

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

DECEMBER -Advent- NEWSLETTER



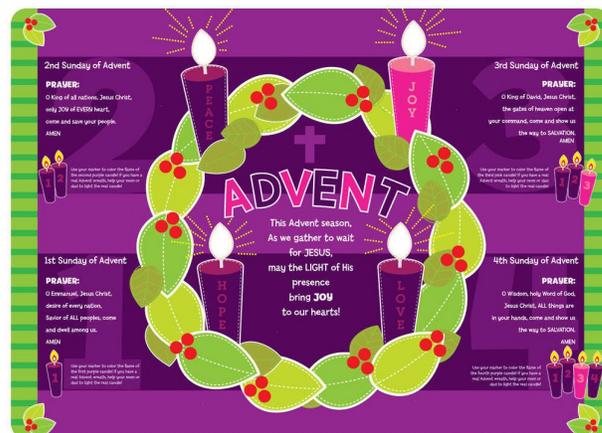
Advent is a season of joyful hope. We trust in God's promise of peace. We affirm in the lighting of the Advent wreath that we are an Advent people. We are given the gift of time to prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives.

How will we use the gift of time and what is our spirit of giving during the Advent season? We are familiar with the expression: "Give until it hurts." Rather, I would suggest: "Give until it feels good." Give until you discover the deepest meaning of life is to be found in charity. This is the meaning of Christmas which the Advent season prepares for. May every card we write and the gifts we purchase and wrap be an act of giving love. May our Advent attitude be not a reflection of commercialism and stress at its worst; rather may we know the inner peace and hopefulness of the Advent season.

In Advent, we are called to see with the eyes of faith. May it be the Advent gift that is given to us to use wisely the gift of time that is the Advent Season. Advent isn't about commercialism. Advent is about spirituality. As an Advent people, we live in joyful hope of the Savior's coming.

During the Advent season, we welcome you to join us in solidarity as a school community for our Advent Liturgy at the school on:

- **December 7, 2023 at 10:30 AM (St. Francis gymnasium)**



Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

KUDOS - Celebrating

- **THE GIVING TREE** Thank you to all of our families who have donated gift cards, totalling **\$1075**, to support Catholic Social Services Giving Tree Campaign, we reached our goal as a result of your generosity! We will still be accepting \$25 Walmart Gift Cards until December 4th.
- **SCHOOL FEES** Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have paid their school fees, **88.2%** have submitted payment! We greatly appreciate families paying fees; this is assisting us with school budget planning.
- **FINE ARTS NIGHT** Thank you to all the families who attended and supported our students at our recent event. It was wonderful to see all the families. We are proud of our students.

FAITH FACT FRIDAY - Did you know?

Each Friday during our morning announcements we learn interesting facts about our patron saint St. Francis of Assisi and more about our Catholic faith. During October and November, all of the Faith Fact Friday have focused on our patron saint and learning about St. Francis. An example of a Faith Fact Friday is: We remember St Francis in many ways, but one of his most notable contributions is creating the Christmas Nativity Scene. Francis wanted all people to appreciate God's miracles from the first Christmas. During December, we will focus on the liturgical season of Advent and the preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. If you have a moment, please ask your children about this.

STUDENT DROP-OFF & PICK-UP - Bus Lanes

Reminder to all parents to keep our bus lane free at morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Our bus drivers are experiencing an increase of cars parked which is delaying their routes. Please share this information with others who drop off and pick up.

SCHOOLGY

Thank you for continuing to regularly check Schoology. Teachers appreciate your support with student achievement and growth, and ensuring students are not falling behind with assignments.

STUDENT GRADE TEAM MEETINGS - Goal Setting

In November, school administration met with all students to discuss the importance of goal setting at the beginning of term 2 - if you want different results you need to do things differently. Students identified reducing NHIs and missing assignments as 1 way to improve in term 2. In addition, the importance of showing who we are at St. Francis (Be Joyful, Be Humble, Be Loving, Be Forgiving) while respecting all adults in the building, specifically guest teachers and support staff. The cell phone and hands-off school expectations were also reviewed with all students.

WAY OF THE WOLF (WOTF) STUDENT RECOGNITION- Be Humble!

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School is a Christ-centered learning environment whose members are called to Be Loving, Be Joyful, Be Humble and Be Forgiving. These four pillars are the foundation we build upon as our students transition throughout our school and guide them in years to come. We ask that students strive to...BE Loving, BE Joyful, BE Humble and BE Forgiving.

Staff are encouraged to nominate students who have demonstrated being **Humble!** in November. Throughout the month, our faith team has also taught the students about humility and what it means to be humble, through an engaging lesson.

Nominated students will come down to the gathering area on Wednesday, December 6th to try their chances on the spinning wheel.

