



Newsletter #5

January 8th, 2021

Principal's Message

"In the new year, share your blessing of time"~Pope Francis (as a part of his homily during Mass on Jan 1st)

The blessing of time... what a wonderful concept to focus on during these pandemic days. Coming back from a very quiet winter break where there was plenty of time to focus on our family within our homes. Time... there was facetime, game time, time for cleaning, time for renovations, time for exercising, and time to spend in the fresh air... slowing down and spending time... such an important blessing! And now- a new year! A new year to focus on new goals, set plans in place, and to take each day as it comes.

Many people hope that this new year will bring the end to the COVID-19, but as we all know, nothing is certain. What is certain is that a new year is a chance for a new start- and we are certainly ready and excited for our new start together again on Monday, January 11th when all students will be re-entering our school building for 'in person' learning. We are so excited to have all of our students return again to our school community, and we will continue to work together to ensure safety and wellbeing for all.

In our Catholic School, as the months progress we must continue to place our trust in God. It is also important to trust in one another on this journey through the pandemic school year. Trust that we will all do our part to follow regulations, to pre-screen each morning before school, to wear masks appropriately, and social distance at all possible times. Students are expected to bring their own mask, and don't forget a water bottle too!

Near the end of the month, our students in high school will enter exam week for Semester One (January 25th to 29th) where we will have a few students who've chosen to write diploma exams, and all high school students will have their class finals to wrap up Semester One. We are thrilled to announce that "One Book! 5 Schools!" is back for another year! Students in K to Gr 6 will enjoy one book together and the initiative launches on "World Literacy Day"- January 27th. Other things to look forward to are "Fry Bread Friday" on the first Friday back, the upcoming parent night sponsored by School Council called, "Get Your Google On" on January 27th at 7 pm. To be honest, the best part of January will be the blessing of spending our time together within the school building under one roof!

Happy New Year everyone- let's bring on the best one yet!

♥ 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 - Peace

Back in November’s newsletter we saw that 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.

During the three weeks of Advent we were in school, we focussed on love, joy and generosity. We are now moving on to peace on the week of January 11-15.

How do we find peace even though we live in a world that is a rocky place? As Catholics we believe our peace comes from knowing that the God of the universe is standing right beside us. We can place our trust in that. When we feel like our world is spinning a million miles per hour, God calls us to take some quiet time with Him. Be refreshed by His Spirit, and know that God will lead us through the rocky and will be with us through it all!

“Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” - John 14:27

UPDATE ON GRAPESYARD EDUCATION CENTRE FUNDRAISING

Thank you all who have donated to Grapesyard Education Centre. We have raised \$270.00 so far. Well done! This money will go towards textbooks for students in Nairobi, Kenya.

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](#)

Words from St. Michael Parish:

- ★ Please visit the Parish website at:
www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish



Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- Feast of Epiphany - January 6th
- Ash Wednesday - February 17th

School Events:

Welcome Back to School!!

"In School Learning"
begins on Monday, January 11th!

All grades (pre-k to grade 12)
will be back in class.



"One Book 5 Schools" is back!



All students in K to 6 will receive one book
per family on World Literacy Day:
January 27th!

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!

Next Meeting: Monday, February 1st

[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

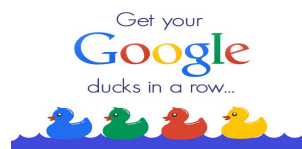
For more information :

[School Council Information Page](#)

Welcome back and thank you to those who attended last night's school council meeting!

**Next virtual meeting:
Tuesday, February 2 @ 7:30 pm**

Ken Sampson, Superintendent will be joining the February 2nd meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about priorities and direction for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division and engage with the Superintendent.



["Get Your Google On!" Parent Event:](#)

[Click here and go to News & Updates Tab](#)

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!

