

St. Mary's School

Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me

September 2023



These great looking yearbooks have arrived. Pick yours up in the office. We always have extras which are \$40 each

Opening Mass
Thursday, September 14
2:00 p.m.
St. Augustine's Church

Terry Fox Run
Friday, September 15
8:30 a.m.

Little Storm Volleyball
Tournament
September 22 & 23
To volunteer, contact Mr. B.

No School
Friday, September 22

Orange Shirt Day
Friday, September 29



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

Dear Parents,

Another school year has started and as Alberta's new Minister of Education, I want to introduce myself and give you a quick update about some of the things your government has been doing to ensure our students are set up for success.

A top priority for my parents was getting me a high-quality education, since I'm a second generation Calgarian. Having immigrated to Calgary in the 1970s their educational opportunities were limited, and they firmly believed that a strong education is the path to greater success and prosperity. I took their advice to heart and went on to earn my PhD in political science and conflict resolution. I'm passionate about education and will work hard to set our students up for success.

As the 2023/24 school year gets underway there are several important highlights I want to share with you.

I firmly believe that the upcoming school year will give students the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Here are some of the things that we are working on:

1) We are injecting new funding to start the school year off on the right foot.

For the current school year, Alberta's government has increased funding to many of our school divisions to make sure they have the financial resources they need to give our kids a world-class education. Funding has increased by seven per cent from last year increasing the total amount of taxpayer dollars going directly to our school divisions to \$7.4 billion. In addition, a new Classroom Complexity Grant will be implemented which provides \$126 million over three years in new funding to help school authorities hire more educational assistants to help our teachers manage classrooms that are increasingly more complex with more students with diverse learning needs. As well, our hardworking teachers will also receive a two per cent salary increase this September as part of a deal reached with teachers last year and finally, we are providing \$414 million in new funding, a 32 per cent increase, to help bus another 80,000 students to school.

2) We are hiring more teachers and staff in our classrooms.

As students head back to class, they may start to see new friendly faces in their school. Budget 2023 provided funding to hire up to 3,000 new educational staff over three years, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and other school support staff such as speech language pathologists and psychologists. Ensuring students have the supports they need to succeed in and out of the classroom is a top priority of mine.

September

Build!

Pilgrims of Hope



“...if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.”

Isaiah 58:10

St. Vincent de Paul 1581-1660 (Feast Day: September 27)

St. Vincent de Paul was born in France in 1581, and lived in the countryside with his family until the age of 15, when he entered the seminary to train as a priest. He didn't start out intending to become a great saint; in fact, it took him quite a while to figure out how to really live out his vocation. Over time, his heart was changed and became more compassionate towards the poor. Once he began working simply to respond to the basic needs of those around him from a Christian stance, his work blossomed. He worked with the *Daughters of Charity*, a group of lay women who worked extensively with the poor and sick. They collected donations for distribution that created homes for abandoned children, a hospice for the elderly, and freed galley slaves.

He can be a great model for us in our daily lives then, if we are struggling to determine our vocation or to find ways to contribute to the common good. In all of his endeavours, St. Vincent de Paul started by recognizing and promoting the dignity of those around him. This legacy lives on today, in the *Society of St. Vincent de Paul*, founded in 1833 by his followers. This Catholic society is open to all who want to love and serve their neighbour. In Canada the [Society of St. Vincent de Paul](#) serves more than 350,000 people each year.



“Building” In Our Schools

This year, the call in our Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Faith Plan is to *Build!* Last year, there were so many ways in which students and staff in our schools showed how to *Arise* in our faith, and we are looking forward to sharing the different ideas that schools have around “building” over the course of this year.

One project that we are all contributing to this year is raising funds to assist in the building of St. Odilia's School in Zambia. You can find out more about this school [here](#); please consider how you might be able to help us with this project!

Corporal Works of Mercy

– Shelter the Homeless –

Speaking in Washington, D.C. in 2015, Pope Francis said:

I can imagine Joseph, with his wife about to have a child, with no shelter, no home, no place to stay. The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head. We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? Why are we homeless, why don't we have housing? These are questions which many of you may ask, and do ask, every day. Like Saint Joseph, you may ask: Why are we homeless, without a place to live? And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live? Why are these brothers and sisters of ours homeless?

People experience homelessness for many different reasons. Our faith encourages us to reach out and encounter those without the stability of a home, affirming their human dignity, and assisting them in seeking solutions to the challenges they face.

What might some practical suggestions be?

