



### House Team Winners

The winning house team for the month of December is the White Wolves.  
The winning house team for the month of January is the Orange Tigers.

### Upcoming Event Dates:

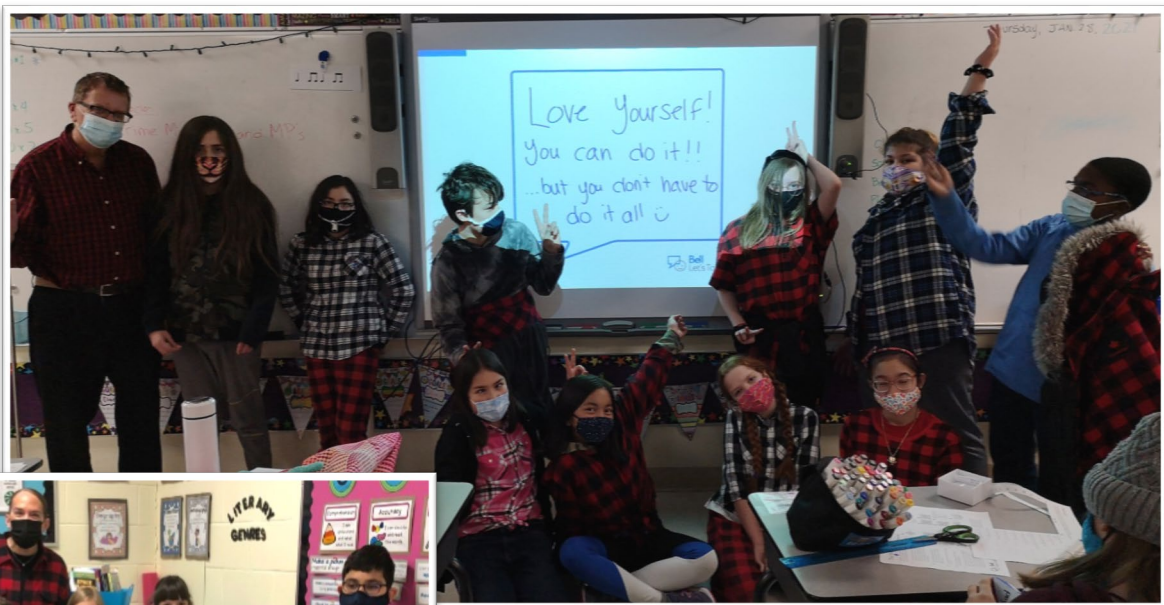
February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Meetings

February 12<sup>th</sup>: Red, Pink or White Day- Dress in Valentine's Day colors.

February 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: NO SCHOOL –Family Day, Reading week, and Teacher Convention

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: 100 Day- Wear 100 things or dress like you are 100 years old.

February 24<sup>th</sup>: Pink Shirt Day



## Principal's Message

This is the first time I can remember where the amount of instructional days coincides perfectly with the amount of months spent in school to reflect the half-way point of the school year. As of February 1, 2021, we will have had five months within the school year and 90 instructional days. We will also have five more months of school, consisting of 90 additional instructional days. I am pretty comfortable in saying we are half way there.

On the last school day of January, Thursday, January 28, 2021, students were given their Eluminate report card. As I indicated in my message on the report card, "Although these are the first written report cards, you will notice that the term is 'Report 2'...." As had been shared with our community in October, we are looking at different ways to report student's progress. We do understand that many of our parents/guardians like to have a written record of their child's achievement, and thought it appropriate to share at the mid-way point. We also understand that many parents/guardians would also like to be afforded the opportunity to further discuss achievement and assessment as it may pertain to the report cards. As such, we will be offering two evenings for parent-teacher conferences: Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11, 2021.

We have set aside two hours each evening, from 4:00 – 6:00, for guardians to book an appointment (virtually or by phone) with their child's teacher to discuss the report cards and perhaps revisit the goals established earlier in the year. Again, appointments will be booked via the Conference Manager, the on-line booking system. We are hoping to have this open on Tuesday, February 2. Information will be forthcoming to all. As always, should you require any assistance, please feel free to connect with the office.

