



Newsletter #4

December 13th, 2021

Principal's Message

'Rise Above! Inspire Greatness!'

Dear parents & guardians,

Christmas is coming! Our school has been buzzing with excitement as we make preparations for Christmas. This week is Spirit Week with exciting dress up days, Junior & Senior High 'Dessert & Dance' evening and we even have a magician for our Elementary!

As we begin the 3rd week of Advent, we focus on joy as the pink candle is lit. Week by week, we listen, learn and pray each morning in our morning announcements. We all come together as one school united on this journey toward Bethlehem through the power of our morning slides shared on all screens, and uniting in prayer. We are excited to spread some joy this week as we wind up our school days in preparation for a well deserved holiday break.

At this time of year, especially amidst this crazy year, it's important to take some time to reflect on what you truly believe in. For me, I believe in Christmas. I believe in Jesus, and I also believe in the spirit of Santa Claus. Believing means that we have faith in what's to come. We are hopeful for a new and better day. My challenge to all families, children and community this holiday season is to find some time to reflect on what you truly believe in. Once we are grounded in our beliefs, that becomes the footing of our faith, whatever that may be. When we have faith, we have hope. What a wonderful way to live, believing in a better day, and having faith that gives us hope.

I'm not sure what you're hoping for this Christmas. For me, I've already received the wonderful gift of leading this incredible school. Surrounded by a steadfast, loving staff with such an immensely supportive parent body, our students are truly in good hands.

From the entire staff of St. Michael's, we wish you a blessed remaining Advent season, a very joyous Christmas and a happy New Year! May we all stay true to our beliefs, and hope for a better tomorrow. Let's keep prayer a priority in 2022, it will heal us and keep us on Christ's path- where we belong.

Merry Christmas everyone!

♥ 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...*

Advent 2021 - Mary's Journey

Theotokos is a term used primarily in the East for Our Lady, literally meaning "God bearer." The theological reality implied in the name is that Mary truly carried in her womb, and then gave birth to the Incarnation, God in human form. So, we in the West usually translate the word into "Mother of God."

However, let's look at the word for it's more literal meaning. Mary bore Jesus, that is carried Him inside herself, until she gave birth to Him in a manger. The emphasis is not only on the birth, but also the actual time of pregnancy. For 9 months, all who came into contact with her were in the real presence of the Divine. Recall her visit to see her cousin, Elizabeth. The child in Elizabeth's womb, John the Baptist, started leaping with joy to be in the presence of God in Mary's womb.

Mary serves as an example to us on how to live holy lives. But, we are also called to be "God-bearers." Because of her fiat, her saying yes to God's plan of salvation, Jesus Christ entered the world. He remains with us, most notably in the sacrament of Eucharist. When we go forth from Mass, we bear God within us, taking Him into the world. All that come into contact with us are in the real presence of the Divine.

All this is possible because Mary totally gave herself over to God. As good stewards, we are called to do the same. When we say yes, we then receive Jesus in the sacraments. We then carry Him into a world that needs the presence of the Divine more than ever. Our calendar year begins with a reminder of this reality, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. A good resolution for this New Year is to try hard to bring God to others, just as Mary did for us.

"...blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." - Luke 1:45

Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent
- December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
- January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
- January 6 - Epiphany

Words from St. Michael Parish:

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



School Events:

Christmas Break



Monday, December 20, 2021

to

Monday, January 3, 2022

Classes start back on
Tuesday, January 4, 2022

1st Annual Co-Ed Christmas Classic BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Support our Outdoor Basketball Court!
Register today!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww-OgaclnSg>

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.

**Thank you to our Friends of St. Michael's
for your constant support!!**

[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

[School Council Info](#)

**Thank you to our School Council for the
many ways you continue to support our students!**

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

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: [December Newsletter](#)

Students Leaving Early:

If your child has an appointment or needs to leave the school during the day, please make sure you let the office know ahead of time. Please keep in mind recess times for elementary and junior high and if at all possible try to pick up your child before or after as it is challenging to get students back inside from recess in a timely manner. Thank you for your help with this! [Click here to view > Bell Schedule](#)

Our Book Fair was a huge success thanks to you! Thank you to everyone who sent money or ordered online. Because of your generosity I am able to purchase new books for our library!! December in the library is here, Christmas books are on the shelves and I am looking forward to a fun month!

Happy Reading! Mrs. Marsh



Your Guiding Adventure Starts Here!


At Girl Guides, we aim to empower every girl to be everything she wants to be by providing them a safe space to shine, take the lead and explore new challenges and interests. Registration for the 2021-2022 Guiding year is now open!
Register at www.girlguides.ca/joinnow




SMPC January 2022 Senior High Exam Schedule

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| January 10 | 11 | 12 SS 30 Diploma 30-1/30-2 Part A | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Math 30-1/2 Diploma | 21 <i>Last day of class for SS 30 students</i> |
| 24 <i>Last Day of Non-Diploma Exam Classes</i> SS 30 Diploma 30-1/30-2 Part B | 25 9 am -12 pm SS 20-1/2 Science 10 Science 14 | 26 9 am -12 pm English 10-1/2 Biology 20 Science 24 | 27 9 am - 12 pm Physics 20 | 28 Exam Make Up Day |
| 31 <i>No School PD day</i> | February 1 Semester 2 Starts | | | |

December 2021

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|----|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Board Meeting 6:00 pm | 16 | 17 Ugly Sweater Day <i>Last day of class!</i> | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Christmas Break | 21 Christmas Break | 22 Christmas Break | 23 Christmas Break | 24 Christmas Break | 25  |
| 26 | 27 Christmas Break | 28 Christmas Break | 29 Christmas Break | 30 Christmas Break | 31 Christmas Break | 1 |



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| | | | | | | |  |
| 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Welcome back!!</i> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |