



Thursday,
Feb. 10
8:30 a.m.

**ST. MARY'S
IN-PERSON
POST-SECONDARY
FAIR**

More
Details to
follow

A decorative graphic featuring a purple background with various educational and space-themed icons: a yellow pencil, a globe, a rocket, an astronaut, a book, a graduation cap, and a red apple. The apple has the text "More Details to follow" written on it.

- 2 Boys - SMBI @ SMS 6pm
- 3-5 Auroras @ Rundle College
- 4-5 JV League Finals (Boys @ St. Joe's/Girls @ RI Baker)
- 7 Boys - Taber Christian @ SMS
- 8 School Council Meeting @ 6pm. All SMS parents are invited
- 9 Celtics @ Taber Christian
- 10 SMS In-Person Post Secondary fair for high school students
- 11-12 SV Boys League Finals @ Nobleford
- 11-12 Auroras @ FP Walshe
- 14 Girls - Erle Rivers @ SMS
- 17 Pink Shirt Day @ SMS
- 18 School PD Day - No School
- 21-25 Family Week - No School
- 28 River Ridge Girls Playoff

All games are subject to changes in dates, times and locations.

OFFICE HOURS FOR SMS TEACHERS SEMESTER 2 (2021-2022)

Do you need extra help with any subjects or assignments? Check out this chart for extra time the teachers are putting in for just that reason. Stop in and ask your questions, or get the help you need. Parents are also welcome to stop in for a chat during these extra hours.



Mr. Bergenhenengowen	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Ms. Buit	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Doolittle	Thursdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Ms. Gatz	Tuesdays	3:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Mr. Kraemer	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Lagler	Thursdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Makarchuk	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Marchesin	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Meier	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Siemens	Mon/Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Mrs. Smith	Thursdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Ms. Vienneau	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Vornbrock	Thursdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

Community Education Service



Improving emotional health and well being

Supporting Children and Youth through Grief & Loss (Post Pandemic)

Vicki Tole CYC, Mental Health First Aid Instructor

Stephanie Sands BSc

FREE Educational Session

To watch a child grieve and not know what to do is a profoundly difficult experience for parents, teachers, and caregivers. There are many life experiences that can produce feelings of grief in a child, from the death of a relative or a divorce in the family to more everyday experiences such as moving to a new neighborhood or losing a prized possession. The pandemic has added even more reasons, with children grieving the loss of normalcy and a sense of safety. This session is to help adults counter the false idea of "not feeling bad" and to empower children with positive, effective methods of dealing with loss. We will look at guidelines for helping children develop a lifelong, healthy response to loss and how you can support them through these tough times.

February 3, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Click here to
register**

This session is presented by the Community Education Service of the Mental Health & Substance Use Collaborative Initiatives & Child & Adolescent Addiction & Mental Health and Psychiatry Program (CAAMHPP) of Alberta Health Services & **RVS, MHC B Stepping Stones to Mental Health.**

CES@ahs.ca <http://community.hmhc.ca/> 403 955-4730

Band News

The Grade 6 Band Annual Workshop will take place Wednesday, March 16th at the Taber Civic Centre. We will be leaving the school at 8:35 and be returning around 3:00. Please look for the parent letter will be sent home later this month.

The next Home Performance Assignment is due Tuesday, March 1st. Please ask to hear your son or daughter play at home.

All Grade 6-8 students are reminded that they should be practicing at least 70 minutes per week. Practice sheets are available in the band room and should be handed in every week. Practice sheets form 10% of a student's mark.

The St. Mary's Jazz Band meets every Tuesday from 3:15 to 4:30 in the band room. It is open to students from grades 7-12, however students in grade 6 with a higher ability are also welcome to join (please talk to Mr. Makarchuk if you are interested). The next executive meeting of the St. Mary's Band Booster Club will be Tuesday, February 25th at 7pm in the band room. Any interested parents are invited to attend.



Lexi S. is one of our Athletes of the week for participation on the JV Storm Girls Basketball team. Lexi is in Grade 7 and this is her first time playing basketball for St. Mary's. She has shown great enthusiasm for the start of the basketball season. She has shown dedication and improvement on and off the court. She has been a leader offensively and defensively for her team. Her love for the game has already shown in our basketball season. Wishing you a great season and long basketball career at St. Mary's

The athlete of the week from the Junior JV boys Storm basketball team is Ngiey C. Ngiey has shown a lot of leadership on the team so far this year. He works hard to support his teammates and encourages them on the floor. Congrats Ngiey!



OFF-CAMPUS NEWS



Careers Virtual Showcase

Check out careers in Forestry on
February 16 from 6-7:30pm
Register at:

<https://www.careersnextgen.ca/event/virtual-showcase-forestry/>



Student for a Day Week

Medicine Hat College is hosting Student for a Day from February 14-18. Students will attend classes they are interested in, speak with instructors and classmates, eat lunch in the cafeteria and take a tour of the college.

Sign up by emailing Alison at: aclark@mhc.ab.ca



January Hours

All RAP and Work Experience students please remember to hand in or send your January time sheets or pay stubs to Mr. Boschee or Mrs. Gurr.



Online Career Exploration Sessions

Check out a career as a Wind Turbine Technician on February 16 at 5pm Register at:

<https://www.careersteps.ca/exploration-sessions/>

Check out other Career Sessions on the same website



Dual Credit Program

There is still time to register for a Dual Credit course for the Winter semester with our post-secondary partner, Olds College. Students can choose from any of the courses below that will earn them five 30-level high school credits and three credits from the post-secondary institution. Registration deadline is February 5th, 2022.

