

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MICHAEL'S
SCHOOL

5 January/February 2025

Principal's Message:

"Rise Above. Inspire Greatness."

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Do you ever get tired of the school's automatic 'dialer' calling you at home? Wonder why it's calling? The answer is... your child is ABSENT! In order to avoid the 'dialer' callout on your phone:

- Ensure your child gets to school, and on time! Did you know that studies have shown even missing 10% of the school days affects crucial learning.
- Call the school when your child will be away! Communicating with the office by calling 403-627-3488 allows us to mark your child as 'medical' or 'sick' or 'parent excused' for the day which avoids the dialer.
- Communicate to teachers! Teachers also have the ability to change your child's attendance and inform the office of excused absences.

"Hello! This message is from St. Michael's School informing you that your child, _____, has been ABSENT from one or more of their classes today."

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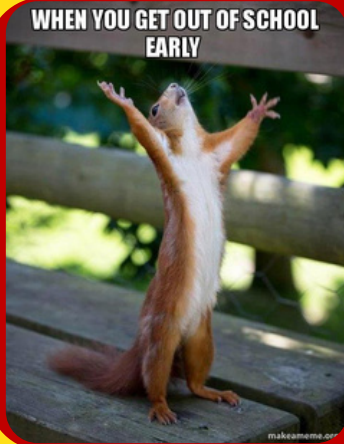
In all, we're in a New Year, and a new semester! Let's make 2025 a time to improve our school attendance by ensuring your child is healthy to come, and attending regularly. We ALL have a responsibility to ensure children are well equipped with their learning; attending is the most important part! When your child is away, we're here to work together alongside available community support. 2025 is our year to commit to identify and address the underlying reasons for absenteeism, and assist you as families to get your child to school- and avoid the 'dialer'!

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

♥ Karen Schmidt
Principal



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 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!

About Us


 **facebook**

864 Christie Avenue,
Pincher Creek, AB

403-627-3488



@stmichaelspc

 **mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca**

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

Office Hours:

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

Friday
8:00am - 2:00pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

2 Ground Hog Day

3 FOSM Meeting
NEW STUDENT
REGISTRATION

5 Ribbon Skirt
Spirit Day

6 Lockdown Practice
2pm

10 Farm Safety
(Kinder - grade 6)



7, 14, 21, 28
Mini Basketball
for grades 5 & 6



13 Indigenous Language &
Culture Evening

14 Valentine's Day

16 Grad Volleyball
Fundraising Tournament



17 Family Day &
Reading Week
(No School)



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





ST. MICHAEL'S PINCHER CREEK

**GRAD '25
FUNDRAISER
CO-ED
VOLLEYBALL
TOURNAMENT**

SUNDAY

16 FEB 2025

FEE: \$200.00/TEAM

*EACH TEAM IS
GUARANTEED 4 GAMES*

**LOCATION: ST. MICHAEL'S
PINCHER CREEK GYM**

**CONTACT:
RILEY MCCOLLISTER - 403339376
CELINE ZEPEDA - 4036327197**

**ROSTER/TEAM DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 13 (FRIDAY)**



Bright Futures Begin Here

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2025/2026 REGISTRATION



Re-Registration Starts January 13, 2025

Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 13-17, 2025 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2025/2026 school year.

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 3, 2025

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2025/2026 school year are invited to register online starting on Monday, February 3, 2025.

- 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, 2025.
- **Grade 1** registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2025.
- **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.

Noah's Ark pre- school

registration



Open Registration : February 3, 2025

Please contact Mrs. McCollister if you have any
questions about the program!

