

House Team Winners:

The winning house team for the month of September is the Brown Mustangs.

The winning house team for the month of October is the Black Bears.

The winning house team for the month of November is the Red Robins.

Upcoming Event Dates:

December 9 - Christmas Clothing Day

December 14 - Christmas Character Day

December 16 - Ugly Sweater Day

December 18 - Pajama day and Bingo

January dress up days:

January 13 - Rainbow Party - dress in rainbow colors

January 28 - Buffalo Plaid day and Assembly

Last Day of Classes Before Christmas Holidays:

Kindergarten-Gr.6 December 18, 2020

ELP December 17, 2020

Ecole St. Mary December 2020 Newsletter



Principals Message

And we are into the last month of 2020, and what a year it has been! From the announcement in mid-March telling us that all schools in the province of Alberta were going to cancel in-person classes, to the re-entry plans of August, to the most recent November announcement regarding new targeted health measures... It truly has been a whirlwind and has relied on everyone's flexibility. When I look back at some of the messages I shared into the first months of the pandemic, one stood out to me in particular. Shortly after report cards had been issued, I referenced a statement I made in the report card, and included it in the following message: "Crisis can bring out the best or the worst in individuals. As a Catholic faith community, and based upon the principles we are trying to instill in our students, I choose to see the best. I have watched our community come together in support of all, and I feel blessed to be part of this community." Perhaps this is how I need to reflect on the year, relying on my faith and choosing optimism over pessimism.

At the pinnacle of our faith is the birth of Jesus Christ, God made incarnate. The season of Advent, consisting of the four Sundays prior to Christmas where Christians prepare for the coming of Christ, began on Sunday, November 29, 2020. Our school will continue to celebrate the Advent season, beginning with a Mass on Thursday, December 3, 2020, prepared by our 6MI class and celebrated by Fr. Kevin. While the 6MI class will be the only class welcome in the gym, the rest of the classes will have the Mass live-streamed to them. I feel so blessed that we can gather as a community and continue to celebrate the Mass as we prepare for the coming of Christ. We will also be having weekly celebrations leading up to the Christmas holidays. I would encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of this occasion and what the school is doing to help in preparation.

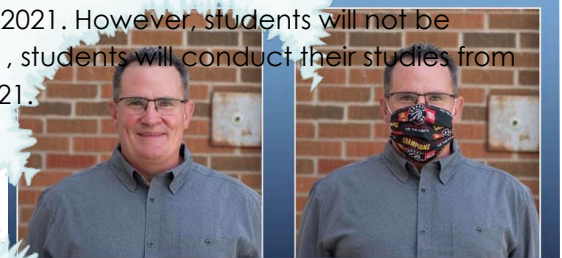
Of course, part of the school's preparation is coming together as a community to help celebrate the season. While we have had to cancel or change so many of the things we had traditionally offered, I am pleased to announce that we will be having our turkey dinner. On Monday, December 14, all students (Kindergarten – grade 6) and staff are going to be treated to a turkey dinner. Special thanks to London Road Market for their generosity in preparing this meal for a very affordable cost. If you are able to volunteer to help serve the meal between 10:15 and 11:45, please contact the office. Also, in an effort to keep some 'normalcy', we will be sponsoring special dress-up days throughout the month and have our school-wide pajama and BINGO day on Friday, December 18.

As we say goodbye to this year, we will also have to say goodbye to a number of education students who have been completing their practicum at our school. Mr. Kevin Toews, a second year pre-service teacher from St. Mary's University in Calgary, has been working with Mrs. Rosen and our grade 6 English class. We have also had four students from the University of Lethbridge complete their PSI round: Miss Ashleigh Drall was with Mrs. Mead and our grade 3 English class, Miss Pauline Eudes was placed with Mr. Baptista and assisted with our 5/6 French Immersion program, Mr. Samuel Chambers-Dumont assisted Mme Heidee in the grade 6 French Immersion, and Miss Ashley Stolte was in our Kindergarten French class with Mme Campmans. We would like to thank these student-teachers for their hard work and wish them all the best on their educational journeys.

As a reminder, the Christmas break will run from December 21 to January 4, 2021. However, students will not be returning to in-person classes on January 4. Rather, from January 4 to 8, 2021, students will conduct their studies from home. In-person learning is expected to resume on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Merry Christmas and God bless! I hope to see you all in the New Year.

Dan



Mr. Monaghan

Mme Bouchard's December Message 2020

Welcome to the Advent Season. What a wonderful time of year! We have but a few weeks to prepare our lives for Christmas. Although it will be a different Christmas this year, I can't help but think of the true meaning of Christmas. Let us prepare our hearts and the way for baby Jesus.

Each week during Gospel Time we continue to explore our faith theme: Transformed by the Journey. We have been learning about the Fruits of the Spirit, with a focus on a fruit/virtue a week. After exploring each virtue, we challenge the students to live out these values and to mindfully focus on them for the week. The wonderful thing is that while working on these virtues, we are also working on being grateful and gracious. Living with the love and joy from God in our heart, living with a peace that only comes from the Holy Spirit, truly make our hearts better, and in turn our world a better place. This too is a wonderful way to live out our faith during the Advent season.

With December comes the time to celebrate our faith. This Thursday, Dec. 3rd, Father Kevin will join us to celebrate the 1st week of Advent mass. The grade 6MI class will be hosting and the rest of the school will participate virtually. In the weeks that follow we will have the Week 2 and 3 Advent celebrations hosted by our grade 2/3PSI and 2MI classes. These too will be shared with the classes virtually.

