

## MARCH -Easter Season- NEWSLETTER



### HALLELUJAH, HE IS RISEN!

Easter is a time when we experience the great love of our God, revealed to us through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Easter liturgical calendar reminds us of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection. It is a time of rejoicing, as we celebrate the victory of life over death and light over darkness. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, we too are invited to rise from our struggles and challenges, renewed and rejuvenated by the promise of hope and redemption.

We are encouraged to embody the spirit of renewal and transformation in our own lives. A time for personal reflection and growth, as we strive to live more fully following the teaching of Christ. We can deepen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and acts of charity and experience a spiritual rebirth. Moreover, the Easter liturgical calendar serves as a reminder of our mission as followers of Christ. We are called to be witnesses of the resurrection, bringing the light of Christ into the world through our words and actions. In a world marked by division and despair, we are called to be agents of healing and reconciliation, spreading love and compassion wherever we go.

As we journey through this Easter season together, let us embrace the message of hope and renewal that it offers. May we be inspired to live more fully in the light of Christ's love, sharing that love with all those we encounter. May this Easter season be a time of blessing and grace for each of us. We are blessed to journey together as members of our amazing St. Francis of Assisi Middle School community. I wish you all a most holy journey of faith and love!

### 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, **97%** have submitted payment! We greatly appreciate families paying fees; this is assisting us with school budget planning.

## **EASTER MASS - You are invited to attend Mass with us**

We are pleased to invite everyone to join us for our Easter Mass on [Friday, April 19th, at 10:30 am](#). The Mass will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church. We are especially excited to announce that our [7-6 students](#) will lead this meaningful service for our community. It promises to be a beautiful reflection as we journey through the Easter season together. We warmly welcome you to join us in prayer as we embrace the spirit of Easter and come together as a community in worship.

## **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.

## **WAY OF THE WOLF (WOTW) STUDENT RECOGNITION- Be Humble!!**

In March, staff recognized students who have demonstrated being Humble! All classes came to the gathering area on Wednesday, March 27th to celebrate the nominated students, these students had their chance at the spinning wheel and chose a prize. In April, staff will nominate students demonstrating the pillar, Be Joyful.

## **4 PILLARS - Be Joyful**

In April, 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

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for all. 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.

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

Last month we shared that our staff actively engaged in learning and responding to issues of racism at our February 2nd Professional Development Day. Our staff are engaging in conversations with students aimed at creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students promoting 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. There are steps we can take together:

**Open Dialogue:** Let's have an open and honest conversation about the impact of words and actions. Help your child understand why certain comments are hurtful and the importance of showing respect to everyone.

**Education:** We can provide educational resources and materials to help gain a deeper understanding of different cultures, the harm caused by stereotypes, and the value of diversity.

**Setting Boundaries:** Establish clear boundaries regarding appropriate behaviour and language. Consistent reinforcement of these boundaries will help our students internalize respectful conduct.

**Leading by Example:** As adults, we play a significant role in shaping our students' attitudes and behaviours. Let's strive to model inclusive behaviour and demonstrate respect for all individuals in our interactions.

**Seeking Support:** Explore additional support resources, such as counselling or workshops, to further address and prevent such behaviour.

Our goal at school is not to assign blame but rather to foster growth and understanding. By working together, we are confident that we can navigate any challenges and develop our students into compassionate and respectful individuals.

There are several resources and materials available that can help middle school-age students and parents navigate discussions about cultural sensitivity, stereotypes and racial understanding. Please see the document of resources that can provide valuable insights and tools for parents and middle school-age students.

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**

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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 - Next Meet**

- Our next meeting will be Monday, May 6 @ 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 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 - 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 for the 2023 - 2024 school year, please click [here](#).

### **PARENT QUICK LINKS -**

- **PowerSchool/School Engage - [LINK](#)**

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- **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 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**

- April 1 Easter Monday (no school)
- April 2-5 Spring Break (no school)
- April 7 Sunday of Divine Mercy
- April 8 Classes Resume
- April 8 Solar Eclipse - Indoor Recesses/Classes
- April 9 Vimy Ridge Day
- April 10 EDGE Youth Ministry Night @ Sacred Heart 7-8:30 PM (all are welcome)
- April 11 Emergency Protocol- Fire Drill
- April 16 Grade 8 Badminton Cities
- April 17 EDGE Imaging - class photos
- April 18 Grade 9 Badminton Cities
- April 19 Easter Mass - led by 7-6
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 23 Emergency Protocol - Fire Drill
- April 23 Grade 7 Badminton Cities
- April 24 Administrative Assistant Day (Thank you Amanda, Lori and Nancy)
- April 24 Grade 6 Badminton Cities
- April 26 Professional Development Day (no school for students)

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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