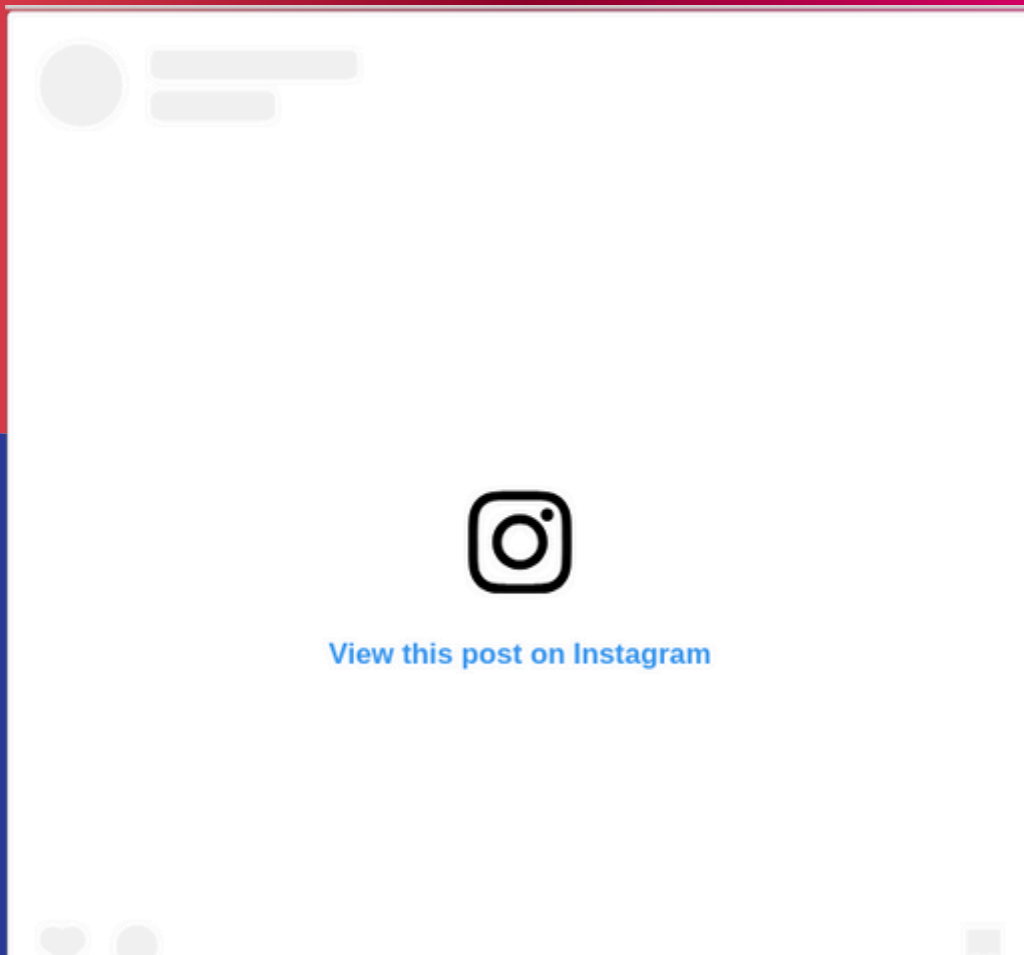
Work #: 403-627-3488

Please visit **St. Michael's website** to register :

smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca

French Corner

click for more information





FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

DID YOU KNOW?

Our French Immersion Program starts in Grade 1 or Grade 2!
 No previous French Language or French background required.
 Transfers from other programs are welcomed!



Register here NOW!

Also offering:

- *Support for Parents*
- *French Homework Club*
- *French infused learning in Kindergarten*
- *Exciting field trips and cultural activities*
- *Enriched learning and life-long opportunities for your child*



Phone Number: 403-627-3488
Email: smpcoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://SMPc.HOLYSPiRiT.AB.CA/](https://smpc.holyspirit.ab.ca/)

A PROUD HISTORY FOR OVER 40 YEARS !

A quality, inclusive program offered in French for students in Gr.1-6, in a nurturing PreK-Gr.12 school

February Newsletter



Hello Kindergarten Families,

I hope you have all been staying warm these past few days. It has been quite a change from the above seasonal temperatures we have been enjoying. Please make sure you are sending your child with clothing that is appropriate for the weather. We will be aiming to be outside unless the temperature is below -20.

