

Dear St. Michael's School Community,

As we welcome the season of Advent and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christmas, I find myself reflecting on the magic of this time of year—a magic rooted in hope, faith, and the joy of being part of something greater than ourselves. It is fitting that this past week, we also had the privilege of hosting the 1A Provincial Boys Volleyball Tournament, an event that beautifully mirrors this spirit in so many ways.

Last week, as teams arrived and gathered for the opening ceremony, I was inspired by the energy, determination, and sense of community surrounding us. A dedicated provincials committee worked tirelessly to perfect every detail, and classes embraced these athletic teams as if they were their own. Every aspect of hosting this tournament was so well-organized, planned, and executed—it was pure magic.

Much like the Advent season, which invites us to prepare and anticipate the joy of Christ's birth, this tournament represented a time of preparation, faith, and hope. Each team's journey to the event was a testament to hard work, teamwork, and a belief in what is possible when we set our minds on a shared goal. The journey began without knowing the outcome, much like the very first Christmas, when hope and faith were abundant.

Throughout the weekend, as teams progressed through their games, I was reminded of the busyness of the Christmas season—the preparation, gift-giving, and decorating, all done with the hope of creating the perfect Christmas. Similarly, the tournament results were uncertain, but the experience itself was rewarding. To our delight, our boys were crowned provincial champions, and all the efforts to showcase our amazing school and community came to fruition as they proudly held the Championship banner high.

As I witnessed the tournament unfolding, it felt like watching something far bigger than myself unfold—like an 'elf on the shelf' witnessing history being made right here in our school. It was an unforgettable experience that I'm sure we will all cherish forever.

Likewise, I pray that this Advent and Christmas season will be just as meaningful for you. As we light the first candles of Advent and immerse ourselves in the excitement of the season, may we all feel the magic of being part of something bigger than ourselves. We are here, in this time and place, with the people around us, for a purpose greater than we can imagine. Let's embrace it all and prepare for a journey through Advent and Christmas as extraordinary as hosting this incredible Provincials Tournament was.

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



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK OCTOBER 19 25, 2025

TESTIFY!
SHARE THE REASON
FOR YOUR HOPE!











CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK OCTOBER 19 25, 2025

TESTIFY!
SHARE THE REASON
FOR YOUR HOPE!













THURSDAY BLUE SHIRT DAY!

- #CatholicEducationWeek
- #ILoveCatholicEd

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ALBERTA



The Catholic Bishops of **Alberta** and the de **l'Alberta** et des

Les évêques catholiques Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A OL1 | T 780.469.1010 F 780.465.3003

Catholic Education Week - October 21 - 25, 2024

"Testify! Share the Reason for your Hope!"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Among the many beautiful gifts flowing to us from the font of God's providential love is that of our Catholic schools. At their centre stands the person of Jesus Christ, who seeks a personal and lifetransforming encounter with each of the students. From our knowledge and love of Christ arises an unshakeable hope that fills us with peace and joy.

In his first letter, Saint Peter teaches us always to be ready to share with others the reason for our hope (cf. 1Peter 3:15). The urgency of this call is underscored in our day by the widespread anxiety and, at times, despair seizing the hearts of many people, including some of our students and their families. For this reason, the Catholic educational community of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon has chosen as the theme of Catholic Education Week: "Testify! Share the Reason for your Hope". Let us all be ready and eager to give an account of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

There are many opportunities to share this hope. We learn how to do so in the home, first of all. How beautiful it is when parents share with their children the story of their relationship with Jesus and the hope they have drawn from his love! Our participation in the life of the parish is another privileged venue where we become ever more deeply grounded in the love of our Lord and the hope he alone can give. In Catholic Education Week, we give particular attention to our schools as places where hope in Christ is not only fostered but also shared. In these Catholic institutions, students and staff alike are called to have a clear understanding of our faith and articulate it before others. So, let us ask: How might we share with one another the hope that springs from our relationship with Jesus Christ and fidelity to his Gospel? What opportunities can we create for these discussions - in the classroom, the staff room, the administration offices, or the trustee boardroom?

Of course, our readiness to explain our faith is about not only intellectual knowledge but also living it out authentically. When our words and actions align with Christ's teachings of love, compassion, and grace, the credibility of our testimony is strengthened. How can we help one another grow as authentic witnesses to the Lord?

With this letter, we, the Bishops of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon, wish to thank everyone involved in the ministry and mission of Catholic Education: our students, teachers, support staff, administrators, trustees, parents, and parish priests. We are grateful for the many ways you accept the call to lead our students to Jesus and help them embrace the hope he alone can give.

Together, let us joyfully share with others, in both word and deed, the joy we have found in Jesus Christ, who is the all-sufficient reason for the hope that animates our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith

Alberta Liaison Bishop for Catholic Education

Archbishop of Edmonton

+ Day Jul

Most Reverend Gary Franken

Bishop of St. Paul

Most Reverend David Motiuk

Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

Most Reverend Héctor Vila Bishop of Whitehorse

Most Reverend William McGrattan

Bishop of Calgary

+ William Mix

+ Generaliti por, care

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas

Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR

Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 2 First day of Advent



December 5-Parent Event

Open to All! See poster below

December 11

Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster

December 20 **Last Day before Christmas Break**



December 25 Christmas Day!



December 2-6

Scholastic Book Fa



December 11

Advent Celebration

December 12

Elementary Christmas Festival. 5-7pm



January 6 First Day back from



Break



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

A access52

HELPING PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, CONNECT

PARENT EVENT

THINGS I WISH MY PARENTS KNEW...

WITH MICHAEL CHIASSON

- The Top 7 things teens wish their parents knew
- Why you will forever be the greatest influence in your teens life
- Insights for how to navigate through difficult moments
- How to help your family make the greatest contribution to the community you are a part of



DECEMBER 5 • 7:00 PM St. Michael's School 864 Christie Ave Pincher Creek

FREE TO ATTEND - EVERYONE WELCOME RSVP AT WWW.ACCESS52.COM/EVENTS OR SCAN QR CODE





26⁹⁵

Order forms
are available
at the school
office

Order deadline is November 29!





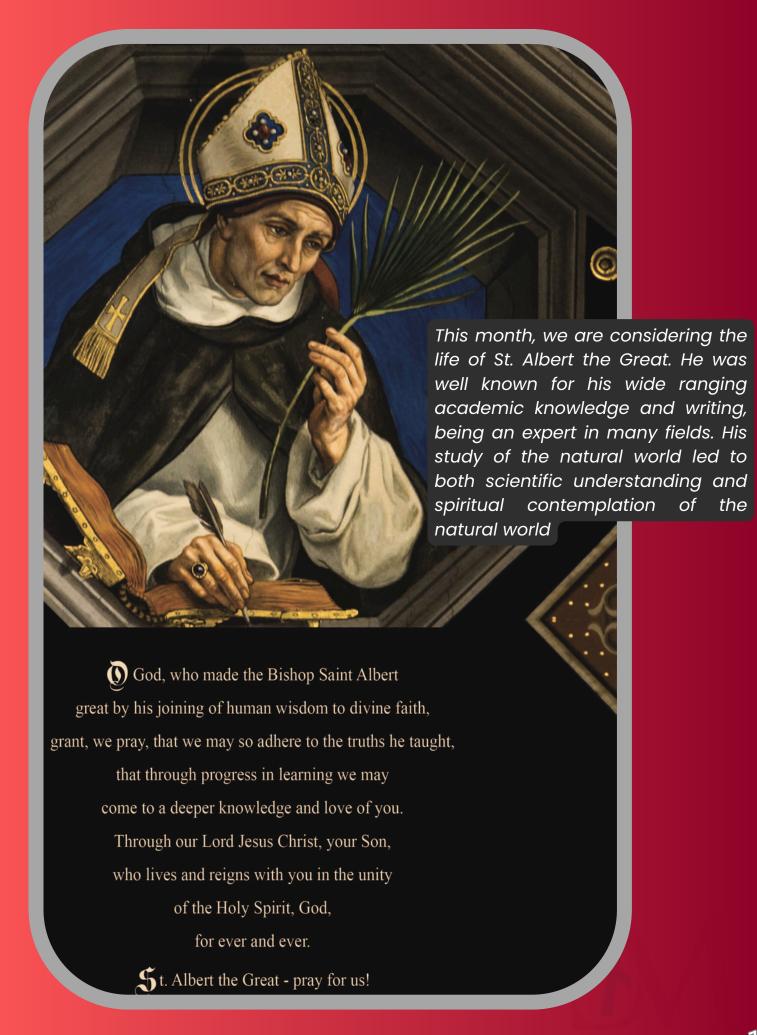
Perfect for gifts or just to share with family and firiends!

