

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



# 1

September 15, 2023



## Principal Message:

“  
Rise  
Above.  
Inspire  
Greatness.  
”

Dear Parents & Guardians:

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! It's hard to believe we're beginning the third week of school already, and it still feels like we are settling in. I hope your summer was peaceful, restful and spent making memories with family and friends. We sure have been blessed with amazing weather!

With our new office team abuzz the past couple of weeks, we want to ensure you're up to date on the following for the month of September:

### School Parking & Pick up/Drop Off- SAFETY FIRST

The safety of all students is our top priority. As such, all parents MUST park either in the church or school parking lot (reserved for staff & Early Learning Parents) or on the streets across from the school. No vehicles should be parked on the street where the bus loops are. As well, students in K to Gr 3 MUST cross the street with a parent/guardian. It is so busy on our street, that we need all adults (supervisors & parents alike) to be visible and ensure are children are arriving and departing safely.

### Welcome Back BBQ- FAMILY BBQ Thursday, September 28th, 2023 (5:30pm-7:30 pm)

Take this opportunity to meet your child's teachers and staff! This BBQ is an annual event full of food, fellowship, and our 'blessing to new families.' We hope to see you there!

### Feast of St. Michael/ Holy Spirit Orange Shirt Day- Friday, September 29th

We will have a variety of activities throughout the day including 'Orange Shirt Day' in honour of Truth & Reconciliation Day on September 30th.

### St. Michael's Communication Platforms:

SCHOOL CALENDAR is live and updated daily on our website. We encourage you to check it often to be up to date on events and activities within the school.

ELEMENTARY CLASSES will be using SPACES or email to communicate with parents. Please make sure you 'accept your invitation' to Spaces from your classroom teacher.

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH CLASSES use PowerSchool for grades etc. Please make sure you've set up your parent portal where you can see the latest on your child's academic progress.

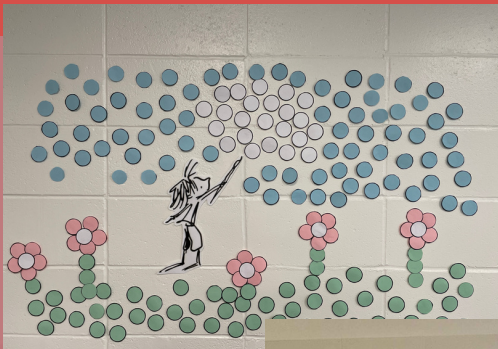
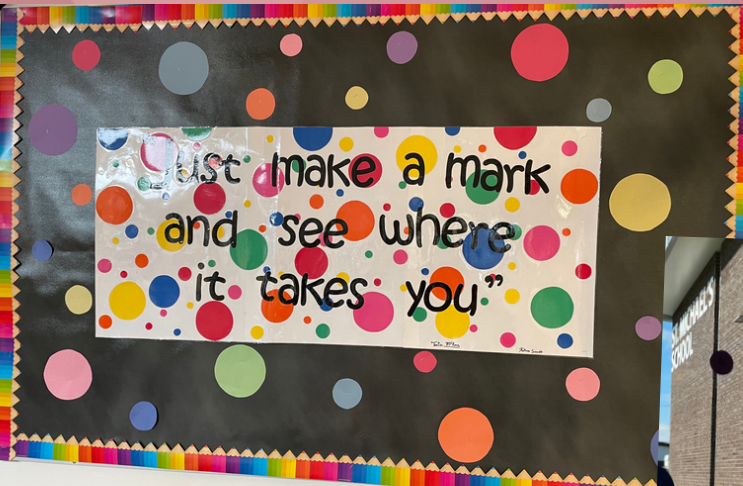
Teachers can be reached via email and or phone call (403)627-3488

Our school continues to grow, and we're doing our best to 'rise above' and 'inspire greatness' in all! Thanks for your continued support, and we look forward to an amazing year ahead!

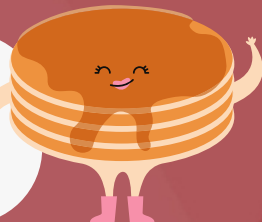
May God continue to bless St. Michael's School.

