



Newsletter #2

October 9th, 2020

Principal's Message

These are times like none other. This is a school year like no other. With many regulations, expectations, and stressors on all of our everyday lives, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the many ways COVID-19 has changed our lives. At the same time, we can turn uncertainty into resiliency. That is what I see daily both inside and outside of our building. Our children, staff, and parents continue to rise above all challenges and are coming together in many ways. We are turning uncertainty into building resiliency. For example, when I'm touring the building and I observe a high school Fitness class outside doing pushups and tricep dips on our front lawn and entryway stairs- I see a teacher who's risen above the constraints of the COVID regulations, and an unusable weight room. What I observed was a showcase of students working out in the elements, raw, exposed, engaged, and shining! This is just one of many more examples and reasons why I am both humbled and grateful to lead with such a dedicated, committed and creative group of individuals. By being grateful, we can all transform negative thoughts and situations into positive intentions, learning and growth.

Gratitude feels good, both to give and to receive. Showing thanks can be one of the most effective ways to contribute and make a difference.

In recent weeks, St. Michael's School has 'made our mark' in a variety of ways, from outstanding support for Orange Shirt Day to a beautiful tribute initiated by School Council with sidewalk chalk messages dedicated to our teachers on "World Teacher Appreciation Day." Inside classrooms, during our Terry Fox Week, and even outdoors at recess - in little ways, each and every day I can find examples of graciousness. So, as we dive into October and Thanksgiving weekend, I encourage all to take time every day to notice something that you're grateful for. Those who show appreciation often feel more connected, optimistic and happier with their lives. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



♥ Ms. Schmidt



FAITH FOCUS:

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

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

School Masses and Celebrations

As with many things during our COVID-19 re-entry, school masses and celebrations will look a little different this year. We had our opening celebration via Zoom on September 29th to celebrate the Feast of St. Michael. Special thanks to our grade 12's for volunteering to read during this celebration, as well as special thanks to Fr. Myles for recording a message for our students and a final blessing for our students and school. It is important we meet together, so we will continue to meet virtually as a whole school throughout the year for our seasonal celebrations. We are also blessed to have the opportunity for private masses with Fr. Myles at St. Michael's parish. Throughout the year individual classes will attend mass on Tuesday afternoons. Again, a heartfelt thanks to Fr. Myles for celebrating mass with our students this year!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- Thanksgiving - Monday, October 12th
- School Thanksgiving Celebration - Wednesday, October 14th
- 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
- ★ The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Michael's Parish on October 23rd and 30th. Information has been sent home to parents.

School Events:



To celebrate the beginning of autumn and Thanksgiving, Student Council invites everyone to wear plaid on Friday, October 9!!

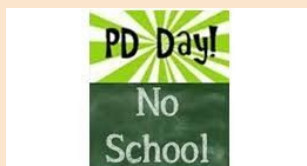


October Holidays:

Monday, Oct. 12



Tuesday, Oct. 13



Picture Day!!

Wednesday, October 14



Kindergarten & Retake day:
Thursday, November 26

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.



AGM Meeting:
Oct 26th @ 7:00 pm
(location TBD)

For information about School Council, their Mission Statement or Meeting Minutes visit:

[School Council Information Page](#)

be in the Know

School Messenger

Please let the office know if your child is going to be absent. Messages can be left after hours.

This is done for the safety of our students. Office: 403-627-3488

When students need to leave school early, parents are asked to please call the office to let us know.

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 come to the school, 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:

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING OUR MEETING! Come meet some parents! Nominate a friend! Step into a role yourself! 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.

If you have an interest in filling any roles or stepping into an executive position (whether or not you are able to attend the meeting), you are welcome to communicate this to admin in advance.

It is through the advisory role of the school council that school planning, programming, communication and community relations are discussed, which then leads to consultation and advisement with the administrative team. We are sad to say goodbye to the following exec members and are truly grateful for their contributions: Rob Sissons (Chair) and Jeanette Davis (Vice Chair). We are, however, excited for new ideas, voices, and positions to be determined on the 26th. Hope to see you there!

For more information regarding the School Council and updates on pandemic-related news, feel free to visit the Alberta School Council webpage: 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:

[Student Illness Information Document](#)

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

[Off Campus Information](#)

[October Off Campus Newsletter](#)

There is a Virtual Scholarship Information evening on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00pm open to students in grades 10, 11 & 12. The number of people who can attend is limited, so email Tracey youngt@holyspirit.ab.ca to register and get the zoom link.

