

OCTOBER -Thanksgiving- NEWSLETTER



THANKSGIVING...MORE THAN JUST TURKEY

We have all heard the famous adage, *actions speak louder than words*. What better time to teach our students about gratitude than at Thanksgiving. No other time does this ring truer than during the holiday season. Middle School aged students are the perfect age to live our faith through action. This makes it a perfect time to encourage your church, ministry, and family to put their faith into action to help the less fortunate and renew your spiritual connection to God.

Try these **actions** during the holiday blitz to keep you and yours grounded in Jesus Christ:

Fast before the big day.

Only the most disciplined believers will be able to resist the smell of roasted turkey on Thanksgiving Day. Try scheduling a fast prior to Thanksgiving that will renew your mind and spirit. As a family, fast from something that you typically take for granted.

Donate personal items to a local charity.

If God has blessed your family with an abundance of material possessions, a great way to put thanksgiving into action is to donate some of those things to the less fortunate among us. You can do this by donating food, clothes, or even toys that your kids no longer enjoy. These small items can become a huge blessing that restores someone's faith in God.

Serve at a local homeless shelter or soup kitchen.

Being a helper to the less fortunate is one of the greatest lessons that we can teach our children. This theme is emphasized throughout the Christian faith.

Have each family member contribute to the meal.

Put your gratitude into action by contributing to the Thanksgiving dinner. This should consist of dishes and desserts created with love and it will strengthen your familial bond. Allow young children to help with meal preparation while older children are challenged with this responsibility. Take great enjoyment in this teaching moment.

[credit: Gospel Chops Blog](#)

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7).

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY - **Bring out your best smile!**

Edge Imaging will be at the school on Monday, October 2nd to take individual pictures of all students. Remember to Retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st.

FEAST DAY OF ST. FRANCIS - **October 4th**

As a school, we will be celebrating the Feast Day of our patron Saint Francis. In the morning, the students will be going through a Slide show, outlining the great works of St. Francis, creating an understanding of St. Francis and why he is important to our Catholic community. As a school, the students will break bread with each other and share bread sticks with each other, as they celebrate the school's namesake.

THANKSGIVING LITURGY - **October 5th**

On Thursday, October 5 we celebrate our Thanksgiving Liturgy, in the gym, being led by 8-1 & 8-2 students and staff. This will happen from 10:30 - 11:30 am.

WORLD TEACHER DAY - **October 5th**

This is a day that we celebrate our teachers. We are thankful for the grace and kindness our community has shown all of our teachers. We appreciate the power of working together as we strive to provide high quality learning experiences for every student.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School is a Christ centered learning environment whose members are called to Be Loving, Be Joyful, Be Humble and Be Forgiving. These four pillars are the foundation we build upon as our students transition throughout our school and guide them in years to come. We ask that students strive to...BE Loving, BE Joyful, BE Humble and BE Forgiving.

Staff are encouraged to nominate students who have demonstrated being **Joyful!** in the month of September. Nominated students will come down to the atrium on Tuesday, October 3rd to try their chances on the spinning wheel.

For the joy of the Lord is your strength. - 1 Nehemiah 8:10b

HALLOWEEN

Your child's teacher will communicate with you as to what is happening in their classes during the afternoon of Halloween. The morning of October 31, will be regular classes.

If your child decides to wear a costume, they must be in good taste and follow our school dress code and our principles to honor a safe and caring environment.

Students should refrain from bringing the following:

1. weapons of any sort (spears, knives, guns, swords, bow/arrow ...etc.)
2. masks that are gory - discretion can be given here i.e Minecraft masks, -police/fire/hockey/baseball/football helmets would be appropriate

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

COMMUNICATION - Teachers & School administration

Teachers have enjoyed getting to know all of their students this past month and connecting with parents/guardians at our Meet the Staff, through phone calls and emails. If you have questions please reach out to your child's teachers. Teachers look forward to meeting parents/guardians in person at our November Parent-Teacher Conferences. 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 - Ready, Set, Go!

- Thank you to the parents who attended our September 18th meeting. Our council is excited and are ready to start planning events to support our school community. We are looking for volunteers to donate food and treat items to officially welcome back staff at the upcoming Oct. 6th PD Day. Volunteer [LINK](#)
- School administration shared their Principals Report [LINK](#) and asked for feedback from parents in regards to communication, specifically our Week at a Glance. Attending the meetings provides an opportunity for parents to provide feedback in areas that school administration is seeking.
- Our next meeting will be Monday, October 2nd @ 7:00 PM

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.

RYCOR - School Fees

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 link, 'School Fees and Forms', located on the left-hand side.
5. Please follow the instructions provided on screen when you are taken to RYCOR.

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

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

SCHOOLGY - Teacher Reporting and Communication

- Schoology will continue to be the primary platform used for communication and sharing of information. You will use the same information to log in that you established last year if you were in attendance at STF or were in attendance at an RDCRS elementary school for 2022/23 (i.e. Holy Family, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Martin de Porres, etc.)
- If you are still having difficulty setting up your Schoology account, please contact the office and speak with Mrs. Robinson. She will help you get this set up.

POWERSCHOOL - Student Update Forms now due

- Thank you to those parents who have completed and submitted their Student Update Forms. We have now received approximately 30% of the completed forms.
- Student Update Forms are mandatory to submit, even if you have no changes. Forms are now accessible in PowerSchool.
 - **DUE SEPTEMBER 30th.**
 - Please log in to your account to update your records. Even if you have NO CHANGES a form must be submitted.
- School Staff will assist new families with creating PowerSchool accounts early in the school year. Remember to save your username and password.
- 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>

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your calendars

- October 2 - Picture Day
- October 2 - School Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- October 3 - Grade 9 Outdoor Ed (Overnight) Fieldtrip
- October 4 - Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
- October 5 - Thanksgiving Liturgy @ 10:30 AM (gym)
- October 6 - Professional Development (No school for students)
- October 9 - Thanksgiving Day (No School for staff or students)
- October 12 - Fire Drill - Practice for all staff & students
- October 13 & 14 - Jr. Girls/Boys Volleyball Tournament at HHHS
- October 18 - Youth Ministry (Nerf Revolution) @ 6:00 PM
- October 20 & 21 - Sr. Girls/Boys Volleyball Tournament at HHHS
- October 23 - Grade 8 & 9 Cultural Lunch
- October 24 - Wear Blue to support Child Abuse Prevention Month
- October 26 - Halloween Dance @ 6:00 PM
- October 27 - Professional Development (No school for students)
- October 31 - Halloween

We thank you for your support and are so grateful to work together with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to 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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