

# St. Mary's School

*Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me*

*February 2026*



## Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Nevil

Dear St. Mary's Community,

I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to share in the life of St. Mary's over the past year and a half. The learning and the love I have received during this time will remain some of the most impactful moments of my life. You opened my eyes to a whole new world of education—from the daily ins and outs of junior high life to the big, life-shaping decisions faced by our Grade 12 students. Each of you, especially the students of St. Mary's, has left a lasting impression on my heart.

To our students, you reminded me that no matter how distant or sassy someone may appear, they still need love, understanding, and reassurance that they are capable of doing great things. You have shown me hope for the future through your desire to succeed and your willingness to build meaningful connections that make room for mercy and peace. I will miss you more than you will ever know.

To our parents and extended community, the support and respect you have shown me speaks volumes about the strength of our school community and your commitment to Catholic Education in Taber. From parent volunteers who welcome guests at tournaments to our dedicated School Council that meets faithfully each month, you continually demonstrate how deeply you care for your children and our school. I am excited to share that our School Council will be hosting a Food and Flag Potluck community event on April 14. This celebration of culture and food will be a wonderful opportunity to bring us together. More information will be shared soon, and I hope you will consider being part of this meaningful community-building event.

And finally, to the staff—thank you for opening my eyes to a depth of teaching and learning that I had not yet experienced. You have shown me the importance of maintaining high expectations for all learners and have demonstrated, time and again, that you are true experts in your field. I have seen the light of Christ shining through each of you, and I pray that you do not grow weary in sharing that light and love with our students. You will be deeply missed, though I am grateful to continue working alongside you in a new and different way. I will remain connected.

I am so pleased to pass the baton to Mr. Van Uden and Ms. Siemens, our new Interim Associate Principal. They are strong, caring, and wise leaders who deeply value Catholic Education and the love and learning our students receive each day. Congratulations, Mr. Van Uden and Ms. Siemens! God bless, and have a wonderful February.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Nevil

**February 11th:**  
Soup Day  
**February 12th:**  
Pancake Breakfast

**February 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>:**  
Family Day/Reading  
Week - No School

**February 24th:**  
School Council  
Meeting @ 5:00

**February 25th:**  
Lenten Mass @ St.  
Augustines @ 10:30

## **News from our St. Mary's Band Booster Club**

The Grade 6 Band Annual Workshop will take place Wednesday, March 18th 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 which was sent out at the start of the month.

The next Home Performance Assignment is due Monday, March 2nd. Please ask to hear your son or daughter play at home.

The St. Mary's Grade 7-12 students are selling Ben's Beef Jerky as a fundraiser for their trip to Calgary in March. Each pack is \$25 and comes in Original, Teriyaki, Smoky River and Sweet and Spicy. Students are reminded that all of the orders are due Friday, February 12th. The jerky will be delivered in the second week of March.

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 4:20 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 24th at 7pm in the band room. Any interested parents are invited to attend.

The St. Mary's Senior Band will be performing at the W.R. Myers Music of the Night Concert on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Tickets will be available in late February or at the door. This promises to be a great night of music from our local performers.

The St. Mary's Spring Band Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the school gym. Everyone is invited to attend.

# Soup Day : February 11th



If any parents would like to bring a pot of soup, please contact our school office at 403-223-3165

Please consider signing up to bring a pot of soup for the following soup days:

Feb. 11, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 13

Contact our school office to sign up.

## Little Love Market

February 11, 2026  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: St. Patrick Elementary School, Taber

Adult and Youth Vendors

Bake Sale

Concession Available (Cash Only)

# PANCAKE THURSDAY



Pancake Breakfast for all students & staff

## FEBRUARY 12TH

(In lieu of Shrove Tuesday)

THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR PREPARING BREAKFAST FOR US

## SMS YEARBOOKS

### FOR SALE



We have extra copies of past SMS Yearbooks that could use a new home. These are all new or very gently used yearbooks that have been sitting in storage. Grab a copy of any of the following years for only \$10:

2001-2002	2008-2009	2017-2018
2003-2004	2010-2011	2018-2019
2004-2005	2013-2014	2019-2020
2005-2006	2014-2015	2020-2021
2006-2007*	2015-2016	2021-2022
2007-2008	2016-2017	2023-2024

\*2006-2007 - This yearbook is a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary yearbook that also celebrates SMS history from 1956-2006.

