise to meet them and this will help them to be their best. Our approach is success focused and ultimately will make our students strong for their future.

## **Good communication makes for a happy school community!**

You will receive communication from us throughout the school year and this will come in different forms.

Effective communication leads to opportunities for collaboration. Collaboration lends itself to working well together, and when needed, problem solving!

### SCHOOL MESSENGER

At times you will receive **School Messenger** emails. These are important emails that may have time-sensitive information. "School Messenger" is a system we use to communicate with you at home.

### SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

You may also receive emails from **School Cash Online**. These emails are used for permission forms and school fees. Please respond closely to this communication as missed fees can result in your child missing out.

### POWERSCHOOL

You may also receive emails from **PowerSchool**. These emails are used for the communication of student learning and pieces related to registration. Please attend closely to this communication.

### HOME ROOM TEACHER

Your child's class teacher(s) will communicate with you about all things relevant to the classroom. This can include information about learning assignments, celebrations, spirit days, student successes and challenges, and other events. Please attend closely to this communication as all communication will be about setting your child up for success!

*Please, if you have any concerns about your child's time at school **communicate first with your classroom teacher.***

### SCHOOL DRESS CODE

At Father Leduc Catholic School we strive to offer a safe and inclusive learning and working environment for all students, staff

and visitors. We are proud to be a community resource in Leduc that fosters a Catholic Identity.

One way that FLCS is working to ensure a safe, inclusive and equitable learning environment is through our Information on School Dress. FLCS is a professional environment for working and learning, so staff, students and visitors are expected to dress in a neat, respectful way that reflects our school culture of offering teaching and learning at high levels surrounded by Christ's love.

We are a K-8 school and we recognize that many of our students need an adult to assist them in making good decisions about school dress. We ask that in these cases the student is supported with clothing choices that reflect our school culture and identity.

We take pride in our school rules of *Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible*. This pride extends to having a sense of choice and expression. To achieve our purpose the following information will help everyone at FLCS make decisions about School Dress.

### APPROPRIATE DRESS

- Clothing can have slogans, art or designs that are positive and appropriate that reflect our school culture and identity.
- To reflect our school culture and identity, everyone coming to FLCS should ensure that **all clothing designated as underwear is covered**. This includes items such as longjohns.
- To reflect our school culture and identity, clothing must be of a certain length. For example, when selecting shorts the person should be able to hold their arms straight down by their side (like standing at attention) and the

bottom of the clothing should be longer than the extended arm with fingers extended. This check will also be applied to clothing, such as jeans, that have rips and tears and exercise clothing. Clothing that has rips and tears must also cover underwear.

- To reflect our school culture and identity, shirts (examples are halter tops/bandeaus/low cut crop/tank tops) should not expose an excessive amount of midriff, upper torso, etc. **Underwear straps must be covered.**

At FLCS we recognize that there will be times when clothing choices may not support or reflect our school culture and identity. At these times school staff will support the person by communicating this in a safe and caring way. The individual will be made aware of what is inappropriate and will be asked to follow this information that outlines appropriate school dress.

In the event that inappropriate choices are made on further occasions, School Administrators will follow a process of progressive discipline to ensure a safe and caring environment at FLCS that upholds the dignity of each person as a beloved person of God.

#### **MAIN OFFICE TELEPHONE USE**

Use of the telephone in the office at school is limited access and its use is by permission only. Students who need to use the phone must communicate with school staff prior to use.

Students and parents are asked to make arrangements for rides, lunches, etc. before school if possible.

#### **PHONE FREE CLASSROOMS (INCL PADLETS)**

Having a personal phone at school is a privilege.

At FLCS we follow best practices to support our learning environment. To maintain the integrity of the learning environment our

classrooms are **phone free during learning time.**

Students must have phones turned off (silenced) and in their **backpacks**, or in **lockers** during learning time once a teacher has started the lesson. Phones cannot be on person or kept in pockets or hidden away. Phones cannot be used in hallways or bathrooms during lesson time.