♥ Ms Schmidt

# Dot Day!



## Pancake Breakfast!





# FAITH FOCUS



## BUILD! Pilgrims of Hope

Last year we began a new 3-year faith plan, and we were encouraged to **ARISE!** We were called to come together again as a community and celebrate, and invite God into our hearts. We spent time exploring Jeremiah 29:11 – for I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for your harm, to give you a future of hope. This is good news for sure!

This year our main theme is **BUILD!** We are guided by the story of Nehemiah in Scripture. At our opening staff gathering we began looking at the story of Nehemiah. At the time the Israelites were in the process of coming out of being exiled from Jerusalem. Under the rule of the Babylonians Jerusalem has been emptied, and there was a danger it could become a forgotten city like other ancient cities.

Following the rule of the Babylonians, the Persians gave the Israelites more freedoms to practice their religion and people started to return to Jerusalem. From some of the people who had been to Jerusalem, a report had come back to Nehemiah that the walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed while the Israelites were in exile.

Nehemiah served as a cupbearer for King Artaxerses, putting him in a place to speak to the Persian king. Nehemiah's heart is moved hearing the news, and he turns to God with humility and a heart ready for action to do as the Lord instructs him. He is given permission from the king to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the wall.


As we look around there are many places and things in our life that need attention. We are called like Nehemiah to turn to God humbly, to place him in the center of our life, and to come to him with a heart ready for action.


As a school this year we will focus on how we are all called to use our unique gifts and talents to help build God's kingdom here on Earth. I am excited to see the places God leads our school, church and community as we turn to him in prayer and ask him to help us to **BUILD!**




### About Us

 [facebook](#)

 864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB

 403-627-3488

 [@stmichaelspc](#)

 [mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca)

 <https://smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca/>

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs  
8:00am - 4:00pm

Friday  
8:00am - 2:00pm

# Dates to remember

## Welcome back BBQ

Please join our staff on September 28th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm for a welcome back BBQ!

## Thanksgiving Day -Oct 9th

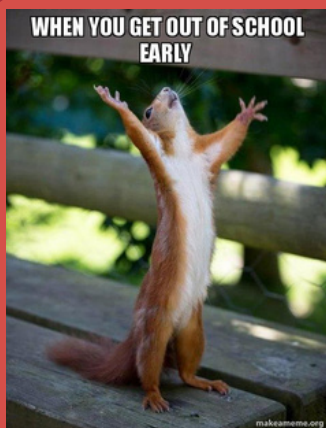
October 9th is Thanksgiving Day, there is no school for students or staff.

## PD Day - October 6th

October 6th is a PD Day, and there is no school for students on this day.



**Please click the calendar to the left to view the full year school calendar!**



## Leaving Early?!

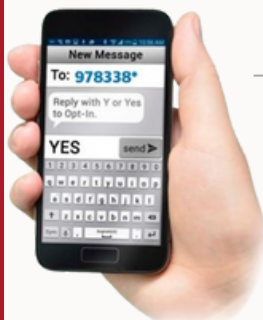
If your child needs to leave school early, please notify the office at 403-627-3488 as early as possible. Please also make sure you sign your child out in the office when they are leaving early!



## Arriving Late?!

Please stop in the office to sign in if you arrive to school late!  
Elementary school students are considered late after 8:30am, and Junior/Senior High students are considered late after 8:40am.

## School Communication



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division uses SchoolMessenger to improve our schools' communication with parents and guardians. This service does not replace other school communication methods. It is simply intended to extend beyond what we've traditionally used to ensure timely communications and reduce the amount of papers being sent home.

**If you would like to receive text messages for school closures please click here for instructions and more information!**

# DRAGON ATHLETICS!

It was a busy weekend for Volleyball!

The Senior Boys placed second  
Our JV Boys team placed third.

The Jr A Boys placed second  
And the Jr B Boys placed First!

Congratulations to all of you!



# Toonies For Terry



St. Michael's school would like to show our support for the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope.



Our annual Terry Fox Run is happening Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 1:30 pm.

All St. Michael's students will be participating in the walk/run throughout our community.