Course Offerings Winter Semester 2022 (February - May)

- **Applied Ecology** - online, asynchronous
- **Global and Sustainable Tourism** - online, asynchronous
- **Intro to Sports Management** - online, asynchronous
- **Producing Horticulture Crops** - online, asynchronous
- **Solving Technology Problems (Agriculture Based)** - online, asynchronous
- **Veterinary Practice: The Team Connection** - online, asynchronous

For more information about the Dual Credit program, please contact Mrs. McAdam at mcadamw@holyspirit.ab.ca



The Kings University

The Kings University in Edmonton is having a virtual Information Night on March 2 from 5-8pm. Register at: <https://www.kingsu.ca/about-us/calendar>

Your Off-Campus Team

Mark Boschee - Off-Campus Coordinator Cell: 587-220-4258 or Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca
Wendy Gurr - Career Practitioner - 403-327-4596 Ext 312 or Email: gurrw@holyspirit.ab.ca
Wendy McAdam - Dual Credit Liaison— 403-327-4596 Ext 313 or Email: mcadamw@holyspirit.ab.ca





Looking forward to a new year with ...

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2022/2023 REGISTRATION



Re-Registration Starts January 17, 2022

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email during the week of January 17-21, 2022 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child who will be attending during the 2022/2023 school year.

This update allows us to make sure the information on file is accurate and that any legal declarations, preferences and consents are renewed. It also allows our schools to plan for the upcoming 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 1, 2022

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2022/2023 school year are invited to register online starting on February 1, 2022.

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Our **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2022.

For information about our Early Learning and Kindergarten Programs, or to discuss your child's specialized programming requirements, contact our Early Learning Coordinator at 403-381-8495 or earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca.



For More Information

If you need assistance with the online registration process, or have any questions, contact your child's school or visit the school division's website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

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

FEBRUARY 2022

ONLINE | FREE | YOUTH 13 - 18

▶ ONGOING

YOUNG WRITERS CLUB

FRIDAY, FEB. 4
@ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SATURDAY, FEB. 5
@ 2:00 - 4:00 PM

YOUNG WRITERS CLUB

FRIDAY, FEB. 11
@ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SATURDAY, FEB. 19
@ 2:00 - 4:00 PM

YOUNG WRITERS CLUB

FRIDAY, FEB. 25
@ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

▶ COSPLAY CLUB

Join our brand new monthly cosplay club. We will cover new topics every month like design, costuming on a budget, wigmaking, armour and more!

SATURDAY, FEB. 12
@ 2 - 4 PM

▶ IMPROV WORKSHOP

Join experienced improviser Solly Kryieger-Paine in this interactive online workshop to help develop your skills as an improviser and actor!

SATURDAY, FEB. 26
@ 2 - 4 PM

Contact Jamie Lewis
at 403-795-2963 or
jamie.lewis@fcss.ca
to register!



@kaleido_fcsc



@kaleido_fcsc



@kaleidoscopefcsc



KALEIDOSCOPE
INCLUSIVE YOUTH PROGRAMMING

FCSS
Family & Community
Support Services
www.fcsc.ca

Buy a ROSE for
someone special for
Valentine's Day!
Watch for the sales table
to be set up in the atrium!
Just \$3 per rose!

**PINK SHIRT
DAY**

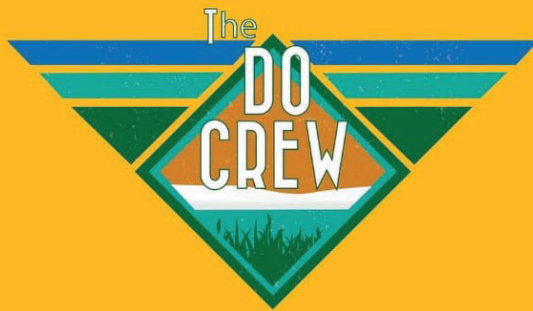
Thursday, February 17



**Buy someone a CRUSH for
VALENTINE'S DAY!
Just \$2 each!**



**Sales during lunch in the atrium
or see Ms. Buit to place your order for the big day!**



**WE NEED NEW
VOLUNTEERS!**

TABER YOUTH DO CREW

Meet new friends, learn valuable work and life skills, and make a difference in your community by volunteering and leading service projects



Time commitment of 2
or 3 2-hour meetings
per month

Meetings held in-person
at Downtown Taber
FCSS

Contact Shannon Rawluk for more information
shannon.rawluk@fcss.ca
[403-332-0629](tel:403-332-0629)





January 2022



Stars of Faith: Our Catholic Schools

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. – Matthew 2:10

As 2022 dawns, the grateful advocates for Catholic education resume our mission to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf. As quality learning tops the list and priorities of health and safety take our attention, we continue to respond as a community of faith knowing that God’s plans for us are more perfect than we can imagine. Thank you to all committed to Christ-centered learning. Thank you for being a star for others; especially your students and their families. Let us continue to celebrate the reason for our existence and focus on the light of Catholic education.

For each one of you, we are most grateful!

Bonnie Annicchiarico,
GrACE Director



Lakeland Catholic Schools

Book Your Calendar

Catholic Education Week 2022

May 23-27, 2022

Theme: *Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together*



GrACE invites YOUR Catholic school to be a light; be a star.

