

### UPCOMING DATES:

**Aug 31<sup>st</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of school

**Sept 5<sup>th</sup>** – NO SCHOOL – Labour Day

**Sept 12<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Day for Kindergarten and ELP

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** – Picture Day

**Sept 16<sup>th</sup>** – NO KINDERGARTEN

**Sept 19<sup>th</sup>** – Opening Mass @ Assumption Church @ 9am

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Terry Fox Run

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** -NO SCHOOL – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

### Bell Times for 2022-2023

Grade 1 – 6's Mon – Thurs. **8:00am – 3:00pm**

Fridays **8:00am – 12:30pm**

Kindergarten Mon – Fri. 8:00am – 11:00am

1<sup>st</sup> kindergarten Friday off each month – Please see the Calendar

Early Learning Mon – Thurs 8:15am – 11:15am

### Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 7:45am – 3:45pm

Friday: 7:45am – 1:15pm

### Morning Supervision Starts at 7:45am.

If you choose to drop your child(ren) off before then that is your choice to leave them unattended.

Students need to be picked up by 3:20pm – There is no after school supervision.

### After Hours:

Please leave a detailed message on our voicemail or you can email [esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca) and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

## Principal Message from Mme Bouchard

Welcome back! What a great year it will be. What a privilege and a blessing it is to work with your family for the 2022-2023 school year. It is an honour to all of us at ESM that you have chosen to entrust us with the care of your child(ren). We look forward to working in partnership with you. Thank you.

I am very excited to serve our school community as principal for the upcoming school year. It is exciting to know that we can gather again. We were delighted to welcome families on the first day of school. It was a great way to begin the year. We look forward to welcoming our Kindergarten and ELP students on September 12, 2022.

We have several new staff members at ESM. We would like to welcome:

Justin Harper, as our Associate Principal

Angela Court as our English Kindergarten teacher

Kevin Toews as our English grade 6 teacher

Tanya Koopmans as our Family First Facilitator

Lauren Hamilton as our PS2/PS3 practicum teacher working with the 2MI class until December

It will be very exciting to get back to field trips, masses, and school wide events. Please mark your calendar for our Welcome Back BBQ and Family Blessing which will begin at 5:30 pm on Monday, September 19th, 2022. Please keep an eye on our calendar, school and teacher communication for upcoming events.

### **Some operational info for this year:**

- Bell times have changed for this year. Please be aware. School begins at 8:00 am and goes until 3:00 pm Monday to Thursday. Fridays, 8:00 am -12:30 pm.
- **Morning supervision begins at 7:45 am.** Buses arrive at ESM at 7:45 am. There will not be supervision before that time. Please do not plan to have your child dropped off before then.
- The final bell rings at 3:00 pm. There will be supervision for 20 minutes after school. Please ensure that you have made arrangements for your child after school and that they are picked up no later than 3:20 pm. Thank you for your cooperation.
- After School Pick Up: Please pick your child up outside (Zone 1 and Zone 2.)
- Water filling stations: We have water filling stations and no water fountains. Please ensure you send your child with a water bottle.
- Breakfast and Lunch Programs: We will have grab and go snacks for breakfast and Mindful Munchies will supply lunches. These will begin on September 6th and 7th, 2022.
- If you are coming to the school, please make an appointment. Parents and guardians must check in at the office.
- Student progress reporting will look different this year. We are moving to a digital reporting platform called Spaces. More information to come.
- We will be happy to welcome volunteers back into the school this year. If you, or a family member would like to volunteer, your help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your consideration.

We are very much looking forward to a wonderful year. Thank you for choosing ESM in your child's education. We look forward to working with you as the year progresses to ensure a successful year.

God Bless,

Kiera Bouchard

## **September Message from Mr. Harper**

Hello and welcome to our ESM community! I pray that everyone had a relaxing and joyful summer break!

What a great year we are going to have! We are beginning year one of our Faith theme, Arise! Pilgrims of Hope. This year our Faith Focus will be that God is in Our Hearts. The word Arise is used to take new action, to do something meaningful in relation to God's plan for his people, describe the emergence of a person who will function as an agent of God, and the Easter miracle, which is the foundation of our faith. Combining these two ideas will focus this year on building our community through listening, healing, invitation, and welcome. What a fitting concept for the start of a new school year and once again being able to celebrate in person with everyone! Let us all do our best to take the opportunity to think of kind things to do for our community.

In the spirit of our Faith Focus, we are lucky that, once again, we can have some of our school celebrations in person! Our opening mass will be at Assumption Church on September 19, 2022! Please put the date in your calendars and join us at mass at 9:00am if you are able! We will communicate which celebrations are in person and which will still be virtual.

We are looking forward to celebrating as a community this year!

Similar to last year, each class will also host a religious celebration this year. We will continue to share the upcoming Sunday Gospel with students each week. We will continue to learn about our faith, guided by our new Faith theme. We are very excited about all the great things this year will bring!

