



# Newsletter #3

November 6th, 2020

## *Principal's Message*

Happy November! Our school is busy preparing for this upcoming Sunday, November 8th, which is Catholic Education Sunday! We have joined with the whole division in united prayer of a Novena for Catholic Education. For nine days leading up to Catholic Education Sunday it is wonderful to know that following morning announcements- all 15 of the other schools are praying at the same time as us! Even amidst this crazy time in our world, there are daily reminders such as this which confirm how blessed we are to be in a Catholic School, and within such a united Catholic School Division. Below are a few photos I've gathered this past month as a visual testament of us living our faith while flourishing and having fun along the way.



This Friday, on November 6th, our school will unite virtually again for our Remembrance Day Celebration at 11 am. Although this school year looks different in many different ways, including our school wide celebrations, I'm so proud of how respectful, and engaged our children have been thus far in our monthly celebrations which are on screens, and voiced over the intercom into classes. For this celebration, we'll be showing a special video from our Canadian Armed Forces that also features a message from our Minister of National Defence. We will pray together in classes for our members of the Pincher Creek Legion, our Canadian veterans, and for all those who continually serve to maintain the safety and freedom in our country.

Another important November event is the Elementary and Junior High Report Cards which go out on Wednesday, November 25th, and High School will have mid-term comments available on PowerSchool as of Nov 18th. Parent teacher interviews will follow the next week and will be virtual through Google Meet and Zoom. Look for more information on this to come in days ahead via agendas and email.

Finally, as the days grow colder and shorter, please ensure your children are properly dressed for outdoors with appropriate winter wear. We are trying all we can do to remain healthy and safe here in the building- and the parent support around this has been outstanding! Let's transition into this next season as prepared as we can be, and thank you again for your continued care and grace for our little ones!

Blessings!

♥ 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...*

## Fruit of the Spirit

Year two's theme of our three year faith plan is “Transformed by the Journey”. One of the signs we are being transformed by the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit. We see in Galatians 5:22-23 that the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Catholic Tradition also teaches us goodness, modesty, and chastity as well. In the coming months we will be exploring the meaning of these as a school.

Be on the lookout for these in the coming months!

### 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)

## Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- All Saints Day - Sunday, November 1st
- All Souls Day - Monday, November 2nd
- Catholic Education Sunday - Sunday, November 8th
- 1st Sunday of Advent – November 29

But the fruit of the *Spirit*  
is love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness,  
self-control;  
against such things  
there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

## School Events:

### November Holidays

#### No School:

Mon. November 9th & 10th  
(Wellness Days)

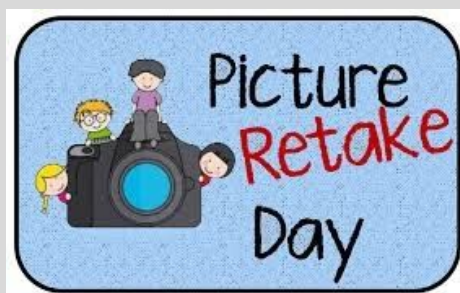
Wed. November 11th  
(Remembrance Day)

Thurs. November 12  
(Staff PD Day)

See you back at school on  
Friday, November 13!!

### Kindergarten & Retake Picture Day

Thursday, November 26



### Report Cards

High School reports  
will be available  
to view in PowerSchool  
Wednesday, November 18th



Elementary & Jr High  
report cards go out on  
Wednesday, November 25th

## 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



**New School Council Advisory:**

Chair - Christie Gustavison  
Vice Chair - Roxane Baalim  
Secretary - Leah Oyortey

**TO VIEW THE NEW COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER MESSAGE CLICK [HERE](#)**

and go to "News & Updates"

**Next meeting: Monday Nov 30th @ 7pm**

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

[School Council Information Page](#)

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

[albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://albertaschoolcouncils.ca)

# 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 are permitted to 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!

## Volunteer Protocols:

Interested in volunteering? Even though we are a closed campus, volunteers are now allowed in certain situations (for eg: field trip volunteers) There are protocols to follow, but if you're interested please contact the school office for more information!

## 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:

[New Covid Screening Sheet](#)

**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.**



**Graduation Fundraiser:** Our grad class is selling Kernels Popcorn as a fundraiser to help offset some of their graduation fees. They are selling for \$2.25/20g bag. There are a variety of flavors to choose from. You can use the following link to purchase it through SchoolCash online: [Kernels Popcorn Link](#)



**Scholastic Book Fair:** Our school's Book Fair is going online, so save the date!



From November 16<sup>th</sup> – November 27<sup>th</sup> 2020. Discover the newest books hot off the press, from the comfort of your home. Bonus: **Every purchase supports our school and keeps kids reading.**







When it's time to shop, visit our school's Virtual Book Fair site using this link: [Shop for Books](#)



**Wednesday, November 11, 2020**



# November 2020

8	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 Back to school today!!	14
15	16	17	18 High School Reports ready to view in PowerSchool	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <u>Board Meeting</u> 6:00 pm  Elementary/Jr High Report Cards go out	26 Kindergarten Picture Day & 	27	28
29 Beginning of Advent	30 School Council Meeting		2	3	4	5



# Come away and rest a while.

Mark 6:31

Holy Spirit Catholic Schools is honoured to support "The Bench Project" at Martha Retreat Centre. This beautiful place has been an important part of the spiritual journey of so many of our staff, students, families, and trustees over the years. We would love for you to join us as we "make our mark" at the Centre as our way of honouring the legacy left by the Sisters of St. Martha. They were such strong supporters of Catholic Education and we want to show our support to ensure this gift in our community continues to be available for people as they seek spiritual renewal.