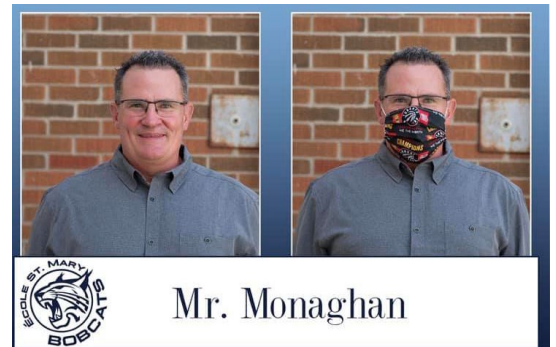
Another anomaly of this year is that Valentine's Day does not happen to be during the weekday. This year, Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, which also happens to be in conjunction with the Family Day weekend, and the upcoming week where students do not have school, February 15 -19. A number of staff have expressed their interest in still wishing to have some form of a celebration. I have asked staff to communicate this with their parents/guardians as we will still have to follow restrictions due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, this will mean that students cannot bring food items to share with their classmates.

It is also during the February break that the Lenten season begins. Lent is a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) which comes before Easter in the Christian calendars. It is seen as a time for prayer and penance, allowing Christians to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, who withdrew into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days before His crucifixion. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 17, 2021. While our school is not permitted to do a service in advance of the beginning of Lent, I would encourage all of you to share with your child(ren) the importance of this season. Upon our return from the break, we will be having weekly 'services' that will be shared with all our classes.

While elementary students are not of the age that requires them to fast, they may choose to recognize the season in a different fashion – is there something they may choose to give up (chocolate, pop, harassing their younger sibling)? Another way that younger children may choose to embrace the season is by looking at things that they may wish to do more (chores, daily prayers, assisting a younger sibling). Finally, all the faithful are asked to observe Lent as a time of penance – there are no age restrictions when it comes to the actions we perform in hopes of making up for our sinful action!

On a final note, I would like to bring to everyone's attention a change to the calendar that was shared at the beginning of the school year. We had originally scheduled our Divisional Spiritual Development day for Tuesday, March 16 – this would have meant no school for students. **This has now been changed to Monday, March 22. Students will be expected to be at school on March 16; however, schools will be closed to students the following Monday, March 22.**

God bless!  
Dan



## *Message from Mme Bouchard February 2021*

It is hard to believe it is February. February is a special month; a month of love, of family and it marks the beginning of Lent.

In January, the grade 1DI class put together a wonderful presentation about the Baptism of the Lord. Even though we do not meet face to face this year as a school community, we still join together in prayer and allow our prayers to be heard.

Ash Wednesday this year falls during the Family Week break, on February 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first Ash Wednesday in my memory, that we are not celebrating mass together at school. Please take a look at your parish website for information about Ash Wednesday Mass. We will have our first Lenten service during the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, hosted by the 2GE class. Our Lenten Mass will be at 9am on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Father Kevin will come to the school to celebrate in the gym with our 4NE class, while the rest of the school watches virtually.

During Virtual Gospel Time we have been focusing on prayers of petition. Throughout February we will celebrate with prayers of blessing. We have been continuing to learn about the Fruits of the Spirit as we continue on our faith journey: this is how we show others God's love, and these are the seeds that God planted in us for His love to grow. We have talked about love, joy, peace, patience and kindness. We will continue to explore the other fruit as the year continues, all the while continuing to work on being grateful and gracious.

I would like to wish you a wonderful month of February. May you and your family stay safe, and may you feel God's love and blessings. We all hold you and your family in our prayers.

*Let all that you do, be done in love. Corinthians 16:14*

*Mme Bouchard*



## General Information Page

### REGISTRATION:

- Online Re-Registration Starts February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for students who are already in the Holy Spirit Catholic School system. You should expect an email during the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> asking you to complete the online "Registration Update Form".
- New Student Registration Starts online on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

See Flyer attached below and/or the district website for more details

### REMINDERS:

- Students need to check in at the office when they are late. Please remind your child to go into the office and not just walk by so that the office staff doesn't have to play "Guess who's under the mask".
- **Masks:**  
Masks are required for Grade 4 and up and recommended for the younger kids. Please send your child with an extra mask in their backpack. The disposable ones break easily, are adult size, and don't properly fit most kids, but work in a pinch when masks get wet or dirty.



