

MARCH - *Lenten Journey* - NEWSLETTER



This year, March arrives with the warmth of spring teasing its presence early, filling us with hope and renewal. As the days grow longer and signs of new life emerge, we are reminded of the Lenten journey we are on—a pilgrimage of conversion, trust, and community.

Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2025, *Walking Together in Hope*, calls us to embrace this season not only as a time of personal reflection but as a shared journey. He emphasizes the importance of walking together in faith, supporting one another, and finding hope in Christ. In our own school community, we see this lived out in the ways we encourage, uplift, and serve each other.

May this Lenten season be one of growth, kindness, and deepened faith as we journey together toward the promise of Easter.

#LentenJourney #InspiredToServe #HopelnAction

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **SHROVE TUESDAY** Thank you to the many parent volunteers who are helping make Shrove Tuesday a huge success!
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees—**93%** have submitted payment! These contributions support our school budget and upcoming field trips.
- **STUDENT UPDATE FORMS** We appreciate the **99%** completion rate of these forms - thank you!
- **INTENTION FORMS** **92%** of grade 6-8 parents have completed their 2025-26 school year intentions, Thank you for helping us plan for next year!

25-26 NEW STUDENT REGISTRATIONS - Open March 3rd

We are excited to announce that new student registrations for the 2025-2026 school year will open on March 3rd! Families living within our catchment area can register online.

Word of mouth is the best advertisement for our school! Please share this information with families new to our community. Help us welcome new students and grow our vibrant school family!

New students living within our catchment will be able to register online at [Registrations](#) starting March 3rd.

ASH WEDNESDAY - Liturgy led by 7-2

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a liturgy in the gym, where ashes will be distributed to students and staff. The ashes represent repentance and the beginning of our Lenten journey. You are warmly invited to join us on **Wednesday, March 5th at 10:30 AM** for this meaningful service. We look forward to sharing this important moment with you.

LENT MASS- Join Us in Worship

You are invited to celebrate Lenten Mass with us at St. Mary's Church on March 12th at 10:30 AM, led by 8-1. We welcome you to join our faith community as we continue our Lenten journey together.

WAY OF THE WOLF (WOTW) STUDENT RECOGNITION- 4 Pillars: Be Loving!

In February, staff recognized students who demonstrated the pillar of **Be Loving!** On **Friday, March 14th**, all classes will gather in the common area to celebrate the nominated students. These students will have the opportunity to spin the wheel and choose a prize in recognition of their kindness and compassion.

In **March**, staff will nominate students who exemplify the pillar **Be Humble**. We look forward to celebrating more of our students' positive actions and the values that make our community so special!

FAITH COACH LESSONS - 4 PILLARS Focus on Be Humble, Be Forgiving!!

This month, our students will continue exploring what it means to **Be Humble** and **Be Forgiving**—two of our school's Four Pillars. These lessons help students reflect on how they handle everyday challenges, from friendships to teamwork and personal growth. **What does this look like for middle school students?**

- **Be Humble:** Recognizing that we can always learn from others, celebrating teammates' successes, and showing gratitude.
- **Be Forgiving:** Moving past small conflicts with friends, giving second chances, and understanding that mistakes help us grow.

As a **visual reminder**, students will take part in an activity that will be displayed at the entrance of our chapel. This serves as a daily prompt to live out these values, especially as we enter Lent.

Parents, you can help reinforce these lessons by encouraging conversations at home:

- **Ask:** "What's one way you showed humility today?"
- **Reflect:** "Was there a moment when you had to forgive someone or ask for forgiveness?"

By making faith tangible in daily life, we support our students in becoming compassionate, reflective, and faithful individuals.

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 February, all of the Faith Fact Fridays focused on learning our Patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi, the Peace Prayer in the spirit of St. Francis, the liturgical calendar and preparing ourselves for the Lenten season.

COLLECTIVE CARING - Fostering Hope: Building Resilience in Teens

Hope is a powerful force in a young person's life, helping them navigate challenges with confidence and optimism. As parents, we play a key role in fostering resilience by engaging in intentional conversations and actions that inspire hope.

Ways to Nurture Hope and Resilience:

- ◆ **Encourage Open Conversations** – Talk about your teen's goals, strengths, and past successes to reinforce their confidence.
- ◆ **Set Achievable Goals Together** – Help them break big goals into smaller, manageable steps, celebrating progress along the way.
- ◆ **Model Positive Thinking** – Teens mirror our attitudes; demonstrating optimism can shape their mindset.
- ◆ **Provide Unwavering Support** – Be their steady source of encouragement, reminding them that setbacks are a part of growth.
- ◆ **Strengthen Community Connections** – Encourage involvement in school, faith, or community groups to build a sense of belonging.

