

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

JANUARY - New Year - NEWSLETTER



Welcome back and blessings for the new year!

School resumes on Monday, January 6th, and we are excited to embark on this next chapter together as a faith-filled community. As we begin this New Year, we are reminded of the blessings celebrated in the Catholic Church on January 1—the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and the World Day of Peace. These celebrations guide us to reflect on Mary's unwavering faith and her role in bringing the Prince of Peace into our lives. Let us carry this spirit of peace and love into the year ahead, striving to welcome Jesus into our hearts and to share His light with all those around us.

**May God's blessings be with you and your family, filling your New Year with joy, health, and peace.
Happy New Year!**

TOGETHER WE THRIVE - A Message of Gratitude and Collaboration

As we reflect on the past few months, one theme stands out: the power of collaboration and the strength of our school community. We've been hearing such positive feedback from our parent community, and we want to take a moment to celebrate that together.

Parents have shared their appreciation for the incredible number of staff who volunteered their time at our Christmas Dance, working alongside the School Council and parent volunteers to create a memorable evening for our students. This partnership exemplifies what makes St. Francis of Assisi Middle School so special.

We've also heard your gratitude for the many opportunities to volunteer in our building, whether it's been through the Ten Peaks Innovation Student Conference, coaching athletic teams, helping with the dance, showing staff appreciation, promoting Wolf Gear at school events, sharing gifts, talents and expertise with our Grade 9 SKILLS exploration, or participating in Grade 9 Mock Interviews.

Additionally, we are grateful for your kind words about the way December's challenge was handled, prioritizing the safety and care of our staff and students. Ensuring a safe and supportive environment remains our top priority, and we're thankful for your trust.

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

Your appreciation for the many extracurricular opportunities our staff provide has not gone unnoticed. From sports teams to Dungeons and Dragons, Choir, Ski/Snowboard Club, Student Council, and Band, our teachers and support staff continuously go above and beyond—often giving up their lunch breaks, evenings, and weekends to create these enriching experiences for our students.

With a relatively small team (29 teachers and 11 support staff), we take immense pride in our ability to foster a vibrant, caring, and supportive school environment. This is made possible because of you—our incredible parent community—who work alongside us to make St. Francis a place where students can thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are shaping wonderful experiences and lifelong memories for our students!

EPIPHANY - You are invited to attend Mass with us

We invite everyone to join us for our Epiphany Mass on **Wednesday, January 8th 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.

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **CHRISTMAS DANCE** - A huge thank you to our School Council and the many parent volunteers for supporting our students' Christmas Dance—fun was had by all!
- **STAFF APPRECIATION** - Thank you to all the parents who provided treats and delivered the treat cart before Christmas break. We loved it and felt so appreciated!
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees, **86.3%** 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 **93.4%** completion.

2025-2026 School Year - Planning Underway

As we begin the new year, our school is starting to plan for the 2025-2026 school year. To assist us in this process, we ask all families to complete the RDCRS Student Update Forms. In the coming weeks, Grade 6-8 parents will receive an intention form to confirm their child's enrollment at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you for your cooperation as we prepare for another great year!

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 19th 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.

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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.

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.

COMMUNICATION - Teachers and school administration

Open communication is key to our success as a school community. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers or our school administration team. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working together to make this a great year for our students!

SCHOOL COUNCIL - Upcoming Meeting

- Thank you to the parents who contributed to our December 17th Staff Appreciation, all staff enjoyed the treats and felt appreciated by our parent community.
- Our next meeting will be Monday, January 13 @ 7:00 PM; all are welcome to attend.

GENERAL INFORMATION - Division Calendar

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

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- [PowerSchool/School Engage](#) - [LINK](#)
- [Schoolology](#) - [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 11:39 - 12:39 PM
 - Last block ends @ 3:15 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 DUE NOW

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

- **CTF/Options Fee - \$25** This fee supports the delivery of Option Classes for all grade levels
- **PAC (Parent Council) Fee - \$35** 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?

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

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

POWERSCHOOL - **Student Update Forms PAST DUE**

- Thank you to those parents who have completed and submitted their Student Update Forms.
- 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 under the SchoolEngage tab.
 - **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.
- Once you have set up your account, 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://www.stfrancisschool.ca/parents-students/powerschool>

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

- January 6 Epiphany
- January 6 School Resumes & Cafeteria will be closed
- January 8 Epiphany Mass @ St. Mary's (10:30 AM)
- January 12 The Baptism of the Lord
- January 13 School Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- January 14 Immunization Catch-Up Grades 6,7,8
- January 15 Welcome to Grade 10 Letters - for all grade 9 students
- January 15 Ski/Snowboard Club at Canyon
- January 19 Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 20 Last day for grade 6 CTF A (round 3)
- January 21 Last day for grade 6 CTF B (round 3)
- January 24 Grade 9 Discovery Day @ high schools
- January 27 Family Literacy Day
- January 27 Junior 2 Boys & Girls Bball Tournament @ STJHS
- January 29 Ski/Snowboard Club at Canyon
- January 31 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 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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