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](#)

Off Campus News: [January Newsletter](#)

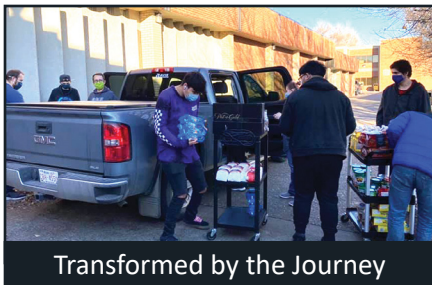
Have an appointment? If your child has an appointment during school hours, it is very important that you connect with your child's teacher AND the office so that we can help get your student out to you in a timely manner. **Please call 403-627-3488.**



Senior High Final Exam Schedule:

Last day of regular classes is Thursday, January 21 for gr. 12
and Friday, January 22 for grade 10 & 11.

Date	Exam	Time
Friday, Jan. 22	Gr. 12 ELA 30-1 Gr. 12 ELA 30-2	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Monday, Jan. 25	Gr. 10 Social 10-1, 10-2, Gr. 10 Social 10-4, 20-4	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Monday, Jan. 25	Gr. 11 Social 20-1, 20-2	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Monday, Jan. 25	Gr. 12 Biology 30	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Gr. 10 study day for Math	
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Gr. 11 ELA 20-1, 20-2	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Gr. 12 Math 30-1, 30-2	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Wednesday, Jan. 27	Gr. 10 Math 10C	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Wednesday, Jan. 27	Gr. 11 Chemistry 20	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Wednesday, Jan. 27	Gr. 12 Chemistry 20	9:00 am to 12:00 pm Extra time available if needed
Thursday, Jan. 28	No Exams Scheduled	Make-up day for anyone who misses an exam



Transformed by the Journey

JANUARY

See, I am making all things new.

Revelations 21:5

Special Days to Remember
Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- 2 Feast of St. Basil the Great
- 3 Epiphany of the Lord
- 10 Baptism of the Lord



Dear Jesus

Please help me to be faithful in all the duties You have entrusted to me this day, fulfilling each with great care and love!
Amen.

golepress.com/2019/pray-for-responsibility/

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

Be Gracious

You do your best each day to teach your children about responsibility. It's very healthy to let your children experience what happens naturally if they are not responsible (as long as their safety is not in jeopardy of course). If they forget things they are supposed to take to school for example, let them discover how to deal with the consequences of their forgetfulness. Give them continual age-appropriate opportunities for responsibility at home like making their bed, putting away toys, helping to prepare dinner, or taking care of pets.

Knowing that they are expected to be responsible at home and at school is a very important life lesson for our children. If they grumble about little inconveniences like wearing a mask, help them understand that thinking about the needs of others and not only of ourselves is a truly gracious way to live. And when your child makes a mistake, the "OWN UP" strategy is a beautiful faithful way to help them learn to be accountable for their actions.

Faith & Family

Parents are the primary educator of their children. Did you realize that when you teach your sons and daughters about their responsibilities at home and in their community, you are helping them learn about an important Catholic Social Teaching? Learn more about rights and responsibilities by watching this [video](#). Consider hanging this poster on your fridge or in your child's room and have conversations about the Catholic Social Teachings often. Here is a [child's version](#) and here is one for your [teens](#). Home + School + Parish = Partners in Catholic Education!



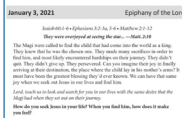
"...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Catholic Education

God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life. This means we all have to accept our responsibilities that come from living in communion with others. One of the most important lessons we teach in our Catholic schools is that the dignity of the human person must be foundational to all of the decisions we make in relation to how we live in our community. Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP explains that responsibility is an attitude of accepting that we are all called to participate and respond to the common good. It's an important lesson for children to learn - that life is not all about them and their needs. Pope Francis said it beautifully during his homily at his installation in 2013, "In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!" What a beautiful reminder for our families as we enter this new year!



