



# Newsletter #4

December 7th, 2020

## *Principal's Message*

'Tis the season to prepare our hearts! Christmas brings out the best version of so many people – we care a little more, give a little more, and show a little more patience and empathy toward others. Traditionally, St. Michael's School has come together as a community to support families from within our school in some special way. This year, we are more than grateful to **FASD Christmas Express** for organizing **19 Christmas Treasure Boxes** that we personally delivered yesterday to some truly gracious families. Many staff, hands and hearts helped both inside and outside of our division to make this happen- we are truly blessed! In our Faith Focus section below you'll see our **Advent Chalice Project** which is also a reminder that we can make a difference across the world too- generosity has no limits! I'm excited to see the many ways we contribute to a wonderful cause this season.

We are saddened to announce that there will be no Christmas concert this year, but hope you realize that all of our safety must remain our priority this year. Please know we are thinking of you, and we are hoping to celebrate once again in this capacity in the future. In the meantime, we've got a few fun things up our sleeve for the next few weeks to support some Christmas cheer. We've even had **"Dynasty"** our Dragon visit many classes to share some joy and announce our second wave of **"Dragons on Fire!"** If your child is interested in submitting a 2 minute video of something awesome- have them send it to me! We'll showcase it on our social media pages!

As you know, things look a little different this week with our Grade 7-12 students online, and we are working from a school that is now only 1/3 capacity. We are looking for ways to bring the Christmas Spirit Alive! We've partnered with the **Pincher Creek District & Community Food Centre** as a drop off location. For the next few weeks if you have **non-perishable food items to send in- please do!** We are collecting in boxes that will be picked up on December 18th!

Our last week of school (December 14-18th) is **"Christmas Spirit Week!"** Please have a look at the little ways we will continue to come together and spread some joy in this beautiful season. In the meantime, may God continue to bless our St. Michael School and community with health and good spirits during this season.

Happy Advent 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...*

## **Fruit of the Spirit - Generosity Fundraising for Grapesyard Education Centre in Kenya**

This year our staff expressed the desire to emphasize the Fruit of the Spirit and the Corporal Works of Mercy in our school. If you have been with our school for the past 3 years, you may remember when we sponsored a water filtration system for Chugu school through Chalice. Over and over again we have heard around the school, “wouldn’t it be great if we could partner with a school like Chugu and support them this year.” With all this in mind, this fall we reached out to Chalice Canada to see what we could do. Chalice was very excited to connect us with Grapesyard Education Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. We officially announced to our school at our first week of Advent service that we have set the goal of raising \$2500 this year to help Grapesyard buy textbooks. We are currently coming up with fundraising ideas with our students that we can do throughout the year, however there is a simple way to support this project during this Advent season. Through Chalice we have set up a fundraising page where you can donate to this project with a credit card either as an individual or a corporation, with Chalice issuing tax receipts by email upon receipt of donation. Grapesyard Education Centre also has created a YouTube video explaining more about the project if you would like more information about their school. Finally there is another amazing opportunity to change a life. Chalice has given us the opportunity for families in our community to sponsor a foster child that attends Grapesyard Education Centre.

If you would like to go to the St. Michael’s School fundraising page and donate - [CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to watch a 5:29 video to find out more about Grapesyard Education Centre - [CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to read more about Grapesyard Education Centre and find out about sponsoring a child from Grapesyard - [CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you for taking the time to consider donating to this great cause. Blessing to all our families during this season of Advent!!!

### *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:*

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception - December 8th
- Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) - December 25th
- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - January 1st
- Feast of Epiphany - January 6th



## School Events:

### SUPPORT THE PC FOOD CENTRE

We are teaming up as a donation location for our Pincher Creek District & Community Food Centre.

Send all non-perishable food items to school in the next 2 weeks to be donated to those in need.

Items can be arranged to drop off at the school as well. Contact the office for more information.



## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK! (Dec. 14th- 18th)

### ★MONDAY- "Music Monday"

★ Christmas music to be played all throughout the day!

### ★TUESDAY- "Toque Tuesday"

★ Come dressed in your favourite Christmas Hat or Toque!

### ★WEDNESDAY- "Wacky Wednesday"

★ Wear your ugly sweaters, red/green, come dressed in Christmas wear!

### ★THURSDAY- "Nativity Day"

★ Come dressed as your favourite character/animal from the nativity. Who was at the stable?

### ★FRIDAY- "PJ & Movie Day"

★ Let's relax in our pajamas and enjoy some Christmas cheer!



### Christmas Break

Christmas Break begins on Monday, December 21st and continues until Monday, January 4th.

The week of January 4 ALL students will move to online learning for the entire week.  
(Jan 4-Jan 8).

Classes resume to in "in school" learning for all students on Monday, January 11.

Please monitor your email in the event that these dates change due to government imposed restrictions.



## 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



School Council Advisory:

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

**For more information :**

[School Council Information Page](#)

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 5 @ 7:30 pm**

Ongoing discussions include ways to engage you in your student's education and the school, an outdoor basketball net project, and staying up to date on education at the provincial level. We'd welcome your voice, energy and talents.

Reach out to [StMikesschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:StMikesschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

# 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](#)

**December Off Campus News:** [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.**



**Library Corner December 2020** Library is certainly different this year! The Library has been coming to the students. A cart is packed and brought to the classroom where students can pick a book for the week. This is going well so far!

Our Schools first virtual Book Fair was a success! Thank you so much for your support, the rewards earned from the book fair have been put towards new books for our library!! Thank you.

Gearing up for Christmas we will be sharing Christmas books and stories and helping students pick good fit books to borrow over the Christmas break.