February is going to fly by. We not only have fewer days, but we have no school from Feb. 17th - 21st. That being said, we will be packing many activities into our days at school this month.

This month our focus is on **kindness, friendship and love**. We will be having a kindness challenge that encourages students to complete acts of kindness for others. In Religion we will learn about the many ways Jesus showed kindness to others.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 12th for the M/W class and Friday, February 14th for the T/Th class. For our parties students are invited to bring in Valentine cards for their classmates. We would also invite you to send in Valentine treats on the party day if you wish. There is a list of student names on the back of this newsletter.

We will be having a lockdown practice on February 6th, a farm safety presentation on February 10th and we will all wear pink on February 26th for Pink Shirt Day.

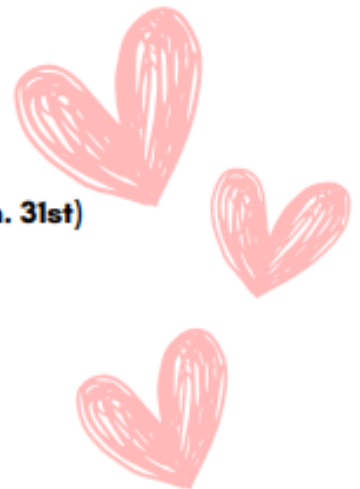
Please remember to check the Special Day Calendar that was sent home last week for your child's show and tell day.

Thanks,

Mrs. Zoratti

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, Feb. 6th - Lockdown practice
- **Friday, Feb. 7th - No School for Students** (in lieu of Scientists in school Jan. 31st)
- Monday, Feb. 10th - Farm Safety Presentation
- Wednesday, Feb 12th - M/W Valentines Party
- Friday, Feb. 14th - F2 - T/Th class at school (Valentines Party)
- **February 17th - 21st - No school (Family Day & Teacher Convention)**
- Wednesday, Feb. 26th - Pink Shirt Day (February 27th for T/Th Class)
- Friday, Feb. 28 - Friday 1 - M/W class at school



Kindergarten



'Tis The Season!!!



*Time to sign-up for our Easter 2026
Trip to England and Scotland!!
For current grades 9-11 ONLY*

*Come explore castles, Scotland's beautiful green hills,
London's landmarks and spend a day at Warner
Bros and become a Hogwarts student for a day!!*

*Contact Manon Thauvette for more
information: 403 627-7933*



**We now accept
Debit/Credit!**



**Come into the office if you'd like to pay for student fees with debit/credit cards!
We can take MasterCard, Visa, AMEX, and apple pay!**

WANTED

SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT

REPRESENTATIVES



- **1 parent representative for each class for Pre-K to grade 6.**
- **1 parent representative for the whole of Junior High**
- **1 parent representative for the whole of Senior High**
 - Get the chance to represent your child's class monthly!
 - Share school news and activities to and with other parents in the class.
 - Get involved in planning & executing fun activities!
 - Meet once a month (1st Tuesdays at 7pm).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: **Kathryn Marsh**
Parent Council Chair



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
PINCHER CREEK
— Est. 1904 —

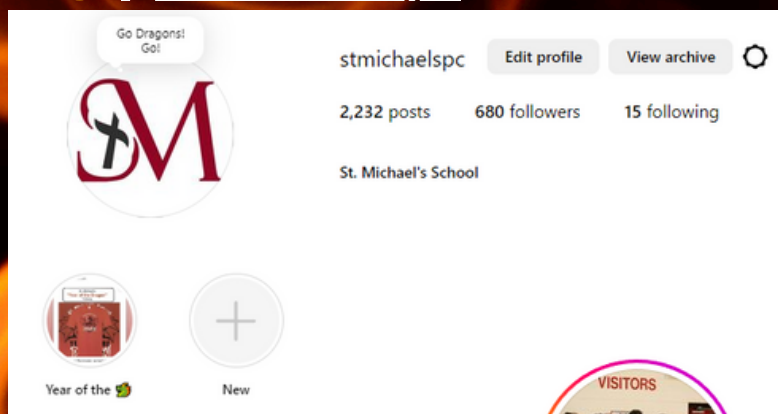
stmikesschoolcouncil.chair@gmail.com,
mikeadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca

DRAGON ATHLETICS!