## 2024-2025 Year Books Are Still Available

We still have some 2024-2025 Yearbooks available. Come grab your copy! (\$40)

2025-2026

# THE ANALOG PRIZE: A GRADE 9-12 SHORT STORY AWARD

The Analog Prize celebrates excellence in short story fiction writing at the secondary school level in Southern Alberta

Returning for the 2025/2026 school year, the Analog Prize intends to inspire and motivate young writers to consider pursuing a future as Canadian literary artists. The Analog Prize is presented by Analog Books of Lethbridge and sponsored by University of Lethbridge Chancellor Terry Whitehead

**The Top Prize: \$750**

Three additional finalists: \$100 Cash Prize

Plus all 4 winners receive a \$100 Analog Gift Certificate

Submit to:

[books@analogbooks.net](mailto:books@analogbooks.net)

## Submit your short story today!

Submission Deadline: February 28, 2026

— THE —  
analog prize



# APRIL 7 WEAR GREEN



In Partnership with  
  
Canada's Organ and Tissue Donation Community

## TABER GOLDEN SUNS

Sunday, February 22, 2026  
@ Vauxhall Arena

12:45pm U-11 vs. Olds Grizzlys  
3:15pm U-18 vs. Okotoks Oilers  
6pm U-15 vs. Lethbridge Hurricanes

REGISTER ONLINE  
[GreenShirtDay.ca](http://GreenShirtDay.ca)



• REGISTER • TELL YOUR FAMILY • BE INSPIRED •  
**IN HONOUR OF THE LOGAN BOULET EFFECT**

**TIP TOP** tailors since 1909

# TAKE TIP TOP'S PROM PLEDGE

SUIT UP, GIVE BACK

**TIP TOP** tailors since 1909

[ENGLISH](#) | [FRANCAIS](#)

# PROM PLEDGE 2026

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Separate School



School Code: SCHOOL-AB-00088

## HOW TO USE

**In store:** Show this barcode to a Store Associate during check out.

**Online:** Enter SCHOOL-AB-00088 in the "School Code" field at checkout.

# GET A CHANCE TO WIN \$10,000 FOR YOUR FUTURE EDUCATION!

Students that purchase a Tip Top suit and present/apply the school's unique identifier code during checkout in-store or online will be automatically entered for a chance to win \$10,000 for their future education needs.

Conditions apply.

Visit <https://tiptop.ca/pages/10k-future-ready-contest> for full terms and conditions.



## Donate School Supplies

Just a reminder that we accept all gently used school supplies at our school. We place these items out for everyone to access for FREE! It helps to save items from the landfill and with the cost of everything lately, every little bit helps!



## POEDs at SMS

### Definitions:

POED: Personally Owned Electronic Devices we are referring to personally owned cell phones, tablets, laptops, and wearable technology such as smartwatches or earbuds.

The following will be the policy followed at SMS:

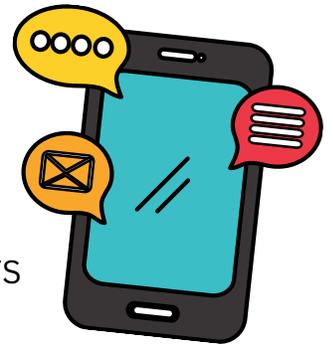
### Grade 6-9

SMS will be moving to a “no cell phone use during the school day” policy for Grades 6–9. Students may bring phones to school, but they must remain stored in lockers during the day, including morning wait time and lunch breaks. If a student needs to contact home, they may use a classroom phone or receive special permission to use their own device.

### POEDs Not Permitted during the following:

- 8:00-3:15 (12:05 on Fridays)
- No POEDs in the atrium in the morning or at Lunch time

Cell phones may be stored in the locker or in the office, but NOT IN POCKETS



### Grade 10-12

### POEDs Not Permitted during the following:

- 8:30- 11:33 (12:05 on Fridays)
- 12:12- 3:14

It must be more than an arm’s length away from the student, and silenced or powered down and not seen and not heard.

### POEDs Permitted during the following:

- 8:00-8:30: School is open for Breakfast Program
- 11:33-12:12: Lunch
- When they have a spare, they are allowed to have them in the atrium and library. (they are NOT allowed in the hallways)
- Flex Time in the classroom under the teacher’s supervision

If the parent/guardian needs to contact the student, please call our school office at 403-223-3165. We will get your child for you.



## Upcoming Events - Coldest Night of the Year

Our Coldest Night of the Year Fundraising walk is coming up! CNOY is a winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness... because it's cold out there. Join us on February 28, 2026 to help us reach our goal!

There is a venue change this year! We will be gathering in the **basement of the United Church of Canada, located at 4929 50 Ave, Taber.**

- 4:00pm - Check-in
- 4:45pm - Gather for Opening Remarks
- 5:00pm - Send-off
- 6:00pm - Light meal served

**Become a Team Captain!**  
How to begin:

- Register online and create your team with a fun name!
- Recruit 7-8 or more of your friends and family to register and fundraise with you
- Fundraise personally, and encourage your teammates to fundraise too.
- Communicate frequently with your team to keep them excited and connected.

**Your basic duties are:**

- Recruit team members
- Fundraise successfully
- Lead well

**How do you become a team captain?**

Visit **cnoy.org** and click the big **Register** button. Then, after selecting your location and signing the waiver, you can select a registration type, click on **Create a Team** and follow the instructions from there.

