**MONTHLY** 

# NEWSLETTER



Principal Message:

Rise Above. Inspire Greatness.

Every day

School success starts with attendance "

#### i imolpai mossags.

Dear St. Michael's School Families,

Happy New Year! As we embark on the exciting journey that 2024 has in store for us, I would like to begin the new year by emphasizing the crucial role that regular attendance plays in the success of our students from Pre- Kindergarten all the way through to Grade 12. Chronic absenteeism is a growing problem throughout schools and districts. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of chronically absent students has as much as doubled, according to Attendance Works. Even in our own school, attendance rates have declined since the pandemic ended, and our reasoning for 'excusing absences' has broadened. All of this causes an urgency for us all to revisit. Are we really supporting the academic education of our children best if we are not addressing attendance issues?

January marks the beginning of a new year—a time for fresh starts and setting new goals. It is an opportune moment for our students to reflect on their commitment to their education. Regular attendance is not just a requirement; it is the cornerstone of a strong foundation for academic achievement. Under the Education Act parents and schools have a legal responsibility to ensure we are working together to make sure your child(ren) is/are attending regularly.

Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed academically. Consistent attendance fosters a sense of routine, responsibility, and discipline that are essential for a student's overall development. On the flip side, when students miss a significant amount of time at school data shows struggles in not only academic achievement, but worrisome maintenance of positive mental health in relation to peer relationships, and social emotional connections. In fact, we know that even missing 10% of the school days is significant learning loss.

This January, let's encourage our students to set new attendance goals for the upcoming semester. Whether it's aiming for perfect attendance, reducing tardiness, or overcoming challenges that may hinder regular attendance, every small effort contributes to a big impact on their education. Some ways that our school tries to encourage regular attendance is through our daily breakfast program, offering exciting Spirit Days and activities throughout each month to engage students in wanting to attend. Staff has set relationship building goals for the past 3 years to ensure we are all making positive connections with students to ensure that we are supporting all of our family situations and barriers. Even our student athletics requires students to attend regularly in order to participate fully in our extracurricular sports. Parents, your partnership in reinforcing the importance of attendance is invaluable. Consistent attendance not only promotes strong academic performance but also instills lifelong habits that will benefit your child in future endeavors.

As we embark on this new year, let us all recognize the importance of strong attendance for strong learning. Together, as a school community, let's ensure that our students are present and engaged in their education, setting the stage for a successful and fulfilling academic journey.

Wishing you all a wonderful and productive year ahead!

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











In the coming months St. Michael's school would like to highlight the importance of attendance. With the Faith Focus section of January's newsletter, let's explore the incredible impact of being present, drawing inspiration from Mary.

As Catholics, one of the shining examples we look to is the 'yes' of Mary to God, agreeing to be the mother of Jesus. Just like Mary embraced her role with dedication, showing up for all we do each day is our chance to unwrap the gifts God has for us. Every day coming to school gives us the gift of education. Every class missed is a missed opportunity to discover, learn, and lay the groundwork for our unique futures.

As well we know Mary's 'yes' wasn't just about her—it was about joining something bigger. Similarly, our St. Michael's school community thrives when each of us is present, contributing to the warmth and richness of our shared experiences. God has given each of us unique gifts, talents and personalities, which all contribute to the community God is calling us to become, and it is our calling to be present and engaged! Paul spoke of this in his first letter to the Corinthians (chapter 17:12–17). Paul encourages us that as believers together we are one body, and just like one body we are made up of many parts. Each of these parts are critical to the overall body—for example he asks if the whole body was an eye, where would the hearing be, or just because the foot is not the hand it doesn't make it any less part of the body. God has put this community together as the body of Christ, and we are all important parts of this body of Christ.

So, let's make the rest of this academic year a series of our own 'yeses.' Each day we show up at St. Michael's School, we're saying 'yes' to the incredible gifts of education and community that make our school special.