We are now gratefully accepting donations for the purchase of a "Holy Spirit Catholic Schools" bench at Martha Retreat Centre where people can come and rest awhile. What a beautiful way for our staff, trustees, and families to consider marking the upcoming Catholic Education Sunday by supporting this project in any way that you can. Tax deductible donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and can be made online using the Donations button on the Holy Spirit website.



## 5. Focus on the Learning Over the Work

Learning is the goal of an assignment. Take a moment to ask your child what the purpose of each homework assignment is, what do they think the teacher wants them to learn and get better at as a result. Then monitor the learning, not the work.

## 4. What Questions Did You Ask Today?

Our questions drive us as learners. Instead of asking your child, "Did you learn anything today?", you could say, "Did you ask a good question today?" This will encourage your child to be more invested in the types of questions they ask at school.

## 3. Challenge but Don't Rescue

When your child encounters difficulties, don't jump in to solve the problem and rescue him/her. Instead, ask questions that will help him/her to think through the problem, identify, and choose a course of action to moving forward.

## 2. Develop a Growth Mindset

Develop a growth mindset in your child by focusing your praise on process, learning, and effort (*You really worked hard on this and have learned a lot. You've really developed as a musician.*), as opposed to ability (*You're so clever. You're good at math.*)

## 1. Name and Notice Thinking

Use the language of thinking to name and notice the thinking your child is using and thus make it more visible.

*I like how you have used what you already know to make connections. That's a perspective I hadn't thought about.*

## 6. Support Your Child in Arguing Effectively and Persuasively

Research has shown that teenagers who argued constructively with their parents by building a case and providing evidence for their position were more enabled to speak up, voice an opinion, and use evidence in other facets of life.

## 7. Provide Time to Pursue Passions

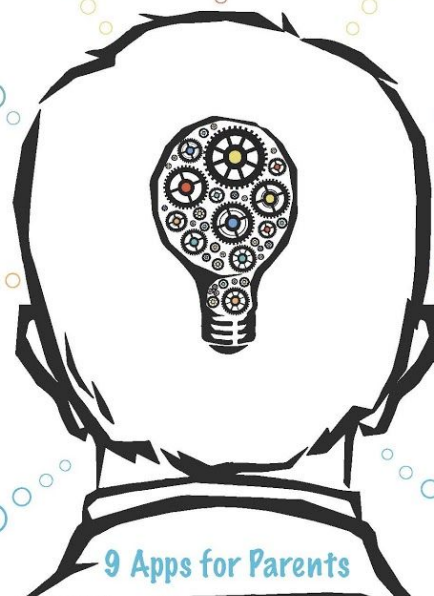
Students need time and space to pursue their passions and interests. Pay attention to your child's learning and passions outside of school and make time for them.

## 8. Make Your Own Thinking Visible

You are a model for your child of what it means to be a thinker and a learner. Model your own interests, passions, curiosity, reflection, learning, and thinking for your child.

## 9. What Makes You Say That?

By simply asking, "What makes you say that?", in a curious and non-judgmental tone after someone has given a response, we are able to get a window into the thinking behind that person's initial response.



9 Apps for Parents

MAKING THINKING VISIBLE

© Ron Ritchhart 2013



# NOVEMBER

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me!*  
Philippians 4:13



Special Days to Remember	
Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory	
1	All Saints' Day
2	All Souls' Day
8	Catholic Education Sunday
11	Remembrance Day
25	Feast Day of St. Catherine of Alexandria

**Prayer for Catholic Education**

Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education. May we always appreciate the beauty that we enjoy in having our children attend a Catholic school. Guide us as we labour to bring the virtues of faith, hope, and love into a global society in great need of them. Lead us to proclaim your Good News in our schools, in our families, and in our communities. We make this prayer in your name. Amen.

Adapted from Called to Pray (Justin McClain)

## Be Gracious

The "fruit of the Spirit" is evidence that our character is becoming more like Christ's. Faithfulness is one of these nine fruits. When we think about this attribute, we cannot help thinking about the saints who so faithfully answered the call to holiness. When saints are canonized, we recognize someone who has been honoured as a hero or model of faith. But guess what? We are all called to be saints by virtue of our Baptism and we are called to imitate Christ by living a life of holiness. Our children though are not called to seek holiness in any particular way but according to their own nature, their own character, and the conditions of their own life.

