



Upcoming Event Dates:

January dress up days:

January 13 – Rainbow Party

January 28 - Buffalo Plaid day and Assembly

January 29 – PD Day – No School for Students



Principals Message

Happy New Year!

I am hoping that your Christmas season was filled with joy and that you were able to spend time with family and loved ones, whether in-person or virtually. I am also hoping that 2021 brings to you and your family health, happiness and prosperity (as well as an end to the pandemic)!

Throughout much of December, our school made reference to the importance of providing service to others, part of our calling as a faith community. When looking back at all that was accomplished, I am very pleased with how our community was able to respond – we raised over \$900.00 in support of Santa's anonymous, as well as being able to contribute close to \$200.00 to the Martha Retreat Center. We were also able to send hand-made Christmas cards to many sectors of our society, ranging from front line workers to those who are confined due to circumstances. It was truly gratifying to see the enthusiasm of the students as they also recognized the importance of this calling.

As we begin this new year, I am hoping that this enthusiasm can continue. Our Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that, "... you are a child of God. You are designed on purpose for a purpose." As we continue our educational journey, may we determine our purpose, always aware of the fact that we are made in the image of God.

Through all the hustle and bustle of the season, I was a little remiss in informing our community of a few changes – please accept my apologies. We were able to secure a person for our Family First Facilitator position. Kristine Savage accepted this position, and began her new role in mid-November. I am sure many of you have already been witness to the enthusiasm and professionalism that she brings to this role; if not, I am also aware that Kristine would be very open to meeting with any of you and discussing both her role and what she can offer.

We were also able to fill our administrative support position. Please help me welcome Miss Tara Erdos to our family. Tara has served our Division since 2011, and recently completed her Office Administrative Assistant Diploma. Hers will be the first face that will greet you in the office, if and when we are able to return to our normal operations.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank all of our volunteers who were able to assist during our Turkey Dinner. Our students were very grateful for both the meal and your gift of time to help distribute.

Again, I want to wish you all a Happy New Year. May God bless you all!

Dan



Message from Mme Bouchard January 2021



Happy New Year! I hope the Christmas season was filled with love, rest, joy and hope! Welcome back to school in 2021. We begin this year with At Home learning for all of our students. We look forward to seeing them again soon!

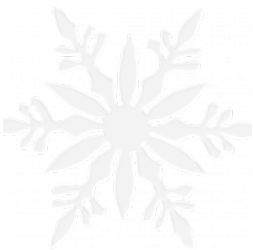
December tends to be a very busy month in schools. This past December was very different, like everything else in 2020; it was busy, but busy in a different way. Without our Christmas evening, and kids' activities cancelled due to Covid, it certainly was different. Although things were not the same, our students certainly worked to spread good in the community. We had a popcorn sale to raise money for Santa's Anonymous. Thank you for your support. All of our classes worked on cards and/or letters for various communities that may be experiencing the effects of Covid. Our classes made cards for senior's homes, the parishes, hospital staff and the prison. While we are always working on being grateful, we wanted to extend being gracious to our community by spreading love and cheer to those that need it most.

During the Gospel time in January, we will focus on prayers of Petition. Prayers of Petition are a prayer form where we ask God for help and forgiveness. In asking God for help, we acknowledge that we are dependent on God. We will continue to work on learning about and living the Fruits of the Spirit, on being grateful and gracious.

The grade 1DI students will be preparing a presentation to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This will take place in the classrooms the week of January 11th, 2021.

May God Bless each and every one of your days this year.

‘The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you. The Lord lift up His face toward you, and give you peace.’ Numbers 6:24-26



New staff Announcements:

Hello my name is Kristine Savage. I am the new Family First Facilitator at Ecole St Mary. I am so excited to be here supporting children and their families. How did I get here? I've been working in the Human Services field for 25 years in a variety of roles. I started my career in Ontario and moved west in 2001. I worked for Lethbridge School Division for 14 years in several different roles. The role nearest and dearest to my heart is Making Connections. This role allowed me to support not only kids but their entire family in many capacities. Due to cutbacks this role ended in June of 2020. I am so fortunate to be hired by Holy Spirit and continue in this role as a FFF. About me? I'm a Mom of 2 amazing adult children and my fur baby (golden retriever) Jaxson. In my spare time I love to spend time with my friends, read, snow shoe, hike, travel and spend my summers at my Lake House (trailer) on Lake Koocanusa.