Students will be supported to follow this expectation. Students unable to follow this expectation will receive a Direct Office Referral and may have their privilege revoked by the school administration.

Parents who **need** to communicate with their child or students who **need** to communicate with parents during lesson time are asked to use the Main Office, (see; Main Office Telephone Use).

Phones can be used safely, respectfully and responsibly by students during our scheduled morning, lunch and afternoon break times.

NOTE: This is inclusive of wearable gear such as Apple Watch. If it is seen that a student is not being responsible with a wearable device, the school administration will ask it to no longer be worn to school.

If cell phones are needed during learning time the class teacher will have it written into their lesson plan and this will be communicated to students by the teacher.

#### **CELL PHONE CAMERAS**

Please note every parent must sign off with permission to allow their child to have their picture taken at school. In some cases, **Child Protection is in place to keep a vulnerable child safe.** Under no circumstances should students be taking pictures or videos of students on school property.

This is a violation of the “Student Responsible Use Agreement” that parents must share and sign with their child every school year.

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK**  
**CELL PHONE AND BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)**

Father Leduc Catholic School or STAR Catholic School Division does not assume any responsibility for lost, broken, or stolen devices that are brought to school. All personal devices at school are brought at your own risk and the school administration has no responsibility for loss or breakage when an item is brought to school and is under the care and responsibility of the student.

**SCHOOL CHROMEBOOK RENTAL**  
School Chromebook rental is for students in grades 4-8 for families who qualify for 'low-income status'. Our Learning Commons will communicate about rental opportunities in August. Please watch for this email.

The cost of a rental is \$50.00 for the school year. This can be placed on a payment plan through School Cash Online. All families renting must sign a rental agreement.

Grade 4-6 rentals will stay in the student's classroom. Grade 7-8 students must pick up and drop off their Chromebooks every day in the Learning Commons.

Families are responsible for the replacement of any device that is lost or damaged due to user negligence.

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

At the start of the day, student absenteeism should be reported by a telephone call to the school by a parent or guardian. Please phone the school by 8:40 a.m. for morning absence, or 12:15 p.m. for an afternoon absence. If a child is late by more than an hour then they will be marked absent for half a day.

As a school, we must follow our **STAR Catholic School Division Absenteeism Policy #330**. Our school administration will communicate and collaborate with you regarding attendance concerns and we will work together to set your child up for success. This may include working with

our school Family Support Liason Worker, Ms. Wendy Shobe.

Please be aware administration **must** take action when milestones for absenteeism reach 10%, 15% and 20%.

This action could include a referral to the attendance officer who will follow sections 14 and 15 of the school act.

**CHILD CHECK**  
From approximately 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. and on weekends, our school sites operate a recorded phone-in absentee reporting line so you can let us know of your child's absence, at your convenience: Father Leduc: (780) 986-0045. Simply press "0", wait for the tone after the message, and tell us: your name, child's name, date and times of absence, and reason for absence.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIOUR STANDING**  
(STUDENT ATHLETE, FINE ARTS, PERFORMANCE ARTS AND STUDENT LEADER)  
It is a privilege to represent your school. To be eligible to play on a school team, participate in a performance or fine arts event, or sit on the student council all participants must maintain an academic and behaviour standing.

**ACADEMIC STANDARD**  
Students cannot have missing class assignments. Incomplete or missing assignments that have not been excused by the class teacher will result in the student being placed on probation from participation. During this "probationary status" the student can attend practices or meetings but cannot play games or participate in performances or events until missing assignments are marked as "received" by the teacher.

Once missing assignments are "received" the student will resume active status and full participation.

**BEHAVIOUR STANDARD**  
Within the school, behaviours of concern can result in a Direct Office Referral that is managed by the school administration. If this occurs, students will be placed on probation from participation for a period determined by the school administrator supporting the student. During this "probationary status" the student can attend practices or meetings but cannot

play games or participate in performances or events.