I wish you and your wonderful family a very Merry Christmas and many blessings of faith, health and happiness for the New Year. Please stay safe and healthy. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child and your family. This is my prayer for you:

We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the safety and health of all our family members and friends, and we pray for your blessings on all people. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power, especially during this time of Advent. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen



General Information Page

House Keeping Items

All Holy Spirit Schools' are a CLOSED campus, this includes ESM. We are asking that parents/guardians or visitors to please call the office to book an appointment prior to visiting the school. To reach the office call 403-327-3098. All visitors are required to wear a mask and sanitize upon entering and check-in with the office. Just a reminder that Gr. 4-6 are required to wear a mask – Kindergarten to Gr. 3 is mask wearing is optional but recommended. There are currently no water fountains in the school that can be used but we have had multiple water bottle filling stations installed over the summer and they are still accessible to everyone. Please remember to send a water bottle with your child. Microwaves are still NOT available for student use at this time. Please pack their lunches with this in mind.

ESM Turkey Dinner

Volunteers are needed to help serve Turkey Dinner to the students on December 14, 2020. To keep in accordance with Alberta Health Services you will need to come to the school wearing a mask, sanitize immediately upon arrival, check in to the office and complete the daily self-assessment/sign in procedure. We will provide gloves for you to wear prior to serving/setup and we ask that you sanitize multiple times as well as keep your PPE on at all times during your time here.

PLEASE DO NOT SHOW UP SICK – you will be turned away. There is no excuse or exception.

Please contact Sarah at Ecole St. Mary by phone 403-327-3098 or by email DelucaS@holyspirit.ab.ca if you are able to help! Many hands make light work!!

Library

Library classes look very different this year. I am very thankful for being able to deliver books to classrooms in order for students to enjoy and continue with their love of reading. Thank you to the families that have donated books to our school library. Greatly appreciated. If your family is looking to retire some books, we can always use gently used ones. Popular requests include, English or French - Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Wings of Fire (Graphic), Dog Man, Big Nate, Bad Guys, Babysitters Club, Guinness book of World Records (any year), Geronimo Stilton (Creepella Von Cacklefur), and Babymouse Series. Thanks for your support and Merry Christmas!! – Mrs. Bugg





Donations

If you plan to go through your child(s) closet at any point during the year, please consider donating the gently used items to the school. We are always in need of girl's leggings from size 6-14, boy's sweatpants size 8-14 and shirts. Any helps! We are very appreciative of all of you.

Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to all of our students who show up every school day ready to learn. ESM pulls 2 names from our perfect attendance each month. Those 2 winners receive a certificate and \$20.00. **For September 2020 the winners were Ethan 5/6BI and Ellia 2/3P-SI. For October 2020 the winners were Carlos 4/5GI and Misa 4CI. For November 2020 the winners were Ernesto 5/6BI and Zoe 2MI.**

December 2020 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Advent Begins 1 st Sunday of Advent 	30 Virtual Assembly	1	2	3 Advent Mass week 1 @ 9:00AM (6MI in the gym – Google Meet for everyone else)	4	5
6 2 nd Sunday of Advent 	7 Advent Mass week 2 @ 9:00AM (2MI in the gym – Google Meet for everyone else)	8	9 Christmas Clothing Day	10	11	12
13 3 rd Sunday of Advent 	14 Advent Mass week 3 @ 9:00AM (2/3P-SI in the gym – Google Meet for everyone else) Turkey Dinner	15	16 Ugly Christmas Sweater Day Board Meeting @ CEC 6:00PM	17	18 Pajama Day/Bingo in homerooms	19
20 4 th Sunday of Advent 	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
Christmas Holiday – No School. Dec. 19 – Jan. 4						
27	28	29	30	31		
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Christmas Mass Information



St. Martha's Parish

December 24, 2020 – Christmas Eve Mass 3:00pm, 7:00pm and 9:00pm.

December 25, 2020 – Christmas Mass 10:00am.

Parishioners wishing to come to the Christmas Masses will be required to sign up. Here is the link to register: [St. Martha's Parish Mass Sign Up](#).

All Saints Lethbridge

December 24, 2020 - Christmas Eve Mass 6:00 pm Mass at both St. Basils and Assumption, 8:00 pm Mass at Assumption, 10:00 pm Mass at Basils and 12:00 Midnight at Assumption

December 25, 2020 - Christmas Mass 9:00 am at Assumption and 11:00 am at Basils.

The plan is to start registration on Thursday, December 17, 2020 so please phone the All Saints Parish office at 403-327-8931 to register. If the masses fill, we will add more masses as we go. Attendance will be by registration ONLY. Capacity will be determined by Mandatory COVID Restrictions



ESM Christmas Mass and Celebrations

Advent Mass Week 1 – December 3, 2020 6MI class will present over Zoom.

Advent Celebration week 2 – December 7, 2020 2MI class will present virtually.

Advent Celebration week 3 – December 14, 2020 2/3P-SI class will present virtually before Turkey Dinner.

January 2021 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Christmas Break – No School						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
School Resumes Jan. 4. We will start with Online Learning from Jan. 4-8						
10	11 Baptism of the Lord In Person Classes Resume	12	13 Rainbow Day Dress in rainbow colors	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Board Meeting @CEC 6-9pm	28 Buffalo Plaid Day and Virtual Assembly	29 PD Day - No School	30
31						