

# École St. Mary Newsletter

## Principals Message

Welcome all to our community! Whether you are returning to our school or are brand new, I am hoping that you will feel very welcomed. Also new to our Division is the option to choose at-home or in-school learning. Regardless of your choice, we have been working diligently to provide the best and safest education possible. I am also hoping that you feel you have been well-informed of all the precautions that have been put in place as we begin this school year, aware of the implications of the coronavirus.

When I reflect on the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year, I am somewhat saddened that we didn't get the chance to say farewell, as we have traditionally done, to those in our community who would not be returning to our school – the grade 6 students, staff who retired or whose contract were not renewed, as well as those families who moved to another community. I have also shared with a number of people that I was also saddened that I could not see in person the faces of our students whom I have come to cherish so much. A five month's absence from this certainly puts into perspective why we chose the occupation that we did – it is all about the kids! And while I can't say I have seen the smiles on the faces of the children as they returned to school (only because most faces were covered by masks), I can feel that all are happy to be back. I know I am!

As has become tradition, I use the first newsletter to share with our community changes to our staff. I would like to welcome to our French Immersion program Mme Brigitte Paquette-Smith, who will be teaching in our grade 2/3 French Immersion. Many of you will probably recognize Mme Brigitte as she completed one of her education practicums at Ecole Saint Mary, having had the opportunity to work with Mme Vucurevich. We will also be welcoming back from maternity leave Mrs. Cayla Nelson, who will be teaching our grade 4 English class. Unfortunately, we had to temporarily postpone our English kindergarten class as the amount of students wishing to take the in-school portion did not allow for the dedication of a teacher. In addition to this factor, both Mme Vucurevich and Mme Campmans were selected by the Division to support the at-home English kindergarten program.

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Love is spoken here...

Check us out on our website:  
[esm.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://esm.holyspirit.ab.ca) or on our social  
media platforms



### Principals Message ....Continued

An additional change that is also sure to impact our school centers around our food programs – breakfast, snacks and lunches. While we were fortunate enough to secure the nutrition grant, we have not yet determined a way in which food can be shared with students that still respects all the conditions outlined by Alberta Health Services. We know that we can no longer offer the ‘buffet-style’ breakfasts, but are examining alternatives. However, we still have our relationship with Mindful Munchies who will be delivering snacks and pre-made lunches to our school twice a week. As has been shared with students, we are hoping that no one goes hungry.

Our Division enters its second year of the three-year Faith Plan. As a reminder, the overall theme of our plan is “Making Our Mark – Journey of an Intentional Disciple”. This year’s theme is “Transformed by the Journey”. During this second year, there will be two calls to action: 1. ‘Be Grateful’, and 2. ‘Be Gracious’. We are very excited for this new plan and are hoping that students will be able to share in the excitement as well.

Thank you for choosing Ecole St. Mary as partners in your child’s education. We look forward to working with you as the year progresses to ensure a successful year.

God bless!

Dan Monaghan

## A Message From Mme Bouchard

Welcome back to a new school year! How we have missed you! As a Catholic school community, we look forward to supporting our students on their faith journey this year. We are excited to learn and grow together.

We are now in year two of our Faith theme Making our Mark: Journey of an Intentional Disciple. Last year we began our three-year faith theme journey. We focused on being prayerful in our everyday life and being mindful of God’s presence. This year’s theme is ‘Transformed by the Journey,’ this message is timely! This year we will focus on being grateful and being gracious. We will work towards being grateful for God’s gifts in ourselves and in others, and being gracious towards all of God’s creations. We will work with our gifts, the Fruits of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit to help live out this theme. We will look to see the face of Christ in others and we will create and find holy moments each day. We will work to be faithful with intention. This year there will be a monthly family newsletter. Please take time to read the newsletter insert from the division each month to help you to understand and explore our faith theme more deeply as a family.