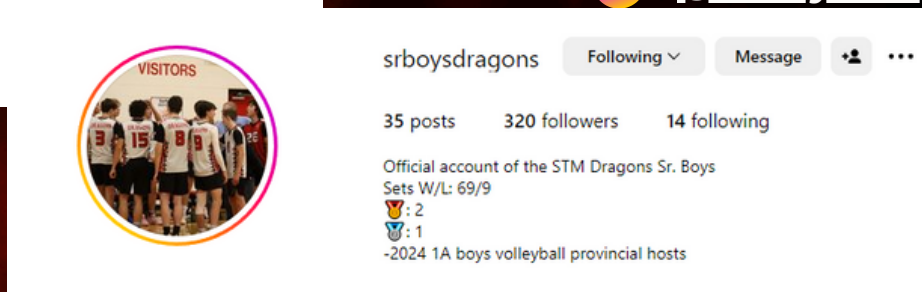
Follow our socials to stay updated!



@stmichaelspc



@srboysdragons



facebook

Games and Gym
Schedule (link).



SCAN HERE





First Nations Metis and Inuit (FNMI)

Sheena Adamson
FNMI Academic Support
(Grad Coach)



Tracy Wolfe (Piitaaki)
First Nations (Niitsitapi), Métis
and Inuit Facilitator



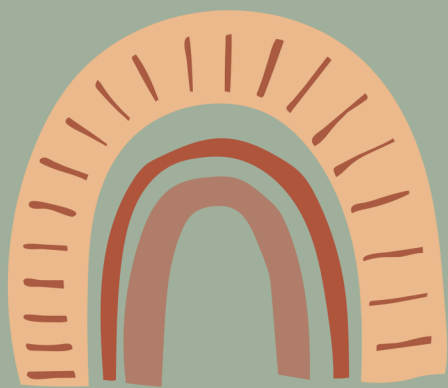
St. Michael's School
864 Christie Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0
403-627-3488
smpcoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca



Iispok'ksikatkimayaa
“Striving for Higher Knowledge”

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** foxk@holyspirit.ab.ca or **Shelley Kirkvold** at [403 327-9555 kirkvolds@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:403_327-9555_kirkvolds@holyspirit.ab.ca) for more information.

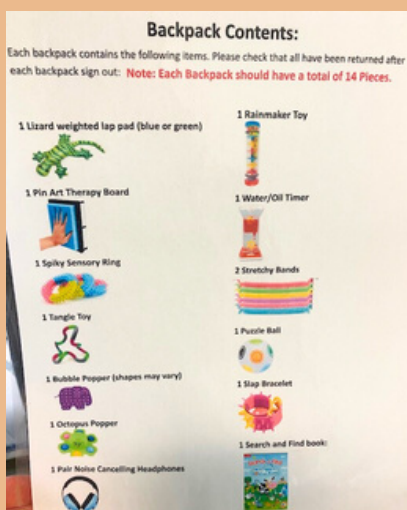
Good news! Billy Woitte, our Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide (ISWAG) may be able to offer transportation if funding allows.



Family School Liaison Counsellor News

St. Michael's School

SENSORY BACKPACKS



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

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR ALL AGES

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

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

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

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

EXTRA RESOURCES

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

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

<https://healthymindslearning.ca/>



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!

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

friendsofstmichaels23@gmail.com

**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"

January



St. Thomas Aquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, You are the source of light and wisdom.

Fill my mind with your brightness,

and take away anything that keeps me from learning and loving.

Help me think clearly and remember what I learn.

Make it easier for me to understand,

and give me the grace to share my thoughts with others.

Be with me as I start my work, guide me as I go,
and help me finish it well. I ask this through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with You and the Father forever. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us!

February



O Lord,

who has mercy upon all,
take away from me my sins,
and mercifully kindle in me the fire
of your Holy Spirit.