Share your ideas, prayers and stories to light the way for others, especially through these challenging times.

- † Tell us how “the Lord shines upon you.”
- † In what ways is your school leading and responding in faith?
- † Where do you see hope?
- † What encouragement through Christ can you offer to others?

Post on social media. Take pictures. Email gracedirector7@gmail.com with updates for the February GrACE newsletter. Deadline is February 14.

The mission of GrACE is to inspire, invigorate and embolden the spirit of Catholic education in order to unite, engage, educate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.

GrACE Newsletter

GrACE newsletter seeks to build a provincial Catholic community by celebrating Catholic education across Alberta.

Messages for 2022

GrACE is led and supported by Alberta's Bishops, Alberta Catholic Schools' Trustees and the Council of Catholic School Superintendents. Enjoy their messages of encouragement and hope for 2022.

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R. Archbishop of Grouard–McLennan

Happy New Year! I wish you that, but more particularly, I wish you a Happy Epiphany! And it's really about Epiphany that I want to say a few things today.

You know, it's not only COVID and its effects—it's other circumstances and realities that challenge us each day to be the positive and encouraging people that we know ourselves truly to be. These can seem like dark days, and lately very cold days as well! In the face of that, I want to share with you some Good News that the feast of the Epiphany holds for me, especially thanks to a message from St. Leo the Great.

St. Leo the Great was pope from 440-461 – a long time ago. Reflecting on the event of the Epiphany – the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus in the manger – Pope Leo had this to say: "... the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites everyone to find Christ. Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light ..."

The star of Bethlehem led the wise men to Jesus. The star helped them find their way in the darkness. The star wasn't the magi's goal; their goal was to find Jesus! But the star lit the way through the darkness. St. Leo is suggesting that we are like that star. Our goal in this time and place is to help others to find Jesus, the One who lifts us up and loves us. Strangely enough, except for our star, the sun, stars are only seen when it is very dark around us. We cannot see them at all when it is daylight. Only in the dark. When many seem lost and confused, we are called upon to lead them to the true Light, Jesus Christ. We carry that same light in our hearts, and by our words and actions we can lead others to Jesus. What an encouraging way to understand what we are to do – and be – in this time and place.

I wish you and the whole GrACE family many blessings as we journey into 2022. May we find light for our own path, and light and joy for everyone we meet along the way. May you be blessed throughout 2022.



Most Reverend Paul Terrio Bishop of St. Paul

After very cold weather over Christmas and New Year, to say nothing of all the challenges of the pandemic, our schools are bravely back in operation with all the hope that the faith of young people can bring. This trust in our Lord was evoked by the growing light of the night sky above our cathedral a few days ago as the extreme cold softened with promise of better days to come! May hope and trust in our Lord grow in all of our Catholic school students, teachers and staff as we journey into 2022 with the Light of Christ in our hearts!



#gottagracegroup2.22

GrACE is ready to rebuild, restore and renew together in 2022! With new leaders and stakeholders advocating for Catholic education, we invite you to take an updated photo of your "new" GrACE group, share it and post it at #gottagracegroup2.22

Our first submission: CTR GrACE 2.22



Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for February

For Catholic Education:

- † That our Catholic schools may be inspired by the example of the many great saints who have gone before them and who intercede for them, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may inspire students to a life of love and service, we pray to the Lord.
- † That our Catholic schools may fill students with a love for learning and a desire to change the world for the better, we pray to the Lord.
- † That the teachers in our Catholic schools may be strengthened for their important task in our world, we pray to the Lord.

Catholic School District's Publications

- † [Calgary Catholic School District](#)
- † [Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools](#)
- † [Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools](#)

Charlie Bouchard

Superintendent, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools
President, Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta

Striving to Still the Storm

In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 8, verses 23-27, we hear how Jesus and his disciples were crossing the sea. A sudden storm arose, causing waves so high that the boat began to take on water. Massive panic ensued amongst those on the boat, and the disciples became afraid for their lives. We are told how Jesus was sleeping at the time and had to be awoken. The disciples exclaimed 'Lord save us! We are Perishing!' Jesus responded saying 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?'

Jesus may have rebuked the disciples for their weak faith, but he didn't abandon them or let them drown. Instead, He calmed the storm and then continued to teach them who He was and demonstrated what it was to trust in God.

The significance of Jesus calming the storm is pertinent to what is happening in our world today, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic. The waters in our lives are not exactly calm right now. Daily, many face uncertainty, fear, and even death. At the best of times, life has its inherent challenges and the pandemic has only added a layer.

Over the course of the last couple of years, and during this pandemic, we have all had different and varied experiences with COVID-19. Some people have contracted COVID and became quite ill, some had mild symptoms and still others continue to face COVID with long-haul symptoms. Unfortunately, there are many who have lost loved ones and for this I'm sorry. God Bless their souls.



Most Reverend Richard W. Smith Archbishop of Edmonton

Dear Grateful Advocates for
Catholic Education,

We have just completed the Christmas season of our liturgical year, a time that celebrates among other things, the solemn feasts of our Lord's Birth,

the Holy Family, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. Each of these celebrations gives us a particular insight into the light of Christ that breaks into the world, scattering the darkness of every age and giving hope to those in despair.

