

FEBRUARY - *Kindness Month* - NEWSLETTER



We are at the halfway mark in our school year. We have seen so much growth in our students so far, and we continue to be grateful for the opportunity to watch them grow and learn each day. Thank you for trusting us each day with your children

February 14 is **Ash Wednesday**, a day that signifies the beginning of Lent. Together we will begin our Lenten journey to Easter. As we walk with Jesus through the desert, we prepare ourselves for the unconditional gift of love that we will receive at Easter through his passion, death, and resurrection. In our classrooms, we will be learning more about Lent.



In February we will be focusing on kindness and friendship through our **Be Loving** pillar. On February 28, we will celebrate **Pink Shirt Day**. Building on our Be Loving pillar we will focus on lifting each other and celebrating the unique, amazing first each one of us has. We invite all students to wear **pink shirts** on February 28th.

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **COMMUNICATION** Thank you for communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to staff- in emails, on the phone and in face-to-face communications. We love working collaboratively to support our students in achieving their learning goals.
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees, **94%** have submitted payment! We greatly appreciate families paying fees; this is assisting us with school budget planning.
- **STUDENT UPDATE FORMS** Thank you to all the families who have completed and submitted their student update forms, we are now at **97%** completion.
- **INTENTION FORMS** Thank you to our grade 6-8 parents for taking the time to share your intentions with us, we have now received **88%**.

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

SHROVE TUESDAY - We need your help - Feb. 13th

Every year at St. Francis our School Council helps us celebrate this important day by cooking and preparing pancakes and sausages for students and staff. We are still looking for volunteers to help mix the batter, flip pancakes and serve on this day.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out this [form](#)

ASH WEDNESDAY - You are invited to attend Liturgy with us

We invite everyone to join us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy on **Wednesday, February 14th at 10:30 a.m. @ St. Francis of Assisi Middle School.** Our **7-1** and **7-4** students will be leading this liturgy in our gym for our community. Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting and marks the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter.

2024-2025 School Year - Planning has begun

All grade 6-8 parents have received an intention form for you to confirm your child's placement at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year. We must receive your form before March 1st. Thank you to those of you who have already submitted. The office will continue to send out a SwiftReach email each Monday to parents.

- As a reminder, those students who were grandfathered for the 23-24 school year can continue at St. Francis with transportation to and from the school being the parent's responsibility for the 24-25 school year. RDCRS Transportation will not be available for grandfathered students.

24-25 NEW STUDENT REGISTRATIONS - open March 4th

New students living within our catchment will be able to register online at [Registrations](#) starting March 4th.

WAY OF THE WOLF (WOTW) STUDENT RECOGNITION- Be Forgiving!!

In January, staff recognized students who have demonstrated being Forgiving! All the classes will come down to the gathering area on Tuesday, February 6th to celebrate the nominated students, these students have their chance at the spinning wheel and choosing a prize. In February, staff will be nominating students who demonstrated the pillar, Be Loving.

4 PILLARS - Be Loving

In February, we will continue our Faith Coach lessons focusing on our 4 Pillars (Be Joyful, Be Humble, Be Loving, Be Forgiving) with all classes. This month the focus of these faith lessons will be the pillar 'Be Loving'. This is a wonderful way for our students to learn how we show love towards one another by accepting differences and being respectful. We have seen a huge increase in the student's understanding of these important pillars of our school and look forward to these lessons.

FAITH FACT FRIDAY - Did you know?

Each Friday during our morning announcements we learn interesting facts about our patron saint St. Francis of Assisi and more about our Catholic faith. During January, all of the Faith Fact Fridays have focused on the learning of our Patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi, the Prayer of St. Francis and the liturgical calendar.

COLLECTIVE CARING - Staff Professional Learning

We want to inform you that our staff is actively engaged in learning and responding to issues of racism. On our February 2nd Professional Development Day, we are fortunate to have a presenter from CARE for Newcomers, Jan Underwood, support our learning of racism including recognizing and

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responding appropriately to middle schoolers. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students, and our ongoing education aims to promote diversity, equity, and understanding within our school community. Your support in this journey is invaluable, and we look forward to fostering meaningful dialogue and positive change together. We will be able to take our new learning and apply it to our 4 Pillar - Be Loving lessons in February with all students.

TERM 2 - comes to an end on March 15th

Thank you for continuing to check Schoology and taking the time to check your child's progress and celebrate successes. The month of February will go by fast for us and students must stay on top of their assignments. We appreciate your help in checking on Schoology that they do not accumulate NHIs. The last day for students to hand in their assignments this term will be March 11th to allow time for teachers to mark and enter marks by March 15th. Any assignments handed in after this date will not be included in determining Honour Roll for term 2.

STUDENT DROP-OFF & PICK-UP - Bus Lanes Reminder

Reminder to all parents to keep our bus lane free at morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Our bus drivers are experiencing an increase of cars parked which is delaying their routes. Please share this information with others who drop off and pick up.