Mark Wynder Associate Principal (403) 627-3488





#### **Dates to remember**

#### **PD Day January 30th**

No School for Students

#### 1 Book, 5 Schools

The elementary read along starts on Jan 26th!

No School Feb 19th - 23rd

Family day/Reading week

2023

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!

Sr. High girls basketball team who placed 3rd at their tournament in Rosemary

Congratulations to our JV boys basketball team who won their tournament in Picture Butte







We are excited to announce that St. Michael's School will be hosting the Senior **Boys 1A Volleyball Provincials!!!**November 21st - 23rd 2024

More details to come, we will be looking for committee members and sponsors for the event.

**GO DRAGONS GO!** 



Photo Booth

Cake Walk (\$1 per person perwalk)

Balloon Pop (5\$ per play. Win Prizes!)

Dance (Music By Blue Rock Music)

50/50 Draw

Concession Available: Hot Dogs, Chips, Pop and Candy Bags!

Pre Purchase your ticket at the office to receive a free balloon pop ticket!

#### **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.



### ONE BOOK, FIVE SCHOOLS!

We will be revealing the title of the 1 Book, 5 Schools book on Friday January 26th!

We hope you will be able to read along with us!

Books and a reading schedule will be sent home with the youngest in the family.





# Class Photos!

# St. Michael's School class photos are ready to order, the Order forms are being sent home. See form below for more details!

#### St. Michael's 2023/24 Class Photos By Jessica Maunsell\* Photography

Please fill out this form if you would like to purchase your students' class photo. (students who were not here on picture day will not be in their class photo)

Here are the options to purchase: (Please circle your option(s))

Printed (5x7) —- \$8.00 Printed(8x10) —-- \$10.00 Digital copy — \$5.00

Students Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Grade:\_\_\_\_\_ Total\$:\_\_\_\_\_

#### Orders must be in by February 28th.

Payment options: Cash - (please send to the school with the filled out form)

Etansfer: <u>imaunsellphoto@hotmail.ca</u> (Please include your students name/grade)

# February 28th 2024 is Pink Shirt Day! Pink Shirt Day is an annual event against bullying

St. Michael's School is placing a bulk T-Shirt order this year from Pink Shirt Day Canada.ca you can order your student a shirt on School Cash Online! They are \$20.50 and the order deadline is January 31st 2024.

# Remember to wear a jersey for Winter Walk Day on

**February 7, 2024** 



#### Open the Door and Go For It!

Meet with the Recreation Staff for a walk 12:00 pm at Pool Lobby







Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Presents:

#### Mental Health Learning Sessions

**Location Please RSVP at** 

(online & in-person)

Every session will take place inperson at the Sandman Signature in Lethbridge (320 Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge).

Online sessions will be available on Google Meet.

#### Time

Doors open at 5:00pm with dinner served at 5:30. Presentation will start at 6pm and go to 7:30pm. First 50 registrations get a free dinner! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC



or email willistone@holyspirit.ab.ca to confirm registration.

#### Resiliency and Self-Care

Ft. Lethbridge Family Services

<sup>Jan</sup> **16** 

2024

Eeb 15 2024

#### **Healthy Relationships**

Ft. Lethbridge Family Services

## ADHD - Understanding the Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies

Ft. Aleigha from True Balance Counselling

**20**2024

**18** 2024

Emotional Regulation - How to help our kids when they have big feelings

Ft. Allie and Bailey from True Balance Counselling

#### **Digital Detox**

Ft. Lethbridge Family Services

**May 14** 

2024

# Pincher Creek Community Early Learning Centre Is Hiring!!

for more information please email Executive Director Ola Crook at: ola@pincherchildcare.ca

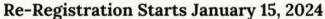




#### Take the next step with...

# **Holy Spirit Catholic School Division**

#### 2024/2025 REGISTRATION



Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 15-19, 2024 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2024/2025 school year.