Order deadline is November 29!



We're Social! 👔 @NuttersNatural 🧐 #EverydayNaturals

Available



"It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to man and man to God."

- St. Albert the Great

St. Albert Magnus 1200-1280 (Feast Day: November 15)

Albertus Magnus (Magnus meaning 'Great') was born in what is today Germany around the year 1200. His family was likely of the nobility, which led to him having more formal education than many people of that time. His studies, largely in theology, led him to enter the Dominican order, and in that order he traveled to various locations around Germany to instruct as a lecturer. Eventually he moved to the University of Paris, where he has among his students a young Thomas Aquinas. He returned eventually to Germany as a Bishop, but continued his academic instruction as well until his death in 1280.

St. Albert is well known for his academic prowess - he was a scientist, philosopher, theologian, spiritual writer, and diplomat in his time. He wrote a great deal, with his collected works reaching over 35 volumes. He was an expert in many fields, including law, ethics, natural sciences and minerals. One key area in which he influenced the medieval world was in the area of faith and science. St. Albert showed that faith and science were not at odds; that we can look into the mysteries of creation and in them find holiness. As Pope Benedict XVI said in 2010:

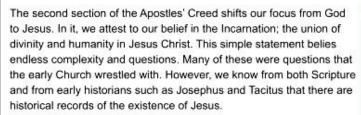
Saint Albert shows us that faith is not opposed to reason, and that the created world can be seen as a "book" written by God and capable of being "read" in its own way by the various sciences.

In many ways, he set the stage for others like St. Thomas Aquinas to refine and deepen Catholic theology.

For these reasons, St. Albert the Great was canonized in 1931 and named Doctor of the Church.

The Apostles' Creed

"... and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary..."



What do we profess about Christ when we proclaim the Apostles' Creed?

- We proclaim our belief in Christ as the only Son of God one unique relationship with God, in contrast to those who suggested otherwise.
- We profess Christ as Lord the same title often used in the era of the Old Testament to describe Yahweh with respect.

· We profess belief in the immaculate conception.

Jesus' humanity allows us to identify closely with him, who also had fears, happiness, hunger, and fatigue. And it is in his Incarnation that we too have hope that we can be children of God in his Kingdom.

As we seek to become Pilgrims of Hope this year, let us contemplate the Creed, and how our proclamation of the Creed unites us to one another and to all Christians through time and space.

FORMED - Why did God become man?

FORMED - Was Jesus a Real Person (or Really God)?

FORMED - What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

Every November, as Holy Spirit, we gather together to offer a Mass for our retired staff. This month, the Mass will be held on **Tuesday, November 5, 5:00 at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre**. This is an important opportunity for us to gather together with our colleagues and to also remember those colleagues who have passed away. We recall their faithful service and witness in proclaiming the Gospel message to so many of us, former students and co-workers, and the lasting impact they have had on our communities. Please consider joining us this year!