- help elderly neighbours care for their homes and do repairs
- support and/or volunteer at a homeless shelter
- support and/or volunteer for charitable agencies who care for the homeless, build homes, and provide support in the wake of natural disasters
- consider becoming a foster parent

Dignity of the Human Person

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

All of the Catholic Social Teachings are rooted in the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and inherent dignity are the foundation of our moral vision for society. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes:

“Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone.”

Consider the following questions in your reflection:

- How strong is your belief in your own human dignity?
- When you interact with family members and friends, can you honour and reverence the dignity of each person?
- Are there some people whose dignity you find challenging to uphold? How could you pray about overcoming these obstacles?

Learn more through one or more of these videos:

Catholic Social Teaching 101 - [Life and Dignity of the Human Person](#)

Duquesne University - [Human Dignity in the Catholic Tradition](#)

Caritas Australia - [Dignity of the Human Person](#)

FORMED - Symbolon Episode 9: [Building a Civilization of Love](#)

FORMED - Symbolon Episode 10:

[Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person](#)

“If we are faithful to God, we will lack nothing.”

- St. Vincent de Paul

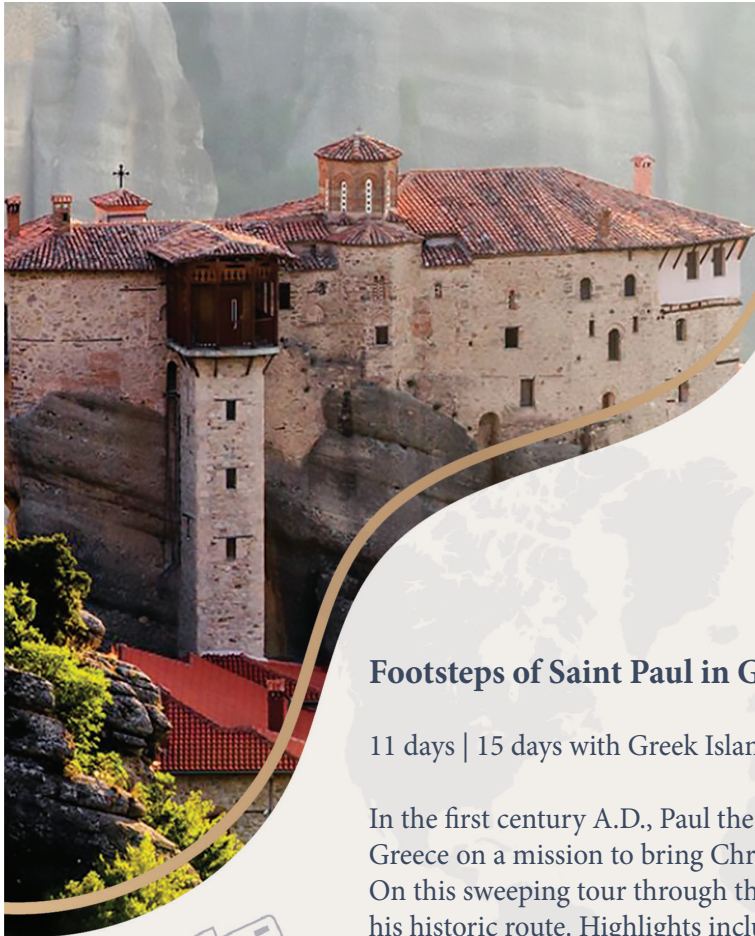




Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage Tour June 27-July 7, 2025

Arise...Build...Proclaim!



Footsteps of Saint Paul in Greece: Thessaloniki to Athens

11 days | 15 days with Greek Islands Cruise & Athens extension

In the first century A.D., Paul the Apostle journeyed through modern-day Greece on a mission to bring Christianity to the country's people. On this sweeping tour through the Mediterranean country, you'll retrace his historic route. Highlights include Thessaloniki's Vlatadon Monastery, where he preached the divine word, and the Areopagus in Athens, where he delivered one of his most famous sermons.



Your Tour Package Includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Early Booking Bonus!

- Save \$300 if you sign up before July 1, 2023
- Save \$200 if you sign up before August 31, 2023



Included Highlights

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Vlatadon Monastery | Ancient Corinth |
| Royal Tombs at Vergina | Acropolis |
| Meteora monasteries | Parthenon |
| Temple of Apollo | Areopagus |



For more details or to register, click the QR code below.