### **LEAVING SCHOOL - LUNCH TIME**

#### **Elementary and Junior High**

Leaving school property is a privilege. To leave the school premises during the lunch break students must have written parental permission.

For elementary students. **Only** students who live close to the school can leave school property for lunch.

For Junior High students to leave school property they must have a signed permission form and must conduct themselves according to the school rules of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible! Misconduct will result in school administrators removing this privilege immediately.

### **ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

Leaving the school grounds during the lunch hour eating period and recess involves certain risks. Personal injury, including serious injury up to and including loss of life may occur.

By choosing to allow your child to leave the school property and school supervision you are accepting that your child may be exposed to risks.

### **SCHOOL DIVISION POLICIES**

Available at: [www.staratholic.ab.ca](http://www.staratholic.ab.ca)

#### **STUDENT ENTRY TO THE BUILDING**

In keeping with School Division Policy, all students will have access into the school building at 8:25 am, unless registered for alternate programs in the school.

#### **INDOOR BREAK (RECESS)**

School Administration will decide if an indoor break is required due to inclement weather.

#### **ACCESS TO SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Everyone coming to Father Leduc during the school day must enter the school property through the Main Office.

Under no circumstances should anyone try to access a student when students are outside during break time. Parent access to their child must be done through our Main Office.

All school staff are trained to report suspicious persons and activity to ensure the safety and integrity of our school environment.

There are no exceptions to the safety of our students.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

Our school provides for the educational needs of the school-age child. We develop the basic skills and learning essential in the elementary and junior high grades, and at the same time broaden the experience of the child, in academic, physical, cultural, spiritual, social and aesthetic areas. Our school provides for the diverse interest and capabilities of our students by offering;

1. Core Subjects: Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Religion
2. General Interest Courses: Art, Music, Fine Arts, Digital Literacy
3. Complementary Courses: Sports Appreciation, Home Economics, Science Enrichment, Robotics, etc...
4. Daily Physical Activity (DPA)
5. Pro-Social Skills

### **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

At Father Leduc Catholic School, we believe that all students can thrive in our learning environment. It is the policy of this school to employ differential standards for grading and course requirements to support students. The regular classroom teacher will adapt or modify the curriculum, instructional approaches and grading practices for those students identified as having additional needs. In classes where it is required, supports suitable to the student identified, may include modifications and/or adaptations to materials, books or equipment, tests, quizzes, or time constraints; grading; organization, environment, behavioural management; and/or teaching strategies to

provide the optimum learning opportunity for the student.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips enhance our curriculum. Students may be required to help cover the costs. At Father Leduc School we collect a one-time field trip fee from all students at the beginning of the year. This fee is used for all field trips throughout the school year.

A field trip is a school activity and students are expected to follow the school rules of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. Students are representing our school, and the school's reputation is their responsibility. In keeping with School Division Policy, a division informed consent must be completed and signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of each child attending the field trip. If the completed informed consent is not returned to the school, the child will NOT be permitted to attend the field trip.

Please Note: It is our school policy that any student who struggles in a non-structured environment, may be accompanied by his/her parent/guardian on any field trip in order to assist with success.

### **ASSESSMENT**

In keeping with School Division Policy, teachers assess student progress continually and assist where students have difficulty.

In elementary classes, placements are made by the administration upon the recommendation of the teacher. Special cases may involve meetings with parents, administration, teachers and the learning support facilitator.

Teachers assess students based on classroom performance and examination results, as well as effort and attitude, the components of which will be outlined for the parents by the teacher early in the school year. Student assessment for learning helps us individualize instruction.

Parents who may wish to appeal final grades for their child should contact the Principal for the Appeal Procedure.

### **REPORTING PROCEDURES**

Our school issues report cards for each student two times during the school year (January, and June). Both of these report cards are distributed electronically (via email). In addition, brief interim progress reports may be issued at the discretion of the teacher.

