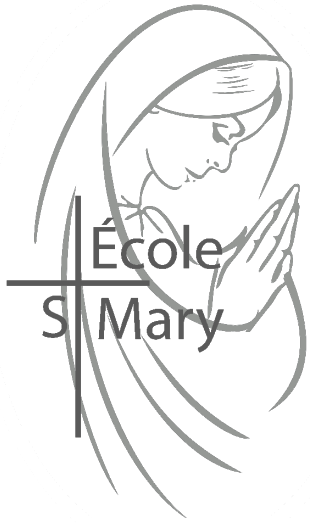




UPCOMING DATES:

Oct 2nd – Picture Day

Oct 14th– NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving

Oct 15th – No School DIV PD Day

Oct 31 – Halloween dress up or Orange and Black

Nov 6 – Picture Retakes



**Ecole St Mary rocked the
Terry Fox Run, rain and
all!**

**We beat last year's
fundraising amount, and
raised a total of
\$669.90!!!!**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

LETHBRIDGE FAMILY LIFE

PUMPKIN *Family Event* CARVING



ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

BRING YOUR OWN PUMPKIN
OR CARVE ONE OF THE ONES WE HAVE

OCTOBER 27TH | **HOSTED AT ASSUMPTION HALL** | **STARTS AT 2 PM**
2405 12 Ave S, Lethbridge
www.allsaintslethbridge.org

All Saints

LETHBRIDGE FAMILY LIFE
NOT SO SPICY

CHILI DINNER

10.27.2024 **BRING THE HEAT!** 4-6:00 PM

Come and Bring the Whole Family
to an amazing Chili Dinner!

Hosted at Assumption Hall
2405 12 Ave S, Lethbridge



EVERYONE -IS- WELCOME

Parent Cafe

Mindful Parenting

Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24

All Things ADHD

With :

Childrens Mental Health

Location:

ECOLE ST. MARY, THE GARAGE
1-3 PM
Refreshments & Light Snacks Provided
RSVP:

Tanya Koopmans
403-634-2712
koopmanst@holyspirit.ab.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a Debit Machine in the office!



Now you have the option to pay your school fees in person, with a debit or credit card

**YEARLY SCHOOL FEES ARE DUE
BY SEPTEMBER 30th**

New Staff Members:

Anne Van Roon – Support Administrator



Mrs Van Roon is the new Support Office Administrator here at Ecole St Mary! She is going to be here for the year while Mrs. Tara takes some time off to enjoy her beautiful new baby. She has three grown up kids, a handsome husband, two goofy dogs, and three crazy cats. Her family loves to cheer the Calgary Flames on during the hockey season, and on the weekends, they often walking their dogs or having an adventure out of town on short vacations. One thing about Mrs Van Roon is that she has written and published an adventure book for young readers, and you can find it here in the Library with Mrs. Bugg if you want to read it! This year, she hopes to see your smiling faces in the office, help answer all of your questions, and even share a few terrible jokes!

How do you stop and astronaut's baby from crying? *You rocket!*

Katelyn Rabl – Kindergarten



Katleyn has been teaching in various early education positions since 2016 with Lethbridge School Division, as well as subbing in both school divisions. She is very happy to have finally found a 'home' at ESM in the Kindergarten Program! When asked about herself, she says:

I am most looking forward to getting to know my students and their families this year, and getting to be a part of such an awesome school!

In my spare time, I can be found reading everything under the sun, going for walks & hikes, baking, and chasing my 3 year old around.

Welcome to Ecole St Mary, Mme Rabl!

Lost and Found – FULL ALREADY!

We've only been at school for 1 month and our lost and found is already full! Ask your children to check the lost and found.

Parents can check in at the office and go look themselves if they want. Thank you!

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

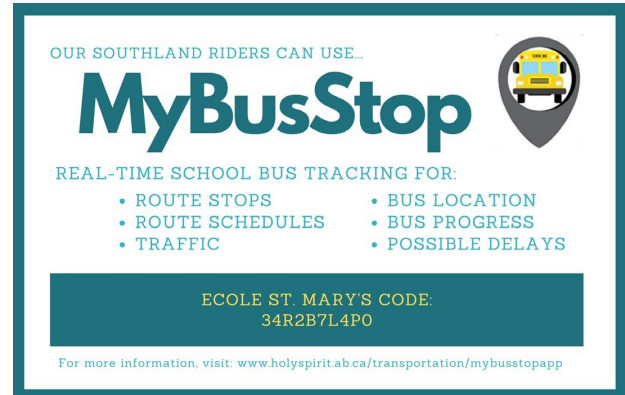
We have water bottle fill stations in the school. Please be sure to send water bottles with your child(ren) every day.

