

St. Mary's School

Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me

September 2024



Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Nevil

Hello SMS Community,

I'm Michelle Nevil, the new principal of St. Mary's School, and I'm thrilled to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. As I settle into the community, I've embraced the strong foundation that defines who we are at SMS. In my time here, I've reflected on **why** we do things the way we do, and I'd like to share those insights with you.

Our motto, **Ecce Ego Sum Mitte Me**, means "Here I am, send me." This phrase comes from the book of Isaiah and reflects the prophet's response to God's call. It captures the essence of who we are here at SMS: we are a faith-filled Catholic community, rich in both tradition and in how we care for one another. We are called to follow God and to show kindness and respect to one another in all circumstances, guided by the light of Christ. I'm excited to see our students and live out this identity every day.

I am honoured to lead our school in its mission to nurture the intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional growth of our students, all deeply rooted in the Gospel message of Christ. As I continue to learn more about this wonderful community, I am inspired by the strong commitment to academic excellence and the close-knit atmosphere we foster. I am eager to further build a community that supports our students in every aspect, helping them to thrive. I especially value our Friday morning liturgies and the positive interactions I witness among students in the hallways and classrooms. I'm truly excited for all that this school year has in store.

With that, I would like to extend a warm invitation to our **Welcome Back BBQ** on Wednesday, September 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the atrium. I look forward to meeting many of you there!

Wishing you all a wonderful September. If you ever have any questions or concerns, my door is always open.

Picture Day
Tues. Sept. 10
Terry Fox Run
Fri. Sept 13

Help us at the
community garden.
Everyone Welcome!
Wed. Sept. 18 @
6:30pm

Opening Mass
Sept. 19 @ 2pm
Big Storm Volleyball
Sept. 20 & 21

Welcome Back BBQ
Wed. Sept. 25 @ 5pm
Orange Shirt Day
Fri. Sept. 27

September

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

- Matthew 5:16

St. Augustine of Hippo 354-430 (Feast Day: August 28)

Proclaim!
Pilgrims of Hope



St. Augustine of Hippo was an unlikely saint, but a very influential one. Living between 354 and 430 AD in what is today Algeria, St. Augustine became a Doctor of the Church, meaning that his influence on Catholic theology and philosophy was vast and enduring. His writings, including *City of God* and *Confessions* remain important works to study even today.

However, St. Augustine was not always so religious. He was born into an upper class family with a devout mother, Monica (who later became a saint herself), but in his youth lived wildly and rejected his Christian upbringing. A brilliant student, Augustine lived in Carthage, Rome, and Milan while completing his education and beginning to work as a professor. With the constant prayer of his mother, Augustine returned to Christianity and was influenced greatly by Ambrose of Milan, the Bishop (and later also a saint).

A key moment in his conversion was his reading of the letter of St. Paul to the Romans. After being baptized in 387, Augustine returned to Hippo the following year and became first a priest, and then the Bishop of Hippo by 395. He was well known for his sermons, which were engaging (and often quite lengthy). For the last 35 years of his life, he preached constantly and dedicated himself to the conversion of his local people to Christianity, and became known for many of his contributions to the development of Christian thought. But he was also highly practical and focused on the needs of those around him, as expressed in this quotation:

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

The Apostles' Creed

As part of our call to *Proclaim* this year, we are going to focus on elements of the Apostles' Creed each month, starting with an overview of creeds in general. A creed is a summary of beliefs; it comes from the Latin word *Credo*, which means "I believe." We are likely familiar with the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, which are the two main Creeds that we use in the Catholic Mass. While we say in these creeds "I believe," we do that alongside all of our brothers and sisters in faith, a unifying proclamation of what it is that we believe in. The creeds are combinations of historical truths with statements of faith, and have been derived over time from the earliest Christians.

In *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Francis writes that:

"Faith is necessarily ecclesial; it is professed from within the body of Christ as a concrete communion of believers...Faith is not a

private matter, a completely individualistic notion or a personal opinion: it comes from hearing, and it is meant to find expression in words and to be proclaimed...Faith...enables us to become part of the Church's great pilgrimage through history until the end of the world."

