



Newsletter #1

September 21st, 2021

Principal's Message

Dear families,

St. Michael's School has a rich 117 year history of providing quality Catholic education to our students. We are proud of our history and our accomplishments and know that our future in the 21st century learning is full of hope. Saint Michael is referred to as Michael the Archangel, an exceptional leader, healer, full of compassion and strength. With him as our guide, and our Catholic roots as the foundation of all that we do, we continue to ensure our school is:

- A PLACE OF BELONGING.
- A PLACE OF RESPECT AND JUSTICE.
- A PLACE OF HOPE.
- A PLACE OF SUCCESS AND CELEBRATION.
- A PLACE OF QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING.



St. Michael's School is located in the beautiful town of Pincher Creek, Alberta. We are a Pre-K to Grade 12 school with French Immersion, Dragon Athletics, and FNMI cultural education. We value our partnership with the Parish and our families as we collaborate together to nurture the individual gifts in each of our children. We encourage each member of our community to act with kindness and generosity as we strive to live the Gospel values in our school. We are, above all else, a community who cares for one another and supports our families.

When you enter St. Michael's School, you will notice a newly renovated, positive and welcoming environment. Our large school building has well over 300 students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12, ranging in age from 3 ½ – 18 years old. Our highly qualified and experienced teachers find creative ways to make St. Michael's School a high achieving, inclusive, quality school in Southern Alberta. We are committed to academic excellence and achievement through our focus on literacy, mathematics, student led inquiry, technology and meeting children where they are at. Our classrooms are collaborative learning communities with students of all abilities learning together in an inclusive classroom setting. We would welcome a visit to our school at any time by appointment to determine if St. Michael's School would be the best option for your child.

I know that the last two school years have presented challenges that forced us to find new ways of doing these things. We encourage all families to refer to [AHS Guidelines](#) and [Holy Spirit Guidelines](#) to help us maintain a safe and healthy school through this continued unprecedented time. With the newly updated regulations, and God's grace, we will continue to ensure safety, and respect for all, and appreciate all the learning and joy along the way that comes with simply being in the building! As a St. Michael's School family, we can provide your children with a quality Catholic education and bring promise to this year's division theme: "Be Accountable, Be Committed." We've got this- we truly do!

May God continue to bless St. Michael's School!

♥ Ms. Schmidt

FAITH FOCUS:

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

**2021-2022 Theme – Transformed by the Journey
Calls to Action – Be Committed... Be Accountable...**

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

We do not perform good works in order to please God. We do not do good works in order to earn grace or salvation. We do good works because God is love and we yearn to live in God. By sharing love with others, we encounter the living God. The Catholic Church identifies for us various works of mercy - the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy can be traced to the Parable of the Last Judgment in Matthew 25. These works are kind acts by which we help our neighbours with their everyday material and physical needs. The following are some suggestions for how we can practice these in our everyday lives.

1 & 2 Feeding the Hungry/Give Drink to the Thirsty - Support and volunteer for food pantries, soup kitchens, and agencies that feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty; make a few sandwiches to hand out as you walk through areas of your city or town where you may encounter people who are in need of food.

3 Clothe the Naked - Go through your drawers and closets and find good condition clothes to donate to agencies that accept clothing; participate in clothing drives in your community.

4 Shelter the Homeless - Help neighbours to care for their homes and do repairs; support and/or volunteer at a homeless shelter; support and/or volunteer for Catholic Charities initiatives, Habitat for Humanity etc.

5 Visit the Sick - Spend quality time with those who are sick or homebound; take the time to call, send a card, or an email to someone who is sick.

6 Visit the Imprisoned - Support and/or participate in ministries to those who are incarcerated; support programs sponsored by agencies that advocate on behalf of those who are unjustly imprisoned. Visit people “imprisoned” by loneliness, sickness, or old age.

7 Bury the Dead - Be faithful about attending wakes/visitation; support or volunteer at a hospice; participate in a bereavement ministry; spend time with widows and widowers; take friends and relatives to visit the cemetery; support ministries that offer free Christian burials to people unable to afford time.

Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- World Day of Migrants and Refugees – September 27, 2021
- Feast of the Archangels (incl. St. Michael) - September 29, 2021
- Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi – October 4, 2021
- Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary – October 7, 2021
- Thanksgiving Day – October 11, 2021

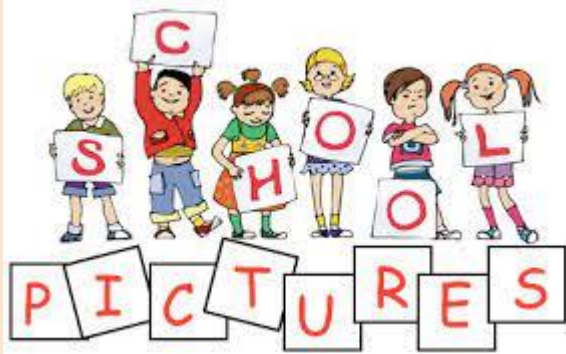
Words from St. Michael Parish:

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

School Events:

School Picture Day

Tuesday, October 12th



Retake Day: Monday, November 22nd

Student Holidays:

Friday, September 24: PD Day



Thursday, September 30:
Truth & Reconciliation Day



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.

[Friends of St. Michael's Information Page](#)

School Council

St. Michael's School Council

School Council Advisory:
Chair - Christie Gustavison
Vice Chair - Roxane Baalim
Secretary - Leah Oyortey

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 21
7:00 pm via Zoom**

[School Council September Message](#)

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

As we move into autumn, please remember to send your children to school dressed for the weather.



What you Need to Know!

St. Michael's Website:

Click here: [St Michael's Website](#)

Check out our school website for information such as: calendars, fees, staff contact information, our school handbook, bell times and so much more!

St. Michael's Live Calendars:

[School Events Calendar](#)

[2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

Holy Spirit Board Meetings: To view the Holy Spirit Board meeting dates and meeting briefs:

[Board Meetings and Briefs](#)

Off Campus News: [September Off Campus Newsletter](#)

Registration Updates: We are missing so many registration updates for our currently enrolled children. This is a requirement from Alberta Education and it holds your child's place in our school. If you need assistance with this process or you do not remember your username or password please call the office 403-627-3488.



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

School Fee Schedule: Parents please take a look at our school fees for this year.

[School Fees](#)

**Orange Shirt Day will be on Wednesday, September 29th
Please wear an Orange Shirt if you have one!**



School Cash Online: Parents, here are instructions to pay for school fees, sports fees, hot lunches etc. through School Cash Online. You only need to register one time for your child.

SchoolCashOnline Available Now

For safety and efficiency reasons, Holy Spirit Catholic School District would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. School Cash Online is our school's preferred method of payment. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *SUPPORT* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://holyspirit.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the Registration Steps
*For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.




Step 3: Find Student

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Enter Your Child's ASN (available from your school)
- Select *Continue*
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the *Agree* box and select *Continue*
- Your child has been added to your account

Find Student

School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575
Looking for a student in a different school board? 

School Name: Eagle High School 

Student Information

Do you have the student number? 

Student Number: 

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date: 
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

[\(No students? Click here\)](#)

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

Become a Homestay Family

*We will welcome Japanese Students this fall!
September 28 to December 28, 2021*



Have a fun and caring family?

- Enjoy learning about other cultures?
- Have a spare bedroom?
- We offer \$800 per month

**Open your home to an
International Student this year!**

Please contact Wendy Urquhart

(403) 331-7454



LIBRARY CORNER

Welcome back to the Library!

I am so excited to have classes back in the Library this year. Classes will come down at their scheduled Library times once a week for reading aloud and to pick a new book. This year we will be hosting a book fair, participating in the Rocky Mountain Book Award and so much more!

I look forward to seeing you all in the Library!!

Mrs. Marsh





NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Risk Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA) helps principals take further steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. The protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or a replica weapon, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others or other threats of violence, fire setting.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first bring together a School Threat Assessment Team, which ideally includes the principal / associate principal, a school based counsellor / jurisdictional lead and police of jurisdiction. If the situation is serious the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and call in members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This community team may include representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safer such as, but not limited to, local police, children's mental health organizations or Child and Family Services. Parents / guardians will be notified as soon as possible in the Stage 1 - VTRA Process. If parents / guardians cannot be reached, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behavior, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents / guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,
Ken Sampson, Superintendent of Schools

September 2021

19	20	21	22 First day of Autumn  Holy Spirit Board Mtg (6-8 pm)	23	24 PD Day No classes for students 	25
26	27	28  School Council Meeting (via Zoom) @ 7:30 pm	29  Orange Shirt Day Feast of St. Michael today! Opening Liturgy	30 Truth & Reconciliation Day - no school	1 	2
3 Fire Prevention  Week!	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Thanksgiving No School 	12 	13	14	15	16