



6

February 16 2024

Principal Message:



Rise
Above.
Inspire
Greatness.



Dear St. Michael's School Families,

In this February message, the Holy Father, Pope Francis tells us that Lent 2024 "is a time to act, and in Lent, it means to pause. To pause in prayer to receive the Word of God, to pause like a Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting are not unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down." Our school lenten theme is 'Own your Lenten Journey' where we are inviting all students, staff, and families to go deep inside... look in the mirror and cast out things that are weighing you down; take time to reflect and renew parts of yourself that have been ignored, neglected, or you've been inattentive to lately in the busyness of your life. Join us in the challenge of '40 days to a better you' however that might look for yourself! You'll see social media posts guiding us on this lenten journey, and a mirror in the entrance of our school reminding us that who we are begins with us!

Lent began on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024.

What a great day to begin our Lenten journey with love in our hearts.

May this season be filled with your own personal love, spirituality and growth to ensure we are all becoming who God wants us to be.

I wish you all a very happy and restful winter break next week and we'll see you back on February 26th, 2024. May God continue to bless St. Michael's School.

♥ Ms Schmidt



Free Throw competition



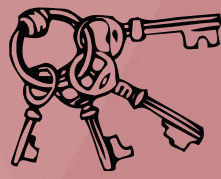
Knights of Columbus



Mrs. Craig's Biology class and Mr. Wynder's Science 8 class got to dissect beef and pig hearts.

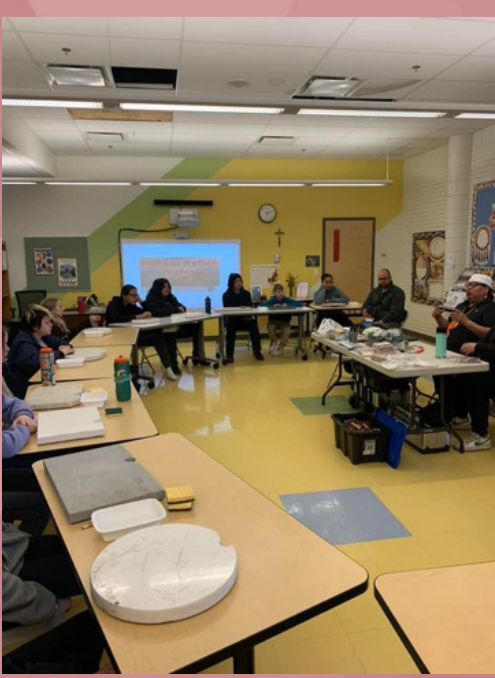


Dragon Days

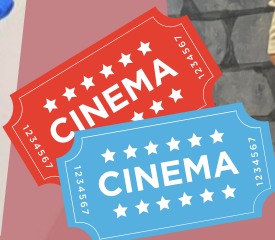


Grades 7-9 had a great time the last week of January during Dragon Days! Groups visited an escape room in Lethbridge, the Helen Schuler Nature Centre and swimming at the YMCA. Leather working, sports and cooking classes!

Dragon Days



Jr High Drama class had a blast making zombie hands with stage make-up, liquid latex, and toilet paper today.



FUN with Friends of St. Michael's!





FAITH FOCUS



Embracing Lent 2024: A Season of Spiritual Growth

As Lent commences in 2024, Catholics across the globe are gearing up for a season of introspection and spiritual growth. This sacred season, spanning 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday, invites us all to delve deeper into our faith through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity.

Fasting holds a prominent place in Lenten observance, symbolizing self-discipline and sacrifice. Whether it's giving up a favorite snack or hobby, we are encouraged to redirect our time and resources towards helping those less fortunate. This may involve organizing donation drives, volunteering at local shelters, or simply extending kindness to classmates, coworkers and neighbors.

Prayer is another cornerstone of Lent, providing us with a platform to connect with the divine and reflect on our spiritual journey. Daily prayer sessions, Scripture readings, and meditative activities are encouraged, fostering a sense of reverence and gratitude among Catholics. These practices not only nurture our relationship with God but also instill lifelong habits of mindfulness and reflection.

Acts of charity and service are fundamental to the Lenten experience, encouraging us to embody the teachings of Jesus Christ by reaching out to those in need. Through acts of kindness, we learn the value of empathy, compassion, and solidarity with the marginalized and vulnerable members of society.


In a world filled with distractions and materialism, Lent serves as a timely reminder for us to pause, reflect on our values, and realign our priorities. By embracing the traditions and teachings of Lent, Catholics are not only preparing for the joyous celebration of Easter but also laying the groundwork for a lifetime of faith, service, and discipleship.


