



# Newsletter #1

September 21, 2020

## *Principal's Message*

### **We're back!**

The past three weeks we've welcomed students into the school building in a graduated re-entry to learn the many regulations and rules, and how to maneuver safely through cohorts, bathrooms, hallways and classroom settings, and to get comfortable in our new learning spaces. It's weird, it's awkward, but it's working! Our staff and students have kicked off the school year with compassion, flexibility, graciousness, and kindness at the forefront. Beginning with our high school first on September 1st, we've slowly added junior high and elementary students into their cohorts. In the most recent weeks we've had kindergarten join us as full classes, and now even Pre-Kindergarten has begun. Through all of this re-entry, reprogramming, restructuring, redesigning spaces, and realigning curriculum, we have not only brought students back into the school, but we've brought something else- courage.

"Courage starts with showing up and letting ourselves be seen."

— Brené Brown

It takes courage to be with things as they are. Nothing is for certain, nothing is perfect, nothing is for sure. Yet, we show up, and will continue to show up time and time again. Choosing to face fear with faith takes courage. It takes courage to turn towards what's happening. This is possible. Courage is available, and possible, for each and every one of us each and every day. And when we can meet our own life with courage, we have more discernment, more compassion, and more gifts to share with others. We've got this- let's do it... together!



♥ Ms. Schmidt



## School Events:

**PD Day**  
**Friday, September 25**

**No school for students!!**



**Orange Shirt Day**

Wednesday, September 30th  
is **Orange Shirt Day**

Please wear orange to school in support of  
"Every Child Matters"



**Picture Day!!**

Wednesday, October 14



### **The Friends of St. Michael's**

The Friends of St. Michael's are our school booster club. They support our school in many ways including: school activities, Dragon athletics, student awards, busing, Scientists in the Classroom and much more.

The Friends meet on the First Monday of the month!

[Friends of St. Michael's Information Page](#)

To support the Friends:

- You can purchase Co-op Gift Cards (10% of the money comes back to our school) contact the school for more information

### **School Council**

St. Michael's School Council

Monthly meeting dates are now the fourth Monday of every month.



**Next Meeting:**  
**September 28 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

[School Council Information Page](#)

Please contact the school for the meeting Zoom link for this month!  
More info below regarding the upcoming annual AGM Meeting in October!

# be in the **Know**

### **School Messenger**

When your child is absent from school, please call the office to let us know. If a child is absent from school without a reason provided, School Messenger will contact you to let you know (via phone, email) that he/she is not at school.

**This is done for the safety of our students.**

When students need to leave school parents must call the office to let us know: 403-627-3488 (for elementary & junior high students). Senior high students can sign themselves out, however, if we have not heard from parents School Messenger will be calling you

## **Closed Campus:**

St. Michael's School is a closed campus this year. This means that only staff and students can come into our school. If you want to come in and meet with admin or your child's teacher you must call ahead and book an appointment. If you need to drop something off for your child, or pick them up for an appointment or to go home sick, please come to the front doors (beside the office) and call 403-627-3488 or knock on the window and we will be happy to come out and help you. Help us keep our students and staff safe by respecting these rules. Thank you!

## **School Council Annual General Meeting:**

The unprecedented circumstances of the global pandemic have demanded certain changes in procedures. As a result, we will not meet in person but will meet virtually for the opening School Council meeting on September 28th, and also the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October. It is at the AGM meeting that the executive is elected, and that future dates and activities will be decided. Our first established School Council meeting will be held virtually using Zoom on September 28th, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m with the zoom link being shared at a later date. All parents are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend. Our executive for the 2020-21 school year will be voted on in October, and the date with more information will come following our first meeting.