***"Arise, shine; for the light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."***

***Isaiah 60:1***



## New Staff Members:



### JUSTIN HARPER

Hello everyone! My name is Justin Harper, and I am the new **Associate Principal** of École St. Mary School! I am very excited to be here and ready to start a new school year. I have worked for Holy Spirit Catholic Schools for 9 of my 15 years of teaching. During that time I taught predominantly math and science at St. Francis Junior High School. I have recently started my master's degree in education at the University of Lethbridge, so I had a summer full of learning! I love to spend my spare time with my wife and dog, golfing, reading, and hiking. I look forward to learning about all the wonderful things happening at École St. Mary School. I hope everyone has a great year!

(JUST KIDDING! – Mr. Harper isn't really that fuzzy! Here he is!)



### ANGELA COURT

Hello! My name is Angela Court. I am the new **English Kindergarten teacher** at École St. Mary's. I am excited to be a part of the St. Mary's team this school year. My teaching career started with grade 5 students, then moving to grade 3. I am looking forward to the imaginative and creative world of Kindergarten.

I am lucky to have 2 kids in their early teens. I am the coach of my daughters competitive soccer team as well as the cheer squad for my sons. Between sports and the pets we have, our house is a very busy household full of fun, adventure and laughter. In my free time I enjoy hiking, camping and indulging in a good book. There is so much I am looking forward to this school year, most of all is getting to know the students and bringing that connection to the families to create a community of support.



### KEVIN TOEWS

Hello! My name is Kevin Toews. It is very exciting to return to École St. Mary. I was previously here as a practicum student in the very same **grade 6** classroom that I am now a teacher in! This is my second year as a teacher, and I am excited for all of the new experiences that elementary has in store for me. Last year I taught Religion and Humanities at St. Francis Jr. High, which was an amazing experience that taught me so much. I hope to carry forward all of the lessons I have learned there!

Outside of school, you can usually find me spending time with my awesome wife and our awesome Border Collie named Hank. I love reading, cooking, and playing guitar. I am also a huge Star Wars fan and I play my share of video games. If you would like to reach out to me, feel free to email me at [toewsk@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:toewsk@holyspirit.ab.ca). I would love to get to know more of our École St. Mary community!

## TANYA KOOPMANS



Hello, my name is Tanya Koopmans and I am the **Family First Facilitator** at École St. Mary. I am excited to be here and get to know your children and yourselves. In previous years I worked as a Child and Youth Care Worker within a school setting. I enjoy working with children, youth and their families! I have been married for almost 18 years and we have three children, grade 11, grade 9 and grade 6 all attending different schools within Holy Spirit. I enjoy the outdoors, camping, hiking, biking, skiing and sitting on a sandy beach! Little known fact about me is that I am a certified ski instructor. If you would like to hear more about my role, please feel free to contact me directly at the school, pop in and say hi, send me an email or call my cell, I look forward to meeting you.

[koopmanst@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:koopmanst@holyspirit.ab.ca) 403-634-2712

## LAUREN HAMILTON



Hello, Bonjour! My name is Mlle. Lauren. I am currently in my last year at the University of Lethbridge, completing a combined degree in French and in Education. I am so excited to be teaching alongside Mme. Jodi in grade 2 French Immersion this fall. I grew up watching my brothers play volleyball so I also cannot wait to help out with Gr.6 girls volleyball with Mme. de Boer. In my spare time I love to hangout with family, go camping & boating, and get in a round of golf when I can. I am so excited that my education journey has brought me to École St. Mary school, and cannot wait to see what this fall will hold in store for me.

## STUDENT DROP OFF/ PICK UP

Students can be dropped off no earlier than 7:45am. There will be no supervision before 7:45am if you choose to leave your child unattended at the school this is your parent responsibility.

**Parking lot is for STAFF ONLY.** You may park on the east side of the street. The west side, by the field, is for school buses only. In the morning the sidewalk between the flag pole and the parking lot is a drop off zone. Hug and Go. Please do not park there for long periods of time.

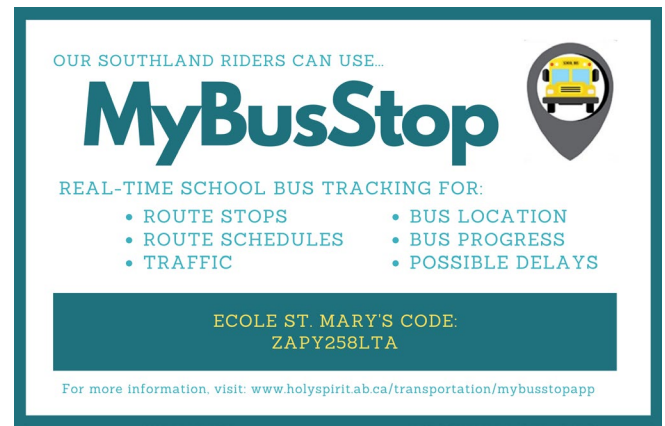
## WATER BOTTLES

We have water bottle fill stations and have not re-installed the drinking fountains for students. Please be sure to send water bottles with your child(ren) every day.