SCHOOL BUS & BUS PASSES

Students will be receiving their bus passes soon. Please put their names on it. If lost – they will be replaced with paper copies. Drivers will be checking for passes in October

Please download the MyBusStop app for the most up to date information. You can also visit the Southland website

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



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.

**We ask that as parents you have the conversations with your child about those who might not have enough food. Also that if they eat their whole lunch they are welcome to an extra afternoon snack.*

SICK KIDS

If your child(ren) is sick – KEEP THEM HOME. Call the office to excuse their absence.

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

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.

the

Newsletter - October 1 - Mme Bouchard

Dear ESM Community,

What a wonderful beginning to the school year! It has been a truly beautiful start, made even more special by our incredible school community. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the dedication, kindness, and generosity of our students, families, staff, and supporters. Together, we are creating an environment where students can learn, grow, and flourish in faith.

September was filled with many meaningful events and new beginnings. Our Terry Fox Run was a tremendous success, raising \$669.90 for cancer research. A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who guided our classes around Henderson Lake. Your support makes these moments possible.

We also celebrated the beginning of the year with our Opening Mass at Assumption Parish. It was a beautiful morning for a walk, and Father Kevin's message—reminding us that the gifts we have are meant to be shared, and that all we do is a proclamation of our faith—set the tone for the year ahead. Over 400 students joined us, and later that evening, we gathered again for our Welcome Back Barbecue and Family Blessing. With hundreds of burgers served, it was a wonderful opportunity for families to meet teachers, see classrooms, and enjoy each other's company. Special thanks to Frito Lay for their generous donation of chips—it added to the joy of our gathering.

Our monthly assembly also took place, celebrating the spirit of ESM. Each assembly is a joyful occasion filled with lessons, a look back at the month, games, and prizes. We recognized our Samaritan Super Stars, and thanks to Ward Bros' donation, two lucky students each received a \$25 prize. We are grateful for their ongoing support.

On September 27th, we marked Orange Shirt Day in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day is an important reminder to reflect on our shared history and to honor the lives and experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. In remembrance, there will be no school on Monday, September 30th as we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Additionally, we held our first School Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting this month. Congratulations to our new Chair, Brody Prete, and thank you to Wendy Hurley, Gerriane Timmerman, and Camille Rose for continuing in their roles. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Heather Wirzba, who has served as our Chair for the past three years. We are also excited to welcome Linda Ellefson as our Trustee. If you haven't yet joined us for a School Council meeting, I encourage you to come! It's a wonderful opportunity to be involved and to contribute to our school community. Our next meeting is on October 17th, at 6:00 pm in the library.

In staffing news, we are delighted to welcome Chelsea O'Brien, our new .5 teacher for Division 2 English classes, and Michelle Boivin Carriere, our new French Language Assistant. Both are eager to serve and get to know our ESM family.

Finally, I want to extend a sincere thank you to you—our parents and families. Ecole St. Mary is a special place because of your commitment, trust, and partnership in your child's education. Together, we are building a community rooted in faith and love, where each student is nurtured and supported.

May God bless you and your family throughout this school year.

Yours in Christ,

Mme Kiera Bouchard
Principal



Mr. Harper's October Newsletter Message 2024

September was a great month! The weather has been wonderful, and watching the changing colors of nature throughout this season is always a delight. It has been a busy month at ESM for everyone! We recently celebrated our Opening Mass and our Welcome Back Family Blessing and BBQ. Both events were extraordinary! We were so happy to see so many members of our wonderful community throughout the week. Stories were shared, laughter filled the air, and the meal was enjoyed together. Thank you for being a part of our school community.

Our faith theme this year has evolved from "Build! Pilgrims of Hope" to "Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope." Father Kevin spoke at Mass about how "proclaim" means more than just speaking. We can also proclaim through our actions, and the students and school community had proclaimed their faith just that morning by walking to Church. This year, our focus shifts from looking outward to looking upward and proclaiming our faith. In this third and final year of our faith plan, we focus on the Gospel, Creed, and Liturgy. Each of these elements are ways in which we proclaim our Faith and Catholic Worldview. The Gospel ties in wonderfully with our Gospel Time on Wednesdays, which will continue throughout the year.

