



Newsletter #6

February 8th, 2021

Principal's Message

Winter is in the air, but so is love! We've faced many challenges, regulations, changes to the school year, and setbacks as well as tragedies. In a year where very little seems 'normal,' - love remains. The events of the past few weeks and months have reminded me that through all things, within all things, in and out of the walls of our little school community- love is abound.

In this season of love, as Catholics we are reminded that Valentine's Day was not invented through a greeting card company, or from a chocolate factory- it's the feast of St. Valentine!

As much as I love chocolate, and a great greeting card message, there's a Christian message that should be remembered too. No matter what season we are in, God's love is there for us, and for us to offer to others.

That same unconditional, never-ending love is exactly what will make our best times together even better, and the tough times bearable. Whatever it is we are going through, as Christians, when we trust in God's love, that is all we need to carry on. Hang in there everyone- we've got a lot of love to give this month with our 'living Valentine's' challenge through spreading random acts of kindness around the school, and in our homes.

In the meantime, I hope you get some time for chocolate, and some great messages from those you love most. Happy February everyone!

♥ Ms. Schmidt

Love

Bears all things,
Believes all things,
Hopes all things,
Endures all things,



Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:7-8



www.SmartLoving.org





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...*

Five Marks of a Catholic School

For the next five months at School Council we will be discussing the five marks of a Catholic school. The first mark is a Catholic school grounded in Christian anthropology. What exactly does this mean? This means our school’s mission is to recognize the dignity and worth of all members of the school community as sons and daughters of God and to root all we do in Christ. Over the past few years the staff of St. Michael’s has worked hard to create and live by a mission statement grounded in Catholic anthropology. Below is our mission statement:

We recognize that each of the students who contribute to the community of St. Michael’s School are unique individuals with many gifts. Our school, in partnership with home, parish, and community, provides a Christ-centered learning environment focused on nurturing, supporting and celebrating the spirit of each individual. St. Michael’s fosters the growth of actively engaged and ethical citizens that live and contribute to society in a way that reflects our Catholic faith.

Living Valentines

February is Random Acts of Kindness month. Throughout the month of February including Valentine's Day, St. Michael's students will be encouraged to put our Faith in action by doing kind deeds towards others. This year, we are promoting these activities in lieu of exchanging Valentines and treats.

UPDATE ON GRAPESYARD EDUCATION CENTRE FUNDRAISING

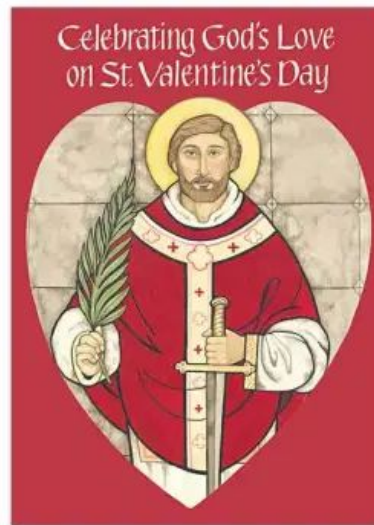
Ms. Manon and the high school leadership class are currently brainstorming new fundraising ideas for Grapesyard! Stay tuned!!

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:

- Ash Wednesday - February 17th
- Spiritual Development Day for Holy Spirit staff - March 22nd
- Holy Thursday - April 1st
- Good Friday - April 2nd
- Easter Sunday - April 4th

School Events:

Family Week Break

There are no classes the week of Monday, February 15 to Friday, February 19. Classes resume on Monday, February 22.



Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 24
Wear a pink shirt in support of anti-bullying!!



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, March 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

Next virtual meeting:
Tuesday, March 2 @ 7:30 pm

Thank you to those who attended the February 2 meeting with Ken Sampson, Superintendent. Updates from division were shared, and minutes will be posted on [school council page](#) when approved.

There is an upcoming session on Investing in Children's Outdoor Environments Session 3 with Beverlie Dietze, outdoor pedagogy specialist on Friday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m. Please contact stmikesschoolcouncil.chair@gmail.com if you are interested in attending this session. School council is in the early stages of a few initiatives to enhance the school's outdoor space.

You are also invited to the "Get your Google On" (insert meeting link or link to poster when final) evening on Tuesday February 23 at 7:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to join you for tech support!

Next school council meeting is Tuesday March 2 at 7:30 p.m. We welcome your participation as we review and plan school council activities for 20/21.

As always, school council can be reached at stmikesschoolcouncil@gmail.com, or the chair directly at stmikesschoolcouncil.chair@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!

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: [February 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.**



**NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION
FOR THE 2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

BEGINS FEBRUARY 22, 2021

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



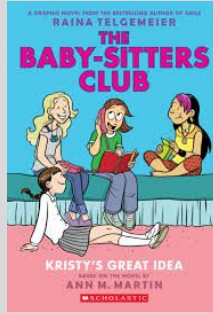
During the week of February 1-5, 2021, parents/guardians of current students should have received an email inviting you to complete a "Registration Update Form" for all of your children attending St. Michael's School.

[For more registration information: Click here](#)

[For help completing the Registration Update Form: Click here](#)

Library Corner

Mobile Library classes are going well, we are all adapting to the changes this school year has brought. The Library has been busy ordering new books and getting them onto the cart or book bin for our students! We are once again participating in The Rocky Mountain Book Award, students are encouraged to read 5 titles from the 20 nominated books and vote on their favorite Author. January 27th was the launch of 1 book 5 Schools! We are excited to be participating in this again this year! New to the library titles include:



Grad Crowsnest Coffee Fundraiser

Crowsnest Coffee Company Fundraiser

~Support St. Michael's Graduating
"Class of 2021"



Order through **School Cash Online**
or from one of the **Graduates** by:
Wednesday, February 24th

~The coffee will be delivered
by **March 9th.**



Each 400g bag costs \$17.00

Choose from a variety of kinds.
(Whole bean or ground)

(Bushtown Blend, Pic's Bootleg Beans, Hardy Har-Rar, Frank Sumatra,
Columbia Santander RFA, Ethiopia Yirgacheffe, C3 Decaf)

Thank you for your support!