Mark Wynder
Associate Principal


About Us

 [facebook](#)

 [@stmichaelspc](#)

 864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB

 mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca

 403-627-3488

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

Office Hours:

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

Friday
8:00am - 2:00pm



Dates to remember

No School Feb 19th – 23rd

Family day/Reading week

No School

March 11th PD Day

No School

March 15th PD Day



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



Leaving Early?!

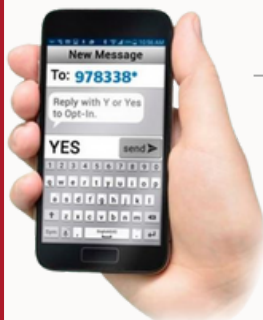
If your child needs to leave school early, please notify the office at 403-627-3488 as early as possible. Please also make sure you sign your child out in the office when they are leaving early!



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!



Our FNMI Graduates are taking part in the Artist in Residency Program. Thanks to Billy Wiotte, our 8 Graduating Students will have the opportunity to sew their own ribbon skirt/ribbon shirt to wear for the Feather Blessing Ceremony.

**Welcome to our new
FNMI facilitator
Tracy Wolfe!
Contact Tracy at the school anytime -
403-627-3488**



DRAGON ATHLETICS!

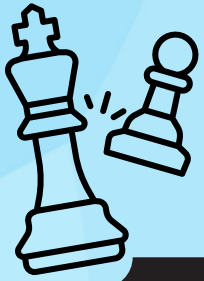
Basketball is in full swing!
GO DRAGONS!

HOME	15:00	GUEST
78	PERIOD 8	84
FOULS 8		FOULS 8



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.



Chess Club!



The founders of the Chess Club invite grades 4-6 to join them Wednesday's at lunch and recess time!



**Accepting
Chess board
donations.**

The Grad class of 2024 will be hosting a
Kernels popcorn fundraiser from
Feb. 16th until the 12th of March.

Order on school cash online or ask a
graduate!

**POPCORN
TIME**



Pink Shirt Day is February 28th.

**Make sure you wear pink to
raise awareness of bullying.**



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: jmaunsellphoto@hotmail.ca (Please include your students name/grade)



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Presents:

Mental Health Learning Sessions

Location Please RSVP at

First 50 registrations get a free dinner!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC>



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

(online & in-person)

Every session will take place in-person 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.

Resiliency and Self-Care

Ft. Lethbridge Family Services

Jan
16
2024

Feb
15
2024

Healthy Relationships

Ft. Lethbridge Family Services

ADHD - Understanding the Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies

Ft. Aleigha from True Balance Counselling

Mar
20
2024

Apr
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

Re-Registration Starts January 15, 2024

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.
 - 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

Fall 2023 Supplemental Measures Summary

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 dollars.

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 instruction:

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

Measure	Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Sep			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
	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
Drop-Out Rate	1.5	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
In-Service Jurisdiction Needs	82.3	85.8	85.4	82.2	83.7	84.3	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
Lifelong Learning	85.7	82.8	80.1	80.4	81.0	76.8	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
Program of Studies	87.6	84.3	85.5	82.9	82.9	82.6	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Program of Studies - At Risk Students	83.7	81.8	84.6	81.2	81.9	83.4	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	86.5	86.8	82.1	71.9	70.2	68.3	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Safe and Caring	91.2	90.8	91.4	87.5	88.8	89.1	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Satisfaction with Program Access	77.6	75.9	77.2	72.9	72.6	73.9	High	Maintained	Good
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 on the division's website at: www.holyspirit.ab.ca

Follow us on social media: HolySpiritRCS



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."

Results 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	
	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 students. 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 to support learning.



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

Indicator (OurSchool Survey)	Elementary		Jr./Sr. High	
	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.





Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

...where students are cherished and achieve their potential

Dear Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Parents/Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division understands the importance of keeping our school community informed and connected, and wants to ensure that everyone receives the necessary information from both your school and the division in a timely manner. Recently, there have been concerns from some schools and families regarding our messaging, with reports of some families not receiving important emails or texts.

To address this issue, we have compiled a list of tips and potential fixes to ensure that you stay up-to-date with all the information being sent out:

Email:

1. Regularly check your junk/spam folder to ensure emails have not been filtered there.
2. If you are not receiving emails in your regular inbox or spam/junk folders, please contact your school to verify that you have not declined to receive emails by unsubscribing or have been blocked.
3. Ensure your email address is up-to-date and has been provided to the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division.

Text Messaging:

1. When filling out registration forms, ensure that a valid mobile phone number is entered in the mobile phone field on the parent contact form.
2. If you are unsure whether your mobile phone number has been added, please contact your child(s) school(s) to double check and update as necessary.
3. Confirm you have opted in to receive text messages from the schools/division. Please see insert on how to opt in for text messages for your convenience.