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

Resources: *Teaching Kids to Care* by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP
Faith Perspectives on the Covid-19 Pandemic, [Waterloo Catholics](#)

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

(1 Corinthians 12:12)





WINTER 2021 ONLINE DUAL CREDIT COURSES

EARN COLLEGE CREDITS IN HIGH SCHOOL

AHT 1140 / TERM: FEB 22 - MAY 14, 2021
VETERINARY PRACTICE: THE TEAM CONNECTION

Online, Asynchronous | Windows 10 required

Animal Health Technology Diploma

Students will become familiar with the aspects of the service cycle within a veterinary clinic. Students will explore veterinary software and their specific application to operating a veterinary practice. They will apply communication skills to create positive experiences for veterinary clients.

EVS 1210 / TERM: FEB 22 - MAY 14, 2021
APPLIED ECOLOGY

Online, Asynchronous | Windows 10 required

Land & Water Resources Diploma

This course provides an introduction to ecological principles at the species, population, community and ecosystem levels. Specific application of ecology to sustainability and the management of forest and grassland ecosystems are studied.

AHT 1050 / TERM: FEB 22 - MAY 14, 2021
INTRO TO VETERINARY PROFESSION

Online, Asynchronous | Windows 10 required

Animal Health Technology Diploma

Students will become familiar with selected animal health organizations and will adhere to the regulations of veterinary medicine in Alberta. Students are introduced to strategies and techniques for managing self and interacting with others. Students will examine animal welfare and ethical issues. This course provides students with foundational veterinary medical terminology they will use throughout their career.

ATG 1007 / TERM: FEB 22 - MAY 14, 2021
**ELECTRONICS & CONTROL SYSTEMS
IN PRECISION AGRICULTURE**

Online, Asynchronous | Windows 10 required

Precision Agriculture Techgromony Diploma

Students will investigate foundations of control systems, electronics and practical applications in precision farming.

Through experiential learning, students will demonstrate the uses and applications of geospatial technology, identify and troubleshoot components within hardware and devices used in precision farming, test control systems and their role in product application, evaluate hardware and software used in precision agriculture systems, program farm equipment, demonstrate a proven process for identifying and troubleshooting components in Agricultural Technology equipment and interpret digital diagnostic data

HRT 1700 / TERM: FEB 22 - MAY 14, 2021
PRODUCING HORTICULTURE CROPS

Online, Asynchronous | Windows 10 required

Horticulture Technologist Diploma

Learners research and assess food and ornamental field crop production markets, locations, materials, and processes to achieve a sustainable enterprise.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM



CONTACT: Mrs. Gurr (GurrW@holyspirit.ab.ca)
or your Principal
VISIT: [OLDSCOLLEGE.CA/DUALCREDIT](http://oldscollege.ca/dualcredit)





LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR WITH ...

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION 2021/2022 REGISTRATION

RE-REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email on February 1, 2021 asking you to complete the online "Registration Update Form" for all of your children.

This update allows us to make sure the information on file is accurate and that any legal declarations, preferences and consents are renewed. It also allows our schools to plan for the upcoming school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time as they re-register older students.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2021/2022 school year are invited to register online starting on February 22, 2021.

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Our **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2021.

For information about our Early Learning and Kindergarten Programs, or to discuss your child's specialized programming requirements, contact our Early Learning Coordinator, Lynn Saler, at 403-381-8495 or salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need assistance with the online registration process, or have any questions, contact your child's school or visit the school division's website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
...where students are cherished and achieve their potential.

January 2021

3	4 Welcome Back! Online learning this week for all students	5 School Council Meeting 7:30 pm Virtual Online learning this week for all students	6 Online learning this week for all students	7 Online learning this week for all students	8 Online learning this week for all students	9
10	11 Welcome back to School!! 	12	13	14	15 Fry Bread Friday	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 HIGH SCHOOL EXAM WEEK BEGINS (for grade 12's)	23
24	25 High School Exams	26 High School Exams	27 High School Exams Launch of "One Book! 5 Schools" Board Meeting 6:00-9:00 pm Get Your Google On @ 7 pm.	28 High School Exams	29 PD Day No school for students	30
31	1 February Semester 2 starts for high school	2 School Council Meeting 7:30 pm	3	4	5	6