Additionally, 2025 has been declared a Jubilee Year by Pope Francis, with a papal bull titled "Spes Non Confudit," meaning "Hope Does Not Disappoint." This aligns perfectly with our focus on the Theological Virtue of Hope in our Faith plan, reflecting the trust we have in God's promise to share His life with us forever. There are many exciting things to look forward to as we journey through the third year of our faith plan.

The month of October will be filled with various activities. Our Gospel Time has resumed each Wednesday, where we will share the Sunday Gospel and deepen our understanding of our Faith and the Faith theme for this year. Our Grade 1RE class will host our Thanksgiving celebration on Friday, October 11th. This will be shared virtually with our school community. A food drive will begin on October 16th to help us proclaim our faith through support of our community. Finally, Catholic Education Week begins on October 19th with Catholic Education Sunday and runs until October 25th. We will have some special activities planned throughout this week for our school.

This is an excellent month to remember that many people, both within our community and in the global community, do not have enough food to eat. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, it is a good time to reflect on how we can help those in need. Saint Marguerite d'Youville, who represents the Corporal Work of Mercy "Feed the Hungry," serves as our example of this Work of Mercy and the Catholic Social Teaching of the Common Good. What can we do this month to help those around us?

October will be a fantastic month, and we wish all our school community members a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Hebrews 10:23-24

STAFF PARKING ONLY IN THE STAFF PARKING LOT

Parents - Please be aware that our school parking lot is not to be used for pick ups or drop offs of students.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION
AND UNDERSTANDING**



October

2024

Fall Colors



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	 2 PICTURE DAY! 3 pm Boys Volleyball	3	4	5
	3 pm Boys Volleyball	3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club		3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club		
6	7 3 pm Boys Volleyball	8 3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club	9 3 pm Boys Volleyball	10 3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club	11	12
13 	14 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving 	15 NO SCHOOL PD Day 	16 3 pm Boys Volleyball	17 3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club	18	19 Catholic Education Week Oct 19-25
20 Catholic Education Week Oct 19-25	21 3 pm Boys Volleyball	22 3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club	23 3 pm Boys Volleyball	24 3pm Girls' Volleyball Run Club	25 Volleyball Jamboree Details TBC	26
27	28 3 pm Boys Volleyball	29 3pm Girls' Volleyball	30 3 pm Boys Volleyball	31 HALLOWE'EN Assembly 3pm Girls' Volleyball		

November

2024

We Remember



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ PAJAMA DAY	²
³	⁴ 3 pm Boys Volleyball	⁵ 3pm Girls' Volleyball	⁶ Picture Retakes 3 pm Boys Volleyball Goal Setting Night	⁷ 3pm Girls' Volleyball Goal Setting Night	⁸ NO SCHOOL Wellness Day	⁹
¹⁰ 	¹¹ NO SCHOOL Remembrance Day	¹² NO SCHOOL DIV PD DAY	¹³ 3 pm Boys Volleyball Free Family Skating Logan Boulet 3:30-4:30	¹⁴ 3pm Girls' Volleyball	¹⁵ Rock Your Mocs Final Volleyball Tournament	¹⁶
¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰ Grade 3 retreat @Assumption	²¹	²²	²³
²⁴	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷ 3 pm Boys Volleyball Free Family Skating Logan Boulet 3:30-4:30	²⁸	²⁹	³⁰

October

"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God,
and in all things give Him thanks."

- St. Teresa of Avila

St. Teresa of Avila 1515-1582 (Feast Day: October 15)

Proclaim!
Pilgrims of
Hope

St. Teresa of Avila, also known as St. Teresa of Jesus, is a saint and Doctor of the Church well known for her mysticism and writings on prayer. Born in the 1500s, her family was quite wealthy and religious; her and her younger brother even ran away in their youth seeking to be martyrs. Her medieval world was filled with tales of knights and religious education in her youth. At the age of 20, she entered a Carmelite convent and began reading more deeply about prayer, including reading from St. Augustine's Confessions. She began to have visions, to levitate, and to seek solitude, contemplation, and a more austere lifestyle. This led her to establish a new convent which followed more strict rules to encourage deeper piety. Aside from her time in prayer and writing, she spent much of her later life traveling to establish these reformed convents. She died in October 1582. As of August 2024, researchers and scientists have found that her body remains incorrupt.