This month, talk to your children about what their God-given talents are and encourage them to use them to demonstrate in their own special way God's compassionate love. This is how they will learn to connect that when they are being gracious at home and at school, they are actually doing what they can to faithfully live a holy life. Learn more about how you can help your child answer their call to holiness by watching a short video by Joe Paprocki [here](#).

## Catholic Education

On November 8, we proudly celebrate our schools as faith-filled learning communities on Catholic Education Sunday. Holy Spirit Catholic Schools has created a booklet to explain the basics of our Catholic faith tradition and how you will experience this being lived out in your child's school. You can access the booklet [here](#).

*Holy Spirit Catholic Schools... where children are cherished and achieve their potential.*

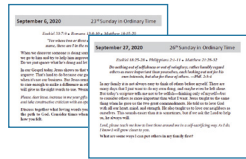


## Faith & Family

Living a virtuous life makes salvation possible. Ken Yasinski, a popular Catholic speaker from Saskatoon, reminds us that, "As Catholic parents, our number one goal is to get our children to heaven." He and his wife Janelle have a wonderful video called "How to Teach Virtue to Children" that you can watch [here](#). Each time your children hear our call to action to "be gracious" from our faith plan this year, it is a reminder to use the virtues to guide their day to day actions. This does not just happen at school of course. It is actually in the home where we first learn to live out our vocations. If we want to live each day with holiness, we must start with our own surroundings.



We hope your family is enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family. To access the November cards, click [here](#).



*Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

Resources: Peter Gohn-Good Catholic-Catholic at Home (Peter Gohn); Saint of the Day (Leonard Foley and Pat McCloskey)



*"I thank my God every time I remember you."*  
(Philippians 1:3)



The Catholic Bishops  
of Alberta and the  
Northwest Territories

Les évêques catholiques  
de l'Alberta et des  
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T 780.499.1010 F 780.495.3003

November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Catholic Education Sunday is an annual event that celebrates the important and critical role which our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta. Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift, which provides faith-based education to more than 180,000 students in Alberta. The Alberta Bishops' commitment to Catholic education is steadfast and we continue actively to work with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Sunday is from the Book of Isaiah. In the context of our current pandemic, it offers us the prophet's words of solicitude, prophetic fulfillment, and hope in the face of challenge.

*Those who hope in the LORD shall renew their strength.*  
**(Isaiah 40:31, NRSV.)**

The pandemic continues to have a deep impact on every facet of our society, including the Catholic Education of our young people. During the shut-down of schools in the spring, Catholic Education faced this challenge by providing virtual classrooms, which continued to engage students in their academic learning and religious faith instruction. When the schools reopened in the fall, many new practices were put in place to adhere to the health precautions and to ensure student safety. In the midst of these challenges, Catholic Education has been embracing the call for renewal and inviting students and their families to look to the future with hope.

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Alberta Bishops released the *Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal*. The Pastoral Statement



describes this as a “*time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all.*” Some significant societal issues, which were hidden by the distractions of pre-pandemic life, are now very evident. This calls people of Faith, and especially your Catholic educators, to chart a prophetic path in addressing these issues now and in the future.

“Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal.” (*Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal*)

This call for renewal will be embraced by our young people through the role that Catholic education must play in strengthening authentic human development, which is essential for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal for the future of our society.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, proposes such a renewal by rediscovering the value of human fraternity and recognizing ourselves as sisters and brothers, who are responsible for one another and called to stand by those who suffer.

“Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, No. 167)

Another example of this spirit of renewal can be found in recently beatified Carlos Acutis, a young man of our era. He lived the faith by devoting himself to the Eucharist and responding to this Grace in his life by caring for the poor, advocating for those living with physical or mental challenges, and using technology to further evangelization. Blessed Carlos Acutis has been called “a millennial saint.” His example can guide young people in our Catholic schools to learn about him and to be inspired by his active witness to the Catholic Social Teachings of our faith!

Catholic Education fosters high academic achievement and provides students with personal and communal spiritual formation. Catholic Education invites students to see each other and, indeed, the peoples of the world as their sisters and brothers. This fraternity calls the students to respond to those in need locally and globally. These good works help young people to seek the common good and to bring Christ’s love and hope to others.

May the efforts of everyone bring hope and renewed strength to all those committed to Catholic Education. In this time of pandemic, we extend to our Catholic school communities our prayers and blessing for the celebration of Catholic Education Sunday.




Yours sincerely in Christ,


Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



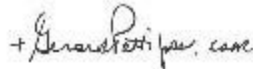
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton



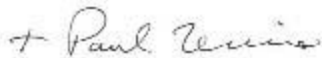
Most Reverend William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary



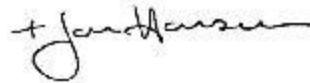
Most Reverend David Motiuk  
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSSR  
Archbishop Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend Paul Terrio  
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSSR  
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

