

APRIL -*Embracing the Journey*- NEWSLETTER



EMBRACING THE LENTEN JOURNEY

As we enter April, we find ourselves still in the sacred season of Lent—a time of reflection, renewal, and preparation as we journey toward the joy of Easter. Lent invites us to deepen our faith through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness, drawing us closer to Christ and His ultimate sacrifice for us.

During these weeks leading up to Easter, we are reminded to pause, reflect, and seek transformation in our own lives. Just as nature begins to awaken with the arrival of spring, we too are called to a spiritual renewal, preparing our hearts to fully embrace the hope and promise of the Resurrection.

As a faith community, we walk this journey together, supporting one another in faith, love, and service. May this Lenten season be a time of grace for us all, strengthening our commitment to live as disciples of Christ in all that we do.

Wishing you all a meaningful Lenten journey as we look ahead to the joy of Easter and the well-deserved rest of Spring Break.

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **BASKETBALL** Much gratitude to our many coaches who volunteered to support 6 teams and our grade 6 sports development programs. Our teams had a successful season and brought home medals!! Thank you for supporting our school teams and programs.
- **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES** Thank you for your dedication and commitment to attending parent-teacher conferences and working together as a team to support your child's education and growth.
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees, **95%** have submitted payment! We greatly appreciate families paying fees; this assists us with school budget planning.

25-26 NEW STUDENT REGISTRATIONS - opened March 3rd

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.

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

In March, staff recognized students who have demonstrated being Joyful! All classes will come to the gathering area on Friday, April 11th, to celebrate the nominated students. These students will have a chance at the spinning wheel and choose a prize. In April, staff will nominate students demonstrating the pillar, Be Joyful.

4 PILLARS - Be Joyful

In April and May, 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 our faith lessons will be on the pillar 'Be Joyful'. This is a wonderful way for our students to learn how we show love towards one another, and being loving can be demonstrated by our students using their talents and capabilities to show:

- **Kindness:** be kind to one another, simple acts such as complimenting, holding doors open, helping a classmate with their work can make a big difference
- **Inclusion:** including others and fostering an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and accepted, reach out to those who may feel lonely, and invite them to join in
- **Respect:** respect others, regardless of differences in background, beliefs, or abilities, listen attentively to their peers, speak politely and treat everyone with dignity
- **Empathy:** show empathy by considering others' feelings and perspectives, offering support and understanding to classmates who may be going through difficult times
- **Acts of Service:** participate in acts of service both within the school community and beyond, volunteering at community events, helping out within the school
- **Positive Communication:** using words that uplift and encourage others and avoiding gossip or hurtful language
- **Friendship:** cultivate meaningful friendships built on trust, loyalty and mutual respect, being a good friend and supporting peers through both good and bad times
- **Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** demonstrating forgiveness by apologizing when they have wronged someone and fostering a culture of grace and understanding within the school community

As Catholics, we are called to be agents of healing and reconciliation, spreading love and compassion wherever we go. By practicing these behaviours, our students can create a culture of love and kindness within our school community, making it an even more supportive and uplifting environment for all. We have seen a huge increase in the students' 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. Throughout the month of March and into April, the focus was on preparing ourselves for Lent, leading up to the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, in dying on the cross.

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

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every school day counts, and as we approach year-end final exams, consistent attendance is more important than ever. Missing class time—whether due to absences or late arrivals—adds up quickly and can impact learning, as teachers and students work hard to cover key curriculum concepts and prepare for assessments. Being present and engaged each day sets students up for success!

ADMINISTRATION & TAG STUDENT MEETINGS: **Supporting Student Responsibility**

At St. Francis of Assisi Middle School, our administration team is committed to fostering student growth, responsibility, and community values. One of the ways we do this is through regular TAG Meetings, scheduled every two months, where we connect with students to celebrate successes, reinforce expectations, and guide discussions on important topics.

This month, our TAG Meetings will focus on:

- ✓ **Finishing Term 3 Strong** – Encouraging students to stay focused, complete assignments, and put forth their best effort as we approach the final stretch of the school year.
- ✓ **Dress Code & Changing Weather** – Reminding students of appropriate attire as temperatures rise, balancing comfort with school expectations.
- ✓ **Taking Pride in Our School** – Reinforcing the importance of respecting shared spaces, picking up after ourselves, and taking responsibility for personal belongings.
- ✓ **Addressing Language & Respect** – Engaging in important conversations about racial slurs and stereotypes, reinforcing our commitment to a respectful and inclusive environment.