### **APPEAL OF MARKS**

Parents who have concerns about student marks or student placements have a right to appeal these decisions to the school board and ultimately to the Minister of Education. Please contact the Principal for information about the Appeals Process.

### **FAMILY INTERVIEWS**

Before and after the first and second report cards, our school will set up interview sessions with the families of the students. These are excellent opportunities for teachers and parents to get to know each other better, and also to provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together for the child's benefit. Dates for the Family Interviews are contained in the school calendars and provided in our weekly family update. Should the need arise, due to a student experiencing academic or social difficulty, then the involved parents and teachers may meet at a convenient time to discuss the concerns.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Father Leduc Catholic School has embraced the Alberta Teachers' Association Safe and Caring Schools Project. The intent is to teach students respect and a sense of responsibility and to foster their ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. This approach ties in well with our Hands-off Policy and with the Gospel values Jesus taught and which our Catholic Tradition espouses. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God."



(Matthew 5:9) We believe that Christian values and behaviours must be taught and reinforced consistently by all important adults in a child's life. Our programming and discipline policy reflects the goals and objectives of a Safe and Caring learning environment where everyone has the right to feel safe and cared for.

The staff at our school are committed to providing the best teaching and learning environment possible for our students.

We believe that appropriate behaviour should be encouraged and rewarded, while inappropriate behaviour should be discouraged and corrected. We believe that all students must behave appropriately within the school, the classrooms and on the playground, so that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn in a safe environment.

It is also the belief of the staff that all students should be encouraged and taught to be responsible for their own actions. Consequences for behaviour should be logical and natural. The student should be helped to understand that all actions, good or bad, have natural consequences and guide them to reconciliation. We feel that we are called to live the Gospel values in response to what our loving God has done for us, and therefore, students should be encouraged to live up to these expectations.

Positive behaviour will be recognized in one or more of the following ways:

Praise and specific feedback, personal interviews, positive notes home, positive phone calls to parents, self-selected activities, special activities and/or projects, student of the Week, Lightning Acts of Kindness.

### **HANDS-OFF POLICY**

Our school is following a "HANDS-OFF" policy on the playground and around the school, and on the way to and from school.

Each student must be in a school climate that is safe, satisfying, and productive,

without disruptive behaviour by any students infringing upon the rights of others.

Fighting, intimidation, threatening, name calling, insulting, play fighting and roughhousing will absolutely NOT be tolerated. It is the philosophy of the school that we encourage and instruct each child to be responsible for his/her own behaviour. Students are given opportunities to identify and practice resolving conflicts in a peaceful way, as Jesus did; while keeping in mind the Gospel value of forgiveness, and that the school is a learning environment. The program has an anti-bullying component.

A problem-solving strategy will be used for a student's first offence. Depending on the seriousness of the offence, parents will be informed. A problem-solving strategy will be used, and the consequence for a subsequent offence will include in-school suspension, to out-of-school suspension, to a recommendation to the Superintendent for a discipline review committee.

Less serious offences will also be dealt with using a problem-solving strategy and consequences will be pursued that are appropriate to the offence, as much as possible. Removal of privileges through office referrals will continue to be used. All offences referred to the school administration are recorded and kept on file at the office.

### **SAFETY: ARRIVING/LEAVING SCHOOL**

Stands are provided for parking bicycles at school. Bicycles brought to school must be left in the stands and must be locked. It is vital that all cyclists/riders are as careful as possible and follow all traffic rules. Riding on school grounds is not permitted. Walk bicycles across the street in a crosswalk.

Skateboards and scooters are permitted at school; however, they must be stored securely during the school day. If the scooter is not able to be stored, it should not come to school. Helmets must be worn when using the above.

Students who walk to school must also be cautious when crossing streets. Cross at intersections or on designated crosswalks only. The area where cars are parked is off-limits to students.

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

In keeping with our safe and caring school policy, school administration may have reason to conduct searches of a student, his/her locker, or his/her belongings. Such a search may result in the seizure of substances, articles and/or objects. A search may be conducted when a teacher or principal has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a school rule has been violated and the evidence of the breach will be found on the student, in his/her locker or among his/her belongings.