If you have an interest in filling any roles, or stepping into an executive position, whether you can attend the meeting or not, you are welcome to communicate this with the admin in advance. We are looking for St. Michael's parents to reach out and commit to ensuring that student activities, faith, functions and programming remain a top priority. It is through the advisory role of the school council that school planning, programming, communication and community relations are discussed, upon which then lead to consultation and advisement with the administrative team. In the past few years, School Council has provided input on school/division website upgrading, provided 'parent series' evenings such as "Get Your Google On", "Curriculum connections" and a variety of others with amazing speakers who informed us on a variety of topics. The school council is a voice that is able to determine where funding should be distributed in order to best support students, and is a place for parents to network together on a variety of fun initiatives, activities, programs and ideas to support students. For more information in regard to the School Council, updates to what is happening in light of the pandemic, feel free to visit the Alberta School Council webpage: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca>

## **St. Michael's Live Calendars:**

[SMPC Events Calendar](#)

[Year Calendar at a glance](#)

[Kindergarten Year at a glance](#)

**Holy Spirit Board Meetings:** To view the Holy Spirit Board meeting dates and meeting briefs:

[Board Meetings and Briefs](#)

## **Health & Wellness:**

[Wellness Message from Holy Spirit Catholic Schools](#)

[Student Illness Information Document](#)

**Off Campus News:** For information on post-secondary fairs, open houses, RAP and work experience:

[Off Campus Information](#)  
[Off Campus Newsletter](#)

**Have an appointment?** If your child has an appointment during school hours it is very important that you connect with your child's teacher AND the office so that we can help get your student out to you in a timely manner. **Please call 403-627-3488.**



## Important Information from Holy Spirit School Division:



### GRADE 3 STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

Alberta Education is once again providing the opportunity for school divisions in the province to administer the Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs). The SLAs are a digitally based provincial assessment that provides a beginning of the year "check in" based on outcomes related to literacy and numeracy. This assessment allows teachers and parents/guardians to learn about and identify student strengths and areas for growth early in the school year.

Holy Spirit School Division believes that continued participation in the SLAs will provide teachers yet another opportunity to get to know their students, use the results to help plan for instruction, and engage in collaborative professional development opportunities that will benefit student learning.

For more information about the Grade 3 SLAs, visit the government website at:  
<https://www.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments.aspx>

## School Fee Schedule:

### 2020-21 Fee Schedule



**Please send your children to school dressed for the weather as it is cooling off but we still go outside for recess!**





## NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

The *Alberta Human Rights Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



## FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Risk Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA) helps principals take further steps to protect students' well-being. The protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or a replica weapon, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others or other threats of violence, fire setting.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first bring together a School Threat Assessment Team, which ideally includes the principal / associate principal, a school based counsellor / jurisdictional lead and police. If the situation is serious the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and call in members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This community team may include representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safer such as, but not limited to, local police, children's mental health organizations or Child and Family Services. Parents / guardians will be notified as soon as possible in the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents / guardians cannot be reached, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behavior, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents / guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca).

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Student Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,  
Ken Sampson, Superintendent of Schools

Updated August 2020

## Bell Schedule:

### 2020-21 SMPC Bell Schedule

## Now Hiring...



Part-time relief caretaker position available at St. Michael's School.  
Contact the school for more information. 403-627-3488

# FAITH FOCUS:

3-Year Faith Plan – “Making Our Mark: Journey of an Intentional Disciple”

## St. Michael the Archangel

2020-2021 Theme – *Transformed by the Journey*  
Calls to Action – *Be grateful... Be gracious...*

St. Michael is our patron! The feast day of St. Michael the Archangel is September 29th. In honour of his upcoming feast day, here are a few interesting facts about St. Michael.

St. Michael the Archangel isn't a saint, but rather he is an angel, and the leader of all angels and of the army of God. This is what the title "Archangel" means, that he is above all the others in rank.

St. Michael is responsible for combating evil, escorting the faithful to heaven, and is the champion of all Christians and the Church itself!

St. Michael is mentioned in Scripture in the books of Daniel, Jude and Revelation.

St. Michael is the patron of soldiers, police and doctors.

This September 29th we ask a very special intention for St. Michael to watch over all of us!

St. Michael - PRAY FOR US!



### Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- Feast Day of St. Michael - Tuesday, September 29th
- Thanksgiving - Monday, October 12th
- All Saints Day - Sunday, November 1st
- All Souls Day - Monday, November 2nd
- Catholic Education Sunday - Sunday, November 8th

#### *Words from St. Michael Parish:*

- ★ Please visit the Parish website at: [www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish](http://www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish)
- ★ Grade 2 Parents - Father Myles has sent a letter home regarding First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please contact Father Myles at (403) 627-3071 for more information.
- ★ The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Michael's Parish on October 23rd and 30th. Information has been sent home to parents.