Take away from me the heart of stone,
and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore You,
a heart to delight in You,
to follow and enjoy You,
for Christ's sake. Amen

St. Ambrose — pray for us!

**Saints of
the World**



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Disconnect to Reconnect

Anthea Boras, Deputy Superintendent



Happy February Holy Spirit Family! Although February is the shortest month of the year, it can often feel long as it's typically one of the coldest here in Southern Alberta.

In January, I had the privilege of participating in the Learn-Build-Go session. Some of my key takeaways included the importance of the seasons and the cultural significance of winter for our Indigenous peoples. Winter is a time for rest, reflection, and community gathering. This season is often dedicated to socializing, storytelling, and the passing on of traditional knowledge.

As I listened and learned, I found myself connecting these insights with a recent book study I completed on *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt. In his research, Haidt argues that the growing reliance on digital devices and social media has profoundly limited our connections with one another, contributing to a widespread decline in mental health and well-being.

Bringing these learnings together reinforced for me the importance of taking intentional breaks from screens, especially during this winter season. Let's use this time to foster real connections, share stories, and engage in playful moments with the people we love. Disconnecting even a little can help us reconnect with what truly matters and nurture our mental health in meaningful ways.

God Bless ~ Anthea



OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

CCH EAST
Rm 154



February 2025

Skills Canada Competitions Coming Soon!

The Skills Canada Competitions offer a fantastic chance to showcase your skills in various trades and technology fields. **Important Dates:**

- February 8 - Registration Closes
- March 8 - South West Regional Event at Lethbridge Polytechnic

Visit Skills Alberta Events for more information. Don't miss out!

Extra Assistance for Regional Welding Competitors:

Dave Heins from Lethbridge Polytechnic is offering extra support to Regional welding competitors starting Friday, January 24. Take advantage of this opportunity to fine-tune your skills!

Session Schedule:

- Time: 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
 - Dates: January 31, February 7, February 21, February 28, March 7

Dave, a Regional Skills Expert and experienced instructor, has coached apprentices to national competitions. His passion for welding and expertise makes these sessions invaluable.

To Register:

- Sign up early to ensure your spot. We will send the list of registered students to Dave by noon on each session day. **Registration Link:** Welding Training Sessions

For more information, registration questions, or to cancel, notify Miss. Amakobe at

amakobev@holyspirit.ab.ca or 403-593-2903

Who BILDS it Best Live Building Competition

The Who BILDS it Best live building competition is back for high school students (grades 10-12) at the Home, Garden & Leisure Show in Lethbridge, happening **March 13-15, 2025!**

This exciting event challenges students to showcase their building skills in a hands-on competition with great prizes and opportunities to connect with potential employers in the trades industry.

- **Registration Deadline:** February 7, 2025. Find the **registration form** [HERE](#)
- **Team Setup:** Students are encouraged to register in teams of 2, but individual registrations are welcome and students will be placed on a team.

Don't miss out on the chance to demonstrate your talent and make industry connections!

Veterinary Technical Assistant Certificate (VTA)

Thinking about a career in Animal Science? **Exciting news**—starting in 2025-2026, Holy Spirit will be offering the **Veterinary Technical Assistant (VTA) Certificate in partnership with Olds College!** This unique program allows students to graduate with both their Grade 12 diploma and their VTA Certificate, fully prepared to enter the dynamic world of animal care.

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to jumpstart
your career in the animal sciences field!



Dual Credit Program

If you missed the Dual Credit Orientation or would like to review the session, you can access the recording [HERE](#).

Important Dates:

Winter Dual Credit Semester Starts: Monday, Feb 3.

Family Week Break: No class from Feb. 17-21.

Last Day of Class: May 14.



Additional Information:

- **Program Start Time:** Dual credit classes begin at 8:00 AM on **Feb. 3**.
- **Welcome Letter:** You should have received a welcome letter with details about your program and textbooks. If not, please contact us.
- **Parking Passes:** A Lethbridge Polytechnic coordinator will distribute parking passes soon.
- **Lethbridge Polytechnic Account:** Ensure you can log in to your account. If you haven't received login instructions, please reach out.

