



# 8

April 15th 2024

## Principal Message:



Rise  
Above.  
Inspire  
Greatness.



Dear families,

We have reached the midpoint of the second semester for high school, and junior high school students are beginning quarter 4 of options. Elementary students are enjoying more spring activities and field trips. Overall, the school is a buzz of activity. Yet, our attendance rates are still showing a significant amount of students with 'unexcused absences.'

Is the dialer calling your home? That's because when your child is away, unless you call/email in, the absence is marked 'A' which is essentially 'unexcused' and signals the call-out system. Knowing the reasons your child is away is helping us to track absenteeism, and dive into why so many of our children of all ages are missing school.

It's no surprise that the pandemic impacted attitudes toward attending school, and 'normalized' being away and at home. Even my own children have said, "I'll just check the Google Classroom" when desiring to stay home. How often are we excusing our children too easily? For good reason? This month, I'm challenging all parents to really dive into why your child is missing school. Is it really excused? Of course, things like doctors appointments, or illness are good reasons to be away. At these times it's important to call/email in so we can be on top of attendance data for your child(ren).

We've made student attendance a priority this year, and are working hard to connect with families to increase our attendance rates. We know that when children attend more, stronger social and emotional connections are made amongst peers and staff, which in turn creates a more open learning environment. The opposite is true when a child does not attend; connections are not as strong, and learning becomes more challenging. Maria Rogers, a child psychologist and Canada Research Chair in Child Mental Health and Well Being at Carleton University reports, "Children who attend school regularly generally have better emotional health, better relationships with teachers and stronger social connections."

So, let's make consistent and regular attendance our goal for the remaining 11 weeks of school. We love seeing your children in school, and enjoy helping them grow and learn even more! There's more information on the importance of regular attendance in a great article [here](#). So let's show up! Cheers to a great month of April!

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

♥ Ms Schmidt

**EVERY DAY MATTERS**

- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS THE #1 INDICATOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS
- MISSING 2 OR MORE DAYS A MONTH = CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM
- REGULAR ATTENDERS ARE 2.5 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE

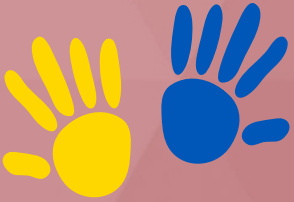
YOU + SCHOOL = SUCCESS

Thank you to the Friends of St. Michael's for sponsoring this fundraiser and to everyone who supported it!



Celebrating Drayton and Cheyenne on March 21st as we recognized World Down Syndrome Day!

We are blessed to have them at our school!



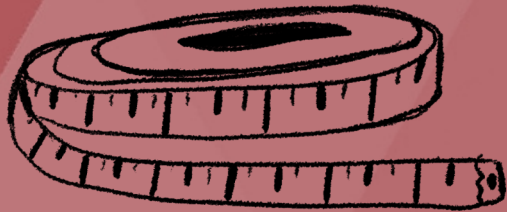
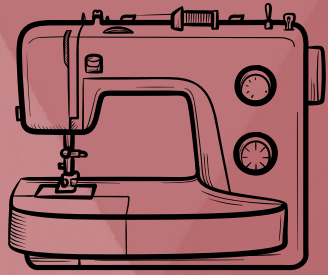


Our "Francophonie Celebration" activities included making crêpes, Auguste Renoir Art , Notre Dame inspired "stained glass" project, dancing, playing spoons, learning about the tradition of the Sugar Shack and making of Maple syrup, playing French Trivia Kahoot and Bingo and "les quilles" (bowling) in the gym.

bonjour



# FNMI Grad Ribbon Skirt and Ribbon Shirt making



Congratulations to all of our students who skated in the "Boots and Bling" carnival on March 23rd. It was an amazing show!!



Greta, Mila, Lennon, Natalie, Marley, Évangéline, Leah & Félix

Congratulations to all of our St Michael's students who participated in the skating carnival last weekend!  
Boots and Bling was a fantastic show!



Congratulations to these **Dragons** who brought home awards!