## SCHOOL BUS

School buses are provided by southland Transportation. Please At the MyBusStop app for the most up to date information. You can also visit the Southland website

<https://www.southland.ca/lethbridge/>



## ATTENDANCE

Children thrive and succeed when they attend school regularly. We understand things come up, appointments made during school hours, emergencies, sickness etc. Please call the office to let us know if your child(ren) will not be at school on any given day. You can call 403-327-3098 or email [esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:esmoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca)

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

We are blessed to have a Nutrition grant this year to provide breakfast for those who need it. We also welcome back Mindful Munchies from the Lethbridge food bank who provide us with lunches for our students who forget or would otherwise go without. This program will start on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## SICK KIDS

If your child(ren) is sick – KEEP THEM HOME.

We are thankful to be close to the end of the pandemic but Covid and other illnesses are still around us. We put this on the responsibility of you as a parent/guardian to keep your child home if they are sick. It is at the discretion of the homeroom teacher if students are not well enough to be in the class, they may be sent home.

## CHECK IN AT OFFICE

Parents and community members are welcome at the school. You are still required to check in at the office and sign in if you are coming into the school for any school event. We will keep the distractions in the class to a minimum. If you are dropping something off for your child the office staff will deliver it for you. We are happy to accept volunteers this year! You can call the office and let them know if you are available with and what you would like to help with.

We are currently in need of some Parent Picture Day Heroes to help with calling classes down to the gym.

## September 2022 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Labour Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <b>FIRST DAY for Kindergarten</b>	13	14 <b>PICTURE DAY</b> First school Council meeting?	15	16 <b>NO Kindergarten</b>	17
18	19 <b>Opening Mass @ 9am</b> *Assumption Church	20	21	22	23 <b>Terry Fox Run</b>	24
25	26	27	28 Div. Board Meeting	29	30 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Day for Truth and Reconciliation	

## OCTOBER 2022 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7 <b>NO Kindergarten</b>	8
9	10 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Thanksgiving Day	11 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PD Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Div. PD Day	25	26 <b>PICTURE RETAKES</b>	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					



## NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



## FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Risk Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA) helps principals take further steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. The protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or a replica weapon, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written or electronic (internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others or other threats of violence, fire setting.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first bring together a School Threat Assessment Team, which ideally includes the principal / associate principal, a school based counsellor / jurisdictional lead and police of jurisdiction. If the situation is serious the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and call in members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This community team may include representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safer such as, but not limited to, local police, children's mental health organizations or Child and Family Services. Parents / guardians will be notified as soon as possible in the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents / guardians cannot be reached, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behavior, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents / guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca).

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,  
Ken Sampson, Superintendent of Schools



September 7, 2022 @ 6:30  
Henderson Ice Center

Free event– ages 5 and up.  
Bring skates, helmet, and  
gloves. We provide the rest!

Register for this event at:  
[www.cometryringette.ca/events/](http://www.cometryringette.ca/events/)

## What is Ringette?

Ringette is a fast-paced team sport played on ice. Similar to Hockey, the objective is to work as a team to get the ring in the opponent's net.

- Learn to skate
- Start as young as 5 years old
- Goalie camps available
- Building strong, fit & confident athletes
- Non-contact sport with full protective equipment
- Travel! Play locally, provincially, nationally & even internationally

**Register now for  
the 2022/2023  
season**

**For more information or to register, visit our website at  
[www.lethbridgeringette.ca](http://www.lethbridgeringette.ca)**

**Follow us online**



Lethbridge Ringette Association:  
Website by RAMP...  
[www.lethbridgeringette.ca](http://www.lethbridgeringette.ca)





## POWERCHAIR SOCCER TRY-IT DAY



SEPT 10TH 10AM-2PM

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE NORTH GYM

Interested? Contact [chase.petruska@uleth.ca](mailto:chase.petruska@uleth.ca) or 403-371-8964



**Interested in hockey but don't want the significant time or financial commitment that often comes with this great sport?**

**We offer an organized non-checking recreational hockey league for all genders aged 5-17. All skill levels are welcome.**

**One hour, once a week. Season runs from October to March.**

**Registration closes on September 10, 2022 - spots fill quickly so don't delay!**

**[www.lethbridgerechockey.com](http://www.lethbridgerechockey.com)**



# CANSKATE FALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Classes start Oct.2nd

Sun 10:15-11am Civic

Wed 5:30-6:15pm Henderson

Thur 5:30-6:15pm NicSheran

Teen/Young Adult

Sunday 5:30-6:30pm ENMAX



To register visit:  
[SouthernAlbertaSkating.ca](https://SouthernAlbertaSkating.ca)



SOUTHERN ALBERTA  
SKATING ACADEMY

[southernalbertaskating@gmail.com](mailto:southernalbertaskating@gmail.com)