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Anyone Who Has Lost a Child We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit. Water for State of Fouriers

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And the State of State of State of Fouriers

And the State of State of

Home Page

REMINDERS & INFORMATION



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 you 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!

About Us



facebook

864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB



@stmichaelspc

mikeadmin@holys pirit.ab.ca

403-627-3488

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

Office Hours:

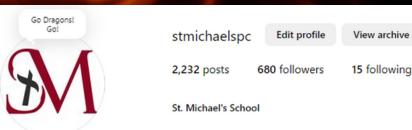
Mon - Thurs 8:00am - 4:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 2:00pm

DRAGON ATHLETICS!

Follow our socials to stay updated!











srboysdragons Following

Message

35 posts 320 followers 14 following

Official account of the STM Dragons Sr. Boys
Sets W/L: 69/9

♥: 2

▼: 1

-2024 1A boys volleyball provincial hosts





Friends of St. Michael's School Foundation

CO-OP GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER



- This is Friends of St. Michael's Foundation's largest fundraiser of the year. Pincher Creek CO-OP generously donates 10% of proceeds off every card bought directly from the Friends Foundation
- Need fuel, groceries, or hardware? Great for stocking stuffers. Cards can be used at any CO-OP location
- Easy to sign-up. Request forms are available at the school office or contact Diana Shortt @ 403.627.7740
- This helps the Foundation support student activities and athletics at St. Michael's School, Pincher Creek
- Thanks to CO-OP and to you for supporting this fundraiser!

Friends Of St. Michael's School Foundation Supporting
Academic Spiritual
Athletic Cultural

Programs & Activities

For St. Michael's School In Pincher Creek

Email: friendsofstmichaels23@gmail.com

Find Us On Facebook: @FriendsOfStMichaels

COOP GIFT CARD REQUEST FORM

NAME:
CONTACT NUMBER:
COOP GIFT CARD AMOUNT:
DENOMINATION OF CARDS:
FREQUENCY OF CARDS:(ONE TIME ONLY, MONTHLY, QUARTERLY, ETC)
METHOD OF PAYMENT: ETRANSFER, CASH, CHEQUE (PLEASE CIRCLE) Friendsofstmichaels23@gmail.com
PICKUP AT ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL OFFICE, SEND HOME WITH MY CHILD (NAME OF CHILD AND GRADE) or CONTACT DIANA SHORTT 403-627-7740 FOR PICKUP
"THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAELS FOUNDATION"



Understanding Assessment & Reporting

Grades 1-6

It is important for parents/guardians to understand how their children are doing in school. Research shows that students are most successful with active parent/guardian involvement in their learning.

Assessment happens every day, in every classroom, throughout the school year. Assessing a student's progress is one of the most important ways teachers support the continued learning of our students. Throughout the school day, students engage in learning tasks, activities, and discussions that have been designed by a teacher. Each learning opportunity is connected to the learning outcomes from Alberta Programs of Studies/Curriculum. Teachers regularly use a variety of assessment methods to collect and interpret information about what students know and can do in relation to the intended learning outcomes. The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning.

Assessment:

- Guides the development of learning tasks
- Promotes learner engagement and adaptive learning strategies
- Leads to adjustments in instruction
- Is shaped by the nature of the learning outcomes

During a unit of study, students have multiple and varied opportunities to develop, demonstrate, check, and refine their understanding of learning outcomes. Throughout this process, teachers and students engage in formative assessment; a way of checking What is your child learning to decide what to do next. Teachers provide timely and descriptive

feedback and plan for next steps in learning based on the needs of their students. Students participate in developing criteria for learning tasks, monitor their own progress, provide feedback to their peers, and identify goals and strategies to support their own growth and progress.

learning in school?

Alberta Education has a resource for parents/guardians who want to know what students are learning at each grade level. Visit New LearnAlberta to see what your child is learning!

How is my child doing in school?