**Please send a toonie, or more, to school with your child to show your support on or before Tuesday, Sept. 26th.**

Thank you for your support!  
St. Michael's Staff



## Dress Code:

- No spaghetti straps/halter tops/one shoulder shirts/tube tops.
- Tank top/muscle shirt straps must be at least 4 centimeters in width
- Bra straps must not show
- Underwear, that of both ladies and gentlemen must not show Midriffs must be covered.
- Shorts and skirts must be fingertip length (arms straight down at sides).
- No hoodies with the hood up, sunglasses, during instructional school hours, or during formal extra curricular activities such as the awards ceremonies
- T-shirts/shirts/hoodies must not have advertising which depicts controversial, obscene, rude, inappropriate and/or drugs and alcohol content on them.



***Wanted:  
Working cameras!***



Mr. Smith is looking for old (working) cameras for his Photography options class this year. Please drop off any donations at the school office. Thank you!

## Staffing Changes:

Mr. Rigby - Grade 5/6E Teacher

Ms. Cassidy - Library Clerk

Mrs. Zoratti - Kindergarten

Ms. Candice - Admin Assistant

Mrs. Marsh - Admin Support

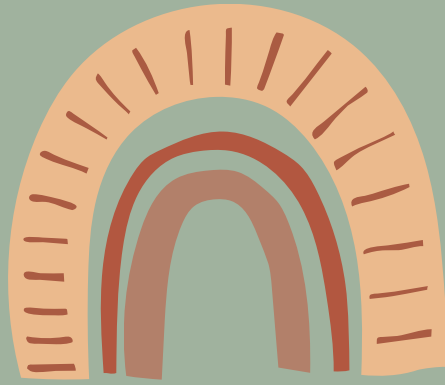
# Italy 2024!

If you are a new student in grade 10, 11 or 12 and love to travel, you need to find Miss Manon!! She has information for you about an upcoming trip to **ITALY** this coming **EASTER!!** Don't wait, go

see her!!





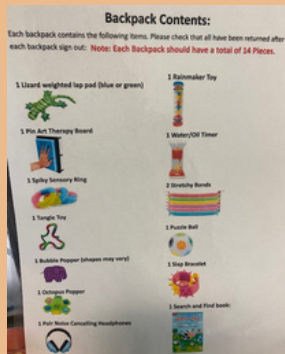


# Family School Liaison Counsellor News

St. Michael's School



## SENSORY BACKPACKS



These teaching/learning tools are in a convenient backpack and are ready to borrow!

Please call/text to borrow one!  
Shay  
403-634-2151

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR ALL AGES

<https://www.facebook.com/napifriendshipassociation>

<https://www.pcfamilycentre.ca/calendar>

<https://www.brighterfuturesproject.com/parent-workshops>

<https://www.pincherlearn.ca/>

## WELCOME BACK!

### Hello St. Michael School Families and Friends!

I am looking forward to another year of working with everyone here!

Please reach out if you would like any Family School Liaison Counsellor program information.

You can reach me (Shay) by phone or text at 403-634-2151

or by email  
[hildebrands@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hildebrands@holyspirit.ab.ca)

Or stop by, my office is upstairs!

## EXTRA RESOURCES

<https://instituteofchildpsychology.com/resources/>

<https://instituteofchildpsychology.com/freeweinars/>

<https://healthymindslearning.ca/>





# PICTURE DAY

October 24th 2023

**School Council meetings are held on  
the first Tuesday of each  
month at 7:00PM here at the school.  
Feel free to join us and give your input!**





ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

Dear Parents,

Another school year has started and as Alberta's new Minister of Education, I want to introduce myself and give you a quick update about some of the things your government has been doing to ensure our students are set up for success.

A top priority for my parents was getting me a high-quality education, since I'm a second generation Calgarian. Having immigrated to Calgary in the 1970s their educational opportunities were limited, and they firmly believed that a strong education is the path to greater success and prosperity. I took their advice to heart and went on to earn my PhD in political science and conflict resolution. I'm passionate about education and will work hard to set our students up for success.

As the 2023/24 school year gets underway there are several important highlights I want to share with you.

I firmly believe that the upcoming school year will give students the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Here are some of the things that we are working on:

1) We are injecting new funding to start the school year off on the right foot.