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



"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

One of Saint Augustine's famous sayings is: "You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you". Throughout the three years of this faith plan, you have heard Steve Angrisano's "[A Rightful Place](#)" at all of our divisional Masses. This song is based on St. Augustine's *Confessions*, and contains many of the themes and calls that we have responded to.



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



"You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

- ST. AUGUSTINE

POEDs at SMS

The following will be the policy followed 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.



POEDs Permitted

- 8:00-8:30: School is open for Breakfast Program
- 11:33-12:12: Lunch

Parents and Guardians can contact their child during these times on their POED.

POEDs Not Permitted

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

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

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

The Friends of St. Mary's AGM will take place on October 1 at 7:00 p.m.

They are currently looking for new members, so if you would like to help organize fundraisers that support the needs of our school community, please consider joining.

If you are interested please email Jody Ginther at ginthers@telus.net

First Offense

If any device is seen or heard in class, the teacher will take the students device, at the end of the class the student must retrieve their phone. Parents/guardians will be notified by the teacher.

Second Offense

The student's device will be securely delivered to the office. Delivered devices will be stored at the front desk in the office and will ONLY be returned to students at the end of the day in the second instances. Parents/guardians will be notified by the teacher.

Third Offense

A call will be made home from SMS Administration requiring a parent/guardian to collect the student's device.



Our next school council meeting will be held on Monday, October 7 at 5:30pm.

All of our SMS parents and guardians are welcome to attend our school council meetings and they will always be held in our school staffroom.

We hope to see you there!

There will be exceptions to his policy when a teacher requires the students to use their POED for educational purposes, and for personal medical and individual learning needs



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 Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

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,

Dr. Scott Morrison, Superintendent of Schools

St. Mary's School Fees

2024-2025



Junior High		Senior High	
General Fees		General Fees	
Caution Fee	\$10.00 (refundable)	Caution Fee	\$10.00 (refundable)
School Council / Leadership	\$5.00	School Council / Leadership	\$5.00
Parent Council	\$5.00	Parent Council	\$5.00
First Aid Fee	\$2.00	First Aid Fee	\$2.00
Technology Integration	\$12.00	Technology Integration	\$12.00
		Graduation Deposit	\$100 (non refundable)
Yearbook (optional)	\$40.00	Graduation	\$250.00
		Graduation Banquet	\$400.00
		Yearbook (optional)	\$40.00
Fees For Optional Courses		Fees For Optional Courses	
Art	\$30.00	Art (\$10 per credit)	\$50.00
Band (if rental required)	\$70.00	Band (if rental required)	\$70.00
Construction	\$30.00	CTS Shop (\$15 per credit)	\$150.00
Foods/Fashion	\$30.00	CTS Foods/Fashion (\$15/ credit)	\$150.00
Phys Ed	\$25.00	Phys Ed	\$45.00
Extracurricular Fees		Extracurricular Fees	
Badminton	\$50.00	Badminton	\$60.00
Basketball SV	\$200.00	Badminton Provincials Fee	\$100.00
Basketball JV	\$150.00	Slo-Pitch	\$100.00
Cross Country	\$50.00	Basketball	\$450.00
Volleyball SV	\$200.00	Basketball Provincials Fee	\$100.00
Volleyball JV	\$150.00	Cross Country	\$75.00
Track and Field	\$50.00	Cross Country Provincials Fee	\$100.00
Gr.6 Volleyball	\$50.00	Golf	\$150.00
Gr. 6 Basketball	\$50.00	Golf Provincials Fee	\$100.00
Gr. 6 Badminton	\$30.00	Curling	\$125.00
		Curling Provincials Fee	\$100.00
		Volleyball	\$450.00
		Volleyball Provincials Fee	\$100.00
		Track and Field	\$50.00
		Track and Field Provincials Fee	\$100.00
Activity Fees		Activity Fees	
Jr/Sr Band Trip	\$500.00	Jr/Sr Band Trip	\$1300.00
Jr/Sr Band Trip 1	\$500.00	Outdoor Pursuits Camp	\$650.00
Gr. 6 Band Workshop	\$45.00	Cardboard Boat Races	\$20.00
Gr.6 Legislature Trip	\$170.00	Art Gallery Trip	\$10.00
Grade 6 Field Trip	\$70.00	Religion Retreats	\$10.00
Grade 7 Field Trip	\$150.00	Post Sec/Career Transportation	\$40.00
Grade 8 Field Trip	\$150.00	Grade 10/11 Field Trip	\$50.00
Grade 9 Field Trip	\$50.00	Band Trip 2	\$1000.00
Religion Retreats	\$10.00	PE Emergency First Aid(Optional)	\$80.00
CTF Options	\$20.00	Grad Retreat	\$50.00
		CTS Optional Fee	\$25.00