If you would like to hear more about my role, please feel free to contact me directly at the school or feel free to email or call me on my work cell phone.

Kristine Savage

savagek@holyspirit.ab.ca

Cell: 403-894-2643



Hello! My name is Tara Erdos and I am the new Administrative Support in the office. I have been working for Holy Spirit Catholic Schools for almost 10 years now, in the Early learning and Kindergarten programs in a many different schools. I recently completed my Education for Office Administration and am excited to start a new chapter in my life at Ecole St. Mary School. I love being around children and will miss working in the classroom atmosphere and look forward to bringing that connection to all the kinds in the school instead of just one class.

When I'm not working I like to spend my time with family and friends which is definitely missed during this pandemic. Some of my hobbies include crafting, cake decorating and watching the CFL. Go Stamps Go! I have had a small glimpse at the support we have from parents and the community at Ecole St. Mary and am excited to be a part of it and to get to know you all.



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, 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

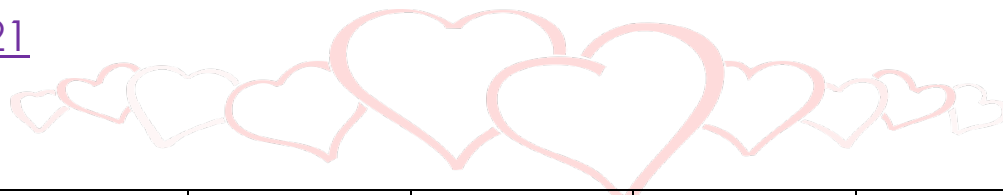
If you plan to go through your child(s) closet at any point during the year, please consider donating the gently used items to the school. We are always in need of girl's leggings from size 6-14, boy's sweatpants size 8-14 and shirts. Any helps! We are very appreciative of all of you.

January 2021

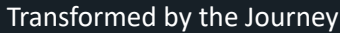


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday *	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Online School - January 4-8, 2021						
10	11 In person classes resume Baptism of the Lord	12	13 Rainbow Day	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Board Meeting @CEC 6:30	28 Buffalo Plaid Day & Assembly	29 PD Day No School	30
31						

February 2021



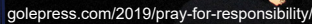
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 St. Valentine's Day 	15 Family Day	16 Shrove Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
Reading Break – No School						
21 1 st Sunday of Lent	22	23	24 Pink Shirt Day Board meeting @ CEC 6pm	25	26	27
28 2 nd Sunday of Lent						



See, I am making all things new.

Revelations 21:5

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- 2 Feast of St. Basil the Great
- 3 Epiphany of the Lord
- 10 Baptism of the Lord



Be Gracious

Knowing that they are expected to be responsible at home and at school is a very important life lesson for our children. If they grumble about little inconveniences like wearing a mask, help them understand that thinking about the needs of others and not only of ourselves is a truly gracious way to live. And when your child makes a mistake, the "OWN UP" strategy is a beautiful faithful way to help them learn to be accountable for their actions.

Faith & Family

*“...give thanks in
all circumstances;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.”*

Catholic Education

God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life. This means we all have to accept our responsibilities that come from living in communion with others. One of the most important lessons we teach in our Catholic schools is that the dignity of the human person must be foundational to all of the decisions we make in relation to how we live in our community. Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP explains that responsibility is an attitude of accepting that we are all called to participate and respond to the common good. It's an important lesson for children to learn - that life is not all about them and their needs. Pope Francis said it beautifully during his homily at his installation in 2013, "In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!" What a beautiful reminder for our families as we enter this new year!

January 3, 2021 Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 61:1 • Ephesians 3:2, 3, 4 • Matthew 2:1-12

They were awestruck at seeing the stars. —Matt. 2:9

The Magi were called to find the child that had come into the world as a king. They knew that he was the chosen one. They made many sacrifices in order to find him, and most likely encountered hardships on their journey. They didn't quit. They didn't give up. They persevered. Can you imagine their joy in finally arriving at their destination, the place where the child lay in his mother's arms? He must have been the greatest blessing they'd ever known. You can have that same joy when we seek out Jesus in our lives and find him.

Lord, teach us to look and search for you in our lives with the same desire that the Magi had when they set out on their journey.

How do you seek Jesus in your life? When you find him, how does it make

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

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

Resources: *Teaching Kids to Care* by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP
Faith Perspectives on the Covid-19 Pandemic, [Waterloo Catholics](#)



*“For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”*

(1 Corinthians 12:12)



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 on February 1, 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.



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.



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