2024/2025 Registration Update

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, 2024

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2024/2025 school year are invited to register online starting on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

- Through play, our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Kindergarten is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before,
   December 31, 2024.
- Grade 1 registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- French Immersion is also available. Enrollment starts:
  - in Kindergarten/Grade 1 at École St. Mary in Lethbridge.
  - o in Grade 1 at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek.

#### For More Information

Contact our Early Learning Supervisor to discuss Early Learning or your child's specialized programming requirements by phone (403-381-8495) or email (earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

To inquire about Kindergarten, you can contact your local school.

Contact our French Language Consultant to discuss French Immersion programming by phone (403-331-4458) or email (urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website (holyspirit.ab.ca), if you need assistance with the online registration process or have any questions.





#### **Holy Spirit Catholic School Division**

...where children are cherished and achieve their potential.



#### **Holy Spirit Catholic School Division**

#### Annual Education Assurance Report Summary 2022/2023

#### Fiscal Stewardship

Our finances must always reflect our values. To support excellence in learning and ensure that all students receive the opportunities to become the persons God created them to be, financial allocations must support a maximum allotment of dollars to the classroom and equity in the distribution of these

The 2022/2023 actual operating expenditures for the school division were \$65,412,762. Of this total, nearly 77% was focused on ECS to Grade 12

ECS	\$3,043,467
Grades 1-12 Instruction	\$47,218,941
Operations & Maintenance	\$10,055,664
Board & System Administration	\$2,455,496
Transportation	\$2,639,194
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$65,412,762

#### Fall 2023 Supplemental Measures Summary

	Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Sep			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
Measure	Current Result	Prev. Year Result	Prev. 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev. Year Result	Prev. 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	17.8	n/a	60.4	3.5	n/a	56.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Drop Out Rate	1.5	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.3	2.5		Maintained	
In-Service Jurisdiction Needs	82.3	85.8	85.4	82.2	83.7	84.3	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptabl
Lifelong Learning	85.7	82.8	80.1	80.4	81.0	76.8		Improved Significantly	Excellent
Program of Studies	87.6	84.3	85.5	82.9	82.9	82.6		Improved	Excellent
Program of Studies - At Risk Students	83.7	81.8	84.6	81.2	81.9	83.4	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptabl
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	86.5	86.8	82.1	71.9	70.2	68.3			
Safe and Caring	91.2	90.8	91.4	87.5	88.8	89.1	Very High	Maintained	
Satisfaction with Program Access	77.6	75.9	77.2	72.9	72.6	73.9	High	Maintained	
School Improvement	80.6	78.0	82.1	75.2	74.2	77.9	Very High	Declined	Good
Transition Rate (6 Year)	70.8	73.7	73.2	59.7	60.3	60.2	High	Maintained	Good
Work Preparation	87.7	85.2	85.4	83.1	84.9	84.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

#### **Division Profile**

- 16 schools and 1 outreach centre
- · 5,076 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 225 children in Early Learning
- Programs
- · 498.33 FTE staff members
- · Proudly serving the communities of Bow Island, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek, Taber and surrounding areas

#### For More Information

St. Basil Catholic Education Centre 620 12 B Street North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L7 Phone: 403-327-9555

Division Reports, Plan and Financial Information can be found the division's website at: www.holyspirit.ab.ca









#### **Priorities and Successes**

Priority 1: Staff and students will grow in their faith and experience the richness of Catholic Education. In 2022/2023, the division began a new Three Year Faith Plan, "Arise! Pilgrims of Hope."

sults we are most proud of: 98.5% of staff felt the Faith Plan theme inspired and helped.



Indicator (OurSchool Survey)	Elem	(4-6)	Jr./Sr. High		
mulcator (ourschool survey)	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	
Their school is a Catholic community that helps them understand the Catholic Faith	94%	95%	88%	89%	
They are encouraged & given the opportunity to live their faith in the school & community.	95%	95%	87%	87%	

#### Priority 2: First Nations, Métis and Inuit education for all.

Our Graduation Coaches, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Facilitators, administrators and staff, continue to support and build strong relationships with our Indigenous studen In 2022-2023, we continued to engage in reconciliation practices within our schools and the community by renewing and fostering relationships with Indigenous Elders, parents, families and students, both on- and off-reserve to support this priority.