I hope you all enjoy a restful Christmas break, and remember to keep reading!



## Grad Fundraiser:

Check out our St. Michael's Swag!

Orders are accepted until December 9th through SchoolCash Online.

You can also contact Lori Jo Ettenhofer at the school to place an order.

Ball caps are \$20, toques & beanies are \$15. They will be available for pick up December 16-18. A portion of the proceeds will go towards our 2021 Grad Class.





# December 2020 - January 2021

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Board of Trustees Meeting - Lethbridge	17	18 Last day of school before Christmas Break!!	19
20	21 Christmas Break!!	22 Christmas Break!!	23 Christmas Break!!	24 Christmas Break!!	25 	26
27	28 Christmas Break!!	29 Christmas Break!!	30 Christmas Break!!	31 Christmas Break!!		2
3	4 Kindergarten to grade 12 students start back at school today online	5 Online learning this week	6 Online learning this week	7 Online learning this week	8 Online learning this week	9



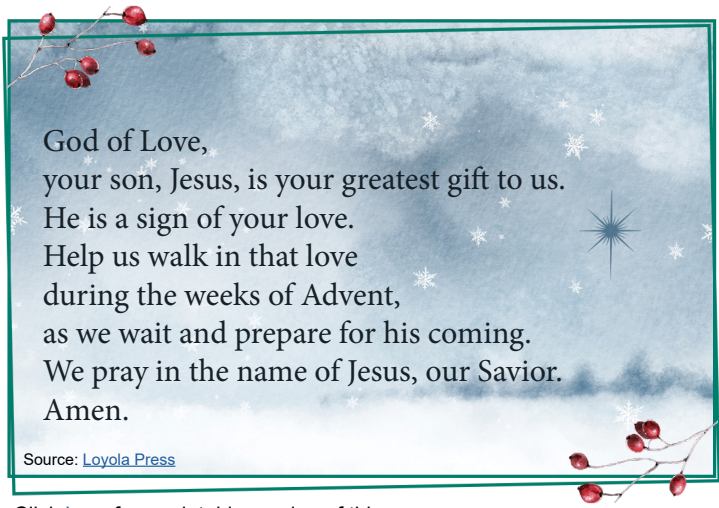
Transformed by the Journey

# DECEMBER

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...*  
Isaiah 9:6a

## Special Days to Remember Month of the Immaculate Conception

- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 19 Christmas Break Begins
- 25 Nativity of the Lord
- 27 Feast of the Holy Family



God of Love,  
 your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
 He is a sign of your love.  
 Help us walk in that love  
 during the weeks of Advent,  
 as we wait and prepare for his coming.  
 We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.  
 Amen.

Source: [Loyola Press](#)

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

## Be Gracious

Is there any time of year when we feel more joy than during the season of Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas? Joy is one of the Fruits of the Spirit and is a gift from God — it makes us feel so good! When we feel good, we do good; when we do good, it reminds others of what joy feels like, inspiring them to do the same.

Jesus is our Saviour who brings light into the darkness of this world and Advent is a time of preparation as we wait for Christ's coming. During this season, families are encouraged to remember "the reason for the season" and to bring light into the world in their own small ways. What a perfect time to help your children think about ways to be gracious to others through simple acts of charity and kindness. Consider putting this [Advent calendar](#) on your fridge and encourage everyone in your family to act with graciousness each day as you prepare yourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth.



## Catholic Education

As you look ahead to the Christmas break, please remember that if you have children in Grades 1-7, you have access to a home portal on our [Growing in Faith Growing in Christ website](#).



There are many wonderful videos and stories to enjoy that will help your child understand the meaning of Advent and Christmas. Please check with your child's teacher if you have forgotten the username/password.



## Be Grateful

If you recall the first chapter of the book of Genesis, God was delighted with his created world. "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (1:31) In the season of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of God the Son, we are reminded that there is goodness all around us. And that is something to be joyful about!

An important question to ask ourselves in the month of December is, "Do we truly experience God's joy in our daily lives?" Do we see it in our everyday moments or are we expecting trumpets announcing a big "God moment" before we pay attention? Certainly our preparations for Christmas will look different this year, but maybe that's okay. Maybe it's the year to be a little less busy and a little more still — could that perhaps be a gift for us to be grateful for? Have we learned in the past few months to appreciate the goodness that is all around us? Is God giving us a nudge to spend a little more time as a family doing simple things this month to really enjoy the season of Advent with that bit of extra time on our hands. Rather than attending to all of our usual holiday activities, perhaps we could spend more time simply cooking or baking together, playing a board game in the evening, or going for a walk and enjoying hot chocolate with our family.

This month, keep your family focused on the joy that comes from seeing everything that God created for us to enjoy and recognize that indeed, it is very good. Let us be grateful for all of our blessings and let us rejoice!



## Faith & Family

A kind word goes a long way! How can we help our children feel a deep, true sense of joy? Give them opportunities to be the face of God and show kindness to others. This month, have your children show their appreciation to those who have been taking such good care of others during the pandemic. Have them make a Christmas card with a heartfelt message of gratitude for those who serve — our teachers, our health care providers and health care staff, our first responders, our clergy, our grocery store staff, our mail carriers and our delivery people. These cards will give a much needed lift to folks who are undoubtedly feeling the strain of serving others during these challenging times. Teach your children that by sharing their gifts, they will bring some joy to others!



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

Resources: *Everyday Stewardship - Reflections for the Journey* by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
*Experiencing God in the Ordinary* by William A. Barry, SJ  
*Living Stewardship* by Darrin J.G. Gurr



*"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

(Psalm 118:24)