Zone doors are open from 7:30a.m. until 8:10a.m. Zone 2 and Zone 3 doors will be locked thereafter.

**If a student is late** for school, they must check in to the office through the front doors (Zone 1). If they do not check in to the office they will be marked as absent and parents will receive an automated call.

- Zone 1 Entrance by Office (classes are from the upstairs hallway) 1KI 2MI 3DI 1DI 5/6BI
- Zone 2 Entrance by Mme V's Kindergarten class/across from the new park (main level hallway classes) 3ME 1RE 4NE 6RE 4CI
- Zone 3 (downstairs and additional classes from middle of school) 5DE 6MI 2/3DI 2GE 4/5GI
- Kindergarten: Kindergarten Classes have their own entrances that the kindergarten students will use to enter and exit at all times. If your kindergarten student is late please use their designated door and call the office to inform them of your student's arrival.

### 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 December 2020 the winners were Frida in 6RE and Alexis Rae 1RE. For January 2021 the winners were Mya 6RE and Addyson 6MI.**

## **Bell Let's Talk Day**

January 28<sup>th</sup> was "Bell Let's Talk" day. The premise around this day is to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health. We have included a link for parents/guardians who want to spread the word about Mental Health and have conversations about it. We've created a toolkit that includes a conversation guide and helpful templates that could be used at home.

<https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/toolkit>

## **Fun Day House Team Winner's**

Crazy Hair – Brown Mustangs

Christmas Clothing – Brown Mustangs

Christmas Character – Brown Mustangs

Pajama Day – White Wolves, Golden Hawks, Brown Mustangs

Rainbow Day – Black Bears and Brown Mustangs

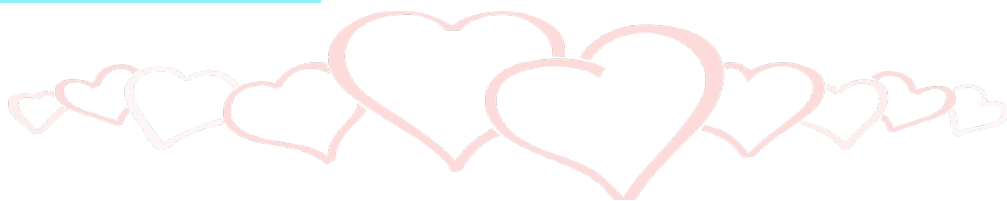
## **House Keeping Items**

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, 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.

## **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.

February 2021

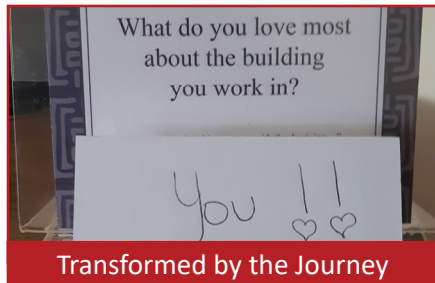


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Parent Teacher Meetings	11 Parent Teacher Meetings	12 <b>Red, Pink, or White Day!</b>	13
14 St. Valentine's Day	15 Family Day	16 Shrove Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
Reading Break – No School						
21 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	22 <b>100 Day!</b>	23	24 <b>Pink Shirt Day</b>  Board meeting @ CEC 6pm	25	26	27
28 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent						

## March 2021 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 <b>PD Day</b> <b>-NO SCHOOL</b>	20
21 <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	22 <b>Spiritual Development Day</b> <b>-NO SCHOOL</b>	23	24 Board Meeting @ CEC	25	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29	30	31			



Transformed by the Journey

# FEBRUARY

Monthly Theme: Mercy

## Special Days to Remember Month of the Holy Family

- 2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 14 Feast of St. Valentine
- 17 Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins
- 21 1st Sunday of Lent
- 28 2nd Sunday of Lent

