

St. Michael's School—BI

November 2020



St. Michael the Archangel

Our Angel of Protection

Principal's Message

As October draws to a close we are thankful for many things. We thank God for an exceptionally low case load of Covid 19 regionally which has allowed for our students of all ages to thrive in an environment where they are loved and cared for. Hopefully, this reality has taken some pressure off parents and guardians to go about life's daily routines in a somewhat vein of normalcy. We thank our Lord for the beautiful autumn that He has placed before us and we hope our farming community has been able to thrive in the context of this weather. Finally, we thank God for the most precious life we have been granted.

Please find enclosed information on report cards that are around the corner, All Soul's Day, Halloween (juxtaposition), Catholic Education Sunday, Remembrance Day, Options Week and additional bullet points.

I would like to highlight the information on the Annual Auction (live-stream) that is occurring on December 4. A letter has been sent home from the Auction committee in addition to the note in the bulletin. Please support this more than critical component of SMBI school life. Monies raised has improved many aspects of educational delivery for all of our students. Past successes have resulted in so much more for our students. Thank you in advance for your support of this endeavor.

Finally, continue to pray for our school, our district and all students throughout Canada and the world that education may take place where it is best suited in order for all children to move forward.

Yours Most Assuredly in Christ

Chris Sumner

HALLOWEEN



As with many things this year our parade of costumes will look a little different. We are encouraging all students to dress up in their Halloween costumes on Friday, October 30. At 1:00 p.m. classes will then parade outside along the sidewalk going out the doors by the gym and returning into the school by the office doors. Parents are welcome to come out and view our students and their creative costumes by lining up along the street/sidewalk across from the school. Weather forecasts are favorable for that day.



All Souls Day

Monday, November 2nd is All Souls Day. This is a day in the Catholic Church calendar when we remember those who have passed away. We ask that you take time out of your day to pray for all the departed.

Merciful Father, hear our prayer and console us. As we renew our faith in Your Son, whom you raised from the dead, strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in his resurrection. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Eternal rest grant unto them O' Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Picture Retake Day

School picture retakes are set for Thursday, November 5. If your child needs a retake please send their proof envelope back to the school by Nov 4 and mark it "Retake".

Students who were absent on picture day will also have their school pictures taken that day.

Remembrance Day

The school's annual Remembrance Day service will look a little different this year as we continue to be challenged by the pandemic restrictions.

A Remembrance Day service will be held on November 6 in each classroom at the same time with the help of technology. Thank you to Miss Croymans for organizing this service.

Bullying Awareness

Bully Awareness week is November 16-22. We ask all students and staff to wear **pink** on Tuesday, November 17 to show that you 'Stand Up' to bullying.

November is also Prevention of Family Violence month. We would like to show our support by collecting supplies for the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter. Students can bring their donation to the school office until November 25. We ask all students and staff to wear **purple** Thursday, November 19th to show your support.

Hot Lunches



Peter's Pizza Day is set for November 5. Orders due no later than Sunday, November 1st. Thank you for supporting the Graduating Class of 2021.

Pita Pit Day is scheduled for November 19. Orders due no later than November 12. Winners of the free items for this meal are Anke Marie Van Tryp and Rhett Robertson. Thank you for your continued support.



Catholic Education Sunday

Sunday, November 8 is Catholic Education Sunday. This is a day to celebrate the gift of Catholic Education and the important role Catholic schools play in our province. The theme this year is from the Prophet Isaiah, ***Those who hope in the LORD shall renew their strength (Isaiah 40:30, NRSV).***

Please see the attached letter from the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

In Flanders Fields



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short day ago
We lived, felt, dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



LEST WE FORGET

AR Program

The program has been running for 29 school days with 37/69 students participating. Students have taken 223 quizzes passing 196. Our school average is 87%. Keep up the good work!

Report Cards/Parent Teacher Interviews

Report cards for Grade 7-12 students will be sent home on Friday, November 6. Parents of Elementary students (K-6) will receive their child's report card on Friday, November 13. As with most things these days Parent/Teacher Interviews will be handled in a new way. With the COVID restrictions in place there will be no in person Parent/Teacher Interview. Parents will be receiving information with regard to the other ways interviews will be done this year.