In the story of the Epiphany especially (Matthew 2:1-12), we learn how the wise men saw clearly because they had the light of a star. This star guided the wise men along their journey and then stopped over the place where Jesus was. Obviously, that is not how stars normally work. Something very much out of the ordinary is happening to alter the normal course of things. The extraordinary activity is that of God, leading the wise men to Jesus and, once they arrived, enabling them to see clearly. They did not see with unaided human vision; they saw with God's help. This teaches us that God, who reveals his Son to the world, wants people to see the revelation, and He acts to give the clear vision we need. The wise men were granted the light of a star. Our gift from God is the light of faith. In faith, we see with clear vision what God wants us to see: that Jesus is both God and man, given to us as Lord and Savior.

Why was Jesus sleeping on the boat? Was Jesus exhausted from his ministry and from continuous preaching and teaching to large crowds? Was he tired from continuously having people pull on his garments? It is likely that Jesus, in human form, was tired. Many of us are also tired and exhausted too. It is during these times, however, that we must rely and lean on our faith. The Lord will never abandon us!



As Catholics, and in Catholic education, we have the privilege and opportunity to share this very message and inspiration with the students we teach and with those we encounter, at work or in our personal lives. As Jesus stilled the storm, let us strive to still the storm in our lives and in the lives of others.

Like in the Gospel, let us hope our waters will soon become calm. Through prayer and trust in God, we know this will happen. We will get through this pandemic! By the light of our faith, we will persevere!

Thank you for all that you do to support and advocate for Catholic Education and for taking advantage of all opportunities to spread the good news. Great things are happening in our schools!

By God's grace, the star that appeared before the wise men, the star that now shines in the witness of the Church can now appear, through us, to those who do not yet know Christ and his Church, or who may simply be experiencing, especially in this time of pandemic, the darkness of this age without reference to Christ.

Our call as Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education is to demonstrate that the truth of the Gospel need not be feared; on the contrary it should be joyfully embraced. The wise men show us that this demonstration is given by the witness of worship and joy. Once they found Christ, they offered gifts and knelt down in worship and adoration. Here we see that worship, the act of self-surrender to Christ as God and King, is an act of surrender to the fullness of truth. As such, worship gives birth to joy.

So, then, throughout this new year, let us worship Christ with the whole gift of self, allow his joy to arise in our hearts, and make that joy visible to others. Then, by God's grace, the star that appeared to the wise men, the star that now shines in the witness of the Church, will begin to appear also to others, to lead them out of fearful self-reference toward the joyful embrace of God's truth revealed in His Son.

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes for you all in 2022,

**Yours in Christ,
Archbishop Richard Smith**

Catholic Schools and the Synod

The Holy Father has called the People of God throughout the world to begin a journey of listening, dialoguing, praying and discerning together the way in which we carry forward the mission of the church. Catholic schools are a missionary arm of the Catholic Church and, as such, have a vital role to play in all aspects of this faith journey.

Check out [this great video](#) explaining the video from a young persons' perspective.

How will YOU be a voice within the synod?

You are invited to join a synod listening/consultation group or to host one of your own within your school community. Can you be a catalyst for others to be involved as well? What about your staff, students or school councils can take part.

There are four dioceses in Alberta. To get involved in your diocese. Let your voice be heard.

- † [Synod on Synodality 2021 - caedm](#)
- † [Synod 2021-2023 - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholiccycc.ca\)](#)
- † [Synod 2023 - The Diocesan Phase | Catholic Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan \(archgm.ca\)](#)



“ a time to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands ~ Pope Francis.

Telling Our Catholic Education Stories

- † [Because of Mr. Daniel - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholiccycc.ca\)](#)
- † [A gift to preserve - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholiccycc.ca\)](#)
- † [Holy moments in hard times - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholiccycc.ca\)](#)

Connect Online

- † GrACE Facebook address is www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed
- † GrACE email is gracedirector7@gmail.com
- † GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)
- † [GrACE website](#)

Catholic Education Around the Province St. Mary's School, Okotoks

Excerpt from “Holy Moments” by Brandon Bailey, Principal of St. Mary's School in Okotoks.



One of the activities that we had students participate in was a “Holy Moments” chain. Students would add their moments to the chain which was connected and displayed in the hallways.

We found that by intentionally sharing Holy Moments, perspectives changed. The act of re-framing situations to see the blessings in our midst allowed us to see our call to be joyful people, who act with gratitude. However, joyful participation in the challenges of life isn't always easy. By identifying Holy Moments, it has also affirmed the gift that we have in our Catholic school with faith in the Lord at all times. We walk with Jesus every day! It is a blessing to be able to journey through hard times together knowing that God calls us to lift one another up when we are down. When you stop and look for it, even on your hardest day there is a Holy Moment that will make you smile.

Full story in [Faithfully](#)

École Notre Dame High School (Lakeland Catholic School Division)

Blessing our classrooms

To begin 2022, NDHS continued an amazing tradition Sylvia Prefontaine had started years ago by blessing the classrooms. Not only were all of our classrooms, spaces, and entries blessed with Holy Water, but a prayer was said over our students by youth minister, Siobhan Squires. The rooms were silent as students listened respectfully or participated in the prayer within their hearts. The school as whole felt lighter following this practice showing that even in uncertain times, God continues to give us new beginnings and opportunities to make His presence known.