These meetings are just one of the ways our administration team supports student accountability, ensuring that every student feels valued, supported, and equipped to contribute positively to our school community.

COLLECTIVE CARING - **Cultural Stereotypes and Racial Remarks**

At St. Francis of Assisi Middle School, we are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive environment where all students feel valued and respected. Our staff are actively engaging in conversations with students to promote diversity, equity, and understanding within our school community. Your support in this journey is invaluable, and together, we can create meaningful dialogue and positive change.

Here are some steps we can take as a community:

- ♦ **Open Dialogue** – Have honest conversations with your child about the impact of words and actions. Help them understand why certain comments can be harmful and the importance of treating everyone with respect.
- ♦ **Education** – Learning about different cultures and the harm caused by stereotypes helps build empathy and appreciation for diversity. We are happy to provide resources to support these discussions.
- ♦ **Setting Boundaries** – Establishing clear expectations around respectful language and behavior ensures students internalize the importance of inclusion.
- ♦ **Leading by Example** – As adults, we play a key role in shaping attitudes. By modeling inclusive behavior and demonstrating respect in our daily interactions, we reinforce these values for our students.
- ♦ **Seeking Support** – If needed, additional resources such as counseling or workshops can help students navigate these important conversations.

Our goal is not to assign blame, but to foster growth and understanding. By working together, we can help our students become compassionate, respectful individuals who contribute positively to their communities.

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Parent Resource Guide

For more tools and insights on discussing cultural sensitivity, stereotypes, and racial understanding with middle school students, please refer to our **Parent Resources & Materials** document: [PARENT RESOURCES & MATERIALS TO HELP NAVIGATE DISCUSSIONS WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS ABOUT CULTURAL SENSITIVITY, STEREOTYPES AND RACIAL UNDERSTANDING](#)

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**

Clear and open communication helps us create the best learning environment for our students. If you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to connect with your child's teachers or our school administration team. We truly appreciate your partnership and support in making this year a success for all our students!.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - **All Are Welcome!**

- Our next meeting will be Monday, May 12, @ 7:00 PM; Join us!
- Principal Advisory Question:
 - Supporting successful transitions from elementary to middle school

FIELD TRIPS - **Parent Volunteers Needed**

Field trips are essential to enhancing students' educational experiences. To ensure the success of these outings, we require a minimum of one adult per 20 students. Parent volunteers are vital, so we kindly ask that you complete your Criminal Record Check as soon as possible. Please contact the school office for a letter to submit to the RCMP if you need assistance. Your support is greatly appreciated.

GENERAL INFORMATION - **Division Calendar**

- 2024 - 2025 school year, please click [here](#).
- 2025 - 2026 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 11:39 - 12:39 PM
 - Last block ends @ 3:15 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](#)

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

RYCOR - School Fees PAST DUE

St. Francis of Assisi Middle Mandatory School Fees are now due. *RYCOR can only be accessed via PC/Tablet, the program does not work using the PowerSchool App

CTF/Options Fee - \$25 This fee supports the delivery of Option Classes for all grade levels

PAC (Parent Council) Fee - \$35 This fee supports year-end field trips, Chromebooks, school-wide activities, 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

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

- April 1 April Fools' Day
- April 2 World Autism Day - WEAR BLUE
- April 3 P.O.D. Youth Ministry at STF
- April 4 Nakiska Ski Trip
- April 7-11 Alberta Education Week / National Library Week
- April 10 Grade 6 Author Visit - The Barren Ground by David Robertson
- April 11 P.O.D. Youth Ministry - Theme: Secret Service @ St. Thomas
- April 12 Face to Face Ministry @ St. Lorenzo
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Holy Thursday
- April 18 Good Friday (NO SCHOOL)
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 21 Easter Monday (NO SCHOOL)
- April 21- 25 Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)
- April 27 Sunday of Divine Mercy
- April 28 - May 1 National Volunteer Week

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.

We wish you an April filled with reflection, renewal, and the promise of brighter days ahead!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel
Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson
Vice-Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson
Vice-Principal

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