In addition, we would like to remind you that all important messages sent out to our Holy Spirit families are normally included on our social media channels (FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter) as well as on the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division website (www.holyspirit.ab.ca).

We hope that these steps provided above help maintain consistent and effective communication between our school community and our families. If you still experience issues after following the tips and information above, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school(s).

Your collaboration is paramount in fostering strong and seamless connections within our schools and division. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sean Marks, Communications Coordinator
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division



Stay Up-To-Date with Our Schools' Communication!

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is reminding families to ensure you are set up to receive text (SMS) messages from our schools and division. This is one of multiple ways that we send out important messaging to both our families and staff. Please take some time to follow the steps below to ensure you're receiving our text (SMS) messaging.

In addition, for those who have not signed up or utilized our SchoolMessenger App, we've included step-by-step instructions on how to do so. SchoolMessenger helps our parents and families to access important notifications, receive school messages and set your communication preferences.

Text (SMS) Messaging

1) Did you receive a text from us?

When a new mobile number is entered by the school, within 24 hours, a text should be sent to that number asking if you would like to subscribe.

Simply respond with your preference:

- Type "Y" or "Yes" to receive messages by text.
- Type "N" or "Stop" if you'd prefer not to receive messages by text. You can do this to unsubscribe at any time.

2) You haven't received a text and you'd like to?

You can always subscribe to receive texts from the school by sending a "Y" to 978338. You will receive a notification that your opt-in is complete if successful.

3) Do you have a new or different device you'd like to receive texts to?

First, make sure your child's school has this new number in their system! You should receive a message in 24 hours asking you to respond with a "Y." If you don't, send a "Y" directly to 978338. You will receive a notification that your opt-in is complete if successful.



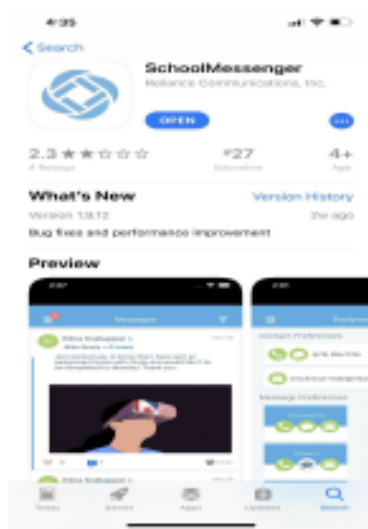
**While this service is free, standard message and data rates may apply. Please check with your device's data provider if you have any questions related to charges.*



SchoolMessenger App

The School Messenger App allows parents to:

- Access important school notifications 24/7/365
- Set your communications preferences for calls, emails, texts, and more
- Receive all kinds of school messages in one single app (classroom and group updates, activity alerts, school and division notifications)
- Review your messages on any device (smartphone, laptop, etc...)



1) Download the School Messenger App:

Go to the GooglePlay or Apple Stores to download "SchoolMessenger" (the version with the blue logo).


You can also download the app, or set up your account, from <http://go.schoolmessenger.com>.

2) Sign up for an account:

Make sure you enter the email address that the school has on file for you. This will allow the app to find all of the students associated with you. Also, make sure you select "Canada" as your location.



3) Set your preferences:


When you first log in, click on the  icon in the upper left corner of your screen and select "Preferences." For each category, you can select how you would like to be notified:

- *School Hours Emergency* –For urgent messaging during school hours
- *Non-School Hours Emergency* - For urgent messaging before and after school hours
- *Attendance* – For calls regarding your child's attendance.
- *General* – Day to day information from the school.



4) Enable push notifications:

Even if you turn off most types of notifications (phone, text, email), you can still receive those messages through push notifications on your phone.

To set your push notifications, click on the  icon in the upper left corner of your screen. Select "Settings," then "Push Notifications."

Click on all of those boxes for which you would like to receive push notifications on your device.

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 pinchercreek@kidsport.ab.ca

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

LET'S GO RURAL!



How Do I Get There?

NURSING CAREERS - POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS

**Open to
high school
students
(grade 9-12)
in rural Alberta
interested in
Nursing.**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Join us for the second in a three-part webinar series to learn more about a career in rural nursing after high school. In this session, discover post-secondary pathways to nursing. Hear firsthand experiences that will inspire you to take the next step towards your dream career.



Scan to register.



RhPAP.ca | info@rhpap.ca

This free interactive Zoom session is available only to rural Alberta high school students
*Financial contribution for RhPAP has been provided through Alberta Health

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