Measure	Holy Spirit	Province
3-Year High School Completion	73.6%	57.0%
6-Year Transition Rate to Post- Secondary	41.9%	35.5%
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility	68.9%	43.9%

Priority 2: High quality instruction rooted in sound research and effective assessment practices to support growth for all learners.

Our staff continues to recognize the importance of foundational skills by providing multiple opportunities for real life learning. Our results show the success we've had through deep dives into the curriculum and engaging our students in relevant learning experiences.

Measure	Holy Spirit	Province		
Education Quality	90.7%	88.1%		
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful & Safe Learning Environment	89.3%	84.7%		
Students engaged in their learning	86.9%	84.4%		
Access to Supports & Services	82.3%	80.6%		
3-Year High School Completion	90.4%	80.7%		

#### Priority 4: Foster a culture of wellness that is foundational



support students' spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and academic health, we work academic health, we work closely with a variety of provincial and local partners to devise targeted initiatives that build student capacity in this

Indiana (Outline)	Eleme	entary	Jr./Sr. High		
Indicator (OurSchool Survey)	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	
Students with a positive sense of belonging	74%	71%	63%	65%	
Students with positive relationships	81%	83%	79%	81%	
Students that value school outcomes	91%	91%	65%	69%	

#### GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY **STUDENTS** 

read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE **SCHOOLERS** 

pass important courses



**HIGH SCHOOLERS** 

stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE **STUDENTS** 

earn their degrees



WORKERS

succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



January 17, 2024

Hello parents, guardians, and caregivers:

Re: School Routine Immunization Program within Alberta Health Services (AHS) South Zone.

AHS reminder phone calls and texts about school routine immunizations (non-COVID) are sent as needed to alert parents, guardians, and caregivers about returning paper consent forms for in-school immunizations, or to alert caregivers about immunization eligibility.

Recently, a "return consent form" reminder phone call and/or text message was sent to families for students in grade 9 who have not yet returned consent form(s) for the dTap vaccine (i.e., Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis —also known as Whooping Cough) and MenC-ACYW-135 vaccine (i.e., Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine, which protects against four types of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease).

Immunizations have begun for some grade 9 students; however, most grade 9 students will be immunized in March 2024. Your child will only be immunized if you have provided written or verbal telephone consent. If your child missed receiving the immunizations at school, the nurse *may* be returning to the school before the end of the school year as able.

#### Other routine school immunizations (non-COVID) offered as a reminder:

- Immunizations offered in school in grade 6 for Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus vaccine series each year. We have provided first doses to most grade 6 students in fall 2023; for those students whose parent consented for the vaccine(s), the next dose is due in spring 2024.
- Students in grade 1 who have missed the pre-kindergarten routine booster can be updated at your nearest local community health office - please call to book an appointment.
- Children who are homeschooled may obtain routine school-aged immunizations at your nearest local community health office by appointment.

#### How to obtain routine school immunizations (non-COVID) for your child:

- Sign and return the immunization consent form to your child's school as soon as possible if you would like your child immunized in the school setting.
- If there is one or more vaccines you do not wish your child to receive, write REFUSED across the vaccine(s) you do not want and return <u>all</u> consent form(s) to the school.
- You may also provide verbal telephone consent to a public health nurse by calling your local community health office.
- Call to book an appointment at your local community health office.
- If you are unsure if your child is due for school routine (non-COVID) immunizations, please ask to speak to a public health nurse.

If you have any questions, please contact your local community health office. To find your community health office, visit: <u>Find Healthcare - Search (albertahealthservices.ca)</u> (Select: 'Search by Facility Type', then choose 'Public Health Centres', then in 'Location' field choose your location).