For the current school year, Alberta's government has increased funding to many of our school divisions to make sure they have the financial resources they need to give our kids a world-class education. Funding has increased by seven per cent from last year increasing the total amount of taxpayer dollars going directly to our school divisions to \$7.4 billion. In addition, a new Classroom Complexity Grant will be implemented which provides \$126 million over three years in new funding to help school authorities hire more educational assistants to help our teachers manage classrooms that are increasingly more complex with more students with diverse learning needs. As well, our hardworking teachers will also receive a two per cent salary increase this September as part of a deal reached with teachers last year and finally, we are providing \$414 million in new funding, a 32 per cent increase, to help bus another 80,000 students to school.

2) We are hiring more teachers and staff in our classrooms.

As students head back to class, they may start to see new friendly faces in their school. Budget 2023 provided funding to hire up to 3,000 new educational staff over three years, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and other school support staff such as speech language pathologists and psychologists. Ensuring students have the supports they need to succeed in and out of the classroom is a top priority of mine.

3) We are focused on improving student mental health.

Alberta's government is supporting almost 80 mental health pilot projects across the province, with an investment of \$50 million. These projects will encourage student well-being through new and innovative approaches to providing supports and services like counselling, social and emotional learning, student assessment and training for school staff. For more information, please click [here](#).

4) We will continue to lead the country in early literacy and numeracy assessments.

As a father of two, I want to know how my girls are progressing in their academic journey and I know many of you want the same. In September of 2022, Alberta's government implemented new mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments for all students in Grades 1 – 3. These assessments will help identify students who are struggling with literacy and numeracy skill development and inform teacher intervention lesson plans and techniques to improve student skills. Based on school reporting, these interventions are working. I am very proud of the work that is being done here. Please know Alberta is leading the country with this type of early assessment and screening and will continue to foster new and improved ways to improve the education system. For more information, please click [here](#). \_\_\_\_\_

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge all our hardworking teachers, educational assistants, principals, and other school support staff. The work that you do is deeply acknowledged and appreciated by Alberta's government and I want to express my personal appreciation for your work. I look forward to serving as our province's Minister of Education for our great province and am confident we can continue to provide every student with a world-class education.

Best,



Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education



## 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

Dear Parents:

As the core subject teachers for St. Michael's Junior High this year, we are very excited to teach your children in Grades 7 - 9.

## **Homeroom Teachers**

Grade 7 – Manon Thauvette

Grade 8 – Diana Smith/Kori Sandeman (University of Lethbridge final year Faculty of Education student teacher who will be teaching Grades 7 & 8 ELA and Jr. High Options until Christmas)

Grade 9 – Lori Jo Ettenhofer/Tyler Speelman

## **Communication**

If you have questions about any elements of courses, assignments, homework, etc., please feel free to contact your child's teachers at the school (403-627-3488), or by email (see alphabetized list of teachers' email addresses below).

### **Grade 7 Teachers:**

ELA – Mrs. Smith/Mrs. Sandeman  
Social – Mr. Smith  
Math – Miss Manon  
Science – Miss Manon  
Religion – Mrs. Ettenhofer  
Health – Mrs. Smith  
Phys Ed – Mr. Speelman

### **Grade 8 Teachers:**

ELA – Mrs. Smith/Mrs. Sandeman  
Social – Mrs. Smith  
Math – Miss Manon  
Science – Mr. Wynder  
Religion – Mrs. Ettenhofer  
Health – Mrs. Smith  
Phys Ed – Mr. Speelman

### **Grade 9 Teachers:**

ELA – Mrs. Charette  
Social – Mr. Smith  
Math – Miss Manon  
Science – Mrs. Adamson  
Religion – Mr. Smith  
Health – Mr. Smith  
Phys Ed – Mr. Speelman

Mrs. Sheena Adamson: [adamsons@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:adamsons@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mrs. Lauranna Charette: [charettel@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:charettel@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mrs. Lori Jo Ettenhofer: [ettenhoferl@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:ettenhoferl@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mrs. Kori Sandeman: [sandemank@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:sandemank@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mrs. Diana Smith: [smithd@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:smithd@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mr. Trevor Smith: [smitht@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:smitht@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mr. Tyler Speelman: [speelmant@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:speelmant@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Ms. Manon Thauvette: [thauvettem@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:thauvettem@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
Mr. Mark Wynder: [wynderm@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:wynderm@holyspirit.ab.ca)

We are always happy to meet with students and/or parents at any time to discuss questions, concerns, or progress.