Sacramental Preparation

If your child is ready to receive one of the following sacraments Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, please contact the church (545-2023) Office hours are Fridays 9:00-3:00.

CWL

We would like to thank St. Michael's CWL (Catholic Women's League) for their generous gift of a crucifix pendent with St. Benedict on the back. The pendent will hopefully help us to remember that prayer is a powerful tool and we should all take some time each day to pray. Students said a decade of the rosary within their class cohorts.

Options Week

Options Week is scheduled for November 23 - 27. During this week only students in grades 10, 11 & 12 will attend school where their entire day will be devoted to the options program they have chosen. Two options will be offered this time and three options will be offered to them in the spring. **NO SCHOOL FOR** Kindergarten to Grade 9 during this week.

Growing Great Kids

Once again we will be recognizing students who show kindness to others which falls in line with the Divisions Three Year Faith Plan where we are all asked to Be Gracious and Be Grateful. Students who are caught in the act of a good deed will have their name put into a draw for a \$20 Medicine Hat Mall Gift Card sponsored by the Conquerville Community Hall. One name will be drawn each month at our Birthday Celebration. **KEEP SHOWING YOUR KINDNESS!**



Making Thinking Visible

We have attached a Creating Cultures of Thinking infographic on the next page of the newsletter. Hopefully this gives you an idea of how language around learning and thinking can have impact. Teachers are doing course work on the initiative which fits well with our Covey training. 'Creating Cultures of Thinking' is centered around the research of Ron Ritchhard.

5. Focus on the Learning Over the Work

Learning is the goal of an assignment. Take a moment to ask your child what the purpose of each homework assignment is, what do they think the teacher wants them to learn and get better at as a result. Then monitor the learning, not the work.

4. What Questions Did You Ask Today?

Our questions drive us as learners. Instead of asking your child, "Did you learn anything today?"; you could say, "Did you ask a good question today?" This will encourage your child to be more invested in the types of questions they ask at school.

3. Challenge but Don't Rescue

When your child encounters difficulties, don't jump in to solve the problem and rescue him/her. Instead, ask questions that will help him/her to think through the problem, identify, and choose a course of action to moving forward.

2. Develop a Growth Mindset

Develop a growth mindset in your child by focusing your praise on process, learning, and effort (*You really worked hard on this and have learned a lot. You've really developed as a musician.*), as opposed to ability (*You're so clever. You're good at math.*)

1. Name and Notice Thinking

Use the language of thinking to name and notice the thinking your child is using and thus make it more visible.
I like how you have used what you already know to make connections. That's a perspective I hadn't thought about.

6. Support Your Child in Arguing Effectively and Persuasively

Research has shown that teenagers who argued constructively with their parents by building a case and providing evidence for their position were more enabled to speak up, voice an opinion, and use evidence in other facets of life.

7. Provide Time to Pursue Passions

Students need time and space to pursue their passions and interests. Pay attention to your child's learning and passions outside of school and make time for them.

8. Make Your Own Thinking Visible

You are a model for your child of what it means to be a thinker and a learner. Model your own interests, passions, curiosity, reflection, learning, and thinking for your child.

9. What Makes You Say That?

By simply asking, "What makes you say that?"; in a curious and non-judgmental tone after someone has given a response, we are able to get a window into the thinking behind that person's initial response.

9 Apps for Parents



MAKING THINKING VISIBLE

18th Annual Auction

We are so excited that our wonderful Auction Committee has come up with a way to hold our annual auction. **ST.**

MICHAEL'S 18TH ANNUAL AUCTION IS

ON!! IT'S JUST MOVING ONLINE!! More details will follow in next month's newsletter. Students and staff have been asked to contribute to the auction with gift cards as follows:

Jr/Sr. High—GIFT CARD WREATH (any kind of gift card will work)

Grade 4/5/6—KIDS ONLY GIFT CARDS

Kindergarten/1/2/3—FAMILY TIME GIFT CARD TREE/BASKET

Staff—ADULT GIFT CARD BASKET


Individual donations will be gratefully accepted. Please contact a committee member to have your donation included in the online auction as the school will not be able to house items this year. **ALL DONATED ITEMS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 13** in order to give the committee time to get all items uploaded to the website. For more information please contact the school for a list of committee members.





NOVEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day	2 All Souls Day	3	4	5 Picture Retake Day	6 Jr/Sr. Report Cards	7
8 Catholic Education Sunday	9 NO SCHOOL	10 NO SCHOOL	11 Remembrance Day No School	12	13 Elementary Report Cards	14
15	16	17 Wear Pink	18	19 Wear Purple	20 No School Staff PD Day	21
22	23 Sr. High Options Week No School K-Gr. 9	24	25 Division Board Meeting	26	27	28
29	30					



Transformed by the Journey

NOVEMBER

I can do all things through him who strengthens me!

Philippians 4:13



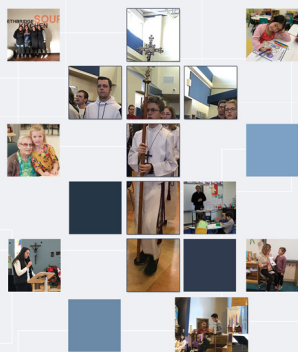
Special Days to Remember

Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 All Souls' Day
- 8 Catholic Education Sunday
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 25 Feast Day of St. Catherine of Alexandria

Prayer for Catholic Education

Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education. May we always appreciate the beauty that we enjoy in having our children attend a Catholic school. Guide us as we labour to bring the virtues of faith, hope, and love into a global society in great need of them. Lead us to proclaim your Good News in our schools, in our families, and in our communities. We make this prayer in your name. Amen.



Adapted from Called to Pray (Justin McClain)

Be Gracious

The "fruit of the Spirit" is evidence that our character is becoming more like Christ's. Faithfulness is one of these nine fruits. When we think about this attribute, we cannot help thinking about the saints who so faithfully answered the call to holiness. When saints are canonized, we recognize someone who has been honoured as a hero or model of faith. But guess what? We are all called to be saints by virtue of our Baptism and we are called to imitate Christ by living a life of holiness. Our children though are not called to seek holiness in any particular way but according to their own nature, their own character, and the conditions of their own life.

This month, talk to your children about what their God-given talents are and encourage them to use them to demonstrate in their own special way God's compassionate love. This is how they will learn to connect that when they are being gracious at home and at school, they are actually doing what they can to faithfully live a holy life. Learn more about how you can help your child answer their call to holiness by watching a short video by Joe Paprocki [here](#).

Catholic Education

On November 8, we proudly celebrate our schools as faith-filled learning communities on Catholic Education Sunday. Holy Spirit Catholic Schools has created a booklet to explain the basics of our Catholic faith tradition and how you will experience this being lived out in your child's school. You can access the booklet [here](#).

Holy Spirit Catholic Schools... where children are cherished and achieve their potential.



Be Grateful

We are all called to live holy lives but as Pope Francis always reminds us, we are not alone in this quest. Catholics believe in the communion of saints and we know that the saints who walk with us protect and guide us. We are grateful that they sustain and carry us when times are difficult. While we can always pray directly to God, we also know that we can ask that the saints pray for us too.

This month, after your family says your prayers, ask your favourite saint, or perhaps the patron saint of your child's school, to pray for your family. It's as simple as saying at the end of your prayer, "St. Francis, pray for us."



Faith & Family

Living a virtuous life makes salvation possible. Ken Yasinski, a popular Catholic speaker from Saskatoon, reminds us that, "As Catholic parents, our number one goal is to get our children to heaven." He and his wife Janelle have a wonderful video called "How to Teach Virtue to Children" that you can watch [here](#). Each time your children hear our call to action to "be gracious" from our faith plan this year, it is a reminder to use the virtues to guide their day to day actions. This does not just happen at school of course. It is actually in the home where we first learn to live out our vocations. If we want to live each day with holiness, we must start with our own surroundings.

We hope your family is enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family. To access the November cards, click [here](#).



Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58



Resources: Peter Gohn-Good Catholic-Catholic at Home (Peter Gohn); Saint of the Day (Leonard Foley and Pat McCloskey)

"I thank my God every time I remember you."

(Philippians 1:3)



OFF-CAMPUS NEWS



Young Women in Trades & Technologies Virtual Mentorship Series

CAREERS: The Next Generation is offering a virtual mentorship series for young women in grades 9-12 to become educated on trades & technologies. There are 3 sessions in this series:

Automotive & Mechanical trades—December 15

Industrial Trades—February 17

Information & Communications Technology—March 17

These virtual sessions will take place from 5:00pm—6:30pm.

In each of these sessions they talk to women who are working in those specific trade areas about their experiences, education, why they enjoy their trade and what they do in a normal work day. Register for one, or all of them, at:

www.careersnextgen.ca/ywitt

Time to Hand in Your October Hours

All Rap and Work Experience students please remember to hand in, email or text your hours for October to Mr. Boschee or Mrs. Gurr.



Dual Credit Opportunities with Olds College

Holy Spirit School Division is pleased to announce a partnership with Olds College to offer our high schools students the chance to enroll in college level courses while still in high school. Students will receive not only high school credits, but also college credits. These courses will run virtually and start in February. Courses include:

Veterinary Practice (Animal Health)
Solving Technology Problems (AG Techgromony)
Applied Ecology (Land & Water Resources)
Producing Horticulture (Horticulture Tech)

Contact Mr. Sumner for more information about this exciting opportunity!

Virtual Post-Secondary Open Houses

- **Medicine Hat College** - Nov 18 - 5:30-8pm - register at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/UKXnc9d/mhcopenhouse>
- **Waterloo University** - Nov 7 - register at: uwaterloo.ca/future-students/tours-events?
- **Trent University**—Nov 7 - Register at: trentu.ca/openhouse
- **University of Ottawa** - Nov 7, 14 & 21— Register at: uottawa.ca/undergraduate-admissions/admission-events/open-house#register

Scholarship Opportunity

Pursuing a degree in **STEM***?

You can win a **\$100,000** Schulich Scholarship.

Learn more at SchulichLeaders.com

Deadline to apply is **January 27, 2021**

*Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Scholarship & Financial Aid Presentation November 3 OR November 5 at 7:00pm

Career Transitions, in partnership with the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College, are pleased to host 2 virtual evenings featuring information about scholarships and financial aid at the post-secondary level.



Want to know what Engineering is all about? Then check out

The University of Saskatchewan - Nov 17 - **What is Engineering?** Register at: engineer-ing.usask.ca/events-calendar/2020/11/what-is-engineering-2020.php



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



The Catholic Bishops
of Alberta and the
Northwest Territories

Les évêques catholiques
de l'Alberta et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Catholic Education Sunday is an annual event that celebrates the important and critical role which our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta. Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift, which provides faith-based education to more than 180,000 students in Alberta. The Alberta Bishops' commitment to Catholic education is steadfast and we continue actively to work with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Sunday is from the Book of Isaiah. In the context of our current pandemic, it offers us the prophet's words of solicitude, prophetic fulfillment, and hope in the face of challenge.

Those who hope in the LORD shall renew their strength.
(Isaiah 40:31, NRSV.)

The pandemic continues to have a deep impact on every facet of our society, including the Catholic Education of our young people. During the shut-down of schools in the spring, Catholic Education faced this challenge by providing virtual classrooms, which continued to engage students in their academic learning and religious faith instruction. When the schools reopened in the fall, many new practices were put in place to adhere to the health precautions and to ensure student safety. In the midst of these challenges, Catholic Education has been embracing the call for renewal and inviting students and their families to look to the future with hope.

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Alberta Bishops released the *Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal*. The Pastoral Statement

describes this as a “*time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all.*” Some significant societal issues, which were hidden by the distractions of pre-pandemic life, are now very evident. This calls people of Faith, and especially our Catholic educators, to chart a prophetic path in addressing these issues now and in the future.

“Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal.” (*Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal*)

This call for renewal will be embraced by our young people through the role that Catholic education must play in strengthening authentic human development, which is essential for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal for the future of our society.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, proposes such a renewal by rediscovering the value of human fraternity and recognizing ourselves as sisters and brothers, who are responsible for one another and called to stand by those who suffer.

“Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, No. 167)

Another example of this spirit of renewal can be found in recently beatified Carlos Acutis, a young man of our era. He lived the faith by devoting himself to the Eucharist and responding to this Grace in his life by caring for the poor, advocating for those living with physical or mental challenges, and using technology to further evangelization. Blessed Carlos Acutis has been called “a millennial saint.” His example can guide young people in our Catholic schools to learn about him and to be inspired by his active witness to the Catholic Social Teachings of our faith!

Catholic Education fosters high academic achievement and provides students with personal and communal spiritual formation. Catholic Education invites students to see each other and, indeed, the peoples of the world as their sisters and brothers. This fraternity calls the students to respond to those in need locally and globally. These good works help young people to seek the common good and to bring Christ’s love and hope to others.

May the efforts of everyone bring hope and renewed strength to all those committed to Catholic Education. In this time of pandemic, we extend to our Catholic school communities our prayers and blessing for the celebration of Catholic Education Sunday.

Yours sincerely in Christ,


Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



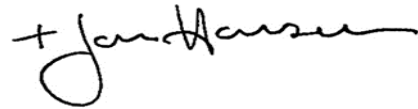
Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith



Come away and rest a while.

Mark 6:31

Holy Spirit Catholic Schools is honoured to support "The Bench Project" at Martha Retreat Centre. This beautiful place has been an important part of the spiritual journey of so many of our staff, students, families, and trustees over the years. We would love for you to join us as we "make our mark" at the Centre as our way of honouring the legacy left by the Sisters of St. Martha. They were such strong supporters of Catholic Education and we want to show our support to ensure this gift in our community continues to be available for people as they seek spiritual renewal.

We are now gratefully accepting donations for the purchase of a "Holy Spirit Catholic Schools" bench at Martha Retreat Centre where people can come and rest awhile. What a beautiful way for our staff, trustees, and families to consider marking the upcoming Catholic Education Sunday by supporting this project in any way that you can. Tax deductible donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and can be made online using the Donations button on the Holy Spirit website.





November 16- 20

We Challenge you to **STAND UP**
Demonstrate Kindness and
& **WEAR PINK** during

BULLY PREVENTION WEEK

Due to COVID we are unable to come to
you so be creative and share your photos
with us @40mileFCSS or #WhereToTurn

STOP
BULLYING
#BEKIND

STAND UP!!!

Bullying Awareness Week is a time to promote awareness and understanding of bullying and its impacts. Regardless of where Bullying happens- in school, the office at home or in the community- there are people and resources available. This years theme #WhereToTurn encourages everyone to learn where to turn to get help when dealing with bullying

Call 911 if you know someone in immediate danger
Bullying Helpline 1-888-456-2323 (open 24/7) or
visit the Bullying Helpline Chat- www.alberta.ca

**REACH
OUT** **SPEAK
OUT**

Accept our
Purple
Challenge....

Wear Purple one day during the
month of November in support of

Prevention of Family Violence

Challenge co-workers,
family, friends or business to see
who could collect the most
supplies for the Women's Shelter
Drop off supplies at the FCSS
Office, Town Office or CRC by
November 30th For more
information contact the FCSS office

at 403-545-2200



Celebrate with us National Child's Day November 20th

Pick up your Free Child's Day Activity Kit (for all ages)

Starting November 10 pick up your kit at the
Susan Andersen Library, Foremost Municipal Library,
FCSS Office, Town of Bow Island, or Foremost FCSS Office.

Join us on the [FCSS Facebook Page @40mileFCSS](#)

November 20th for a live Preschool

National Childs Day Celebration 11:00am



National Child Day is a time to celebrate the children in our lives. They bring purity, joy, love, and laughter into our lives. However, they aren't just children but they are also important citizens with a valid voice. They hold the future of our world in their hands.