Reminder

If you're enrolled in the **Registered Apprenticeship or Work Experience programs**, please remember to submit your completed work hours as soon as possible.

Send your work hours to:
hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca.



EPIC DAY

EPIC DAY, hosted by Career Transitions, on Wednesday, **April 16**, from **9:00AM - 2:30 PM**.

More information can be found [here](#).
Speak with the Off-Campus Team if you're interested!

Mark Boschee
Off-Campus Coordinator
Career Centre, East Campus on Tuesday/Friday
Cell: 587-220-4258
Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca

Vero Amakobe
Career Practitioner
Office on Campus, West on Thursdays
403-327-4596 ext 312
Email: amakobev@holyspirit.ab.ca



Smudging

Smudging and prayer hold deep spiritual significance within Indigenous traditions, serving as profound connections to the Creator and integral aspects of daily life. These sacred practices nurture spiritual well-being, offering guidance, healing, and a sense of balance. By exploring their

meaning and role in Indigenous spirituality, we gain a deeper appreciation for their importance in fostering harmony and connection with the world around us.

Building Understanding: The 'Whys' of Smudging

As we integrate these spiritual practices into our schools and communities, it's essential to answer the 'whys.' Why is Smudging important? When is it appropriate? By understanding these questions, we can better appreciate the sacredness of this tradition and ensure it is done with respect.

Our Niitsitapi facilitators emphasize the importance of creating a space where smudging can be honored. The smudge box, a sacred object, typically contains dirt or clay, often sourced from a badger hole. Coal is lit within the box, and traditional plants such as sweetgrass, sage, and sweet pine are placed on the hot coal to produce cleansing smoke that purifies the body and spirit.

In Blackfoot culture, the smudge box is traditionally used during talking or sharing circles. It is considered sacred and should remain in a designated spot, always facing east. Once lit, the smudge should be allowed to burn out naturally, symbolizing respect for the ritual and its sacred purpose.

- **Connection** Smudging is important because a person is making a connection to the higher power — the source of where all life comes from — “Ihtapaitapiyo’pa” who will hear our prayers. It is an important way to start one’s day in a good way.
- **Cleansing** Smudging is a cleansing process, ridding a person of negativity and helps give a sense of purpose to a person’s day by inviting us to be mindful, let go of negativity and bring balance to our day and our lives.
- **Voluntary** Smudging is always voluntary and no one should be forced to smudge.
- As places of learning, schools can offer this relevant Indigenous practice to build understanding and to provide opportunities for student success.
- Different protocols for different groups within Canada’s Indigenous cultures.

- Different medicinal plants used:
 - Sweetgrass
 - Sage
 - Sweet Pine
 - All should be available for a smudge
- Protocol Individual vs. Groups (anyone can smudge, but only those who are transferred the rights can smudge for a group).
- Choose a regular place and time.
- Creating a space, not a demonstration
- School Policies Schools can establish a smudging site at their school using the guidelines in the Administrative Procedure. The site is chosen in consultation with the administration. [Holy Spirit Administrative Procedure 164 Smudging/Pipe Ceremonies](#)

To aid this understanding, we will provide resources and support, including a video on Smudging by Tom Little Bear [Kataomaahka Tom Little Bear Aatsimoyihkaan \(Prayer\)](#) Together, let us walk this path of reconciliation, embracing the wisdom of both Indigenous spirituality and Catholic prayer, and creating spaces for healing, reflection, and growth.



SMUDGING CHART



Iispok'ksikatkimayaa
"Striving for Higher Knowledge"



The Business of Play: Updates from the Early Learning Centre



As a school division committed to excellence, we recognize the critical role of Early Learning Programming in shaping the future of our students. Research consistently highlights that high-quality early childhood education leads to improved academic performance, social-emotional development, and long-term success. We are proud to celebrate how our division is rising to this challenge by implementing exceptional Early Learning Programming that meets the diverse needs of our youngest learners.