Holy Spirit Catholic Schools

In Holy Spirit Catholic schools, we are guided in our actions by our three year faith plan - **Making Our Mark: Journey of an Intentional Disciple**. In this year, the final year of the plan, our theme is “Together on the Journey,” with a focus on seeing our responsibility to our faith community and each other. As we continue to grow in seeing ourselves and each other as the Body of Christ, we know that we are responsible for translating Jesus from the ideal into the real for those around us. One of the ways that we can do this, and encourage others in Christ is through works of social justice that reflect our own hope in the Lord while showing that hope also to those who are marginalized. While so many works of social justice are ongoing in our school communities, the Christmas season illuminates how Catholic schools are little stars and marks of hope for those around them.

One long standing social justice project that serves our local communities in Holy Spirit is the Santa’s Anonymous project. Having operated annually for over twenty years, the Santa’s Anonymous group at Catholic Central High School focuses on the works of mercy in constructing food and gift hampers for families in need throughout the division. This year’s project supported over fifty families during what can be for many a challenging season.

We also have schools that continue to work to support those in other areas of our world in partnership with Chalice. St. Patrick’s Fine Arts Elementary and St. Teresa of Calcutta Elementary each engaged this Christmas season in fundraising to support their respective partner schools, Mateka Primary (Tanzania) and Mkono Wa Mara Primary (Tanzania). Ongoing support of these schools, amongst the many projects in our schools, connects our students to students elsewhere and helps them to understand the many blessings that they have in their own lives as well as their responsibility to help in providing hope to others.

One final example of social justice in Holy Spirit Catholic Schools was the work of the Social Justice Committee at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. Over the Advent season, weekly challenges based on Matthew 25:35-40 encouraged staff members to bring in socks, mittens, toques, and food items that were assembled into over forty Blessing Bags that were distributed to the marginalized in Lethbridge through the SAGE Clan. Given the intense cold that prevailed throughout the Christmas season, we pray that these bags were a way in which the recipients could feel that the Lord was shining upon them, even for a brief time.

These stories are just a handful of examples of the ways in which our school communities are bringing our Faith Plan to life this year, walking together on a journey as intentional disciples, walking in the light of Christ.



Elk Island Catholic Schools

EICS surpasses goal and raises over \$15,000 for Lurana Shelter

A heartfelt thank-you to staff, students and families for your prayers, donations and fundraising efforts in support of the vulnerable women and children at the Lurana Shelter. Your donations will be used to create welcome baskets for families when they enter the shelter.



St. Martin's Catholic School in Vegreville had a visit from St. Nicholas

NCYC Retreat



On Nov.18-20, a group of EICS students headed out for a retreat at Birch Bay to participate in the virtual Catholic conference for youth.



Andrea Haston
@teacherhaston
A joy to have our Linking Generations grandma in to talk about traditions and then help us with our beautiful nativity craft @HolySpiritCS @EICSCatholic #linkinggenerations



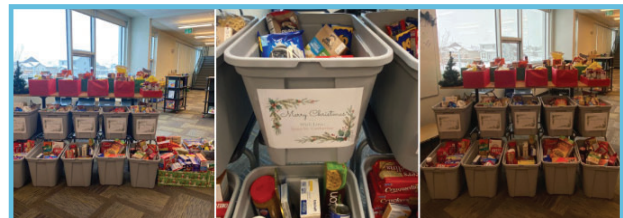
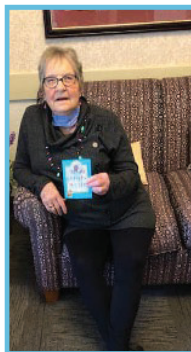
Holy Spirit's Virtual Advent concert to spread joy to our families.

Grande Prairie Catholic Schools

St. Catherine School



Delivering cards to local senior citizens



Staff donation advent calendar for families in need this holiday season

St. Gerard School



Donating Christmas gifts to children spending the holidays in the hospital

Holy Cross



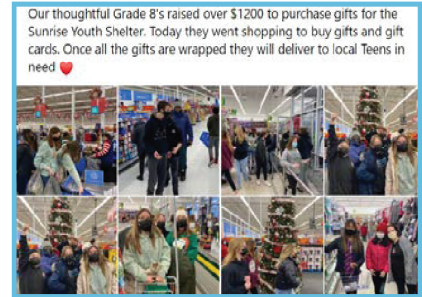
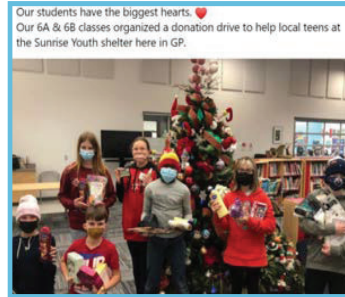
Gifts for Mackenzie Place

Mother Theresa Catholic School



Cards for Seniors

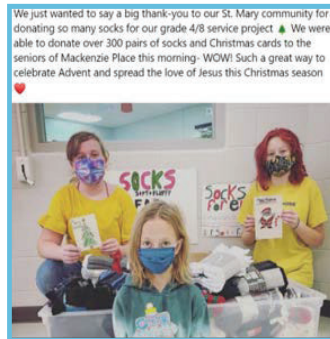
St. Kateri Catholic School



St. Mary School (Beaverlodge)



Thank you to everyone who donated coins for the grade 1 coin drive! We will be donating our funds to the Beaverlodge Hospital Foundation



We just wanted to say a big thank-you to our St. Mary community for donating so many socks for our grade 4/8 service project. We were able to donate over 300 pairs of socks and Christmas cards to the seniors of Mackenzie Place this morning - WOW! Such a great way to celebrate Advent and spread the love of Jesus this Christmas season.