Additional Resources:

- 📌 **Mental Health Toolkit** – Expert advice and best practices to support youth well-being.
- 📌 **Reconciliation & Residential School Resources** – Educational materials to foster understanding and healing.

By embracing these strategies, we empower our teens to develop resilience and maintain hope throughout their journey.

#BeHopeful #WolvesLiftEachOtherUp #CollectiveCaring

TERM 2 - comes to an end on March 20th

Thank you for checking Schoology to monitor student progress. The last day to submit assignments is **March 17th**, ensuring time for teachers to mark them before **March 20th**. Assignments submitted after this date will not count toward the Honour Roll.

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES - March 19 and 20

Teachers will first reach out to families where a conversation is most needed. After these meetings are scheduled, parents can sign up for open slots or attend drop-in sessions on **Thursday evening**.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's learning journey!

CTF TERM 2 SHOWCASE & BAND PERFORMANCE - March 20 - 28

Students will display projects from their Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) courses in the Learning Commons starting March 20th. Parents can view these during Parent-Teacher Conferences or after school until **4:00 PM March 20 - 28th**. Our school bands are performing on **Thursday, March 20th @ 7:00 PM**.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS - Final Exam Schedule Feedback

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the many parents and guardians who took the time to share their feedback on the proposed final exam schedule. We are incredibly grateful for the **176** responses, with **94%** of parents supporting the schedule.

We Asked: Do you support the proposed final exam schedule?

We Heard: The majority of parents supported the proposed changes. Some had concerns, and we took the time to connect with them directly to explain the situation. These parents appreciated being heard and the follow-up call.

We Did: Based on your feedback, we will proceed with the two exam schedules:

- **Grade 6 & 9 students** will write their Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) on the government-assigned dates.
- **Grade 7 & 8 students** will return to the traditional exam schedule, writing their exams during the last four days of school.
- We will continue to work hard to ensure all students are supported, and we look forward to a smooth and successful exam period. Thank you again for your invaluable input and support!

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

COMMUNICATION - Teachers and school administration

Clear and open communication helps us create the best learning environment for our students. If you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to connect with your child's teachers or our school administration team. We truly appreciate your partnership and support in making this year a success for all our students!

SCHOOL COUNCIL - All Are Welcome!

- Our next meeting will be **Monday, March 10, @ 7:00 PM**. Join us!

FIELD TRIPS - Parent Volunteers Needed

Field trips are essential to enhancing students' educational experiences. To ensure the success of these outings, we require a minimum of one adult per 20 students. Parent volunteers are vital, so we kindly ask that you complete your Criminal Record Check as soon as possible. Please contact the school office for a letter to submit to the RCMP if you need assistance. Your support is greatly appreciated.

GENERAL INFORMATION - Division Calendar

- 2024 - 2025 school year, please click [here](#).
- 2025 - 2026 school year, please click [here](#).

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- [PowerSchool/School Engage](#) - [LINK](#)
- [Schology](#) - [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. *RYCOR can only be accessed via PC/Tablet, the program does not work using the PowerSchool App

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, Chromebooks, school-wide activities, 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

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

- March 3 Grade 8 CTF - Outdoor Education Field Trip
- March 4 Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes & Sausages for all students - thank you parents!)
- March 4 Last day for grade 6 CTF B (round 4)
- March 5 Ash Wednesday - liturgy in gym @ 10:30 am led by 7-2
- March 5 Notre Dame Knowledge & Employability Open House - gr. 9 students & parents @ 6
- March 6 Dance Extravaganza
- March 6 Grade 9 students' parents receive the grade 10 recommendation letters -check email
- March 7 World Day of Prayer
- March 7 Teacher Professional Development Day (FAITH DAY) - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- March 9 Daylight Saving Time Starts - Remember to move clocks 1 hour ahead
- March 10 -14 Substitute Staff Appreciation Week
- March 10 School Council Meeting @ 7 PM in the Learning Commons
- March 11 Notre Dame High School 101 - grade 9 students & parents @ 6:30 PM
- March 12 Lenten Mass @ St. Mary's led by 8-1
- March 13 P.O.D. @ Sacred Heart - Among Us 7 PM - all students welcome
- March 17 **St. Patrick's Day (wear green)**
- March 17 Last Day to hand in Term 2 assignments
- March 19 & 20 Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 20 Last Day of Term 2
- March 20 - 28 CTF Term 2 Showcase (student projects on display in Learning Commons)
- March 21 **NO SCHOOL for students or staff** (lieu day in recognition of PT Conferences)
- March 24 Term 3 Starts
- March 25 & 27 Grade 6: Effects of Climate Change on Indigenous Peoples presentation
- March 27 P.O.D. @ St. Lorenzo - Maze Runner 7 PM - all students welcome

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.

We wish you a March filled with hope, growth, and the warmth of spring!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel
Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson
Vice-Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson
Vice-Principal

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