Lennon Trodden (PreK)  
Most Dedicated  
PreCanSkater



Felix Hache (4F)  
Most Dedicated  
PreJunior



Cheska Misa (4F)  
Most Dedicated  
CanSkater





The Knights of Columbus hosted their Easter, "Keep Christ in Easter" Poster Contest. We want to thank all the students for participating.



Our travel group had a wonderful time in Italy over Easter break!





# FAITH FOCUS



Exploring Italy - A Beautiful Easter

This Easter I was blessed to be a part of the St. Michael's group that travelled to Italy. Our recent trip to Italy was more than just a sightseeing adventure—it was a pilgrimage, a journey of faith and discovery through some of the most sacred sites of Catholicism. Venturing through Venice, Pisa, Florence, Rome, and Assisi, our students delved into the richness of Italy's Catholic heritage, each city offering moments of spiritual reflection. I would like to share a few highlights of the trip.

In Pisa we learned about the history of baptisteries in Italy. In the 12th century there was a resurgence of the use of special buildings built specifically for the sacrament of baptism. These were beautifully constructed buildings built separate from the church. One notable experience we had was experiencing the intent of the dome built on the baptistery as one of the doormen stepped into the center of the building and sang beautiful melodies which echoed through the whole building and allowed him to harmonize with himself. It brought to mind how many hymns have been raised praising God in that building.

In Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, our students marveled at the divine artistry of Michelangelo's "David" and the sacred beauty of the Duomo. Amidst the bustling piazzas and bustling markets, we felt the presence of saints and scholars who shaped the city's Catholic identity, igniting a renewed appreciation for the union of faith and creativity.

In Rome we had the honor of visiting Santa Maria Maggiore basilica. The basilica is beautiful, with stunning mosaics and a peaceful atmosphere. Inside, you can feel the history and faith of centuries. Our tour guide took us upstairs and told us that legend has it that the church was built after the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream to Pope Liberius and a wealthy Roman couple, instructing them to build a church where snow would fall on a hot August day. True to the dream, snow fell on the Esquiline Hill, leading to the construction of the basilica.

On our last full day of the trip we visited Assisi, a serene town embraced by the gentle hills of Umbria. Here, amidst the olive groves and ancient stones, we walked in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare, experiencing firsthand the humility and devotion that define Franciscan spirituality. Visiting the Basilica of St. Francis, we were moved by its simplicity and grace, finding solace in the prayers of the saints who have gone before us.

I would highly recommend to anyone who is wanting to learn more about the Roman Catholic faith to spend some time in Italy! Taking time to reflect upon the rich artwork and architecture can truly bring the history of the centuries of Catholicism alive!


Mark Wynder





## About Us

 **facebook**

 @stmichaelspc

 864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB

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

May 17th – PD Day

## No School

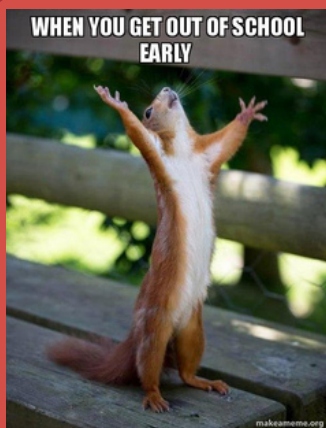
May 20th – Victoria Day

## No School

May 27th – PD Day



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



## Leaving Early?!

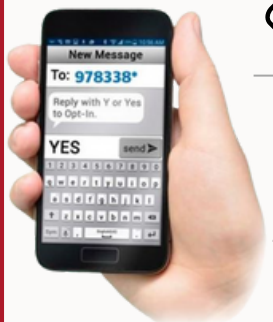
If your child needs to leave school early, please notify the office at 403-627-3488 as early as possible. Please also make sure you sign your child out in the office when they are leaving early!



## 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!**



# DRAGON ATHLETICS!

Dragons played in a All-Star game April 21st



JUDO MEDALISTS @ PROVINCIALS!  
Greta Denie (SILVER)  
Zachary Clinton (SILVER)



# Masquerade Gala

\$25 Entry

Auction Sponsored by the  
Friends of St. Michael's

Live Music!  
Appetizers & Drinks

Starting At 8:00pm

May  
11th, 2024

18 +

Doors Open  
7:00pm

864 Christie Ave  
Hosted By  
St Michael's School and the  
Leadership Class

## 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.

Registration event for the  
2024 / 2025 School Year!



Join us on Thursday April 25th  
From 3:45pm - 5:30pm  
and 6pm - 8pm

Our school is growing!

By updating your child's  
registration you're securing  
their spot in our school.

Enrollment helps to obtain  
funding from the Alberta  
Government





St. Michael's School Council presents youth  
leadership speaker Sam Demma  
Wednesday April 24, 7 p.m  
St Michael's School Den



Hear how we can create a culture of hope, service and kindness  
in our community, addressing the topics of leadership,  
and mental health!

-Empty Your Backpack - Small Consistent Actions- -Be Someone's Taco-



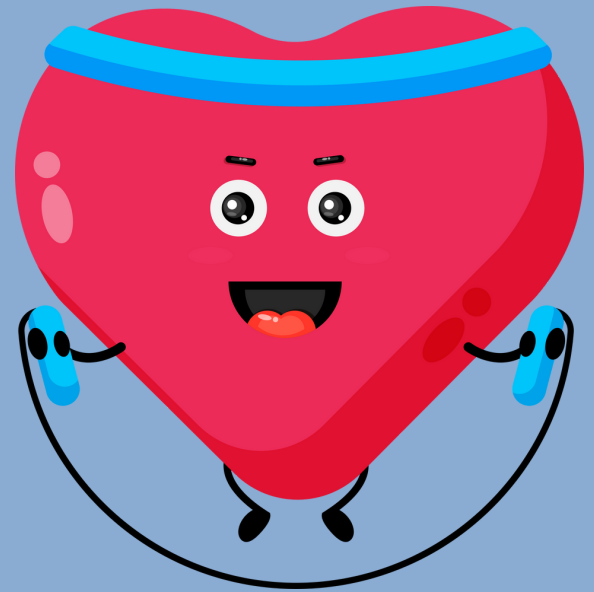
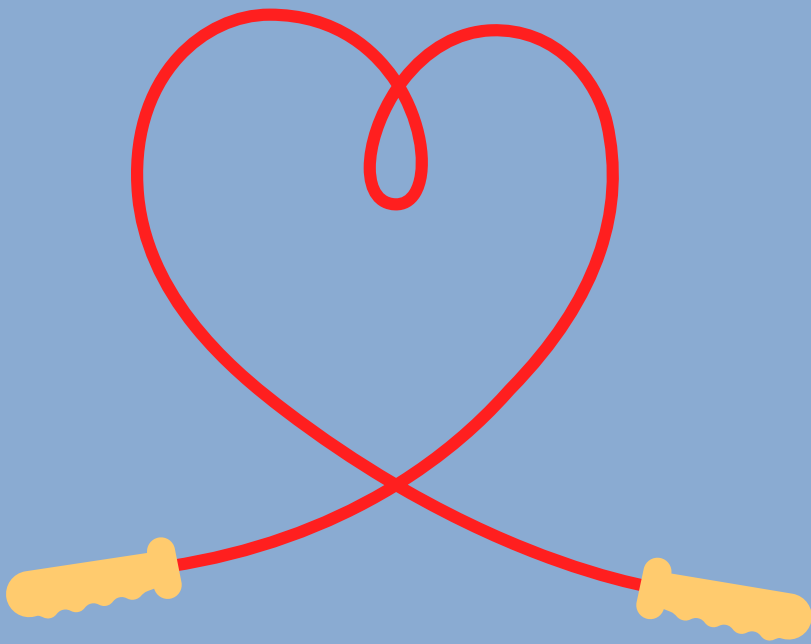
Thank you to  
Friends of St Michael's Foundation  
Knights of Columbus  
Pincher Creek Lions Club and  
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division  
for their generous support of this program.

**Donations appreciated at the door**

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St. Michael's School - 864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB





# Jump Rope for Heart is coming to St. Michael's School!

Our Event Day: **Friday, May 10**

Have fun!