If you have questions about school routine immunizations or would like to view the routine immunization schedule, please visit <a href="mailto:ahs.ca/immunize">ahs.ca/immunize</a>.

Immunization and routine

Sincerely,

Allison Gonsalves, MD, FRCPC

Medical Officer of Health

Alberta Health Services – South Zone

Medical Officers of Health, South Zone 801 1 Avenue South • Lethbridge AB T1J 4L5 www.ahs.ca/moh



South Zone



immunization schedule | Alberta.ca







The Learning Consortium and professional development consortia have lots of Professional Development for Parents and Teachers

Check it out here:

<a href="https://erlc.ca/">https://erlc.ca/</a>





#### 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.

Household Size (Includes Kids)	Income Cut-off
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 <u>pinchercreek@kidsport.ab.ca</u> Application forms can also be accessed at <a href="https://kidsportcanada.ca">https://kidsportcanada.ca</a>















#### Mon. Jan. 29 6:30 pm, SA8002 La Belle Epoque (2019)

. . . . . . . . . . . . .

Drama – R Dir. Nicolas Bedos

Victor, a distillusioned sexagenarian, sees his life turned upside down on the day when Antoine, a brilliant entrepreneur, offers him a new kind of attraction. Mixing theatrical artifices and historical reconstruction, this company offers his clients a chance to dive back into the era of their choice. Victor then chooses to relive the most memorable week of his life: the one during which, 40 years earlier, he met the love of this life.

Tues. Jan. 30 6:30 pm, SA8002

#### La Princesse de Montpensier: The Princess of Montpensier (2010) Historical Drama

- Not rated Dir. Bertrand Tavernier

During the French Wars of Religion, heiress Marie (Mélanie Thierry) finds that her father, the Marquis de Mézières (Philippe Magnan), has arranged for her to marry the Prince of Montpensier (Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet), a war hero with favorable political connections. Marie, however, is in love with Henri de Guise (Gaspard Ulliel), a soldier who is less socially revered than the prince. But Marie's protestations are for nought, and conflict ensues on the battlefield and in the bedroom.

#### Wed. Jan. 31 6:30 pm, SA8002

Le Plongeur / The Dishwasher (2023)

Drama – Not rated Dir. Francis Leclerc

Montreal (In Canada). winter 2002. Stéphane, a 19-year-old metal fan and graphic design student, dreams of becoming an Illustrator, But for months he has been caught up In a downward spiral: he is addicted to gambling. Debt-ridden, without an apartment, avoiding his friends to whom he owes money, Stéphane takes a lob as a dishwasher in a diner to get by. He discovers the fast-paced life of a restaurant as the holidays approach and Its crowd of characters.

#### Thurs. Feb. 1 6:30 pm, SA8002 Arsenault & Fils (2022)

Crime Drama – Not rated Dir. Raphael Ouellet

The Arsenaults, a tightknit family, have ruled for generations in a small village in Bas-du-Fleuve, Quebec. The return of Anthony, the youngest of the family, then the arrival of Emilie, a radio host who exerts a strong influence on Anthony and especially his older brother Adam, will come to test the harmony of the clan.

#### Fri. Feb. 2 4:30 pm, SA8002 FREE PIZZA AND DRINKS Merci Pour Tout (2020)

...........

Comedy – PG Dir: Louise Archambault

Sisters Marianne and Christin travel to the Magdalen islands, where they will spread their father's ashes and flee their personal problems, without realizing that they carry them with them, literally and figuratively. Sat. Feb. 3 10 am In collaboration with Cinemagine Jeunesse, this movie will be presented at the Movie Mill

#### La Légende du Papillon (2023)

Animation – G Dir. Sophle Roy

Butterfly Tale is an animated feature film for the whole family set along the diverse, picturesque, and everchanging backdrop of the great Monarch butterfly migration. A heartwarming tale of a gutsy and loveable yet inept, one-winged butterfly, named Patrick who stows away in a milkweed trailer in order to be part of the Journey.



## 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**