Maximum amounts that can be charged

ORDER NOW

ORDER YOUR SCHOOL CLOTHING

Go to smt.holyspirit.ab.ca - - Click on **SCHOOL** - - Then on **SCHOOL MERCHANDISE**



2024

Picture Day!

St. Mary's School
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

WHAT TO EXPECT

-  Students are photographed on Picture Day*
-  Proofs are sent home with your student
-  Order packages and more on mylifetouch.ca

*All students will be photographed. Please notify your child's teacher if you do not want an individual picture taken of your child. Your child may be included in a class picture if requested by the school.

Questions? Contact our Help Center at lifetouch.com/support-ca. Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.

Lifetouch

5004100 © 2024 Lifetouch Canada LLC (OL) EVCC7J747 5004100

Altar Server Pizza party and practice Friday, September 20 from 12:30-2:30 at St. Augustine's Parish. Inviting current members and anyone else who would like to join us.

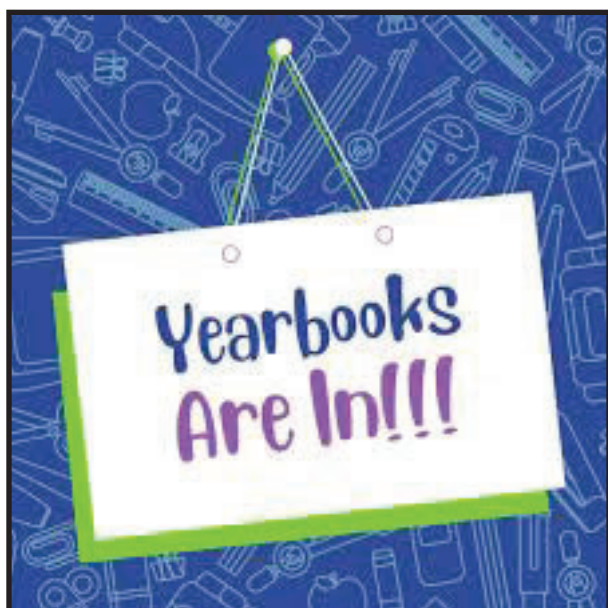
We have an open account at the bottle depot for fundraising for basketball provincials which we are hosting this year. It is called ST. MARY'S BASKETBALL PROVINCIALS. We would like to thank anyone who wishes to contribute to this account!

**BOTTLE
DRIVE**
Save Your Empties

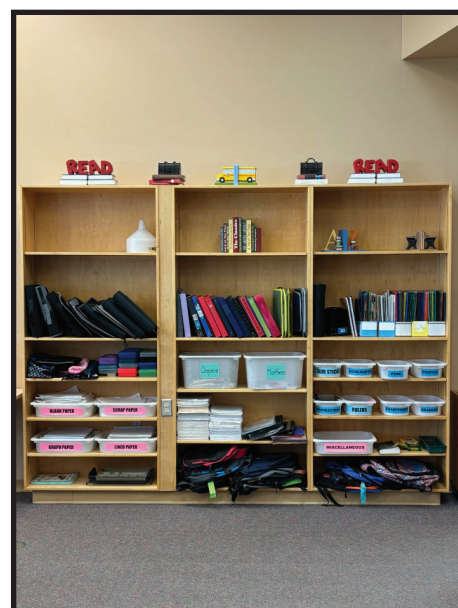


**We are hiring caretakers for
St. Mary's School and
St. Patrick School!
APPLY HERE**

Go to www.holyspirit.ab.ca - - Click on **DIVISION** - - Click on **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**



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! >>>>>>



OFF-CAMPUS NEWS

CCH EAST
Rm 154



Programs offered through Off-Campus Education

Sept 2024

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.

Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)

Senior high school students have 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.

Special Projects

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.

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. See all the different specializations to choose from [here](#)

Dual Credit

Partnering with Olds College and Lethbridge Polytechnic Dual Credit courses allow 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.

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

Mark Boschee

Off-Campus Coordinator

Career Centre, East Campus on Tuesday/Friday

Cell: 587-220-4258

Email: boscheem@holyspirit.ab.ca

Vero Amakobe

Career Practitioner

Office on Campus, West on Tuesday/Thursday

403-327-4596 ext 312

Email: amakobevero@holyspirit.ab.ca

HOLY SPIRIT SMT & SPT 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 26 First day for staff
Aug 28 Opening Mass

O – 5
I – 0

AUGUST '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sept 2 Labour Day
Sept 3 First day for students
Sept 25 Div. Board Meeting
Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

O – 19 (24)
I – 19

Oct 11 School PD Day
Oct 14 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 23 Div. Board Meeting
Oct 28-31 Diploma Exams

O – 22 (46)
I – 21 (40)

OCTOBER '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER '24

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nov 1 School PD Day
Nov 4-7 Diploma Exams
Nov 8 Wellness Day
Nov 11 Remembrance Day
Nov 12 Div. Collab. Day
Nov 27 Div. Board Meeting

O – 19 (65)
I – 17 (57)

Dec 18 Div. Board Meeting
Dec 20 Last day before break
Dec 21-31 Christmas break
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Boxing Day

O – 15 (80)
I – 15 (72)

DECEMBER '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY '25

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 1-5 Christmas break
Jan 6 First day after break
Jan 13-27 Diploma Exams
Jan 22 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (100)
I – 20 (92)

Feb 17 Family Day
Feb 18 & 19 Unassigned time for teachers
Feb 20 & 21 SWATCA
Feb 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 19 (119)
I – 15 (107)

FEBRUARY '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH '25

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Mar 10 School PD Day
Mar 17 Div. Collab. Day
Mar 18 Spiritual Dev. Day
Mar 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (140)
I – 18 (125)

Apr 1-11 Diploma Exams
Apr 17 Last day before Easter break
Apr 18 Good Friday
Apr 18-27 Easter break
Apr 21 Easter Monday
Apr 28 First day after break
Apr 30 Div. Board Meeting

O – 16 (156)
I – 16 (141)

APRIL '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY '25

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 19 Victoria Day
May 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (177)
I – 21 (162)

Jun 11-25 Diploma Exams
Jun 25 Div. Board Meeting
Jun 25 Last day students
Jun 26 School PD Day
Jun 26 Last day for teachers

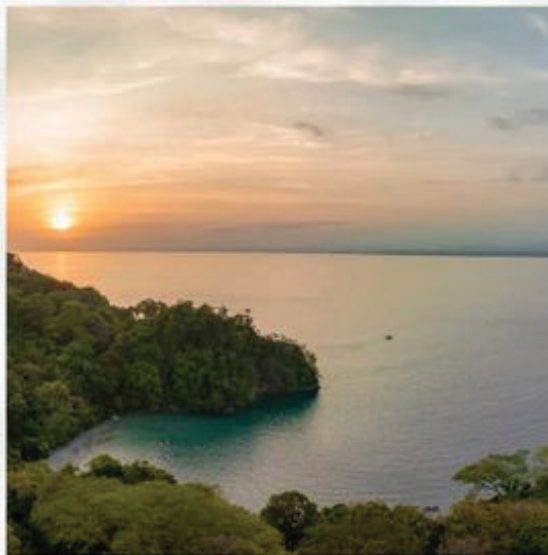
O – 19 (196)
I – 18 (180)

JUNE '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

No students
Stat Holidays
School PD/Div. PD/Spiritual Dev./Collab. Days
Div. Board Meetings
Diploma Exams
First and last days for students
First and last days for teachers