St. Teresa is famous for her writings on prayer. Two of her well-known texts are *The Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle*. In *The Way of Perfection*, St. Teresa outlines four essential stages to prayer - devotion of the heart, peace, union, and ecstasy - using the analogy of a garden. *The Interior Castle* describes seven mansions (rooms or steps) which draw us closer to God. The rooms lead from active prayer to contemplation to mystical union with God. These works have heavily influenced many other Catholic saints and theologians, which led to her being named a Doctor of the Church in 1970. She is often depicted with a quill, representing her writing, and the dove, representing the influence of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth..."

The structure of the Apostles' Creed is itself a reflection of our belief in the Holy Trinity. The first section expresses our belief in God, followed by the second section which outlines our belief in Christ, and is concluded by the third section, which confirms our belief in the Holy Spirit. In the first section, we say "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...."

What do we profess about God when we proclaim the Apostles' Creed?

- We proclaim our belief in one God - in contrast to a belief in no God or many Gods - as a matter of faith.
- We speak of our relationship with God using the analogy of Father, using the same language that Jesus did in speaking with God and in teaching us the 'Our Father.' Jesus called God 'Abba' - a loving parental term to convey the intimacy of God with humanity. Our God is not an impersonal force or distant being.

- We proclaim our belief in one God - in contrast to a belief in no God or many Gods - as a matter of faith.
- We profess our God as Almighty - this word appears 56 times in scripture; it is used only for God with the literal meaning as 'the One who has his hand on everything.' All power and authority on earth derives from God, and God remains unchanging, eternal, and reliable. All things are possible with God.
- We understand that God is the creator of both our physical world and the spiritual realm. While we live in a created world that God constantly tends, in order to reach our full potential we seek relationship with the God who loves us. We are surrounded by the presence of God, who wants us to be here.

As we seek to become Pilgrims of Hope this year, let us contemplate the Creed, and how our proclamation of the Creed unites us to one another and to all Christians through time and space.

"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

For the first time, this year Catholic Education Week will be combined into one celebration with Catholic Education Sunday. From October 19-25, we will join with the rest of our provincial counterparts under the theme *Testify! Share the Reason for Your Hope*. This theme connects well to our own Faith Plan call to *Proclaim!* Each day, look for liturgies and videos that will be shared that explore aspects of the theme, and join in praying the Angelus at noon. The Angelus is an ancient prayer recalling the events of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit and become the mother of God. The prayer honours Mary's great 'yes' to God; offered humbly, faithfully and obediently. Through this prayer we reflect upon and celebrate the great mystery of God sharing in our humanity, becoming one of us in the person of Jesus. This is a great opportunity to echo Mary's 'yes', and to proclaim our faith together!



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For A Shared Mission

For a shared mission - We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

Division Parishes

“...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

 Assumption Church Lethbridge Father Kevin Tumback Father Santiago Torres Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am (Live-streamed) 6:00 pm 2405-12th Avenue S. Lethbridge, AB T1K 0P4 Tel: 403-327-8931	 St. Basil's Church Lethbridge Father Kevin Tumback Father Santiago Torres Mass (Saturday): 7:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 7:30 am 11:00 am 604 13 Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2S7 Tel: 403-327-8931	 St. Martha's Parish Lethbridge Father William Monis Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 11:00 am 355 Columbia Blvd. W. Lethbridge, AB T1K 5Y8 Tel: 403-381-8891
 Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Lethbridge Father Gary Sedgwick Mass (Sunday): 10:00 am 643 12B Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L6 Tel: 403-328-4753	 St. Ambrose Parish Coaldale Father Ian Gagne Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 4:00 pm 1523-23rd Avenue Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2 Tel: 403-345-3400	 St. Catherine Parish Picture Butte Father Ian Gagne Mass (Sunday): 11:00 am 762 Crescent Avenue Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0 Tel: 403-732-4433
 St. Augustine Parish Taber Father Philip Van Tinh Le Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 5009-48th Avenue Taber, AB T1G 1T4 Tel: 403-223-2226	 St. Michael's Parish Bow Island Father Wojciech Jarzecki Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 1101-1st Street E. Blow Island, AB T0K 0G0 Tel: 403-545-2023	 St. Michael's Parish Pincher Creek Father Marino Infante Mass (Saturday): 7:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 10:00 am 958 Christie Avenue; Box 339 Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0 Tel: 403-627-3071



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 Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

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.

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,

Dr. Scott Morrison, Superintendent of Schools