

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

MAY -Spring- NEWSLETTER



Just when you thought you could finally put away those winter coats, Mother Nature decided to throw us a curveball with some surprise snow. But fear not! It's just a fleeting visit from winter's last hurrah. As May rolls in, it's like the world hits the refresh button. Flowers will be popping up left and right, trees are starting to show off their new blooms, and everything seems to be shouting, "We made it through winter!" May isn't just about dodging snowflakes and admiring flowers. It's also a month packed with celebrations! We've got Teacher Appreciation Week, where we shower our amazing educators with love and gratitude. Then there's National Principal's Day, because let's face it, they need some love too. And of course, we can't forget about Mother's Day, where we spoil the incredible women who brought us into this world with love and appreciation.

But that's not all! We're also celebrating Victoria Day. And let's give a shoutout to Catholic Education with World Catholic Education Day and Week because every day is a good day to celebrate learning!

May is here to sprinkle us with snow, shower us with flowers, and fill our hearts with appreciation. Let's make the most of it!

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **BADMINTON** Much gratitude to our many coaches who volunteered to support our grades 6-9 teams and our grade 6 sports development program.. Our teams had a successful season and brought home medals!! We have several grades 7-9 students heading to CWAJHAA Qualifiers.
- **VOLUNTEERS** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have completed the necessary paperwork to obtain a Criminal Record Check to support our upcoming field trips.

FIELD TRIPS - Enriching Learning Our Student's Educational Journey

Our dedicated grade teams have planned engaging activities aligned with the curriculum, aiming to enhance student learning and foster memorable experiences. Your child's participation is integral to the success of these outings. While we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, such as illnesses, we kindly urge you to emphasize the importance of attendance and active participation. Every student's presence adds value to the collective learning experience.

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

We've made necessary arrangements, including booking buses and covering fees based on all students attending. Your cooperation in ensuring your child's attendance is greatly appreciated and contributes to the success of these educational experiences.

Thank you for your continued support in providing enriching learning experiences to all students.

COLLECTIVE CARING - Cell Phones and Social Media Platforms

By fostering a culture of responsible digital citizenship and collective caring, we can work together to create a safer and more positive online environment for our school community. This month we will provide universal lessons to grade 6 and 7 students to address the sending of inappropriate images, "Crossing the Line: Just Send It" - sexting lesson. In this lesson, we will also include the importance of not adding friends on social media platforms that are not known. The intended learning outcomes include:

- Students can understand the pressures on young people to send naked pictures (sexts)
- Students can advise others to avoid sending a sext
- Students can understand the possible consequences of sending a sext, including the legal consequences
- Students can discuss if girls have a (more) negative experience online

Here are some helpful tips and information to help:

1. **Digital Citizenship Education:** Emphasize the importance of teaching students about responsible digital citizenship. This includes understanding the impact of their online actions, respecting others' privacy, and using social media and cell phones responsibly.
2. **Parental Involvement:** Have open conversations with your children about their online behaviour. Speaking openly about the challenges of social media and how you can support your children in navigating these platforms safely.
3. **School Policies and Guidelines:** Reiterate the school's policies regarding cell phone use and social media conduct. Explain how these guidelines are in place to create a positive and safe learning environment for all students.
4. **Digital Footprint Awareness:** Review with your children the concept of a digital footprint and how their online actions can have long-term consequences. Encourage them to think before they post and consider how their digital footprint may affect their future opportunities.
5. **Reporting Mechanisms:** Ensure your children are aware of reporting mechanisms in place for any incidents of cyberbullying, harassment, or inappropriate behaviour online. Encourage them to speak up if they encounter or witness such behaviour. All social media platforms have a reporting mechanism.
6. **Balanced Use of Technology:** Encourage your children to find a balance between online and offline activities. Emphasize the importance of spending time engaged in face-to-face interactions, hobbies, and activities that promote well-being.
7. **Positive Role Modeling:** Model positive digital behaviour for children. Show them examples of using technology responsibly and respectfully in both personal and professional contexts.
8. **Empathy and Respect:** Reinforce the values of empathy and respect in all interactions, whether online or offline. Encourage children to think about the impact of their words and actions on others and to always treat their peers with kindness and understanding.

Please see the linked document providing some online resources and links for parents seeking further support:

- DOCUMENT [ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS: Online Safety, Digital Citizenship and Responsible Technology Use](#)

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GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA - Cell Phone Use in School Survey

The ministry is interested in hearing from you regarding cell phone usage in schools and is seeking your input to help inform any potential next steps. [Survey Link](#)

24-25 NEW STUDENT REGISTRATIONS - opened March 4th

New students living within our catchment area can register online at [Registrations](#). If you have new neighbours or friends moving into our catchment area please encourage them to register. Word of mouth is the best advertising.

RDCRS Transportation - Avoid a Late Fee and Register Online Starting Today

- Please review the updated eligibility for the 2024-25 school year [LINK](#)
- Online registration will open on May 1, 2024. Please register before June 15, 2024.
- For more information, contact the [Transportation Department](#).
- Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete transportation registration.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - Next Meeting

- Our next meeting will be Monday, May 6 @ 7:00 PM; all are welcome to attend.

RYCOR - School fees- have you paid all of your fees?

St. Francis of Assisi Middle Mandatory School Fees are past 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:

- 2023 - 2024 school year, please click [here](#)
- 2024-2025 school year, please click [here](#)

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

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

SCHOOL INFORMATION - School Hours / Student Entry

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

- 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 having students enter and exit from their respective grade doors. This practice makes for safe and smooth transitions for our students in the mornings and afternoons.
 - [Grade Level Entry/Exit Doors Link](#)
 - Student Doors - Open at 8:30 a.m.

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

- May 1 RDCRS Transportation Registration Opens
- May 1 National Principal's Day
- May 3 Emergency Protocol - Practice Lockdown
- May 6-10 Catholic Education Week
- May 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 8 Hats on for Mental Health
- May 8 Edge Youth Ministry (Mantracker) @ Ecole Camille J. Lerouge
- May 9 World Catholic Education Day
- May 9 Grade 9 Field Trip - Provincial Skills Canada Competition
- May 13 Grade 9 PAT ELA Part A / Grade 8 FINAL EXAM ELA Part A
- May 15 Grade 6 & 7 PRACTICE ELA FINAL EXAM
- May 15 Edge Youth Ministry (Crusades) @ Sacred Heart Church
- May 17 Professional Development Day - no school for students
- May 20 Victoria Day - school closed
- May 22 Grade 6 & 7 FINAL EXAM ELA Part A
- May 22 Edge Youth Ministry (Old Fashioned Carnival Night & Year End Party) @ St. Mary's
- May 23 Grade 5 Parent Information Night
- May 24 Grade 6 Immunizations second round
- May 24 Privilege Day
- May 28 Grade 8 Track & Field Day (Lindsay Thurber High School)
- May 29 Edge Youth Ministry (Mega Night- Flag Wars) @ Our Lady of the Victory Camp
- May 31 Grade 6 Track and Field Day @ Lindsay Thurber High School

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

Wishing you a joyful and fulfilling month ahead!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson - Vice Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson - Vice Principal

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