\$100 OFF UNTIL
SEPT 30

COSTA RICA

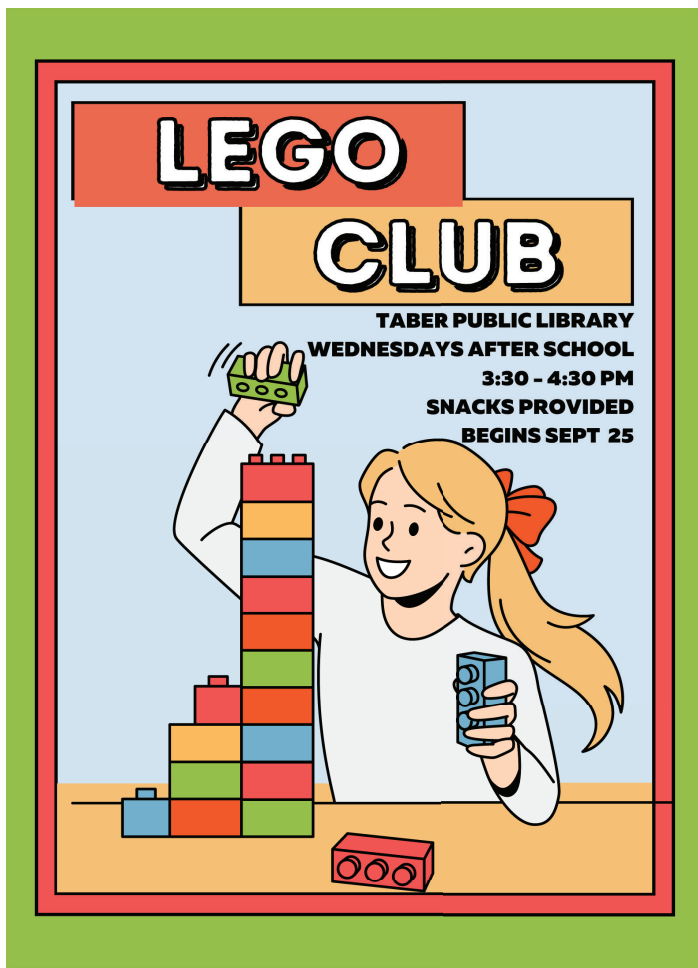
Easter

2026

Enrol today in the
SMS EF Tours trip to
Costa Rica Easter
2026!! It's open to
all student currently
in grade 10 & 11

BOOK NOW AT
WWW.EFTOURS.CA USE
ENROLMENT NUMBER
2790446CX

If you have questions contact
Ms. Siemens



We are again collecting pop tabs to help build hospital equipment and wheel chairs.

This time, we are having a friendly competition with Vauxhall.

Who can collect more???



National Archery in the Schools Program

NASP at St. Mary's School:

(National Archery in the Schools Program)

Currently, St. Mary's School is one of several schools in Alberta with a certified NASP instructor. The NASP program promotes student education, physical education, and participation in the lifelong sport of Archery. The program's focus is to provide *International Style Target Archery* training to supplement physical education classes in grades 4 through 12.

More information about NASP may be obtained at
<http://naspschools.org/#>



At SMS, we have a NASP Club Team that will meet to practice in the gym once a week, 3:30pm-4:30pm, on each Monday that school is regularly in session. At present, we do not have any scheduled travel days or out-of-town events that we will be attending. If an opportunity for out-of-town competition arises, students may attend on an optional or voluntary basis.

Students that wish to become part of the NASP Team only need to complete the registration form and pay their registration fee (\$80 for October 7th, 2024 to May 12, 2025). All necessary equipment is provided by SMOC (St. Mary's Outdoor Club) for use by the team.

You may register a student at any time by obtaining a registration form from the SMS Office. Archery sessions will begin October 7th, 2023 at 3:30pm (*please note that the first 2 sessions for students are set aside for safety instruction. These sessions may not include actual shooting of the bows & arrows*).

If you should have any questions or require any additional information, please call SMS at 403-223-3165 and speak to Mr. Doolittle. Remember, registration forms may be picked-up at the office. Take one home to your parent/guardian so that they can complete the registration form and pay the required program fee.



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