It's important to know how your child is doing in school. Knowing more about your child's interests, strengths and areas for growth are critical to help you support their learning. Conversations with your child's teachers and the school administration team are great places to ask questions and discuss specific concerns. Beyond these conversations and the ones you have at home with your child, there are a number of ways you can learn more about your child's learning, progress, and achievement.

Where can I find information about how and what my child is doing at school?

Regular communication between you, your child, and their teacher builds an understanding of student achievement over the course of the year. Communication can happen in a variety of ways throughout the year.

- Ongoing reporting through our digital portfolio platform, SpacesEDU, helps you understand how your child is progressing and learning toward grade-level outcomes.
- Informal communication occurs on an ongoing basis and serves to build shared understandings of what students know and can do in day-to-day learning experiences.
- Individual Student Plan (ISP) meetings, office hours, student learning conferences, and/or parent/teacher conferences

General programming information shared throughout the year (via SpacesEDU or other methods) helps you
understand what your child is learning and demonstrates some of their learning experiences, but does not
provide details about individual student progress and achievement (e.g., field trips, celebrations of learning,
student performances, agendas, etc.)

What does my child's SpacesEDU portfolio tell me?

The SpacesEDU portfolio is an ongoing communication tool about your child's learning. Both teachers and students are encouraged to create posts that share details about the learning but also communicates achievement over time. Most of the posts on your child's SpacesEDU portfolio will include the following components:

- Evidence of the student's work/learning (this may be a photo, video, audio recording or link to a file the student created)
- Curriculum Outcome(s) addressed by the project/learning activity
- Proficiency Scale with an achievement indicator to let you know where your child is at that time in relation to achieving the intended learning outcome
- · Feedback/comments from the teacher to indicate areas for growth and suggestions on how to improve

Some SpacesEDU posts may include:

- A rubric that identifies the success criteria of a given learning task/assessment
- · A student reflection on their learning
- An opportunity for parents/guardians to respond to the post

What is the Proficiency Scale?

The Proficiency Scale contains the achievement indicators used to describe to what extent a student has demonstrated achievement of Alberta Curricula outcomes. When a teacher attaches an achievement indicator to a post in your child's SpacesEDU portfolio, it serves as an indication of where the student is at a given point in time. The same outcome(s) may be revisited and reassessed throughout the year. Often the achievement indicators will be accompanied by teacher comments, specific to your child's growth, in the SpacesEDU portfolios.

Not Yet

The student has yet to demonstrate an acceptable level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). Evidence may be vague or undeveloped. Targeted adjustments to planning and instruction will be necessary for further learning in this area.

Basic

The student demonstrates
the required level of
performance in relation to
the learner outcome(s). The
student may not
demonstrate the required
level of performance
consistently or may require
support. Evidence may be
adequate and/or
concrete. Adjustments to
planning and instruction
may be necessary for
further learning in this area.

Proficiency

The student demonstrates a good level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). The student consistently demonstrates this level of performance. Evidence may be clear and/or well-reasoned. Students achieving this level can be confident in being prepared for further learning in this area.

Excellent

The student demonstrates an outstanding level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). The student consistently demonstrates this level of performance. Students achieving this level have excellent demonstration of grade level outcomes and can be confident in being prepared for further learning in this area.

First Nations Metis and Inuit (FNMI)

Oki and Hello to all of our returning and new families joining us this year at St Michael's School here on Treaty 7 land. Our FNMI team is excited to be working with and supporting our Indigenous and Métis students as they begin another wonderful year. We are so blessed to have Tracy Wolfe (Piitaaki) returning as the First Nations Métis and Inuit Facilitator for our students and families. Sheena Adamson will be working alongside Tracy as the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Graduation Coach.

We would also like to showcase our new classroom space right in the heart of our school. Families, please do not hesitate to contact our team if you have any questions or concerns or need any support for your children's success.

