

## OCTOBER -Thanksgiving- NEWSLETTER



### THANKSGIVING: A SEASON TO ENCOUNTER, NURTURE, AND SERVE

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, we are reminded that it's more than just a time for turkey and family gatherings. It's a time to reflect on the blessings we have received and to consider how we can extend those blessings to others. At St. Francis of Assisi Middle School, this Thanksgiving offers us the perfect opportunity to live out our division's theme: *Inspired by Christ to encounter, nurture, and serve.*

Through gratitude, we encounter Christ in one another, nurture our relationships with God, and serve those around us. Middle school is a time when our students can begin to grasp the deeper meaning of service, not just through words, but through action. Together, we can inspire our students to follow in Jesus' footsteps, encountering those in need and bringing comfort and hope to their lives.

Here are some ways we can embrace this spirit of Thanksgiving:

- **Reflect on our blessings:** Take time as a family to reflect on what you are grateful for and how you can encounter God in each of those blessings.
- **Serve others together:** Whether through donations, preparing meals, or volunteering in the community, we are called to serve those less fortunate. This is a powerful way to nurture our faith and grow in love and compassion.
- **Create lasting memories:** Challenge your family members to contribute something meaningful to Thanksgiving this year—whether it's a dish, a prayer, or an act of service. Through these actions, we draw closer to one another and God.

May this Thanksgiving be a time of renewal, connection, and joyful service for our entire school community. Let us walk together, inspired by Christ, to encounter, nurture, and serve.

### 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, as they celebrate the school's namesake.

## THANKSGIVING LITURGY - October 10th

On Thursday, October 5 we celebrate our Thanksgiving Liturgy, in the gym, being led by 8-3 & 8-4 students and staff. This will happen from 2:00 - 3:00 pm.

## WAY OF THE WOLF (WOTF) STUDENT RECOGNITION- September 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 were encouraged to nominate students who have demonstrated being **Joyful!** in the month of September. Classes will come to the gathering area on Thursday, October 3rd and nominated students from each class will 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 honour 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

## COMMUNICATION - Teachers & School administration

Teachers have enjoyed getting to know their students this past month and connecting with parents/guardians through our Meet the Staff event, as well as phone calls and emails. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teachers.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL - Ready, Set, Go!

Thank you to the parents who attended our September 23rd Annual General Meeting. Our council is excited and is ready to support our school community.

School administration shared their Principals Report [LINK](#) and asked for feedback from parents regarding the structure of our Parent Teacher Conferences. With teachers responsible for teaching upwards of 180 students in middle school every parent can't have an appointment. Parents provided valuable feedback which informed the new structure of Parent Teacher Conferences. Attending the meetings provides an opportunity for parents to provide feedback in areas that the school administration is seeking.

- Our next meeting will be Monday, October 21st @ 7:00 PM in the Learning Commons

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES - New Structure

This year, we are introducing a new structure for our Parent-Teacher Conferences to ensure that teachers can meet with the parents they need to connect with regarding their child's progress. With

teachers responsible for up to 180 students, this new format allows us to focus on meaningful discussions.

- **Wednesday evening** and the **first part of Thursday evening** will be dedicated to scheduled appointments for parents the teacher feels they need to meet with.
- For parents who would like to touch base or introduce their child's teacher, we are offering a **drop-in session** during the last **1.5 hours on Thursday (5:30–7:00 PM)**.

Please note, that if a teacher does not request an appointment, it is a sign that your child is doing well. We understand that some parents may feel hesitant not to book a meeting, but we encourage you to trust that the teacher will reach out if there are concerns. This new structure ensures that parents of students who require more detailed discussions will have the time they need. We appreciate your understanding and support as we work to make this process as meaningful and effective as possible.

## GENERAL INFORMATION - **Division Calendar**

School Division calendars for the 2024 - 2025 school year, please click [here](#).

## PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- **Division Calendar** - [LINK](#)
- **PowerSchool** - [LINK](#)
- **Registrations/School Engage** - [LINK](#)
- **Schoology** - [LINK](#)
- **Rycor - school fees/consent forms** [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 \*\*NEW TIME
  - Last block ends @ 3:15 PM \*\*NEW TIME
- 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 / Consent Forms**

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School Mandatory School Fees are now due.

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.

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\*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 2023/24 (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.
- Feel free to contact the school if you need help accessing the parent portal.
- The PowerSchool site is accessed at: <https://rdcrs.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your calendars

- October 2 - National Custodial Workers' Day
- October 3 - #WOTW Student Recognition - September BE JOYFUL
- October 4 - Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
- October 5 - World Teachers' Day
- October 8 - Emergency Protocol #2 - Practice Drill
- October 9 - Jeans and Jerseys Day
- October 10- Thanksgiving Liturgy @ 2:00 PM (led by 8-3 & 8-4)
- October 11- Professional Development Day (no school for students)
- October 14 - Thanksgiving Day (no school for students or staff)
- October 17- Last day for Grade 6 CTF option A (round 1)
- October 18 - Last day for Grade 6 CTF option B (round 1)
- October 21 - Catholic Education Week & Bus Safety Week
- Oct. 21: Police Parent Info Night @ SJHS
- Oct. 23: Police Parents Info Night @ Central
- October 25- Professional Development Day (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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