



Newsletter #6

February 15, 2022

Principal's Message

'Rise Above! Inspire Greatness!'

Thirty years ago Pope John Paul II began the 'World day of the Sick' on February 11th. Pope Francis's message about this holy day was entitled "**Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful**" (Lk 6:36). The Pope wrote: "*I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer. People who have made their service a mission. Because Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father.*"

The year 2022 has marked the highest illness rate within our school population that we've seen since I've arrived causing more absences than ever before during this pandemic state. And what is our response? I can proudly say that our staff continues to be steadfast in mercy, compassion, and adjusting to daily constraints and effects of being understaffed, and underpopulated in the classroom while still providing learning in a variety of ways to children who cannot be in school through no fault of their own. Even I, myself, felt the physical and mental effects of testing positive. It's not easy being in isolation; no one wants to be sick. Most importantly, no one wants to be isolated.



Now is the time, more than ever, that we need connection. We need to stay unified, and we need to continue to support this school community whose strength is immeasurable. We've conquered a lot during these pandemic years, and the only way to remain strong is to stay united.

My challenge to our community this month is to reflect upon the words of Pope Francis and continue to show mercy. Be merciful to those who are not at their best; we are all tired but we are all trying. Whether it's parents at home trying to get their kids to school, or staff trying to navigate uncharted territory of the newest regulations- we all continue to feel the effects of the pandemic. We must continue to communicate, lean in, and be supportive of others. Be merciful to those who are working their best in healthcare to use their hands to heal within walls of many constraints. Be merciful to those who are sick at home and unable to have visitors. Connect with the elderly who are stuck at home waiting for a visit! In whatever ways you can draw even deeper to the part of yourself that God calls us to be, be merciful. How can we use our hands and hearts to touch the lives of those suffering most?

Let's all take time this month to ponder his words and be merciful.

Happy Family Day! May God continue to bless our wonderful 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...*

Lent and the Saints

It might seem odd to think about the saints this Lent. After all, we remember them every November, don't we? But the Saints are excellent guides for the Lenten journey because, no matter when they lived, they saw the events of their lives in the context of the long-term view - the view towards eternal life. So, whether their suffering, pain, misfortunes, acts of penitence, fasting or prayers lasted 40 days or 40 years, they found a joyful purpose in all of it, just as we can today. The Saints are not alabaster statues high on a shelf of unattainably perfect living. They were real people like you and me, with their own flaws and imperfections. This is why it makes them the perfect people to study during lent. Their goodness and less-than-perfectness can shine a light on our own strengths and weaknesses. The Saints can walk with us and nudge us to an awareness of what's drawing us toward or away from our true path. As we journey through year 3 of our division's faith plan we have had a focus on learning more about the saints. This lent provides an opportunity for all of us to learn more about a saint or a few saints. Take something of his or her story with you as you go about your day. Listen to how God is calling you closer to him during these 40 days and throughout your life!

Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- March 2 - Ash Wednesday
- March 4 - World Day of Prayer
- March 14 - Spiritual Development Day
- April 15 - Good Friday
- April 17 - Easter Sunday



Words from St. Michael Parish:

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

School Events:



Sword & Shield Academic Awards Update

Our Academic Awards Ceremony is one of the most sacred and important events we host at our school. We've held off on a ceremony in hopes that we'd be able to meet in person. FINALLY with the easing of restrictions we will all gather on

Thursday March 24th @ 7 pm

In the St. Michael's School Den

(*this date has been updated from our tentative date of Feb 17th for a virtual ceremony)

Outdoor Basketball Court Update

Interested in participating in our exciting initiative? Check out more information here:

[LINK TO INFORMATION](#)



DONATE TODAY!

Thank you EVERYONE for your support. Even if you can't buy chocolates from us, it would mean the world if you could share this fundraiser link to everyone you know!

Happy chocolating!



Want to know the most DELICIOUS way to support us? Order [Purdys chocolates](#) from our fundraiser!

This year, we're hoping to raise \$1000 for the Outdoor Basketball Court, and we need YOUR help!

From now until March 18th, you can order Purdys treats from our fundraiser by joining our campaign and browsing the tastiest selection of chocolates online. Shop gifts for family, friends, neighbours AND yourself in one convenient place. After all orders are submitted, we'll sort, distribute, and let you know when you can collect your goodies. (Apr 4-8 week)

What you'll need to order:

1. Our campaign number: 62200
2. Go to our fundraising website:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1503514-93183>

3. Click "Join Campaign"
4. Shop, shop, shop away!

Registration Updates

For students that are already attending
St. Michael's School

Registration Updates are very important as they hold your child's place in St. Michael's School and it helps administration to plan for the next school year. Attached is a link with detailed instructions to complete the updates: [Registration Update Instructions](#) (this will open a PDF at the bottom of the page)

Student Holidays

February 21st to 25th: Family Week Break

Friday, March 11: Divisional PD Day



Monday, March 14: Spiritual Development Day

Friday, March 18, PD 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 - Bart Denie

Secretary - Leah Oyortey

[School Council Info](#)

Next School Council Meeting:

Tuesday, March 1 @ 7:00 pm

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](#)

[Board Meetings and Briefs](#)

Students Leaving Early: January Newsletter

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](#)

Health & Wellness:

[Healthy Kids](#)

[Healthy Teens](#)



Grad Coffee Fundraiser: If you are a coffee drinker and you would like to support our 2022 grad class use this link to order some coffee! [Crownsnest Coffee Fundraiser](#) This fundraiser closes on March 1st.



Hats ON for Mental Health:





Looking forward to a new year with ...

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2022/2023 REGISTRATION



Re-Registration Starts January 17, 2022

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email during the week of January 17-21, 2022 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child who will be attending during the 2022/2023 school year.

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 that they re-register older students.



New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2022

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2022/2023 school year are invited to register online starting on February 1, 2022.

- 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, 2022.

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

February 2022

13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15	16 Board Meeting	17  Jostens will be here with grad jewelry to look at/order	18 Friday 1	19
20	21 	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26
27	28		2	3	4 Friday 2	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Division PD Day No School 	12
13	14 Spiritual Development Day No School 	15	16	17	18 PD Day No School 	19