Sheena Adamson (<u>adamsons@holyspirit.ab.ca</u>;

403-627-3488)

Tracy Wolfe (wolfet@holyspirit.ab.ca; 403-632-7316)



Thanks to a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage's

Indigenous Languages and Cultures program, our Niitsitapi

Facilitator team is hosting a series of language events for families in the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. We welcome our families to join our team and our Elders throughout the year at various schools.

Please contact **Kendrick Fox** <u>foxk@holyspirit.ab.ca</u> or **Shelley Kirkvold** at <u>403 327-9555 kirkvolds@holyspirit.ab.ca</u> for more information.



GOLDEN GARBAGE PROGRAM

I would like to thank all clubs and businesses that helped support the program through their generous donations!

- Friends of St. Michaels
- Knights of Columbus
- Cowley Lions Club
- Pincher Lions Club
- McDonald's Pincher Creek
- The Bright Pearl Restaurant
- COOP Grocery Store
- COOP Gas Bar
- Antonio's Pizza
- Ascent Dental
- Little Tee's Hair Salon







Scan to join

With Respect,
TREVOR CLINTON
SCHOOL CARETAKER



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!

St Michael's School

Cell Phone & Personal Electronic Device Policy

(Implemented Jan. 07, 2019/Updated May 2024)

Rationale

Cellphones **are not** considered acceptable devices for educational learning purposes. Although many students have iphones, and Android phones, ipods, and smart watches, they do not meet the necessary requirements as an accepted learning device. St. Michael's School has Chromebooks, Laptops and Ipads available for student use throughout the day.

During Class Time:

Elementary- No cell phones or PED's including smart watches.

Junior High School- Cell phones/PED's can be used on Phone Friday during nutrition break. (Gr 9 allowed their phones during lunch time in the Den)

High School - Cell phones can be used during breaks and spares.

Cell phones and Personal Electronic Devices (PED's) which are brought to school are expected to be placed into the classroom bin at the beginning of every class. Students also have the option to keep their phone 'out of sight' and silenced in their pocket/locker. If the device is visible during class time at all disciplinary action will be taken. This also includes use of smart watches- notifications must be turned off to be worn during instructional time.

Failure to adhere to school protocol surrounding responsible use will result in the following discipline: 1st offence - > cell phone taken away and placed in the office. The device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

2nd offence ➤ cell phone taken away and placed in the office. Student will meet with administration prior to having their cell phone returned.

3rd offence ➤ cell phone taken away, placed in the office and returned to parent/ guardian. Administration will meet and contact parent / guardian to discuss acceptable use and to return the device.

Images/Audio:

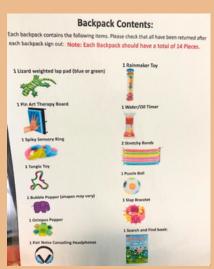
Devices capable of capturing, transmitting, or storing images or recording and storing audio **may NOT** be operated in restrooms, dressing rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Phones must be secured prior to entering the change room.

Under NO circumstances shall any video, picture capturing or audio recording device be used in any classroom without the express consent of the teacher and school administration. Special consideration shall be given to protect the privacy of students in the classroom if such permission is granted. Operation of any electronic device is prohibited in testing situations or where testing materials are present.



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/napifriendshi passociation
https://www.pcfamilycentre.ca/calendar
https://www.brighterfuturesproject.com/parent-workshops
https://www.pincherlearn.ca/

EXTRA RESOURCES

https://instituteofchildpsychology.com/resources/https://instituteofchildpsychology.com/freewebinars/https://healthymindslearning.ca/

KIDSPORT PINCHER CREEK 2024 INCOME CUT-OFFS INFORMATION

Let's get kids active in sport! 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	\$57,005
3 Persons	\$70,081
4 Persons	\$85,086
5 Persons	\$96,504
6 Persons	\$108,839
7 or more Persons	\$121,177

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



 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 Pincher Creek 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 https://kidsportcanada.ca

Even if families do not meet the requirements, <u>ALL</u> applications will be considered!!



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