

# Newsletter #1

September 21, 2022

## Principal Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A warm welcome to all of our St. Michael's family! We are very excited to meet the new families joining our school community for the first time. We are off to a terrific start and our students are very content in their classes. The orientation days for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students were very successful and all of our students are settling in nicely to their school routines. As the principal of St. Michael's School, I am looking forward to working with you and your children to provide the best learning experience possible.

**Let me introduce you to our newest staff members:**

- Kindergarten~ Miss Hannah Evans
- Pre-K EA: Mrs. Ashley Duffield
- Family School Liaison- Mrs. Shaylen Hildebrand

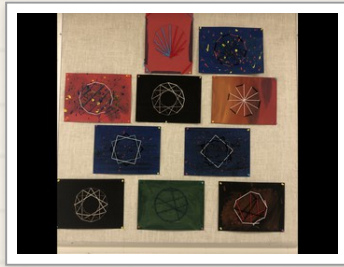
A big THANK YOU to Ryan (head caretaker) & Mr. Clinton (caretaker) for working tirelessly over the summer to clean our school in preparation for our staff and students. We also have a brand new gymnasium floor that we're so excited to play on!

We know that our students and families have been looking forward to a "normal" start to the school year. Please remember that although our COVID restrictions have eased, we are asking that if your child is unhealthy- please keep them home. Our staff is following the same protocol; we all need to ensure that we continue to do our part in keeping our school safe and healthy. As well, be on the lookout for information on volunteer opportunities in our school from your child's teacher! Thank you to all for a great first few weeks!

We are excited to work in a learning partnership with you and it is our hope that our students and families will experience a year of spiritual, academic, and personal growth. Our Holy Spirit Catholic School Division has a new faith theme for the next 3 years 'Arise! Build! Rejoice!' As we launch into the first year theme, 'Arise! Pilgrims of Hope' we are truly filled with a renewed sense of hope and love as we return to school this year.

Our student handbook on the website is currently being updated. The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the philosophy, major practices, and regulations that guide the daily operations at St. Michael's School. Following this letter helpful information for this time of year is included in this newsletter while the handbook is being revised. Please take time to read this helpful information. St. Michael's School is a very special place where staff, parents and parish work together to provide a high-quality Catholic education for our students through a framework of mutual respect and participation. We strive to foster a warm, welcoming, and inclusive culture, where all students are valued and feel they belong, As our motto says, 'Rise Above! Inspire Greatness!'; it's what we do! The staff and administration are

looking forward to all the teaching and learning opportunities and possibilities that this year holds for our students. Together this will be a great year!



## Faith Focus

### ARISE! Pilgrims of Hope

The 2022/2023 school year sees Holy Spirit Catholic Schools embarking on a new 3-year faith plan entitled ARISE! Pilgrims of Hope. It is always exciting to begin a new journey and to see the new road open up before us. The guiding Scripture for the 3-year plan is found in Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" We as a division are asking God to send us on this journey!



As we move forward on our journey we are also guided by the words of Pope Francis from his apostolic exhortation to young people and the entire people of God entitled Christus Vivit. We read his words from paragraph 199 below:

199 If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us. To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands.

So these are our calls on this new 3 year journey, to learn from one another, to warm hearts, to inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and to lend new strength to our hands. May God bless us as we embark on this journey!

### Important Faith Dates

September 29 - The Feast of St. Michael

October 22 - World Mission Sunday

November 1 - All Saints Day

November 2 - All Souls Day

November 6 - Catholic Education Sunday



## About Us

 Facebook  @stmichaelspc

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 mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca

 403-627-3488

 smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca



*when you leave school early  
because you have a reason.*



## Leaving Early??

If your child needs to leave school early, please notify the office at 403-627-3488 as early as possible. Keep in mind that during recess it can be challenging to find students when they are outside.

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Friday's  
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

## French for Beginners

Wed evenings: Sept 28- Nov 16  
7:00 - 9:00 pm at the school  
Cost: \$40  
Instructor: Toni Salonen  
Will include pronunciation, vocabulary and conversation.  
Register by calling the school.  
Payments are made directly to the instructor on the first night of class.