Support a good cause!

Win prizes!

Learn new tricks!

Stay fit!

Stay tuned for more information!

2024

sc  - FUSION  N

Lethbridge Regional Science Fair  
and Science Olympics

April 26-27th  
University of Lethbridge

More information and registration at <https://www.scifusion.ca/>



Proudly organized by:



The Friends of St. Michael's are selling elite socks with our Dragon logo on it!! They are ONLY \$10.00!

They come in 2 sizes - sm/med and lg/xlarge. Please contact Lori Jo Ettenhofer at the school to purchase them or send money with your child. They would make fantastic Easter presents!!





(I)SWAG Presents

Ft. Allie and Bailee from  
True Balance Counselling

# Emotional Regulation

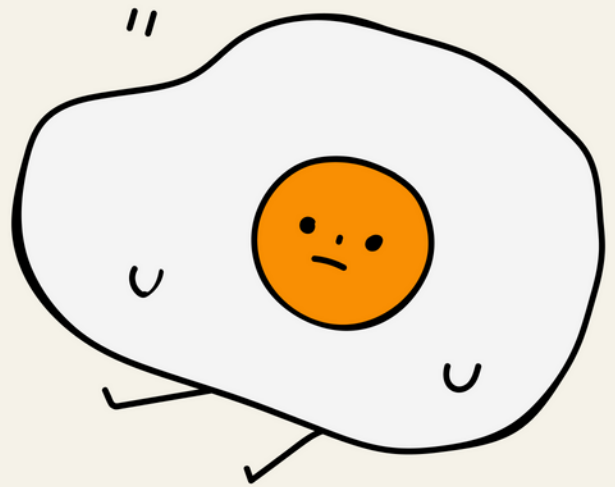
How to help our kids when they have big feelings

APRIL 18TH, 2024 @ THE ESSIES BALLROOM

5:30PM-8:00AM

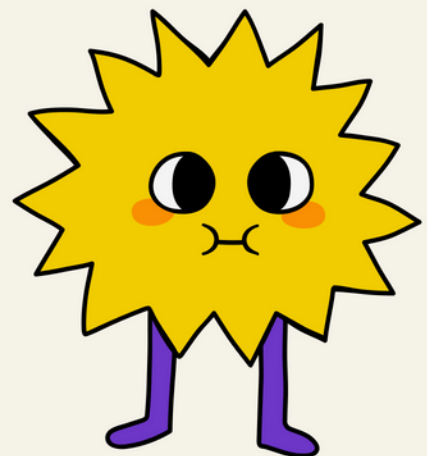
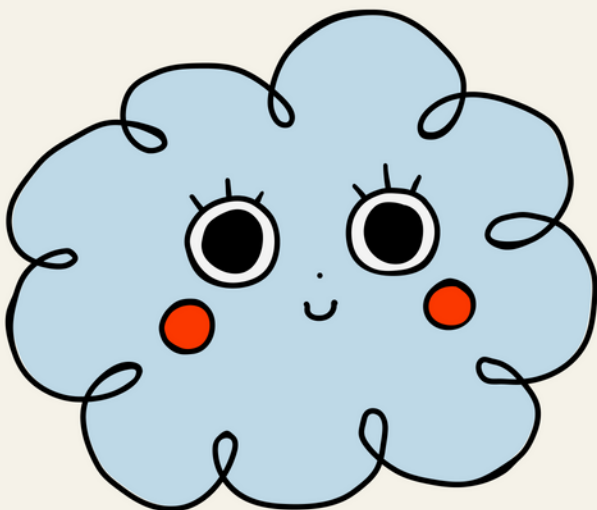
Sandman Signature, 320 Scenic  
Drive S, Lethbridge ab

Join us as we enjoy a complimentary  
dinner while learning from the  
Registered Psychologists from True  
Balance Counselling about Kids and  
their Big Feelings.