For more information, contact:
Lisa Palmarin or Aaron Skretting



GO AHEAD
TOURS

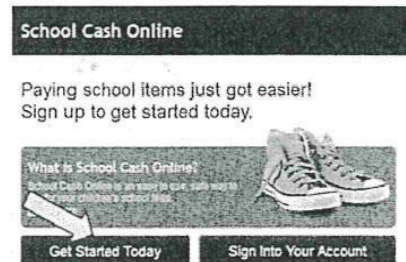
SchoolCashOnline Available Now

For safety and efficiency reasons, Holy Spirit Catholic School District would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. School Cash Online is our school's preferred method of payment. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *SUPPORT* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://holyspirit.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the Registration Steps
*For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find Student

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Enter Your Child's ASN (available from your school)
- Select *Continue*
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select *Continue*
- Your child has been added to your account

Find Student

School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575
 Looking for a student in a different school board?

School Name: Eagle High School

Student Information

Do you have the student number?

Student Number:

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

Bell Times

2023-2024



Monday - Thursday		Fridays	
8:28 Warning Bell		8:28 Warning Bell	
8:30 AM	9:15 AM	8:30 AM	9:00 AM
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	9:00AM	9:46 AM
10:02 AM	10:47 AM	9:46 AM	10:32 AM
10:47 AM	11:33 AM	10:34 AM	11:20 AM
Lunch 11:33	12:12	11:20 AM	12:06 PM
12:12 PM	12:57 PM		
12:57 PM	1:42 PM		
1:44 PM	2:29 PM		
2:29 PM	3:14 PM		



NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Risk Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA) helps principals take further steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. The protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or a replica weapon, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others or other threats of violence, fire setting.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first bring together a School Threat Assessment Team, which ideally includes the principal / associate principal, a school based counsellor / jurisdictional lead and police of jurisdiction. If the situation is serious the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and call in members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This community team may include representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safer such as, but not limited to, local police, children's mental health organizations or Child and Family Services. Parents / guardians will be notified as soon as possible in the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents / guardians cannot be reached, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behavior, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents / guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Ken Sampson, Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE HOURS FOR SMS TEACHERS SEMESTER 1 (2023-2024)

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 make an appointment to stop in for a chat.



Mr. Bergenhenengowen	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. de Jong	Mondays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Doolittle	Thursdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Lagler	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Lequiere	Tuesdays/Thursdays	3:15 - 4:00 p.m.
Mr. Makarchuk	Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Marchesin	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Meier	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mrs. Siemens	Mondays/Wednesdays	3:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Mrs. Smith	Thursdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Ms. Uyesugi	Tuesdays	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Ms. Vienneau	Tuesdays	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Mr. Vornbrock	1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

New SMS Staff



Hello! My name is Alexis Huehn (pronounced heen). I am a Professional Semester Three teacher intern from the University of Lethbridge, specializing in English language arts education. A few of my hobbies are reading, fitness and camping. I am really looking forward to being involved and growing with St. Mary's school this fall!

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Hello, my name is Toshi Uyesugi and I am an intern from the University of Lethbridge. I am excited to be interning at St. Mary's to complete my Education degree! I went to high school in Lethbridge, and returned after completing a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at the University of Alberta. In my spare time, my hobbies centre around fitness and art. Depending on the time of year, I enjoy hiking, bouldering, and curling. I also love playing music. Piano is my favourite instrument, but I also sing and play guitar! Lastly, and most importantly, I have a cat named Ella. I'm excited to meet you all!

TO ST. MARY'S



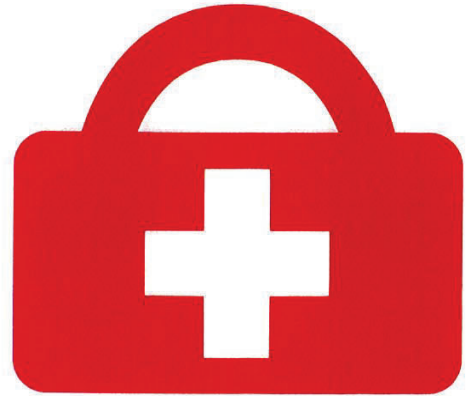
"I'm Pam deJong and I have been teaching for about 7 years. I graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Ed in 2010. My teaching career began in High River as a substitute, then in Okotoks to teach Kindergarten, and back to High River in Kindergarten again. I joined St. Patrick's School in Taber in 2018, teaching grade 2/3 and grade 1. In 2023, I stepped back from full time teaching and began subbing here at SMS. Though my educational background is in Elementary Education, I have truly enjoyed teaching Jr. and Sr. High. I will be covering Mrs. Lequiere's maternity leave for the 2023/2024 year and am thrilled to be a member of the SMS community."



First Aid Class

Standard First Aid (2 Day Course)

Learn the knowledge and practical skills to administer First Aid in a variety of situations. Gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to do CPR and use a defibrillator to help save lives in an emergency.



Certificates will be issued upon successful completion of the course.