# Welcome back BBQ!

St. Michael's School community invites you to join us for a BBQ to celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and a new school year!

**Date:** Thursday September 29, 2022

**Location:** St. Michael's School, enter at the main doors.

**Time:**

5:00 Blessing from Father Myles and introduction of staff.

5:00-6:30 Burgers and more!

6:00-7:00 Classroom tours.



Feel free to bring a picnic blanket or lawn chairs if you would like to enjoy dinner outside!

# Education Assistants Needed!!

**St. Michael's School is hiring! Come join our awesome team!**

The Education Assistant provides assistance to children with various degrees of need in the learning environment under the direction and supervision of the Inclusive Education Liaison, the classroom teacher, and the principal. In this position it is necessary to be physically fit in order to actively engage students in all aspects of their educational program. Confidentiality is of utmost importance in achieving the common good for all students. Through collaborative team-based structure, the special education assistant will carry out tasks as assigned by both the daily and program supervisors.

To apply please visit:

[https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/division/career\\_opportunities/education\\_assistants\\_-\\_various\\_locations](https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/division/career_opportunities/education_assistants_-_various_locations)



Dear Parents/Guardians,

St. Michael's School is proud to be taking part in the Terry Fox Run. The run will take place at school on Thursday Sept. 22nd at 1:45pm. Students and staff will walk/run through our community route with the support of our cross-country team to help with checkpoints.



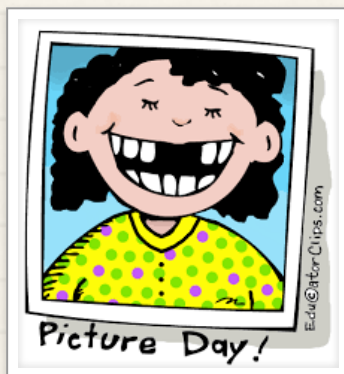
Our school is proud to play an important role in supporting cancer research. Through our participation in the Terry Fox School Run, we hope to encourage leadership in our students and create positive agents of change in our wonderful school community.

**How to donate:**

- 1) Toonies for Terry! Send a toonie (or more) with your child to school to be collected by their homeroom teacher.
- 2) Donate online and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Follow the link to donate:

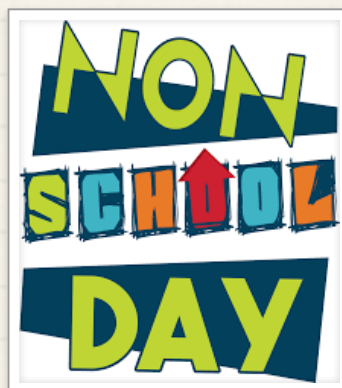
<https://schools.terryfox.ca/5459>

We are very excited to be a part of this year's Terry Fox Run. This is our opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those suffering from cancer. Thank you in advance for your support!



## School Picture Day

Tuesday, October 18th



## Remember...

There's no school on Friday, September 23 or on Friday, September 30th.



## Orange Shirt Day

Wear orange on Thursday, September 29th





## Food Bank Donations

September 22 to October 7

Gathering donations for families in need.



Taking in non-perishable items such as:

- Canned Vegetables
- Juice Boxes
- Dried fruits
- Jam/Jelly
- Various Grains
- Many more.

Donations are to be placed in boxes at the den.



## 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 I - 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](http://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

Updated August 2022



# 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 children!

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:  Looking for a student in a different board?

School Name:

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.

# September 2022

18	19	20	21	22 	23 PD Day 	24
25	26 Leadership class collecting food bank items until Oct. 7 	27	28	29 Wear your Orange Shirt Today!  Opening Mass Welcome back BBQ 5:30 pm	30  Truth & Reconciliation Day	1 
2	3	4	5	6	7 Last day for food bank donations!!	8
9	10  No school today.	11	12	13	14	15