## Be Grateful

A few years ago, some of you may have seen a movie called *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* It was about Fred Rogers, "Mister Rogers", who had a long running children's show in the US. Mister Rogers was actually a minister and he used his folksy humour and gentle kindness to teach about radical goodness and truth. He was famous for teaching children to "Look for the helpers" in scary times. Knowing his background, I have no doubt that he was pointing these children to look for people who were showing the presence of God through their merciful acts to help others in need. As William Barry observed, Mister Rogers knew that, "People can be the images of God because of the presence of the Spirit of God moving all of us in that direction." So this month, let us be grateful for the helpers — those who show our children how to show mercy to others in times of need. And let's all work together as a community to teach our children that by showing mercy to others in need, they can be the helpers too!

*"Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive mercy."*

Matthew 5:7



## Catholic Education

While we follow the traditional calendar of the school year, another important calendar that we follow in Catholic schools is the liturgical calendar. This month, we begin the liturgical season of Lent on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17 this year. Because we will not be in school to receive our ashes, we encourage you to check with your parish to see about the Ash Wednesday services that your family can participate in. During this season, we are called to repent for our sins and to engage in the three pillars of Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider posting this [Lenten Family Calendar](#) so that you can engage in those 3 calls to action during your family's Lenten journey.



We hope you are enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family.

To access the February cards, click [here](#).

Resources: *Experiencing God in the Ordinary*, William A. Barry, SJ  
*Teaching Kids to Care*, Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP

God of mercy,  
when there is hurt or anger in our home,  
show us how to settle our disagreements.  
Remind us to listen to each other.  
Help us to forgive each other.  
Keep laughter and kindness  
a part of our daily lives.  
Keep peace in our family.  
Amen.

Adapted from *Prayers and Rituals for the Home* (Kathy Hendricks)

Click [here](#) for a printable version of this prayer.

## Be Gracious

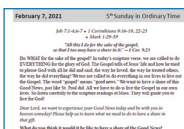
One of the days in February that often gets a lot of focus for children is Pink Shirt Day which occurs the last Wednesday of the month. The theme this year is "Lift Each Other Up," which connects so beautifully to our call to action this year — "Be Gracious". In our Catholic faith, one of the ways in which we lift others up is to show them mercy. Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP describes mercy as, "Compassionate kindness and steadfast love shown to others, especially toward people who are suffering or in distressing situations." Perhaps each day this month, each person at your dinner table could share an example of mercy they have seen that day. What a beautiful way to help your child remember to keep their eyes open to the goodness in the world!



## Faith & Family



God sent his Son, Jesus to teach us about the great kindness and mercy of God. Jesus showed with his actions who God is and we are called to do the same. As a family, you might consider this month working together to model the way of Jesus by coming up with a plan to intentionally engage in the Works of Mercy. Deanna Bartalini reminds us that it is in our family, the domestic church, "where the faith is first seen and passed on, in all the little things we do each day with and for each other." Check out her [article](#) to see her suggestions for ways to keep your family focused on the works of mercy during the upcoming Lenten season.



*"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."*

(Luke 6:36)





# ***LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR WITH ... HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION 2021/2022 REGISTRATION***

## ***RE-REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 1, 2021***

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email during the week of February 1-5, 2021 asking you to complete the online "Registration Update Form" for all of your children.

This update allows us to make sure the information on file is accurate and that any legal declarations, preferences and consents are renewed. It also allows our schools to plan for the upcoming school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time as they re-register older students.

## ***NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 22, 2021***

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2021/2022 school year are invited to register online starting on February 22, 2021.

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Our **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2021.

For information about our Early Learning and Kindergarten Programs, or to discuss your child's specialized programming requirements, contact our Early Learning Coordinator, Lynn Saler, at 403-381-8495 or [salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca).

## ***FOR MORE INFORMATION***

If you need assistance with the online registration process, or have any questions, contact your child's school or visit the school division's website at [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca).



***HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION***  
...where students are cherished and achieve their potential.