## Progress Reporting

Report cards will be issued in November, March/April, and June this school year, with Parent-Teacher Interviews to follow in November and March/April. Dates will be announced on our website.

As always, please feel free to log in to PowerSchool at any time so that you can check on your child's progress throughout the year. If you have any difficulty with this, please see the school's website at <https://smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca/>

If problems persist or you need some help to get into the program, please contact the school office.

Many teachers will be using Google Classroom this year, and course outlines are typically available on the site. Your child will be sent an email invitation to access Classroom, and you can sign in through your child's account. If there are any problems with this process, please contact the classroom teacher.

## Student Handbook

St. Michael's School Student Handbook is available on our website at [smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca](https://smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca). Please click on the "School" button at the top, then wait for it to load. Scroll down along the left side until you reach "Student Handbook", then click on it to review the expectations at our school.

## Homework Expectations

Each classroom teacher will communicate expectations regarding homework. Please contact individual teachers if you have questions or concerns.

**Please contact the office if you are not signed up to receive the school newsletter and information bulletins.**

We are looking forward to a great year at St. Michael's School!

Sincerely,

The Junior High Team at St. Michael's School



**KIDSPORT PINCHER CREEK**  
**2023 INCOME CUT-OFFS INFORMATION**

Let's get kids back to sport this fall! If your family income is at or less than the following Income Cut-Offs, we welcome your application for funding of up to \$350 per child, per year towards your child's sport registration fee(s). Applicants to live within the Town or M.D. of Pincher Creek and registered in an ongoing sport or activity that is led by a qualified coach or instructor.

<b>Household Size (Includes Kids)</b>	<b>Income Cut-off</b>
2 Persons	\$54,864
3 Persons	\$67,449
4 Persons	\$81,891
5 Persons	\$92,880
6 Persons	\$104,752
7 or more Persons	\$116,627

**TO APPLY:**

Complete a KidSport Application Form and attach a copy of **one of the following** to verify your income eligibility.

- Notice of Assessment for EACH adult in the home for the most recent tax year
- Child Health Benefit Letter
- Subsidized Housing
- Canada Child Benefit Notice
- Income Support
- Three Consecutive Pay Stubs



**OR:**

- Complete a KidSport Application Form and have it **signed by an Endorser** i.e. school principal, social worker, member of clergy, doctor etc. that can verify your family situation or need.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Pincher Creek KidSport c/o of the Recreation Office  
895 Main Street, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0

Phone 403-627-4322 or email [pinchercreek@kidsport.ab.ca](mailto:pinchercreek@kidsport.ab.ca)

Application forms can also be accessed at <https://kidsportcanada.ca>



It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the death of our friend and colleague, Verna Delaney, who passed away on July 7th after a brief and sudden illness. We miss Verna more than words can express.



Orange Shirt Day at St. Michael's School is Sept. 29th

(I)SWAG - (Indigenous) Student Wellness Access Guide  
Billy Woitte and Emily Wilison are new in the division and their job is focusing on Mental Health and Wellness with our Parents!

They are able to provide community resources, and help bring awareness to mental health and wellness.

Emily Williston SWAG - Student Wellness Access Guide  
Willistone@holyspirit.ab.ca Cell# 403-308-2445

Billy Woitte (I)SWAG Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide  
woitteb@holyspirit.ab.ca Cell# 403-635-4215



# ***St. Michael's School***

## ***Prayer***

Father, we give You our school,  
May it be a place where we love  
to learn and learn to love;  
a place where everyone is  
respected, and all are cherished.  
St. Michael, give us the courage  
to stand up for others as you did.  
Unite our school family in love,  
truth and compassion.  
Walk with us, guide us, and  
protect us, as we become who  
you want us to be.

**Amen**

