

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

JANUARY -New Year- NEWSLETTER



Welcome back and blessings for the new year! School re-starts on Monday, January 8th.

The New Year began with two very special celebrations for Catholics. January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and it was also the World Day of Peace. This is a hopeful way for us as a community and society to start our year by turning our eyes to the woman who brought the Prince of Peace into our world. She then shared him with us. This makes a wonderful resolution for us all, to welcome Jesus into our lives, adore him, and share our love for him with the world.

**May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.
May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each
of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.
May the Lord make your New Year a happy one.**

Amen

MERRY CHRISTMAS - to our Ukrainian Families

The rituals of Ukrainian Christmas Eve (Jan 6) and Ukrainian Christmas Day (Jan 7) are dedicated to God, to the welfare of the family, and the remembrance of the ancestors. A prayer is said and the father says the traditional Christmas greeting, "**Khrystos rodyvsya!**" (Christ is born!) which is answered by the family with "Slavite Yoho!" (Let Us Glorify Him!)

EPIPHANY - You are invited to attend Mass with us

We invite everyone to join us for our Epiphany Mass on **Wednesday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Church.** During our Feast of the Epiphany, we hear the story of the three wise men who visited the baby Jesus, bringing Him gifts. The Christmas story is all about gift-giving...the wonderful gift of Jesus that God gives to the world and the wonderful gifts we give back. Think of the wonderful things you did for others this past year and make resolutions to continue to give back to God the gift of yourself through helping others.

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

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **STAFF APPRECIATION** - Thank you to all of the parents who provided treats, the personalized wood ornament for each staff member and to those who came around with the treat cart. We loved everything and felt appreciated.
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees, **91.1%** 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 **91%** completion.

2024-2025 School Year - Planning has begun

With the beginning of the new year, our school starts planning for the 2024-25 school year. We do require all RDCRS Student Update Forms to be completed as we start our new school year intentions. In the coming weeks, all grade 6-8 parents will receive an intention form for you to confirm your child's placement at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School. 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.

WAY OF THE WOLF (WOTW) STUDENT RECOGNITION- Merry and Bright!!

In December, staff recognized students who exemplified all that we love about the Christmas season - nominations could have focused on one or more than one of the pillars, or on our Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, or anything that staff chose to recognize in the students. All the classes came down to the gathering on Thursday, December 21st to celebrate the nominated students, these students had their chance at the spinning wheel and choosing a prize. In January, staff will be nominating students who demonstrated the pillar, Be Forgiving.

4 PILLARS - Be Forgiving

In the new year, 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 Forgiving'. 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 December, all of the Faith Fact Fridays have focused on the liturgical season of Advent and the preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. If you have a moment, please ask your children about this. In January, we will continue the learning of our Patron Saint..

COLLECTIVE CARING - What Teens Need to Know About Boundaries

Teens often find themselves in difficult situations with friends, dating and others struggle to communicate their needs or their values. Even when their gut is telling them that someone is crossing a line with them, they may struggle to articulate that the situation is making them uncomfortable. For this reason, in January staff will be delivering a universal lesson to each class on respecting boundaries, trusting your instincts and reviewing when to speak to a trusted adult.

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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 be connecting with parents/guardians via telephone. This provides school administration an opportunity to check in with parents and seek feedback.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - December Teacher Appreciation

- Thank you to the parents who contributed to our December 20th Staff Appreciation, all staff enjoyed the treats and felt appreciated by our parent community.
- Our next meeting will be Monday, January 15 @ 7:00 PM; all are welcome to attend.

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.**
 - 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

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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](#)
 - Student Doors - Open at 8:30 a.m.

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

- January 6 Epiphany
- January 7 Baptism of the Lord
- January 8 School Resumes & Cafeteria will be closed
- January 10 Epiphany Mass @ St. Mary's (10:30 AM)
- January 13 Junior 1 Boys & Girls Bball Tournament @ HHHS
- January 13 Sr Boys & Girls Bball Tournament @ LTHS
- January 13 Frozen Jr. Saturday Rehearsal @ STF
- January 15 School Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- January 17 Ski Club at Canyon
- January 18-26 Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 27 Family Literacy Day
- January 27 Junior 2 Boys & Girls Bball Tournament @ STJHS
- January 29 Grade 9 Discovery Day @ high schools
- January 31 Ski Club at Canyon

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.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson - Vice Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson - Vice Principal

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