St. Mary's School (Sexsmith)



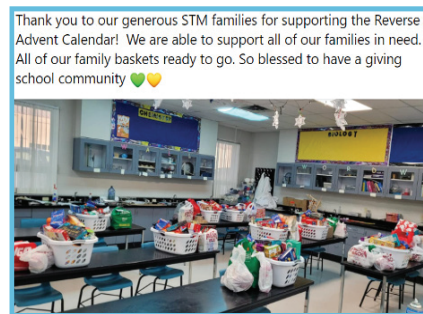
Food Bank Christmas Hamper Challenge

St. Marie (Spirit River)



We are the hands and feet of Christ. Yesterday the grades 5, 6, and 7 went to our local church and cleaned it thoroughly for our Christmas celebration.

St. Thomas More (Fairview)



Thank you to our generous STM families for supporting the Reverse Advent Calendar! We are able to support all of our families in need. All of our family baskets ready to go. So blessed to have a giving school community.

St. John Paul II



Grade 9 students took place in marketplace, where they made and sold items - all proceeds went to charity.

St. Joseph Catholic School

St. Joe's Rotary Interact Club presents a \$500 cheque to Candace Boyne with Pattison Media for the 98.9 Rewind Radio Stuff A Bus in support of The Salvation Army.



Catholic Education Center



All our school families were gifted an ornament from GPCSD. The ornaments were printed on seed paper, which families were encouraged to plant for the Easter season.

Calgary Catholic School District

Celebration Chain

Students at Monsignor Doyle in Calgary Catholic School District, are creating a paper chain that will connect all the classrooms in our school. In this time of COVID when large gatherings are not able to happen, we at Monsignor Doyle are still connected with one another and support each other. We are focusing on the gifts that God has given each of us and how we can share our gifts. Students created "starter links" in a paper chain that stated ways that we can share our gifts (a picture is attached of a couple). These links were connected and hung near the classrooms.

When students are "caught" sharing their gifts they will receive a green paper link that they will print their name on. These "name links" will be added to the starter links already hung, and the goal is to connect all the classes together with God's gifts. Our message is that God loves all of us, we are all created in His image, and we are asked to treat each other with kindness and love. Spreading His love is contagious, and even if someone doesn't get caught, their sharing will hopefully help someone else share and that person will be caught and then the chain will grow. We are all in this community together and we are part of something special.



A Prayer for our Schools in COVID

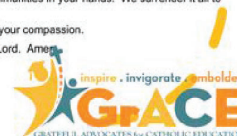
Please join us in praying for our schools during this challenging time of COVID.

[Click here for the prayer in Google Slides.](#)

A Prayer for our Schools in Covid

Heavenly Father,
 We pray for all the children, families, teachers and staff in our schools during this time of Covid. We are sick. We are weary. We are uncertain and sometimes afraid. We are worried for those we love and for the many in our community who are hurting. Be near us.
 Protect your little ones, Lord. Bring them physical and mental health. Surround them with caregivers who see their needs and respond. Take away their fears. Calm their anxieties. Bring them the peace that only You can give. Draw them to you.
 We pray for the learning needs of our students; for their recovery from the disruptions to education. May our students thrive and be challenged; may they seek wisdom and knowledge.
 Loving God, look with compassion on the teachers, staff and families seeking your comfort and hope.
 Lift up those who are exhausted.
 Bring peace where there is disharmony and strife.
 Bring hope to the hopeless.
 Bless the suffering.
 Father, we place our schools and our communities in your hands. We surrender it all to you.
 Thank you for your love, your mercy and your compassion.
 We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us
 St. Joseph, Pray for Us



Social Media from around the province...

Holy Spirit School @holyspirit_CCSD - Jan 12
 We celebrated our Epiphany Liturgy today - the whole school blessed our gathering spaces with the chalk blessed by Father Adrien - 20+C+M+B+22. May Christ bless our 'house' and all who enter!
 @CCSD_edu @GrACE4cathed #Epiphany

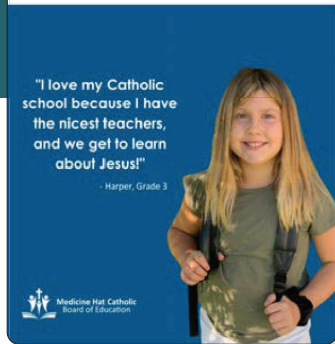


PoPCCSD @Popccsd - Jan 10
 All classroom doors were blessed today with chalk blessed by our parish priest. It represents the initials of the Magi-Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar who came to visit Jesus. Also is Latin for "May Christ bless the house". The + sign represent the cross and 20-22 the year.



Medicine Hat Catholic Schools @MH-Catholic - Jan 11
 Registration for the 2022-2023 school year opens on Tuesday, February 1!

"My child has never attended a faith-based school. What should I expect?" Click here to view our What to Expect in a Catholic School Q&A: mhcb.e.ab.ca/religious-educ...