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## A Message From Mme Bouchard .....Continued

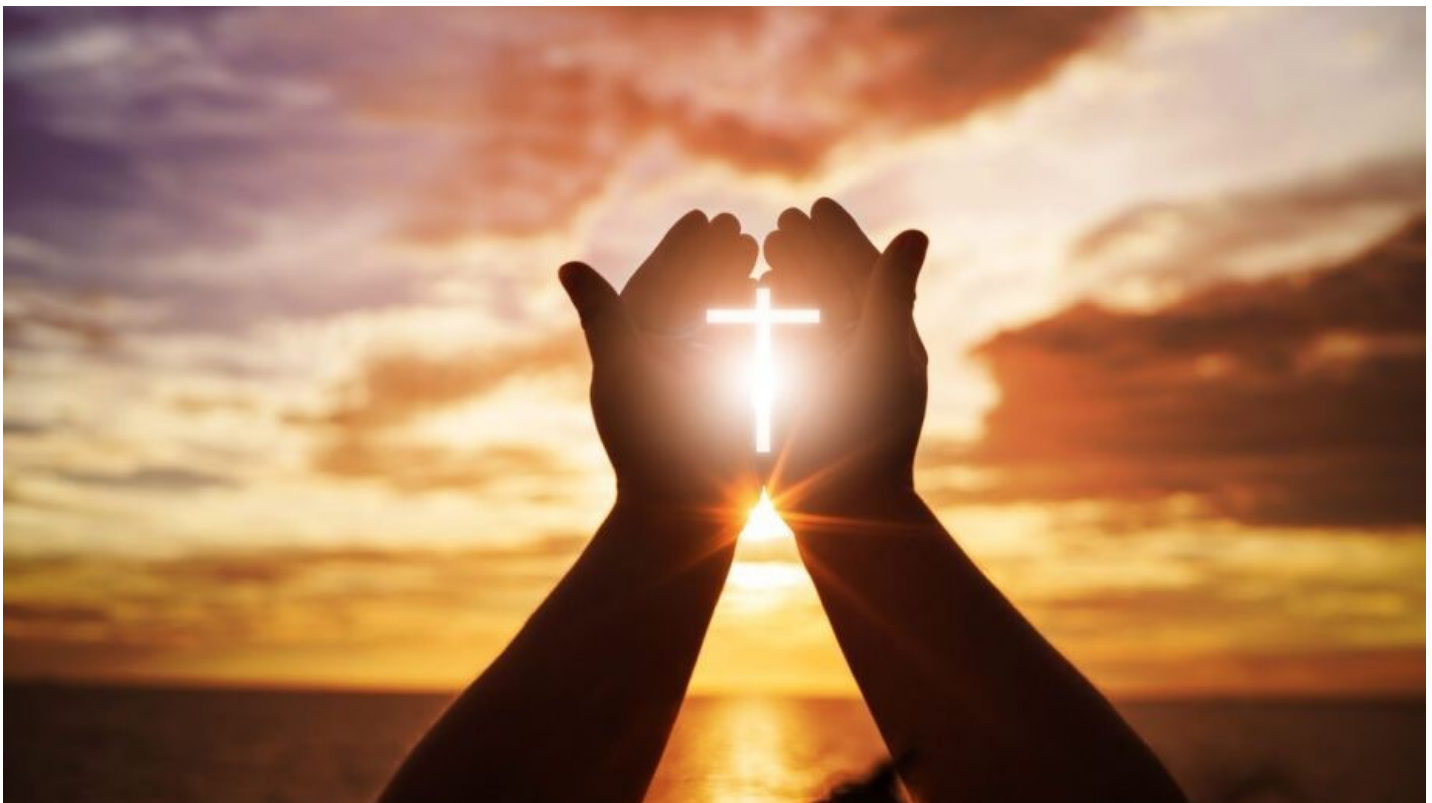
As with everything this year, we will have to approach how we do liturgies and celebrations differently. It is very important to keep our faith life strong and for students to experience mass and religious celebrations in our school. We will not be able to meet together for these celebrations. We will have one class attend our regularly scheduled masses in the gym and we will share them virtually with the other classes. Each class will also host a religious celebration that will be shared with classes. Due to our closed campus policy this year, unfortunately parents will not be able to join us. We will miss sharing in our faith with you in this way this year. We are unable to gather for occasions such as our opening mass or our new family blessing. Thanks to technology we will continue to find ways to participate in prayer together. In lieu of our traditional Family Blessing, please watch for a video message from Father Kevin in the coming weeks.

We will continue to share the upcoming Sunday gospel with students each week. We will continue to learn about our faith, our faith theme, again differently than we have in the past, but technology will allow us to celebrate, learn and grow in faith together. We strive to provide many opportunities for our students to deepen their faith and relationship with Christ and grow together as a faith community.

