



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

Principals' Report

Monday, March 10, 2025

Be Joyful----Be Loving----Be Humble----Be Forgiving

KUDOS

To Our Parent Community: Thank you for your **generosity and support** in making our **Shrove Tuesday** celebration a success! Our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the **pancakes and sausages**, and we are grateful for the time and effort of our parent volunteers.

As we near the **end of Term 2**, we also want to express our appreciation for the **collaborative partnership** between parents and staff in **supporting student learning**. Your **engagement and encouragement** make a meaningful difference in your children's success. Thank you for being such a vital part of our school community!

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS

School Focus for the 2024-25 school year:

- FAITH: focusing on the word 'serve' in our Faith Theme. Our focus will be to continue to nurture and foster faith in our staff and students throughout the year.
- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Total Participation Techniques & Newly established Student Engagement Team (SET) Collaborative Groups:
 - Indigenous Education Support
 - Numeracy
 - Wellness
 - CTF
 - Literacy

March Learning Focus:

- FAITH: Fr. Gregory Boyle -founder of Homeboy Industries, keynote address Community of Kinship at Faith Day
- DATA: Schoology, ISP, Parent Teacher Conference Planning.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2024-2025 Student Population

- 654 students Grade 6 to Grade 9

| Grade 6 (5 classes) | Grade 7 (5 classes) | Grade 8 (6 classes) | Grade 9 (6 classes) |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 143 | 150 | 180 | 181 |

Staffing

Please join us in welcoming **back the following** staff member this month:

- Mrs. Sara Richard - Grade 8 Team

Faith

School Wide Ash Wednesday - led by Mrs. Wasyluk, and grade 7-2 students on March 5th

Faith Fact Fridays - the liturgical season of Lent

Extracurriculars

- Basketball- wrapping up
- Alpha - gr. 8&9
- Student Council
- Ski Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Badminton- getting started
- Way of the Wolf - gr. 6&7
- Afterschool Rock Band- being explored

Upcoming

- School Wide Lent Mass - led by Mrs. VanGrinsven, and 8-1 students on March 12th (St. Mary's @ 10:30)

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

- Grade 6: Indigenous Services Team Presentation - Effects of Climate March 25 & 27
- Spirit Day: Twin/Triplet Day- Friday March 14th
- Parent Teacher Conferences - March 19 & 20: 4-7 PM
- Grade 6: Author Visit- students will have the opportunity to meet the author, David Robertson, of Barren Grounds on April 10th
- School Wide School Dance - TBD
- Grade 8: Faith Retreat for students @ Our Lady of Victory Camp - May 8th. Funding to support this experience is from the RDRC Education Foundation and Father Mirek
- Field Trips:
 - Grade 9 - May 8th - PSCC YEG
 - Grade 6 - June 24 Museum/Rec Cen
 - Grade 8 - June 18 -Telus Spark CGY
 - Grade 7 - June 25 RTM Drumheller

ADVISORY QUESTION

Sustaining a Healthy and Affordable School Cafeteria

Our school cafeteria has been an important part of supporting students' access to **healthy, nutritious meals** during the school day. Historically, the cafeteria was run by a private business, but over 15 years ago, a decision was made to bring it under division operations to ensure **higher quality standards and alignment with health and nutrition guidelines**. As a result, our division covers staffing costs, and we continuously evaluate the program to balance affordability for families while maintaining a sustainable operation.

This year, we have sought **student voice** in shaping our menu, introducing daily soups and a variety of meal options such as subs, chicken burgers, pizza, beef on a bun, Greek chicken, and sweet & sour meatballs. While we aim to keep prices as low as possible, rising food costs require us to assess the best way forward.

Currently, we receive **50-110 pre-orders daily**, with an additional **30-40 walk-up orders**. To minimize food waste and ensure we can meet demand, we are encouraging pre-orders.

Questions for School Council:

- Are there **other main meal options** that you or your children would like to see added to the menu?
- If food costs continue to rise, we may need to **adjust pricing next school year**. What do you see as a **reasonable price threshold** for a main meal that would still encourage participation?
- Do you have suggestions for ways to **increase pre-orders** so we can plan meals more efficiently?

Your feedback will help us ensure that our cafeteria remains a **viable, student-centered service** that provides quality meals while being mindful of costs for families.

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Ask your child specific questions at the end of the day that are framed in a positive manner that promotes a growth mindset. For example:

- What was your favourite part of the day today?
- What did you do during recess?
- What made your teacher smile today? What made him/her frown?
- Who is the friendliest person in your class?
- What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Tell me about something kind you did for someone today. Did someone do something nice for you?
- Who is someone at school who could use a friend?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow at school?

Thank you to all families for:

- Communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to teachers - in emails, on the phone and in face-to-face communications
- Supporting your child with their learning goals
- Meeting your commitments with transportation & school fees, and staying in touch with the office if you need extra time or consideration
- Supporting your child's social-emotional growth: learning the value of good manners, appreciating differences, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will be continuing with our week at a glance, which is posted on our website and emailed to parents. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the classroom teacher or school administration. Teachers welcome parents to contact them directly by calling the school or sending them a message. Please note that if they are teaching, on supervision or unable to take your call we ask that you leave a message and they will get back to you by the next work day. In our commitment to honour family time, we will work hard not to send messages between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM unless there is an emergency.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is a means for parents and the community to work together to support and enhance student learning. School Council provides a venue for parents to reflect on their wishes for the broader community of education of their students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal.

Roles that are not to be taken on by a School council include:

- School governance
- Employment issues
- School management
- Listening to complaints.

Thank you to our parents for continuing to work in a team to meet the goals of the School Council.