\$150.00

Instructor: Carolyn Terpstra

Location: Taber Provincial Building

Dates: Friday September 15th **AND** Friday September 29nd, 2023

Time: 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

All First Aid/CPR/AED courses are good for 3 years before they expire



*Taber Adult
Learning*

**To register or for more information contact us at
(403)-223-1169 OR stop by our office!
5011 49 Ave, Taber Provincial Building**

OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

Listed below are the programs we offer through Off-Campus Education.

We also offer Career, Post-Secondary and Scholarship Information.

We also work with CAREERS: The Next Generation who help connect students with employers

If you have any questions or would like to know more about any of our programs, please contact us.

Work Experience

Work Experience is a program designed to create an opportunity for students to earn high school credits and experience the World of Work first hand. Students may be in a paid or a volunteer position. Students can earn up to 15 credits towards their High School Diploma. All students **must have** complete the **HCS 3000 Workplace Safety Systems course** before starting work experience and complete the **Off-Campus Work Agreement** form and return it **BEFORE** hours of work will start to be accumulated. Students are responsible for finding their own positions.

Earn while you learn!



Green Certificate Program

This program is a joint endeavor between Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Participants learn by actively performing the skills required under the direction of experienced farm personal and provides students with credentials that could lead to a career in agribusiness. Students must complete the AGR3000 Agriculture Safety course before starting the course. Students can earn up to 16 credits towards their High School Diploma . There are 11 different specializations to choose from. Go to : <https://lethbridgecollege.ca/green-certificate> for more information.



Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)

This program provides senior high school students the opportunity to earn credits in high school and gain on-the-job training that can be applied towards an apprenticeship. Students can earn up to 40 credits towards their High School Diploma. All students **must have** complete the **HCS 3000 Workplace Safety Systems course** before starting the program and be paid at least minimum wage for their work. RAP students will also receive their Apprenticeship Blue Book.

Earn while you learn!



Dual Credit - In Partnership with Olds College and Lethbridge College

Dual Credit courses are an opportunity for high school students to explore career pathways, post-secondary opportunities, get a head start on post-secondary diploma programs and ease transition from high school to post-secondary while still enrolled in high school. Students will earn credits in both high school & post-secondary at the same time. There are no tuition fees for post-secondary courses completed during high school.



Special Projects

Special Projects are projects that students can pursue in which they have considerable interest or ability but which are not within the scope of the regular curriculum. Students can earn up to 15 credits towards their Diploma.



Mr. Boschee will be at St. Mary's on Thursdays.

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



Youth Mass



at
St. Augustine's Parish



featuring St. Patrick
School Choir

1st Sunday of each month
9:00am
(October-June)

Lethbridge Schools Run for Reconciliation



Inspired by Terry Fox and Napi's Run Lethbridge Schools Run for Reconciliation.

The longest distance from the East to the West of Canada is 5,514 km. Can Lethbridge Schools run across Canada together to support Terry Fox and Reconciliation?

From September 18-29

- Count your individual class or school km's on the provided tracking sheet
- Send your week 1 KM totals on September 22nd to your Run for Reconciliation Rep
- Send your week 2 KM totals on September 29th to your Run for Reconciliation Rep
- Run for Reconciliations Reps
 - Lethbrige School Division- melanie.morrow@lethsd.ab.ca
 - Palliser School Division- kylie.fineday@pallisersd.ab.ca
 - Holy Spirit Catholic School Division- kirkvolds@holyspirit.ab.ca



#DEAR TERRY



Join **LETHBRIDGE SPEEDSKATING**



lethbridgespeedskating.ca
leth_bridge_blades



Youth ages 5 - 18
Recreational to Competitive Levels
Season runs September to March
Affordable Equipment Rental Available
FREE "Try B4U" Join held throughout year
Issa.sk8r@gmail.com

Join **LETHBRIDGE SPEEDSKATING**



lethbridgespeedskating.ca
leth_bridge_blades



Youth ages 5 - 18
Recreational to Competitive Levels
Season runs September to March
Affordable Equipment Rental Available

FREE "Try B4U" Join held throughout the year
NEW "Learn to Skate" Program Tuesday Evenings

Contact Issa.sk8r@gmail.com

Join **LETHBRIDGE SPEEDSKATING**




Youth ages 5 - 18
Recreational to Competitive Levels
Season runs September to March
Affordable Equipment Rental available
Contact us Issa.sk8r@gmail.com

WOTS Teen Writing Contest

Calling all teen writers! Submit an original short story, poem, or comic, and you could be part of September's The Word On The Street festival! This year's contest theme: **Community**

Rules:

- » Writers must be in grades 7-12 and live within the boundaries of the Chinook Arch Regional Library System.
- » Entry can be up to 2,000 words.
- » Entry should be submitted as a PDF. Include your name, pronouns, email, phone, and school/grade with your entry.
- » Deadline for entries is September 8, 2023.
- » Winners will be contacted by September 15, 2023.
- » Entries will be judged on entertainment value and narrative quality.