COMMUNICATION - Teachers and school administration

If you have questions please reach out to your child's teachers. Over the coming months, our school administration team will connect with parents/guardians via telephone. This provides school administration an opportunity to check in with parents and seek feedback.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - Shrove Tuesday Planning

- Thank you to the parents who have already signed up to help on February 13th. We still need a few more volunteers, if you are interested please sign up [here](#).
- Our next meeting will be Monday, March 4 @ 7:00 PM; all are welcome to attend.

FIELD TRIPS - Parent Volunteers will be needed

Field trips significantly contribute to students' educational experiences. As a grade team, teachers are diligently collaborating to curate enriching activities that align with the curriculum and amplify student learning. In adherence to safety protocols, it is mandated that there be a minimum of one adult per 20 students during these outings. Thus, the involvement of parent volunteers is indispensable for the success of our field trips. We kindly request that you arrange and complete your Criminal Record Check promptly, ensuring it is on record at the school. For assistance in acquiring the necessary documentation, please reach out to the school office to obtain a letter for submission to the RCMP. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION - Frozen Jr.

The cast and crew are working diligently as they prepare for their upcoming performances of Frozen Jr. at the end of the month. If you or your business can sponsor our Musical Production please see [Sponsor Letter - Frozen Jr.](#) Tickets for our evening performances are available for purchase online [here](#).

POWERSCHOOL - WE NEED YOUR HELP Student Update Forms **PAST DUE**

- Student Update Forms are a requirement from Alberta Education and are mandatory to submit, even if you have no changes. Forms are now accessible in PowerSchool.
 - These forms were DUE SEPTEMBER 30th.

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

- Please log in to your account to update your records. Even if you have NO CHANGES a form must be submitted.
- The office will continue to send reminders to individual parents who have not yet completed and submitted forms.
- Remember to save your username and password once you have set up your account.
- Don't hesitate to contact the school if you have difficulty accessing the parent portal.

The PowerSchool site is accessed at: <https://powerschool.rdcrcs.ca/public/home.html>

RYCOR - School Fees DUE

St. Francis of Assisi Middle Mandatory School Fees are now due.

- **CTS/Options Fee - \$15** This fee supports the delivery of Option Classes for all grade levels
- **PAC (Parent Council) Fee - \$25** This fee supports year-end field trips, etc. for all grade levels
- **Grade 9 Farewell Fee - \$10** (Grade 9 students only) This fee supports the celebration of our graduating Grade 9 students

How do I use RYCOR Online Payments?

1. Visit our school's website
2. Click on the "Quick Links" tab to access PowerSchool.
3. Sign in using your PowerSchool Username and Password. If you have forgotten either/or, click the link "Forgot username password?" and follow the instructions or contact the school office for assistance.
4. Click on the link, 'School Fees and Forms', on the left side.
5. Please follow the instructions provided on the screen when you are taken to RYCOR.

If you have questions, please contact the school's financial secretary.

*RYCOR can only be accessed via PC/Tablet, the program does not work using the PowerSchool App

GENERAL INFORMATION - Division Calendar

School Division calendars for the 2023 - 2024 school year, please click [here](#).

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- [PowerSchool/School Engage - LINK](#)
- [Schoology - LINK](#)
- [Rycor - school fees LINK](#)

SCHOOL INFORMATION - School Hours / Student Entry

- Office Hours - open 8:00 - 4:00 pm on school days
- Bell Schedule -
 - First block starts @ 8:50 AM
 - Lunch 12:07 - 1:07 PM
 - Last block ends @ 3:25 PM
- Student Entry/Exit- As in previous years, we will continue the practice of having students enter and exit from their respective grade doors. We found that this practice made for safe and smooth transitions for our students in the mornings and afternoons.
 - [Grade Level Entry/Exit Doors Link](#)

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- Student Doors - Open at 8:30 a.m.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - **Mark your calendars: reminder to check the Athletics Calendar**

- **February 2** **Staff Professional Development Day -no school for students**
- February 2 World Day of Consecrated Life
- February 2 Groundhog Day (Balzac Billy will make his big appearance)
- February 5-11 Children's Mental Health Week
- February 7 Winter Walk Day
- February 9-10 St. Boys and Girls BBall tournament (HHHS)
- February 10 Frozen Jr. Rehearsal
- February 11 World Day of the Sick
- February 13 Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes & sausages for all students)
- February 14 Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins
- February 17 I Read Canadian Day
- February 18 First Sunday of Lent
- **February 19-23** **Family Day & Winter Break - NO SCHOOL for students**
- February 21-23 Teacher Professional Development (no school for students)
- February 28 **Pink Shirt** Day (wear your **pink** shirts)

We thank you for your support and are so grateful to work together with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions on how to enhance our school community.

We wish you a February filled with kindness and love!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson - Vice Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson - Vice Principal