

# St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

## MARCH NEWSLETTER



Welcome March! As we greet the arrival of March it seems the lion has made its presence known. However, I hold onto hope that as this month progresses, it will depart with the gentleness of a lamb. We find ourselves immersed in the season of Lent, a time of reflection and preparation for the joyous celebration of the death and resurrection of the perfect Lamb, Jesus Christ.

In our collective Lenten journey, we are called to introspection, prayer, and acts of kindness as we emulate the sacrificial spirit of Christ. Let us continue to walk this path together, fostering a sense of community and compassion that embodies the essence of this sacred season.

### KUDOS - Celebrating

- **SHROVE TUESDAY** Much gratitude to our many parent volunteers who made Shrove Tuesday a resounding success!
- **FROZEN JR. MUSICAL PRODUCTION** Thank you to our parents for all of your support with our musical production - helping with students, props, costumes, and selling tickets at the Memorial Centre. Our students performed to over 2000 audience members!
- **INTENTION FORMS** Thank you to our grade 6-8 parents for completing the 2024-25 school year intentions, **97%** of parents have completed and submitted their intentions for next year.
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees, **96%** have submitted payment! We greatly appreciate families paying fees; this is assisting us with school budget planning.

### LENT MASS - You are invited to attend Mass with us

We are pleased to extend an invitation to everyone to join us for our Lenten Mass on Wednesday, March 6th, at 10:30 am. The Mass will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church. We are especially excited to announce that our 6-5 students will be leading this meaningful service for our community. It promises to be a beautiful reflection as we journey through the Lenten season together. Our Term 2 Christian Leadership students recipients will be acknowledged at the end of Mass.

We warmly welcome you to join us in prayer as we embrace the spirit of Lent and come together as a community in worship.

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## **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. If you have new neighbors 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 Humble!!**

In February, staff recognized students who have demonstrated being Loving! All the classes will come down to the gathering area on Tuesday, March 5th to celebrate the nominated students, these students have their chance at the spinning wheel and choosing a prize. In March, staff will be nominating students who demonstrated the pillar, Be Humble.

## **4 PILLARS - Be Humble**

In March, 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 and Be Humble'. This is a wonderful way for our students to learn how we show love towards one another by accepting differences and being respectful. Being Humble can be demonstrated by our students using their talents and capabilities to help others, to encourage each other and by appreciating diversity.

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 the Lenten season, we are learning about the 3 Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Almsgiving and Fasting with a focus on making these pillars developmentally appropriate and providing examples of action items for middle school students.

## **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 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.

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## **PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES - March 20 and 21**

For the upcoming round of conferences, teachers will be reaching out to parents/guardians of students with whom they need to meet with. They will schedule these appointments in priority order. Once these initial appointments are scheduled we will then release the sign-up for parents who would like to make appointments.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure that all necessary meetings are accommodated effectively.

## **TERM 3 - Final Exams**

As we enter our final term of the school year, we want to inform you about the culminating final exams. These exams will serve as a reflection of our students' learning journey and an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the material covered this year.

These exams will take place in regular classrooms. Providing a familiar and comfortable environment for students to showcase their knowledge. Our dedicated teachers will be working alongside students, offering guidance, support and review to help prepare effectively.

It is important to emphasize that these exams are designed as low-risk assessments and are not weighted high as part of their final marks. They are not intended to cause stress or anxiety but rather celebrate their achievements and highlight areas for growth. Our goal is to create a positive and supportive atmosphere where students can confidently demonstrate their learning.

We encourage students and parents to approach these exams with a positive mindset, viewing them as a chance to showcase their hard work and dedication. Remember, our teachers are here to support our students every step of the way.

## **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**

Communication between teachers, school administration, and parents/guardians plays a vital role in supporting our students' academic success. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or any aspect of their education, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teachers.

We appreciate your continued efforts to communicate respectfully and thoughtfully in your interactions with our staff, whether through emails, phone calls, or face-to-face conversations. Your collaboration and partnership are instrumental in creating a supportive learning environment for our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to help our students achieve their goals and reach their fullest potential.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL - Upcoming meeting**

- 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

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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.

## **RYCOR - Outstanding school fees due MARCH 1st**

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 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.

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

- March 4 24/25 Registrations Open for new students
- March 4 Grade 9 transition: High School Counsellors Visit STF
- March 4 Grade 7 iRespect US part 2 lessons
- March 4 School Council Meeting
- March 6 Lenten Mass @ St. Mary's
- March 7 Grade 7 iRespect US part 2 lessons
- March 7 NDHS - K&E Open House
- March 8 Professional Development Day (no school for students)
- March 9 Sr. Girls Basketball CWAJHAA @ LTHCS
- March 9 Sr. Boys Basketball CWAJHAA @ STF
- March 10 Daylight Savings Time - spring ahead 1 hour
- March 11-19 Grade 9 Shari Moore Presentations
- March 12 Grade 10 Open House/High School 101 - SJHS & NDHS
- March 13 EDGE - Youth Ministry @ Sacred Heart
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 Term 2 Fine Arts Night - Band Performs 4:30 - 5:00 PM
- March 20 & 21 Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 22 Lieu Day for PT Conferences (No school for staff/students)
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 28 Holy Thursday
- March 29 Good Friday ( no school students/staff)
- March 30 Holy Saturday
- March 31 Easter Sunday
- April 1 Easter Monday (no school students/staff)
- April 2-5 Spring Break (no school students/staff)

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.

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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