



### House Team Activities and Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars!

- **October 15 - Pattern Day** - earn 10 points for wearing some kind of pattern. Stripes, Zig zags, polka dots, plaid etc.
- **October 31 - Halloween Activities** - information to come regarding what the day will look like.
- In the past we have done a monthly winning house team, but, due to the restrictions of Covid our house team events need to be altered. Please stay tuned for more details to come on what this will look like for the 2020/2021 school year in the November newsletter.
- Just a friendly reminder that school fees are now past due. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.
- **October 9** – PD Day no school, **October 12** – Thanksgiving Day no school and **October 13** - PD Day no school. Enjoy a blessed and restful 5 days off!

## Principals Message

Welcome to October. In my last year's message, I was making reference to the school closure due to snow. I can say that I am grateful that we are not having to deal with that this year. When I look outside and see all the beautiful colors, I get a peaceful feeling and know that God is present.

Typically, I try to have my message prepared prior to October beginning. However, I intentionally delayed my preparations as I wanted to share in this message the selection of this year's school council executive. I am very thankful that all of our last year's executive were willing to allow their names to stand for another year. I was also happy to hear that there are a few additional parents/guardians who look forward to serving in an executive role in the future.

This year's executive is as follows: Chair – Mr. Mike Piro; Vice Chair – Mrs. Heather Wirzba; Treasurer – Mrs. Wendy Blasetti-Hurley; Secretary – Mrs. Fee McLean. At the first meeting, we also decided that we would be meeting bi-monthly on set Tuesdays, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and using google meet. The following dates have been established: November 17, January 19, March 23, and May 18. Even if you were unable to attend our first meeting, you are more than welcome to attend in the future. You would be required to forward your email address to the ESM office, so that you can be included on the School Council group – the means by which information is being shared and invitations are made to google meets. You are also welcome to check out the happenings via our ESM web page:

[https://esm.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/school\\_council](https://esm.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/school_council)

I find it quite interesting that my first two paragraphs referenced being grateful and thankful. Not only are these part of this year's Faith theme, we seem to be more cognizant of these during the month of October, the month that Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving. While it would be easy to complain about our current circumstances surrounding the pandemic, I would like to challenge everyone to take the optimistic view. Rather than complain of all the leaves we will have to rake, let's look at the beauty of the changing colors and understand the transformation that is taking place. God has a definite plan.

Another highlight of October is that it is the month of the holy rosary. Although administration cannot meet with all the students in the gym for our upcoming Sunday gospel, we have been able to send something to each of the classes on a weekly basis. During this month, we will also be encouraging the classes to examine the rosary, perhaps by doing a decade of the rosary each Wednesday. The rosary is one of the best known of all the Catholic devotions and recognizes the growing devotion to Mary, our patron saint.

I would like to leave you with the following prayer, The Prayer of Thanksgiving for Mary, Our Mother:  
"O Jesus, Divine Master, I thank and bless your most merciful Heart for having given us Mary most holy as our Mother, Teacher and Queen. From the cross You Placed us all in her hands. You gave her a great heart, led by her to You, the Savior of mankind! I placed myself in her hands, as You placed Yourself. With this Mother I want to live now, in the hour of my death, and for all eternity."

God bless!



## October Newsletter from Mme Bouchard 2020

What a beautiful end to September! The weather has been beautiful. It has been great to be back together at school where students and staff have been sharing their gifts. There is truly so much to be grateful for!

We are now into the second year of our three-year faith theme. The focus this year is Transformed by the Journey. Our calls to action this year are: be grateful, be gracious. October is a great time to explore our gratitude as we have successfully worked through September, we reap the benefits of the harvest and Thanksgiving is just around the corner, we can be thankful for the many gifts God has given us. Do not forget to look at the family newsletter from the Religion Education Department. It is a wonderful way to explore our faith and make connections to our faith theme.

We have been doing our Gospel Time a little differently this year. Mr. Monaghan and I record our gospel and reflection, then share it with the classes. We certainly miss being together in the gym, but it is important that we keep the traditions we have created, especially when it comes to our faith! We will share messages relating to our faith theme, we will focus on prayers of thanksgiving and we will talk about how we can be grateful and gracious in our own lives.

We were very blessed to have had Father Kevin celebrate our Opening Mass with our grade 6's while we shared it virtually with the other classes. He then blessed our classrooms for the year. It was lovely to begin our year together in prayer while making new memories, creating new traditions. During the month of October, our grade 3's will be sharing a Thanksgiving celebration with classes.

This is a big year with a lot of change. With God by our side, we can do anything! Let us work on being grateful and gracious creating many holy moments each day. Acknowledging our gifts and the gifts of others, and being thankful for them can change your heart, and can change the world. I am excited that we are on this journey together ESM family! **Happy Thanksgiving to your family!**





## House Keeping Items

We are a CLOSED campus. If you require assistance, please call the office at 403-327-3098. All visitors are required to wear a mask and check-in with the office. Just a reminder that Gr. 1-6 are required to wear a mask. 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.

## Transportation Information

effective September 2020, we will only be able to provide bus transportation to and from school for students who reside 2.4 kilometers or further from their designated school. This means that, for the 2020/2021 school year, we will not be able to accommodate bussing students less than 2.4 kilometer away from their designated school or those students who attend a school of choice. We understand that this situation is not ideal and may inconvenience many of our families. Should your child have additional transportation needs, based on their current Individual Student Plan, our division's Inclusive Education Team will be in contact with you to make appropriate arrangements when more is known. The bus drivers will be checking bus passes daily. Students without a Bus Pass will have to make other arrangements to get to and from school.

## Parking

The west side of 20th Street is the Bus Zone. From 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there will be a 15 minute drop off zone. This will allow parents of our younger students to accompany their child to the school entrance. Please be aware, however, that the entire area will remain a NO parking zone from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., and you may be ticketed during these hours.

## École St. Mary Elementary School Newsletter

Our monthly Newsletter is published on our website: <https://esm.holyspirit.ab.ca/> under Resources & Publications, Newsletter. You will also receive one if you have signed up for our school messenger communication.

## Medication Information

If your child is in need of medication (occasional or ongoing), the School District requires forms to be filled out by a doctor and parent. These forms are available on the Holy Spirit website: [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca), under Forms - Medical, or in the school office. All medication is kept in the office for safety reasons. The school does not give out any over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or cough medicine and we do not use antiseptic creams such as polysporin. Please do not send over-the-counter medication or prescriptions to school to be kept in lockers, etc. as this poses a danger to other students.

## Have You Moved?


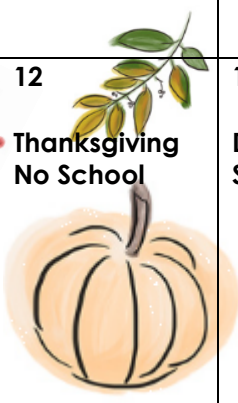
Please ensure that you inform the school office of any changes to your address, home or work phone numbers and also, if your emergency contacts have changed. This information is vital so that the school can contact you in case of an emergency.

## Weather Changes

With the weather being unpredictable this time of year, we ask that you send your children dressed for the ever changing weather. All students are expected to be outside for their breaks. Please ensure they have layers for all weather types.



# October 2020 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5 World Teacher's Day	6	7	8	9 PD Day No School	10
11 	12  Thanksgiving No School	13 DIV PD Day No School	14	15 Pattern Day - earn 10 points for wearing some kind of pattern. Stripes, Zig zags, polka dots, plaid etc.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Picture Re-Take Day	27	28	29	30 Halloween Activities – more information to come.	31