Please RSVP at:

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





**Emily Williston**

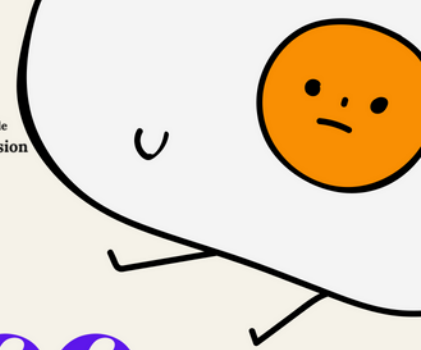


**SWAG**  
Student Wellness Access Guide  
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division  
williston@holyspirit.ab.ca  
(403)308-2445

**Billy Woitte**



**ISWAG**  
Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide  
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division  
woitte@holyspirit.ab.ca  
(403)635-2415

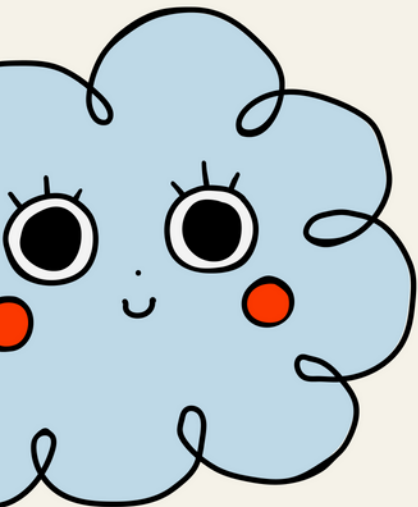


# Allie & Bailee

## True Balance Counselling

Bailee is a Provisional Psychologist who is a compassionate and empathetic therapist who believes in the power of therapeutic relationship to help create meaningful change in her client's lives.

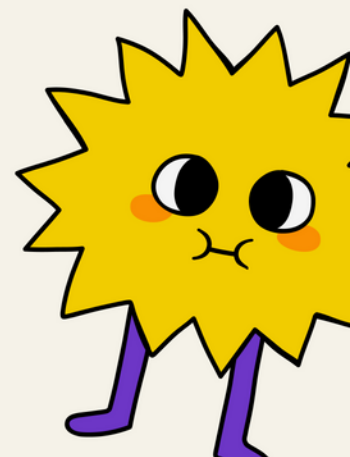
Allie is a Registered Psychologist who values creating a warm and welcoming environment. She is passionate about working collaboratively with children, youth, and adults, to assist them in achieving their goals



This is a FREE event that is open to all parents, guardians, and caregivers

Please RSVP at:

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







## “Share the Mission” Award Call for Nominations!

Nominations are now welcome for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division’s “Share the Mission Award.” This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have:

- Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students;
- Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow;
- Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools;
- Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations;
- Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions:

*We are a Catholic faith community, dedicated to providing each student entrusted in our care with an education rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society, our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will live, celebrate, and proclaim their faith.*

*Our Catholic faith is the foundations of all that we do.*

If you know of an individual or group deserving of the “Share the Mission Award,” please forward their name to Rhonda Kawa at [kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca) by June 7, 2024.

Nomination information is accessible on the division’s website or by clicking on this link:

[Share the Mission Award Nomination Form](#)





Become a

# HOMESTAY FAMILY

The BEST thing about memories...  
is making them!

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

Joy A. Warren  
Homestay Coordinator  
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division  
620 12B St. N.  
Lethbridge, AB, T1H 2L7  
Phone: (403) 330-7382  
[homestay@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:homestay@holyspirit.ab.ca)

## HOST FAMILIES PROVIDE...

- Private bedroom
- 3 wholesome meals/day +snacks
- Quiet, bright study space
- Access to common areas
- Laundry
- Emotional/Academic support
- Interaction with family members
- Participation in family activities
- Internet connection

## HOST FAMILY BENEFITS...

- Learn another culture's traditions and customs
- Share Canadian culture with your student
- Create lasting memories and experiences
- Spend more family time together
- Develop a new friendship with your student
- Receive \$900 monthly to cover the expenses of hosting your student
- Build an interest in culture, language and future travel opportunities for your family