### **FIRE DRILL REGULATIONS**

- a) When the fire alarm sounds, the classroom windows must be closed. The last person leaving the classroom will close the door. Do not lock it.
- b) Homeroom teachers will designate a meeting place for the class outside the building.
- c) All students are to leave the school immediately in an orderly manner; walk quickly, but DO NOT RUN. The first student reaching an assigned exit door should hold the door open until all students using that exit are outside.
- d) The teacher will have a roll call outside.
- e) When a class is not in its homeroom, it should leave by the nearest exit and, when outside, students should proceed to their designated meeting place.
- f) Pre-assigned staff will check washrooms for students.
- g) Students will not return to the school until they receive permission to do so, or a bell has sounded. The usual signal will be three short bell sounds.
- h) When your exit is blocked, you will be instructed to exit by another door.

### **HOMEWORK AND STUDY**

Assignments are given to practice and enhance instruction given in class. From time to time it will not be possible for a student to complete all assignments during class time. This will require homework. As the student progresses through the grades, this additional study time will become more frequent and will require more lengthy sessions.

Please consider these suggestions:

- Set aside a specific time every school day, perhaps 4:30, 5:00, or 7:00 p.m. at the latest. Even if there is no assignment, spend the time in study. All subjects would benefit from review work.
- Establish the habit of putting schoolwork in a definite location each evening so that you will not forget to pick it up in the morning. Perhaps you could place it next to your jacket or on a table by the door. Work that is not available in class for checking will be viewed as “incomplete”.
- Try to find a quiet place to study, which is free from distractions. Concentration is the key to thorough studying!
- Before leaving class, be sure that you understand the assignment completely. Ask questions. Do some of the work and check with the teacher to determine whether you are doing it correctly.
- Get in the habit of reading a variety of books whenever there is some spare time. Remember both the school and public libraries are great sources
- Take pride in doing your very best at all times. Everyone enjoys success. School work that you can be proud of, completed regularly, will lead to success.
- We open our learning commons during all breaks to allow students to get supervised, extra help with homework during the school day. This support can be assigned by a teacher or a student can voluntarily assign themselves by attending.

## **ABSENCES DUE TO VACATIONS**

Taking holidays during the school year will possibly compromise students' academic progress. We discourage parents from having their children miss school days due to extending holidays. However, we do understand that because of differing circumstances this may occur in various families. Students are responsible for catching up on all missed assignments within a reasonable timeframe determined by the teacher through consultation with the student. Teachers will also not be required to create homework ahead of time for students to take with them on vacation. With this in mind, we would encourage families to be mindful of the school year calendar.

## **BREAKS, RECESS AND LUNCHTIME**

Elementary students are dismissed by their teacher and go outside, weather permitting. Students are encouraged to use the washroom on the way in or out. Junior High students are dismissed by their teacher and are permitted to stay in student designated areas in and outside of school.

Lunch must be eaten in the assigned area.

Elementary students who normally stay for lunch are NOT permitted to leave the school grounds during the lunch break.

Junior High students can only leave school grounds when parents have signed a "permission to leave school grounds" form.

The staff parking lot is out of bounds to all students.

## **BUS/SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

In the event that school will be closed and/or buses will not be operating due to inclement weather, the Superintendent of Schools will notify the media with the message: "There will be no buses running and/or there will be no school in the CATHOLIC SCHOOLS in Leduc on (current day)." Please check your local radio and

television stations. STAR Catholic Schools is committed to the safety of our students and communication with our parents. In that regard, we offer the STAR Catholic Bus Status App available at the Google Play and IOS App Store. The App allows parents to keep track of the status of buses operated by STAR Catholic Schools.

## **ATHLETICS**

The Intramural Coordinators will plan a variety of activities for students to participate in during the lunch period.