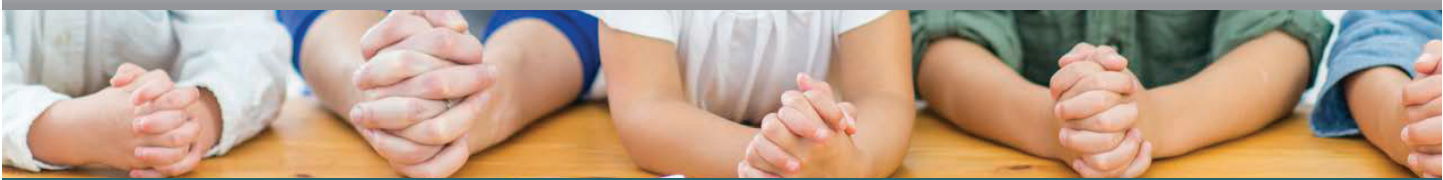
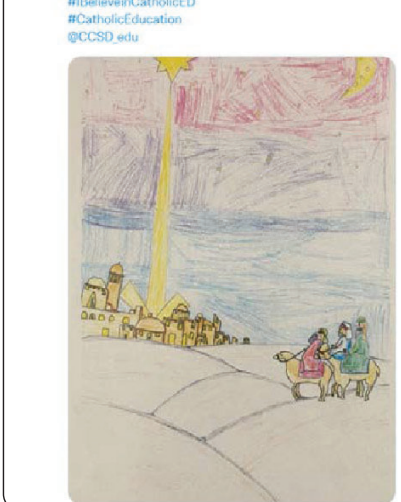
Lakeland Catholic School Division @LCS.D.150 - Jan 4
 Two LCS.D students will have their designs featured on blue shirts for Catholic Education Week.
[lresstf.ca/our-division/...](http://lresstf.ca/our-division/)



Bonnie-Lynne Boehm @MrsBoehm - Jan 13
 When kids notice the, "pink sky God made," you just have to take a moment to celebrate the beauty and the joy it brings. It's the little things. Pausing in the midst to notice is a beautiful reminder. ❤️ Kids are amazing! @EICSCatholic



St. Alphonsus School CCSD @alphonsus_st - Jan 6
 Feast of the #Epiphany
 January 6
 #BelieveinCatholicED
 #CatholicEducation
 @CCSD_edu



February

Together on the Journey



St. Michael

Schools: St. Michael's Pincher Creek and St. Michael's Bow Island

"But I am to tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is no one with me who contends against these princes except Michael, your prince."

Daniel 10:21



ST. MICHAEL

This month brings us to a different kind of saint as we turn our attention to the holy archangels. St. Michael is the leader of all angels and of the army of God. This is what the title "Archangel" means, that he is above all the others in rank. St. Michael has four main responsibilities or offices, as we know from scripture and Christian tradition: 1) to fight against Satan, 2) to rescue the souls of the faithful from the Devil, especially at the hour of death, 3) to attend the dying and accompany them to judgment, and 4) to be the champion of God's people; the Israelites under the Old Law, and now the Catholic Church.

Explanation and Hierarchy of the 9 Choirs of Angels

1ST TRIAD - CONTEMPLATE AND ADORE GOD DIRECTLY

SERAPHIM (meaning "the burning ones"). They are attendants at the throne of God. They praise God singing, "Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts!" - ISAIAH 6:1-7



CHERUBIM (meaning "the fullness of wisdom"). They contemplate God's providence, and are assigned to protect special places. - EXODUS 25:18-21; EZEKIEL 10:14; REVELATIONS 4-6

THRONES represent the steadfastness of the love of God. They contemplate God's love and judgment, and they appear as the most unlike the others when revealed. - EZEKIEL 10:17; COLOSSIANS 1:16; DANIEL 7:9



2ND TRIAD - FULFILL GOD'S PLAN IN THE UNIVERSE



DOMINIONS are lord over the lower choirs and humanity. They take illumination from the higher hierarchies and govern the universe. - EPHESIANS 1:21; COLOSSIANS 1:16

VIRTUES run the operation of movement in the universe. They are often associated with planets, elements, seasons, and nature. - EPHESIANS 1:21



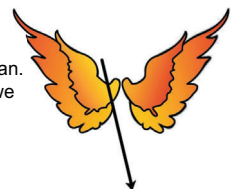
POWERS assist in governing the natural order. They are warrior angels tasked with fighting the war against the demonic choirs. - EPHESIANS 3:10; 6:12



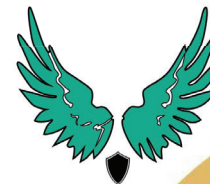
3RD TRIAD - INTERACT AND SERVE HUMANITY CLOSELY

PRINCIPALITIES are of the lowest triad, assigned to care and guard communities, kingdoms, states, and parishes. They are associated with transitions in power. - EPHESIANS 1:21; 3:10

ARCHANGELS are leader angels assigned to communicate and carry out God's important plans for man. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the only three names we know. - JUDE 9; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16; TOB



ANGELS are closest to the material world and humanity. The lowest choir is where we get the majority of our personal guardian angels. - MATTHEW 18:10; LUKE 22:43; HEBREWS 13:2



"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

- Psalm 91:11



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du Canada

Canada

2022 PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS

NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR TODAY!