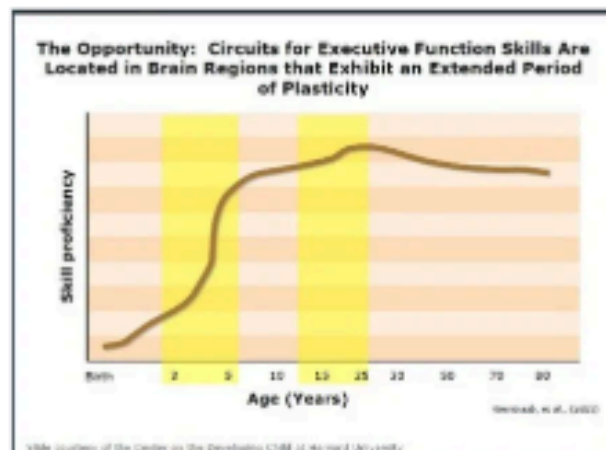
Why Early Learning Matters

Early Learning lays the foundation for lifelong learning and success. Studies show that children who participate in quality early education programs demonstrate:

- Stronger literacy and numeracy skills
- Enhanced social-emotional development
- Increased readiness for kindergarten and beyond
- Higher graduation rates and future career success

"It has been well established that investing in the preschool years provides the greatest return on investment. Some estimates show its value at 7 to 1 whereas other estimates are as high as 15 to 1." (Dr. Robbin Gibb, 2024)

Age 3 to 5 are some of the greatest years of brain plasticity, allowing our work to have a significant impact for years to come. In the Holy Spirit School Division our aim is to foster the development of executive functioning skills through exposure to play opportunities and peer interactions with the support of highly skilled staff in our Early Learning Programs. Executive functioning skills include emotional control, focus, working memory, organization, planning/prioritizing, flexibility of thought, task initiation, time management, stress tolerance, self-restraint, and more. Each of these skills is pivotal for lifelong learning and success. The business of play is not frivolous; it is real work yielding significant results.



Leading the Way in Early Learning Programming

At Holy Spirit School Division, our Early Learning vision is:
“We answer God’s call to support every child in achieving their potential by building capacity and empowering families and the community.”

Our Early Learning Centre Team—inclusive of an Early Learning Supervisor, Lead Teachers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Family & Program Enhancement Facilitators—collaborates with families, staff, and the community to support children’s development.

Recognizing the importance of early learning, we’ve recently updated our programming guidelines with a focus on areas such as executive functioning, outdoor and risky play, early STEM curiosity, sensory play, and loose parts play. The pilot program launched in January 2025, with full implementation set for January 2026. This newly developed programming guideline is the work of our Holy Spirit team and the resulting product is unique to our division.

Our new structure introduces a monthly *primary focus*, guiding program leaders and teachers in activity planning while ensuring *core learning domains* are integrated. This approach maintains equity across sites while allowing flexibility to adapt to children’s interests and passions, creating rich, responsive daily learning experiences.

Looking Ahead

Our division is committed to continuous improvement in Early Learning Programming. We continue to explore new initiatives and look for efficiencies in the services that we currently provide. We aim to continue to be responsive to societal needs and changing times in education. We look with interest at what our schools are providing for programming throughout the years to ensure we continue to be an appropriate building block on which children develop, ready to take on their academic years ahead.

When you consider the work that takes place in our Early Learning Programs, above all else, please remember that the business of play truly is a remarkably important thing. There is much more going on than meets the eye! Quality early experiences and responsive relationships at home, school, and community will result in resilient, emotionally stable children who will develop into confident, contributing citizens of tomorrow.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

VOLUME XXXII
NO. 20

Here in Spirit



Holy Spirit Catholic Schools Newsletter

Employment Opportunities at a Glance:

- **Secretary-Treasurer** - St. Basil Catholic Education Centre
- **Teacher** – St. Francis Junior High School
- **Computer Technician** – St. Basil Catholic Education Centre
- **Education Assistant** – Trinity Learning Centre
- **First Nations, Métis and Inuit Facilitator** – Lethbridge and Area Schools
- **Speech Language Pathologist** – Division Schools
- **Teacher** – St. Francis Junior High School
- **Casual Caretakers** – Division Schools
- **Substitute Teachers** – Division Schools

(➤ Denotes new posting since last publication.)