Send your entry to word@lethlib.ca. The winners will be officially announced at 4:00pm in the teen tent on festival day, and will get to read their stories to our festival audience.




Children's Only Market

at the Taber Public Library

Vendors Wanted

November 25th 10am-2pm

Limited Space Available

403-223-4343



LEGO Club

Begins Sept 20

every Wed
3:30 - 4:30 pm
school aged children

Taber Public Library





Welcome Back!

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

The Holy Spirit School Division has created a new mental health and wellness initiative for the school communities. This team is comprised of Billy Woitte and Emily Williston, and is called the (I)SWAG - (Indigenous) Student Wellness Access Guides - our focus is on helping our students and their families find the right supports for them in the community, providing further education and knowledge gaining for parents on mental health concerns the child may be experiencing and how they can help them work through these issues, as well as initiating an Artist in Residency program that will place emphasis on the benefits of art on healing within the schools.

Please stay tuned for further information on the parent presentation topics and benefits of attending these presentations (...prizes and food!...), dates and times will be released in the October newsletter!

We look forward to meeting you all and working together to create a year full of learning, connecting, and community!

Best wishes,
Your local (I)SWAG, Billy Woitte and Emily Williston
#StrongerTogether



POST-SECONDARY FAIR

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

5:30-7:30pm

Immanuel Christian Secondary School (802 6 Ave N, Lethbridge)



Students, parents, teachers – Come and talk with representatives from local, provincial and out of province institutions at this fair. Registered institutions can be found at <https://www.careersteps.ca/post-secondary-fair/>



PRESENTATIONS

- 5:00 – Finance and Scholarships
- 5:45 – Transitioning to Post-Secondary
- 6:30 – Finance and Scholarships
- 7:15 – Transitioning to Post-Secondary



Finance and Scholarship Presentations

Learn how to finance your post-secondary education. Student finance representatives from University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College will be on hand to answer specific questions.

Transitioning to Post-Secondary

The transition from high school to Post-Secondary can be daunting. Learn what to expect, plus tips and tricks to navigate the switch.

Questions? Call 403-328-3996 or email office@careersteps.ca

CAREER EXPLORATION SESSION

ACTOR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
4:30pm



Actors tell a story by interpreting the work of a writer with the support of a director. Typically, they shape and convey a character using their imaginations, voices, and bodies. To be a great actor, empathy and a deep understanding of humanity are required.

Acting is both a talent and a skill. It demands business savvy – you need to learn financial management and self-promotion to make a living.

Join Judith to find out more about this creative career and her career path.

Register now for this *FREE* virtual session!

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

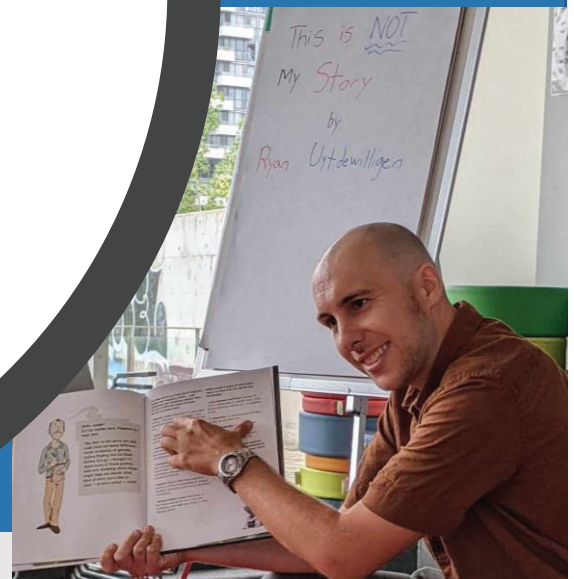


Questions? Email office@careersteps.ca

CAREER EXPLORATION SESSION

AUTHOR

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
4:00pm



An Author is a very creative career that lets your imagination soar. You can be the one who dreams up what's on TV screens or inside the pages of a book. You can write children's stories, different genres from mystery to romance, or even non-fiction!

The sky is the limit! From advertisements to news stories, podcasts to comics – everything we read or sometimes even watch and listen to starts in the mind of an author.

Join Ryan to find out more about one of the most unique careers from sniffing out opportunities to developing your own voice.



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