- **Teaching Excellence**
- **Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)**
- **Excellence in Early Childhood Education**



VISIT
CANADA.CA/PM-AWARDS
#PMAWARDS



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Lisa Brown, 2020 Certificate of Excellence recipient
Roachville, New Brunswick
Leah Kippomee, 2020 Certificate of Excellence recipient
Pond Inlet, Nunavut

Building Community Connections



As the new year begins, many of us find ourselves taking stock of where we have come from in order to chart the course for 2022. While we find ourselves facing disruptions again, perhaps we find solace in the fact that 'we have been here before' and are well equipped to continue moving forward through the discomfort to see it through. We know that challenges can be difficult and hope that through our Community Connections Newsletter you are able to find the connecting threads that tie everything together, providing you with an awareness of what is available to access in our communities and surrounding area. If you would like to submit information for

Building Community Connections, please email hssupportservices@holyspirit.ab.ca



Come discover the [wild side of Lethbridge!](#) Open year-round, the Nature Centre is a unique urban escape within minutes of downtown. Check out their Kid's Programs, Exhibits, Parks & Trails and Volunteering opportunities.



The [Lethbridge Public Library](#) is excited to announce that the library will continue to offer Library memberships at no fee throughout 2022.



[ABC Life Literacy Canada](#) is a non-profit organization that aims to strengthen organizations that promote adult learning.



[Building Brains Together \(BBT\)](#) builds adult capabilities to improve brain development and executive functions in children through research and education.

Community LINKS

Your Information and Referral Source
With governments and social agencies merging, sometimes it is confusing to find where to go to access services, events or information about Southwestern Alberta. [Community LINKS](#) is operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta South Region and is located at the Lethbridge Public Library downtown branch with staff on site during peak library hours.



[Winter Program Guide](#)
The Family Centre Winter 2022 Program Guide is now ready and registrations will open beginning December 6th. You can check out the program calendar and filter the calendar by location by choosing Family Centre Downtown, Family Centre North or Family Centre West.



[Roving Gyms](#) are free, inclusive, play spaces for children five and under and their parents or caregivers. The Roving Gyms program nurtures physical literacy, the love of movement, and provides an environment for families to connect. Come and enjoy free play with a purpose.



[Henderson Lake Park Run](#)
A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate, it's up to you! Every Saturday @ 9:00am.



Shake off the winter blues
[YQL WinterFest 2022!](#)
January 14-19, 2022. Bundle up the family and head downtown.

Recreation and Culture Fee Assistance Program

The [City of Lethbridge](#) offers a Fee Assistance program for residents who face financial barriers to participating in recreational and cultural opportunities.



The [Lethbridge Food Bank's](#) goal is to ensure healthy food is provided to children and youth to enhance their future as well as their emotional and physical well-being. More information found [here](#).



24-Hour Crisis Line: 1-866-296-0447
The donated second-hand items we receive are shared between our clients, our residents, and community members in need who access our services through [YWCA Outreach programs](#).
Second-hand donations fill in the gaps!



[Interfaith Food Bank](#) caters to those in a variety of situations ranging from single-parenthood, to seniors on fixed incomes, to the unemployed, or to those with other social or economic barriers.



Community supports available in your local area such as Counseling, Family Resources Network and Indigenous Services. Check out your local [FCSS](#) to see what is being offered.



[Community and Social Services](#) provides supports for families and communities, and helps Albertans access disability services, financial supports, services for the homeless, and other social-based programs.



[MyHealth Alberta.ca](#)
Many people are affected by mental health issues such as depression or panic disorders. But you're not alone. Talking with others who suffer from these issues may help.
[Get the information you need](#)

YOUTH DROP-IN!
MONDAY AGES: 11-14 6:30pm-9:00pm
TUESDAY AGES: 14-18 6:30pm-9:00pm
FREE DROP-IN CENTRE FOR ALL YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY!
SNACKS, GIVEAWAYS, VIDEO GAMES, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, TABLE TOP GAMES, LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, MENTORS AND SO MUCH MORE!

[Active Lethbridge](#)
The [Active Lethbridge](#) initiative is a product of the efforts of the Healthy Communities Association of Lethbridge and Area (HCALA).



[Mental Health Help Line](#)
1-877-303-2642 (Toll free)
The Mental Help Line is a 24/7 confidential service that provides support, information and referrals to Albertans experiencing mental health concerns.

Pincher Creek Women's Shelter-Crisis Line:
1-888-354-4868
Office: 403-627-2114
<https://peshelter.ca/>

YWCA Harbour House (women, children)
Phone: 403-320-1881
Toll free: 1-866-296-0447
Lethbridge Shelter & Resource Centre
Phone: 403-327-1031
Wood's Homes
Phone: 403-317-1777

Safe Haven Women's Emergency Shelter
Taber, AB
Crisis Line: (403) 223-0483
Reach out, Connect, Let us help You

Healing starts with Believing
Here for all genders and all ages throughout Southwestern Alberta
403-694-1094 / 1-(844)-576-2512
502-740 4 Ave South
#IBelieveYou #UHaveThePower
Sexual Assault is a Criminal Act
It is NOT Your Fault

Whenever you need to talk, we're open.
Text 688888
KidsHelpPhone.ca
Call 1-800-668-6888
Message at Facebook.com/
CrisisTextLinepoweredbyKidsHelpPhone
Kids Help Phone



CAREER EXPLORATION SESSION

WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN

February 16, 2022
5:00pm



Are you comfortable with heights and working in small spaces? Would you like to spend your average workday hundreds of feet in the air? Find out more about the fast-growing occupation of Wind Turbine Technician. Join Burke from Vestas to learn about creating a better world by installing, maintaining and repairing wind turbines, working to accelerate the energy transition.



**Register now for this
FREE virtual session!**

Once registered, you will receive an email with the link, plus additional information regarding the event.

Questions? Email office@careersteps.ca