Interscholar teams will be formed depending on student interest and availability of coaches or supervisors. Interested persons should watch for announcements of organizational meetings. Students, who fail to maintain academic standards, will not participate in extra-curricular activities.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

All parents of students attending Father Leduc are invited to be members of the Father Leduc School Council. We urge parents to take an active role in your Council so that it will continue as the vibrant and supportive group it is.

We use the "town hall" or "assembly" model for our meetings. All members in attendance may speak to or vote on all motions. Meeting times and dates are announced in our monthly family newsletter.

Parents are welcome to attend all celebrations, team games, and special events at our school. These events will be published in the weekly family updates. Please feel free to contact the school regarding our various volunteer activities.

## **OUT OF SCHOOL CARE**

For after-hour calls please dial 587-873-4539. Please call the office for further information about this program.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

(Kindergarten)

Students must be 5 years of age by December 31st (Alberta Education Act Change).

## **PICKUP AND DROP OFF STUDENTS**

Motorists picking up or dropping off students should do so on the designated street so that the parking lot is clear, and the school perimeter is safe for student movement.

The parking lot is for STAFF PARKING ONLY and is not to be used for pickup or drop off at any time.

## **SCHOOL ACCESS HOURS**

Our school doors open with the first warning bell each morning, we ask that parents do not drop students at the school until after outdoor and indoor supervision begins at 8:25 am. If a student arrives before that time they will have to brave the elements until the school is open. This can be especially concerning in our colder winter months.

## **PEANUT ALLERGIES**

Many children have allergies and some allergic reactions can be life threatening. This medical condition is called anaphylaxis. Some children, for example, are severely allergic to nut products, including peanut butter. Even a tiny bit can be fatal within minutes. Father Leduc Catholic School promotes peanut-safe schools. However, we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment. We caution parents/guardians of an anaphylactic child that traces of nut products can be hidden. If you are a parent/guardian of a child with a life-threatening allergy, we need your cooperation in providing the school with current medical information and in developing a plan with school administration. We ask all parents/guardians to send foods to school without nuts or peanut products. We do, however, permit "may contain" products.

Thank you for assisting us with creating a safer and more inclusive environment for all students.

## **LIFE FRAMEWORK - GENERAL NOTICE**

Catholic schools share a foundational belief that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each student fulfill their God-given potential in all aspects of their person: physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. Catholic schools are committed to using the LIFE (Lived Inclusion For Everyone) framework as a guideline for the creation and operation of student groups that are comprehensive in their approach to inclusion and open to the exploration in a Catholic context of a variety of issues including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, discrimination, justice, and respectful relationships and language. Alberta legislation recognizes that parents have both the right and responsibility to make informed decisions respecting the education of their children. Please accept this as general notice that students may be organizing LIFE Framework/Diversity clubs at the school in the future. If a LIFE Framework/Diversity club is formed, notification of the formation of the club will be sent to all parents.

## **VTRA**

VTRA (Violence and Threat Risk Assessment) helps schools respond quickly to incidents where students' behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm. Our school division has formally signed off on community based VTRA protocols that include other regional partners such as the public-school jurisdictions, the RCMP, Alberta Health Services, and other community agencies. Such protocols outline how we will collaborate and work together to respond quickly to threatening behaviour. Please be advised that the school division requires

school administrators to complete a threat risk assessment in cases of students making significant threats to themselves or others.

### **ENERGY DRINKS**

According to self-report surveys, energy drinks are consumed by 30% to 50% of adolescents and young adults. Frequently containing high and unregulated amounts of caffeine, these drinks have been reported in association with serious adverse effects, especially in children, adolescents, and young adults with seizures, diabetes, cardiac abnormalities, or mood and behavioral disorders or those who take certain medications (reported by the Canadian Pediatric Society).

To respond to this information, we are asking our parents to discuss these effects with their children.

**Please note: Energy drinks (such as Rockstar, Red Bull, etc...) are not to be brought to school or consumed while at school.**

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING FATHER LEDUC CATHOLIC SCHOOL.**