~Contact St. Michael's School (403-627-3488) for more information.

St. Michael's School Council presents



Get Your

Google

On!



**Discover the Google platform students
are using for online learning with
Principal Karen Schmidt
Students and parents are welcome!**

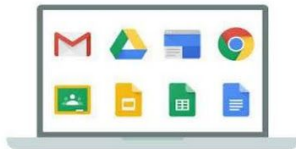
February 23, 2021, 7pm

Karen Schmidt is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

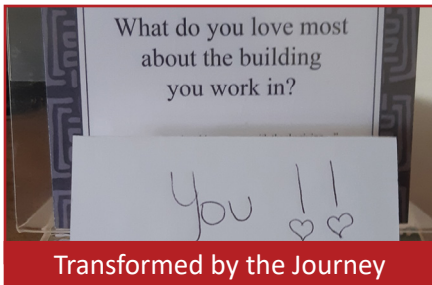
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78199735091?pwd=VzBBcGRNNFhUV3I6YTIqQ0ZFau82QT09>

Meeting ID: 781 9973 5091
Passcode: SMPC123



February 2021

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Dress up in pink/purple/red for Valentine's Day	
14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15 Family Day No classes for students	16 Family Week No classes for students	17 Family Week No classes for students ASH WEDNESDAY	18 Family Week No classes for students	19 Family Week No classes for students	20
21	22	23 GET YOUR GOOGLE ON PARENT NIGHT @ 7 PM	24 Pink Shirt Day "Be Kind" Board Meeting 6:00 pm	25	26	27
28	1 MARCH Friends Virtual Meeting	2 School Council Virtual Meeting 7:30 pm	3	4	5	6



Transformed by the Journey

FEBRUARY

Monthly Theme: Mercy



Special Days to Remember Month of the Holy Family

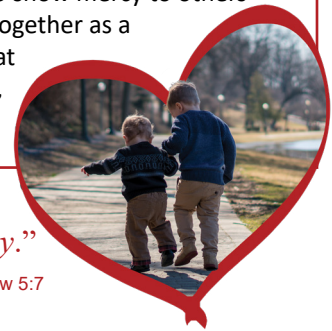
- 2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 14 Feast of St. Valentine
- 17 Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins
- 21 1st Sunday of Lent
- 28 2nd Sunday of Lent

Be Grateful

A few years ago, some of you may have seen a movie called *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* It was about Fred Rogers, "Mister Rogers", who had a long running children's show in the US. Mister Rogers was actually a minister and he used his folksy humour and gentle kindness to teach about radical goodness and truth. He was famous for teaching children to "Look for the helpers" in scary times. Knowing his background, I have no doubt that he was pointing these children to look for people who were showing the presence of God through their merciful acts to help others in need. As William Barry observed, Mister Rogers knew that, "People can be the images of God because of the presence of the Spirit of God moving all of us in that direction." So this month, let us be grateful for the helpers — those who show our children how to show mercy to others in times of need. And let's all work together as a community to teach our children that by showing mercy to others in need, they can be the helpers too!

*"Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy."*

Matthew 5:7



Catholic Education

While we follow the traditional calendar of the school year, another important calendar that we follow in Catholic schools is the liturgical calendar. This month, we begin the liturgical season of Lent on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17 this year. Because we will not be in school to receive our ashes, we encourage you to check with your parish to see about the Ash Wednesday services that your family can participate in. During this season, we are called to repent for our sins and to engage in the three pillars of Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider posting this [Lenten Family Calendar](#) so that you can engage in those 3 calls to action during your family's Lenten journey.



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

Resources: *Experiencing God in the Ordinary*, William A. Barry, SJ
Teaching Kids to Care, Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP

God of mercy,
when there is hurt or anger in our home,
show us how to settle our disagreements.
Remind us to listen to each other.
Help us to forgive each other.
Keep laughter and kindness
a part of our daily lives.
Keep peace in our family.
Amen.

Adapted from *Prayers and Rituals for the Home* (Kathy Hendricks)

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

Be Gracious

One of the days in February that often gets a lot of focus for children is Pink Shirt Day which occurs the last Wednesday of the month. The theme this year is "Lift Each Other Up," which connects so beautifully to our call to action this year — "Be Gracious". In our Catholic faith, one of the ways in which we lift others up is to show them mercy. Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP describes mercy as, "Compassionate kindness and steadfast love shown to others, especially toward people who are suffering or in distressing situations." Perhaps each day this month, each person at your dinner table could share an example of mercy they have seen that day. What a beautiful way to help your child remember to keep their eyes open to the goodness in the world!



Faith & Family



God sent his Son, Jesus to teach us about the great kindness and mercy of God. Jesus showed with his actions who God is and we are called to do the same. As a family, you might consider this month working together to model the way of Jesus by coming up with a plan to intentionally engage in the Works of Mercy. Deanna Bartalini reminds us that it is in our family, the domestic church, "where the faith is first seen and passed on, in all the little things we do each day with and for each other." Check out her [article](#) to see her suggestions for ways to keep your family focused on the works of mercy during the upcoming Lenten season.



"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

(Luke 6:36)