# September/October 2020

13 September	14	15 International Dot Day	16	17	18 Friday 1	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 PD Day 	26
27	28 School Council Zoom Mtg 7:00 pm	29	30 Orange Shirt Day 	1	2 Friday 2	3
4	5	6	7	8 St. Michael's Academic Awards	9 Friday 1	10
11	12 No School 	13 PD Day No School Today 	14 Picture Day!! 	15	16 Friday 2	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Friday 1	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Friday 2	31 Happy Halloween!! 





# SEPTEMBER

## A New School Year Begins!

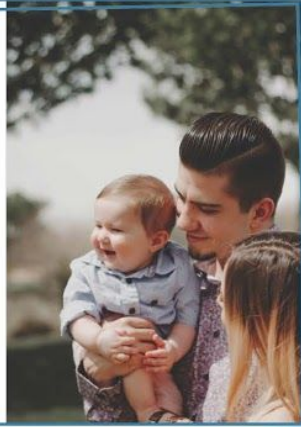
### Days to Remember

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 5 Feast Day of St. Teresa of Calcutta
- 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 15 Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
- 29 Feast of St. Michael

### A Blessing for a Family

May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen.

(Source Unknown)



Click [here](#) for a printable version of this prayer.

### Be Gracious

To be gracious is to be filled with good will and to treat others in the loving manner that Jesus taught us.

#### KINDNESS

St. Paul identifies kindness as one of the fruits of the spirit. We don't want to just teach our children to "do kind things" but rather to have kindness be our very nature. Model kindness for your children as often as you can and when you see them being kind, comment on it by name. As a family this month, focus on kindness in different areas: kindness at home, kindness in the neighbourhood, kindness at school, kindness to those we don't know, etc. The reward for being kind is not shown in any material way but rather in knowing that we are living as Jesus taught us.

Click [here](#) for a Kindness Prayer to pray with your family.



### Catholic Education

Thank you for choosing Catholic Education for your family. Along with your Church, we are partners with you in educating your child. We never lose sight of the fact that, as Pope Francis teaches, the home is to be "the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of faith," and where we learn "to pray and to serve our neighbour." This monthly newsletter aims to serve your family by giving you some ideas to share in the faith journey that your child is experiencing at school. This year, let us be *Transformed by the Journey together.*



### Be Grateful

This year we are focusing on finding grace (God's presence and love) in the ordinary moments of our day. We will be attentive to giving thanks to God for all of his goodness and being grateful to God for his presence.

One of our beautiful Catholic prayer traditions are prayers of Blessing. In prayer, to bless is to dedicate someone or something to God, or to make something holy in God's name. Saying that God has blessed us means that we acknowledge that we are held in God's heart, cherished and beloved for who we are.

Bestowing a blessing on one another in a family is an act of love. If you don't already do so, bless your child before they leave for school each day. Simply trace a cross on their forehead or place your hand on their head and say "May God bless and protect you today" and then pause for a moment of silence. This is one small way of showing how thankful you are to God for giving you his precious child to care for.



### Faith & Family

Nurturing a child's prayerful heart starts with simplicity - talking about God, finding God in the everyday, finding moments of prayer, and learning to respond to God's presence with prayer. This month's suggested *Faith and Family* activity is Prayer Walks.

As we wind down our summer days and look forward to the beautiful autumn season, it is the perfect time of year to go on a prayer walk with your family. Help your children to open their eyes more to the wonders of God's creation. God is not only Creator, but also present in creation. If we can begin both the conversation and our relationship with God by recognizing that God is near us always, it prepares the child for a lifetime of knowing that God is always with us. Bring up God on your walk and you might be amazed at what your child tells you!

#### Questions:

- Where do you see God?
- Where do you think God is?
- How is God like the item that you see?
- Why do you think God created this item?
- How does this item make you feel?



Resources: *Praying Together* by Karla Hardersen; *Prayers and Rituals for the Home* by Kathy Hendricks



*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



# **Free online French Tutoring Program**

**September 21 - December 18, 2020**

**Ages 6 - 14**

**Must be a CPF  
(Canadian Parents for  
French) Member  
(It's FREE to join!)**

- Screened volunteers  
from across Canada  
consisting of many  
university students and  
teachers!**
- 1 session/week, 1 hour  
in length**



**CANADIAN  
PARENTS  
FOR FRENCH  
ALBERTA**