Our Mission Statement

We are a Catholic Faith Community, dedicated to providing each student entrusted to 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 foundation of all that we do.

to read more
CLICK HERE



HOLY SPIRIT STARS

January 2025

★ Please join us in congratulating the following students and staff for their achievements:

NAME	SCHOOL	ACHIEVEMENT
Zailee Mayer Gordie Chisholm Graeme Martens Adelynn Zielke Savina Eugene Alexander Ingram Zola Oyortey James Scully Lucas Ritz Nathan Jaye Estares Chase Penaverde Alessandro Pinlac Beauden Mayer Augustine Ritz Evie Marsh Claire Metheral Lena Wynder Brody Welsch Rylan Williams Callan DeCock Kayden Blanchard Cali Goodfellow Jayda Oyortey John Chisholm Miguel Amador Lazo Meg Wynder Cheska Misa Felix Hache Isaiah Eugene Victoria Wilhelm Josh Elfred Bautista Ben Marsh Jacob Kaupp Tristan Bonertz Greta Denie Olivia Holloway Angelyn Davis	St. Michael's School, Pincher Creek	Grades 1-6 French Immersion students who dedicated endless hours to rehearsals and gave an outstanding performance at the Carol Festival in Pincher Creek.



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 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.

What is your child 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	Basic	Proficiency	Excellent
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

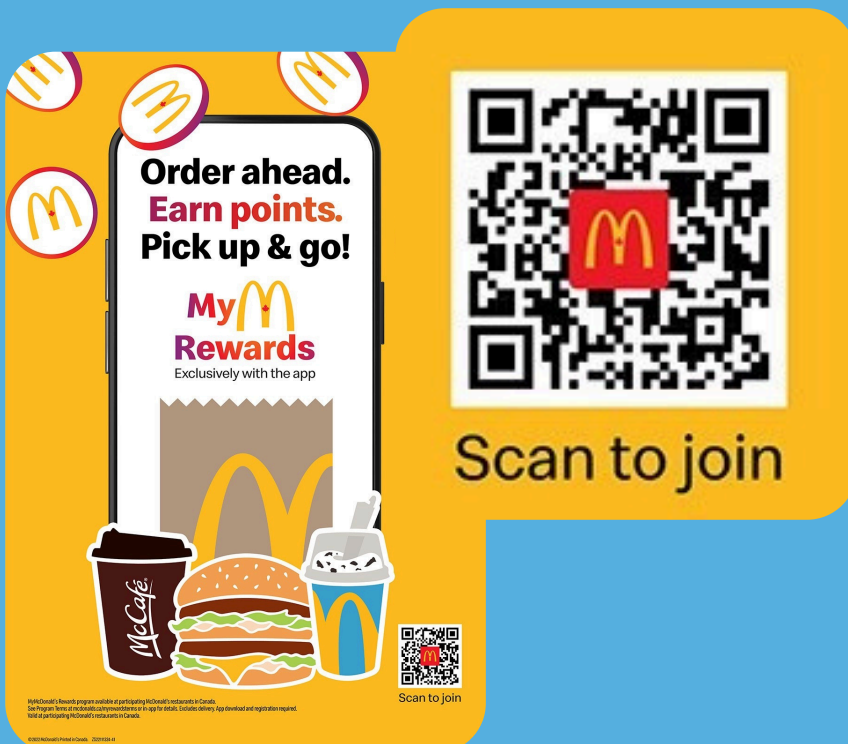
GOLDEN GARBAGE PROGRAM

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

Thank You

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.

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

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 Pincher Creek 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>

**Even if families do not meet the requirements,
ALL 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