Although things may be different this year, we have each other, we have God to turn to and to lead us. To go along with our faith theme, we need to be gracious with each other. We can all work on being grateful and gracious this year, it can be life changing. May God bless you and your family, keep you safe and healthy and guide us as we continue to learn, grow and be transformed on this journey.

*"Like good stewards of the manifold of grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each one of you have received."*

*Peter 4:10-11*



# Welcome to ESM!

Dear École St. Mary Parents/Guardians and Students,

My name is Madame Brigitte and I am feeling very fortunate to join the Holy Spirit Family. I will be teaching Grade Twos

and Threes in French Immersion. While French is my first

language, I am also very proud to be bilingual. I have completed

my Education Degree at the University of Lethbridge and have

been calling Lethbridge home for many years now. I really look

forward to getting to know the school community of École St. Mary.

If you see me in the hall way please make sure to say "Hi" or "Bonjour".

À bientôt (See you soon), Mme Brigitte



Mme. Brigitte 2/3P-SI

My name is Cayla Nelson. I have been teaching for eight years

and five of those years have been at École St. Mary!

I love teaching at St. Mary's because of its wonderful sense of community!

My husband and I have two children, Lila (5) and Theodora (1).

We love to explore and travel. We enjoy getting outdoors and bike

riding and hiking. My favorite color is green and I enjoy reading.



Mrs. Nelson 4NE

**Zones Philosophy :** Zones were created in order to designate entrances and exits to specific classes from the same areas of the school. Zones were created with proximity in mind. A child's zone door is to be their entrance and exit at all times during the day, except in the case of fire, fire drill or emergency evacuation. **If a student is late for school, they must report to the office.**

**Zone 1 Entrance by Office (classes are from the upstairs hallway)** 1KI 2MI 3DI 1DI 5/6BI

**Zone 2 Entrance at Dayna's Kindergarten with fob (main level hallway)** 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.

**Zone 1 Door/Office Entrance**



**Zone 2 Door/ Entrance**



**Zone 3 Door/Entrance (By gym and outdoor basketball courts)**



## Save the Date!!

Each student is assigned a House Team with which they will take part in various themed activities and events throughout the year. By participating they will have the opportunity to earn points for their House Team.

\*Check the newsletter each month for updates on upcoming events! And how your child can participate!

### SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS:

**ORANGE SHIRT DAY:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Earn 10 points for your House Team if you wear an orange shirt!



### Transportation

effective September 2020, we will only be able to provide bus transportation to and from school for students who reside 2.4 kilometres 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 kilometre 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.

**Bus passes will be handed out later in September for those who qualify. The bus drivers will be checking daily. Students without a Bus Pass will have to make other arrangements to get to and from school.**

### Parking on 20<sup>th</sup> Street South

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.

**Our school day starts at 7:55 a.m. every day and ends at 2:55 p.m. from Monday to Thursday.**

**On Friday our day ends at 12:30 p.m.** If students arrive after 8:05 a.m. they must come to the office. If your child does not come to the office they will be marked as absent. A computer report is generated and you will be contacted you via pre-recorded message on school messenger.

Parents/Guardians: if your child will be late/absent or if you are going on a holiday and will be gone for a period of time please inform the **office and the teacher** of the dates you will be gone and when you will return. You can notify the office of this by: Leaving a message on the school answering machine (403-327-3098). The answering machine is on from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.. Parents who are picking up their child during the school day are asked to report to the office to sign them out. This allows the office to account for all students in the event of an emergency or fire drill. **End of Day Pick up**—We ask that all parents and guardians please plan to **meet their children at their designated zone door if they do not take the bus.** If your plans have changed throughout the day please contact the office **before 2:00 p.m.** so we can get the message to the student before recess and dismissal.

Just a few extra reminders. 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.

### MEDICATION FORMS

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.

### 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.



All visitors are required to wear a mask and check-in with the office. **Gr. 1-6 required to wear a mask.**

# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 First Day of School Gr. 1-6	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 First Day of School Kinder- garten	9	10	11	12
13	14 First Day of School ELP	15 Picture Day 	16	17	18 Terry Fox Day	19
20	21	22	23 Virtual Opening Mass and Virtual Family Blessing	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Orange Shirt Day 			