**2024**

# Camp Columbus

**2024**



## Waterton Lakes National Park

**2024**

All Camps Run for Five Days

CAMP FEES ARE **\$300** PER CAMPER PER WEEK

CAMP 1	July 7 -12	BOYS AGE: 8 to 10 years
CAMP 2	July 14 -19	BOYS AGE: 9 to 11 years
CAMP 3	July 21 - 26	BOYS AGE: 12 to 14 years
CAMP 4	July 28 – Aug 2	GIRLS AGE: 8 to 10 years
CAMP 5	Aug 4 – 9	GIRLS AGE: 9 to 11 years
CAMP 6	Aug 11 - 16	GIRLS AGE: 10 to 12 years
CAMP 7	Aug 18 - 23	GIRLS AGE: 12 to 14 years



[WWW.CAMPCOLUMBUS.COM](http://WWW.CAMPCOLUMBUS.COM)  
[info@campcolumbus.com](mailto:info@campcolumbus.com)



# CAMP COLUMBUS

Waterton Lakes National Park  
Alberta, Canada



## Summer Jobs

### *POSITIONS AVAILABLE:*

- **Directors**
- **Assistant Directors**
- **Counselors**
- **Cooks**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR: Applicants who are enthusiastic and have a strong interest in camping, but above all, possess the love, understanding and patience that is essential when interacting with children. They should be mature individuals who are capable, caring, and efficient in directing children in a gentle but firm way; to ensure a safe and fun filled camping experience. Applicants should be willing and prepared to contribute in a positive and effective manner at pre-camp meetings and training sessions.

Age Requirements: Director must be 18 years old minimum.  
Counsellors must be 16 years old minimum.

### TO APPLY CONTACT:

Lee Hochstein 403-627-8108

E-mail: [president@campcolumbus.com](mailto:president@campcolumbus.com)

For general information contact [info@campcolumbus.com](mailto:info@campcolumbus.com)

[www.campcolumbus.com](http://www.campcolumbus.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/campcolumbuskofc>

APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT must be received by April 30th.



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](mailto: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



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](mailto: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](mailto:urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca)).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website ([holyspirit.ab.ca](http://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.

# 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.



# YOUTH SUMMER RUGBY

AGES 5-17

Wednesday Nights  
July 3-Aug 14  
Pincher Creek  
MHHS field

**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**  
Learn Passing  
Catching  
Teamwork

# SUMMER RUGBY

## JULY 3-AUG 14 (WEDNESDAYS)



**Southern  
Alberta  
Bulls  
Rugby**

### JUNIORS: AGES 5-10

- 30 MIN SESSIONS
- 6:30 P.M.-7P.M.
- ALL FLAG STYLE
- \$60

### SENIORS: AGES 11-17

- 60 MIN SESSIONS
- 6:30 P.M. -7:30 P.M.
- COMBINATION FLAG AND CONTACT
- \$100

### A 17+ FLAG LEAGUE

- FOLLOWING YOUTH PRACTICES: 7:30-8:30 P.M.
- GET BACK INTO IT IF YOU USED TO PLAY IN HS OR UNI OR IN THE MILITARY/RCMP!
- COME LEARN THE GAME IF YOU'VE NEVER PLAYED BUT WANT A CHANCE TO JUST HAVE FUN WITH OTHERS.
- \$100

### Extra details:

- No equipment required, unless they want to use cleats (same as soccer cleats) and a mouthguard for the seniors who wants to do contact).
- Coaching provided by a trained/certified Rugby coach with 20 years experience and who also works as a firefighter and has EMT training and various World Rugby Certifications in youth development and safety.
- Others with rugby experience are always welcome to join our Board of Directors or to volunteer with us as an instructor's aid.
- High School Players who volunteer as instructional aids will receive Volunteer hours submitted and a college letter of recommendation if so desired (and likely some free food at an end of season party) and play for free.
- Parents who volunteer, will also receive free registration for themselves or their child.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

MAY 31, 2024

CONTACT: YVETTE @403-563-5714

EMAIL:

[SouthernAlbertaBullsRugby@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernAlbertaBullsRugby@gmail.com)





**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>

# ***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**