**Join as a walker!**

If you would like to walk with us but don't want to start a team, you can join with family members, friends, or co-workers on theirs.

- Visit **cnoy.org** and click the big **Register** button
- Create your new account (or sign in to your account from last year)
- Select the **Location** where you'll be walking and continue
- Click to accept the **Waiver** and continue
- Click **Join A Team** (or register individually if you wish and join a team later)
- Search for your Team by name or captain name
- Select that team from the list and proceed to complete the registration

If you have any questions or need promotional materials please contact the food bank office at 403-223-1833 or email [AsstMgr@taberfoodbank.ca](mailto:AsstMgr@taberfoodbank.ca)

# OFF CAMPUS NEWS

## WORK Experience

If you have a job or are volunteering and have not signed up for work experience please contact Mr. Boschee.

Please keep emailing proof of hours worked to [hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca)

### RAP Apprenticeships

Please keep emailing proof of hours worked to [hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca)



### GREEN CERTIFICATE

NEW Green Certificate students should know there is a Virtual Induction meeting coming up. Testing dates for February are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact Mr. Boschee for more details.



### NOTE

#### BLACKFOOT 1000 DUAL CREDIT UOFL

Interested in learning Blackfoot and want to receive University credit? Contact Mr. Boschee..

#### INTRO FINAL

February 2 - First day of Dual Credit classes at Lethbridge Polytechnic.

#### AUGUSTANA

February 3 -Augustana University will be at CCH East during Flex. They will have a booth set up in the cafeteria.

## NEW DROP!



CAREERS  
take on the future

REGISTER WITH CAREERS SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON POTENTIAL INTERSHIPS.

[HTTPS://WWW.CAREERSNEXTGEN.CA/GET-AN-INTERNSHIP](https://www.careersnextgen.ca/get-an-internship)

### WHO BUILDS IT BEST

Live Building Competition

March 12 & 13 Excite Lethbridge Exhibition Park  
If you are interested contact  
Lize Bam - Career Practitioner  
[baml@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:baml@holyspirit.ab.ca)

## who are we

Off-Campus Education provides programs and services for Holy Spirit School Division Students during their high school years.

We offer 3 Off-Campus programs, 3 Workplace Safety Courses, Dual Credit Courses, Career Services, Post Secondary Services and Scholarship Services.

These programs and services are available to all high school students in the Division.



Holy Spirit  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

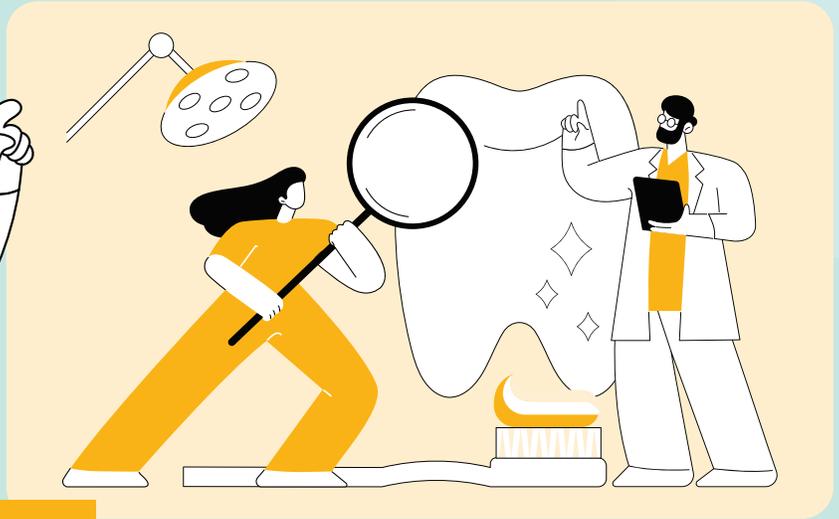
Mark Boschee  
Off Campus Education Coordinator

Cell: 587-220-4358  
Office: 403-327-4596  
[boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca)  
[hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:hsoffcampus@holyspirit.ab.ca)

[holyspirit.ab.ca](http://holyspirit.ab.ca)

CCH Campus East  
405-18 Street South  
Lethbridge, AB  
T1J3E5

**LET'S GO RURAL!**



**How Do I Get There?**

# DENTAL ASSISTANT

**This free interactive Zoom session is available to rural Alberta high school students, parents, and teachers.**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026  
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Join us to learn more about a **career as a Dental Assistant** after high school. In this session, ask questions and engage in conversation around education pathways. Hear firsthand experiences that will inspire you to take the next step towards your dream career.



**Scan to register!**



**RhPAP.ca** | [info@rhpap.ca](mailto:info@rhpap.ca)

This free interactive Zoom session is available only to rural Alberta high school students. Financial contribution for RhPAP has been provided through the Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services.