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COMMUNICATION - Teachers and school administration

If you have questions please reach out to your child's teachers. Teachers look forward to meeting parents/guardians in person at our November Parent-Teacher Conferences. Over the coming months, our school administration team will be connecting with parents/guardians via telephone. This provides school administration an opportunity to check in with parents and seek feedback.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - Family Fun Coming - Movie Night December 14th!

- Thank you to the parents who attended our November 20th meeting.
- A family movie night is scheduled for December 14th, bring your blankets and join us in the gym. In addition, a family games night is scheduled for February 7th.
- School administration shared their Principals Report [LINK](#) and asked for feedback from parents regarding our fall parent-teacher conferences. In the future, we will be looking for feedback on our new provider for school pictures. Attending the meetings provides an opportunity for parents to provide feedback in areas that the school administration is seeking.
- Our next meeting will be Monday, January 15 @ 7:00 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION - Division Calendar

School Division calendars for the 2023 - 2024 school year, please click [here](#).

PARENT QUICK LINKS -

- [PowerSchool/School Engage](#) - [LINK](#)
- [Schoology](#) - [LINK](#)
- [Rycor - school fees](#) [LINK](#)

SCHOOL INFORMATION - School Hours / Student Entry

- [Office Hours](#) - open 8:00 - 4:00 pm on school days
- [Bell Schedule](#) -
 - First block starts @ 8:50 AM
 - Lunch 12:07 - 1:07 PM
 - Last block ends @ 3:25 PM
- [Student Entry/Exit](#)- As in previous years, we will continue the practice of having students enter and exit from their respective grade doors. We found that this practice made for safe and smooth transitions for our students in the mornings and afternoons.
 - [Grade Level Entry/Exit Doors Link](#)
 - Student Doors - Open at 8:30 a.m.

RYCOR - School Fees DUE

St. Francis of Assisi Middle Mandatory School Fees are now due.

- **CTS/Options Fee - \$15** This fee supports the delivery of Option Classes for all grade levels
- **PAC (Parent Council) Fee - \$25** This fee supports year-end field trips, etc. for all grade levels

- **Grade 9 Farewell Fee - \$10** (Grade 9 students only) This fee supports the celebration of our graduating Grade 9 students

How do I use RYCOR Online Payments?

1. Visit our school's website
2. Click on the "Quick Links" tab to access PowerSchool.
3. Sign in using your PowerSchool Username and Password. If you have forgotten either/or, click the link "Forgot username password?" and follow the instructions or contact the school office for assistance.
4. Click on the link, 'School Fees and Forms', located on the left-hand side.
5. Please follow the instructions provided on the screen when you are taken to RYCOR.

If you have questions, please contact the school's financial secretary.

*RYCOR can only be accessed via PC/Tablet, the program does not work using the PowerSchool App

POWERSCHOOL - WE NEED YOUR HELP Student Update Forms ****PAST DUE****

- Thank you to those parents who have completed and submitted their Student Update Forms.
- Student Update Forms are a requirement from Alberta Education and are mandatory to submit, even if you have no changes. Forms are now accessible in PowerSchool.
 - **These forms were DUE SEPTEMBER 30th.**
 - Please log in to your account to update your records. Even if you have NO CHANGES a form must be submitted.
- Once you have set up your account, remember to save your username and password.
- Don't hesitate to contact the school if you have difficulty accessing the parent portal.
- The PowerSchool site is accessed at: <https://powerschool.rdcrcs.ca/public/home.html>

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES - Mark your calendars

- December 1 Volleyball Pep Rally
- December 1 Wolves 4 Faith - visit Revera Inglewood Senior Center
- December 3 First Sunday of Advent - HOPE (light a purple candle)
- December 4 Term 1 Honour Roll Certificates sent home
- December 4 Grade 9 Mock Interviews
- December 5 Grade 9 SKILLS Canada
- December 6 Way of the Wolf - Be Humble Student Recognition
- December 6 Grade 8 Presentation - conversation about vaping
- December 6 Grade 9 Mock Interviews
- December 6 EDGE Gr. 9 Leaders Prep Night
- December 7 Advent Liturgy @ STF - acknowledge Christian Spirit Award winners for term 1
- December 7 Living Joy: A Parent's Night with Chris Stefanick
- December 8 NO SCHOOL - Staff Faith Day
- December 10 Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE (light the 2nd purple candle)
- December 12 National Day of Prayer in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples
- December 12 Grade 9: Red Deer Energy Innovation Day
- December 13 EDGE - Youth Ministry (Christmas Extravaganza Night)
- December 14 School Council Hosting a FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - all STF families welcome

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- December 17 Third Sunday of Advent - JOY (light the pink candle)
- December 21 Merry & Bright Student Recognition
- December 22 Last Day of Classes before Christmas Break
- December 23- January 7 CHRISTMAS BREAK
- January 8 School Resumes

We thank you for your support and are so grateful to work together with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions on how to enhance our school community.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mr. Kelly Jacobson - Vice Principal

Mrs. Kathleen Robinson - Vice Principal

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