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.**






Now Hiring...

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

October 2020

4	5	6	7	8	9 Friday 1 Wear Plaid Today 	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 Halloween Activity Day	31 Happy Halloween!! 
November 	2	3	4	5	6	7



Transformed by the Journey

OCTOBER

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart!

Psalm 9:1a



Special Days to Remember Month of the Holy Rosary

- 4 Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi
- 7 Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
- 12 Thanksgiving Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 22 Feast Day of St. John Paul II

Bedtime Prayer of *Thanks* for Children

Thank you
for being with me today.
Thank you for helping me
when I needed you.
Thank you for being with me
when I was afraid.
Thank you for helping me
to be generous
with my time and talents.
Thank you for giving me
the strength I needed
to do my best today.

Amen

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

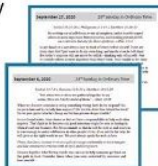
Be Gracious

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

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the observable behaviours of people who have allowed the grace of the Holy Spirit to be effective in them. One of the Fruits of the Spirit is generosity. We often associate generosity as being about giving money. While that can be important if you are able, we try to model for our children that generosity is really more about the giving of ourselves. While it's important to recognize generous behaviour, we must be careful about rewarding it with youngsters. We teach them that being generous is not about getting recognition or a reward for ourselves. It is about sharing who we are and what we have with others, expecting nothing in return.

Catholic Education

A few years ago, we started the tradition of asking our teachers to read the upcoming Sunday Gospel with their students each Friday. We wanted our students to learn to consider how the lessons of the Gospel stories will help them live their life today. In order to now connect this to your home, we have purchased "Mass Transit Cards" for you to use as you prepare for Sunday Mass. Included is a simple explanation of the Gospel and a reflection question for your family to encourage conversation about the Scripture. You can access the Mass Transit Cards for October [here](#).



Be Grateful

This month, we will focus on prayers of thanksgiving, another of our beautiful Catholic prayer traditions. Of course this is especially appropriate during the month of October when we actually mark Thanksgiving Day in Canada. Prayers of thanksgiving invoke a spirit of gratitude, of thankfulness for God's many blessings. Every moment of one's life can become a moment of thanksgiving, and thereby of prayer.

It would do our children well if we could respond to our many emotions throughout the day with prayer. When your children are joyful or excited about something, encourage them to say a quick prayer of thanksgiving – "Thank you God for our happy hearts!"



Faith & Family

Brainstorm with your children ways to help others with their time, treasure, and talent by creating a "Family Foundation". This month, everyone in the family can decide how they will donate to the foundation. Perhaps your child will decide to be generous with his/her time by playing with a little brother or sister without being asked. Maybe your child will decide to donate part of his/her allowance to a favourite family charity. Perhaps your child will discover how to use his/her talents to bring joy to others. For example, a budding artist can create a chalk picture on the sidewalk for everyone in the neighbourhood to enjoy.

What a wonderful way for your children to understand what it means to serve and put our faith into action!



*For it is in giving
that we receive.*

- St. Francis of Assisi



Resources: *Praying Together* by Karla Hardersen;
Teaching Kids to Care by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP



*'Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving:
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!'*
(Psalm 95:2)

KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE

PRESENTS

'HALLOWEEN IN THE VILLAGE'

Saturday, October 31

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Pioneer Village 'Trick or Treating'

Sponsored by local businesses

*The BOO Berry Haunted House (family friendly)

*Prize Wheel

*Free Hot Chocolate

*Admission \$2.00 / person
(applies to all ages)



We ask for patience with reduced usual capacity, compulsory social distancing, one way lines and masks recommended.

**1037 BEV MCLACHLIN DRIVE, PINCHER CREEK, AB
403-627-3684 WWW.KOOTENAI BROWN.CA**



Thursdays

(starting Oct 15/20,
No tutoring on
school holidays)

@ Napi
Friendship Centre/
Brighter Futures
(622 Charlotte St)

Registration required:
403-627-7329 (Tany)

LEARNING WITH A SIDE OF SOUP



Free tutoring and homework-help for Gr 1-12 students.
Any subject, in English or French.

Must pre-register, as students will be booked
for time slots between 3:45-6pm.

Delicious soup provided for all.

