



# September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> First day for students A – J  Kindergarten Meet & Greet	<b>2</b> First day for students K – Z  Kindergarten Meet & Greet	<b>3</b> All students attend  Kindergarten Meet & Greet	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	<b>8</b> First Day for Kindergarten A - J	<b>9</b> First Day for Kindergarten K - Z	<b>10</b> All Kindergarten students attend  Livestream Opening Mass & Blessing with Father Kevin 9:00am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Early Learning Program begins	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> First Day of Fall  	<b>23</b> Board Meeting 6:00 pm CEC	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> OLA gear or Blue & White day  	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Orange Shirt Day			



## SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME

Hello, my name is Meghan Calder and I am so excited to be joining the OLA family as Principal this year. I have been teaching since 2002 and have taught every grade, kindergarten through grade twelve, at various points throughout my career. I was most recently the Associate Principal at St. Paul School.

I have been married to my husband Darren for 15 years and have two sons, Macai who is 11, and Lachlan who is 10. My extended family is also an important part of who we are. We have billeted players from the Lethbridge Hurricanes for the past 12 seasons and look forward to the upcoming 13th season this fall. We are a very active family who is involved in many activities throughout the year.

We are members of All Saints Parish and regularly attend mass at St. Basil's Church.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of our students and their families.



### CALDER'S COMMENTARY

Welcome back everyone! It is such an amazing feeling having students back in our building. I am so excited to be joining the OLA family.

Our caretakers have worked hard to make sure that our building is spotless and sanitized and ready for our students. They have placed stickers on the floor and walls to help our students remember which direction to go and how to distance themselves from one another.

Our teachers have tirelessly prepared their lessons and classrooms for the return of the students as well. I think they are even more excited to see their students than I am.

While I know that I am a new face and that many things will look a little different this year, there are still many great aspects of OLA that will remain. While we unfortunately cannot gather all together in the gym, we will be using a live stream to build our school community. Mr. New and I will be live streaming our morning announcements for the first week. We will continue to focus on Act Like Mary and have virtual assemblies to recognize student successes each month. Students and staff will continue to participate in regular virtual masses and liturgies as well. We will live stream these events so that our families can participate with us from home.

The focus of our Faith Plan this year is Transformed by the Journey, which is so appropriate given the times we are in. Our action plan is to Be Grateful and Be Gracious. Under the leadership of Mr. New, we will find many ways to act with thanks and grace in our school this year, beginning with prayer.

I look forward to meeting all of our students and families. Please come say hi and introduce yourself when you see me out on the playground.

Here's to a great September.  
Many Blessings

Mrs. Calder

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## Opening Mass

As we come together to celebrate Mass as a school this year it is going to look a little different. We will have two classes in the gym for our opening mass on Thursday, Sept 10 at 9:00am and all the other students will be joining us through a live stream through Google Meets. There will be numerous masses here at the school this year, and each class will have an opportunity to be a part of the Mass live in the gym at one point this year. We would love all our families to join us for Mass. You can do so by joining us online with the following link.

<https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/9ee0c1db-d26a-4c84-8896-4da9baf0723f>

We would like to thank 6N for leading us in our opening Mass and we look forward to Father Kevin visiting us at Our Lady of the Assumption school and leading us in Mass.

## Supervision

Morning supervision begins at 8:20am and our first bell rings at 8:35am. Students are asked to meet their teacher at their designated place outside each morning. Students will be dismissed at 3:30 pm we ask parents to pick up their child promptly as there is no supervision after school.

## Attendance

If your child(ren) will be absent from school for any reason, please contact the office at 403-327-5028 to let us know. You can leave a message at any time, day or night.

## Medication

If a student requires medication to be administered at school proper documentation must be completed by a doctor and parent. The forms are available in the office. These forms must be on file before any medication can be given. The school does not give out any over the counter medication such as Tylenol or cough medicine and we do not use antiseptic cream such as polysporin.

## Contact Information

If there are any changes to your child's data, i.e.: address, phone number, emergency contacts, email address, etc. please inform the office. This information is vital so that the school can contact you in case of an emergency.

## Nutrition Breaks

All students will be eating in their classrooms during nutrition breaks. There are no microwaves available so please pack lunches accordingly. If you send food that requires a spoon or fork, please send them. We **DO NOT** supply this items. We will not be selling milk and juice at this time. Remember to send a water bottle as our water fountains are only used as a filling station.

## Nut Aware

We have some students with a severe nut allergy. We ask that you be mindful of this when packing your child's lunch and snacks. Please avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts or nuts listed in the ingredients to school.

## Terry Fox Run

Our school's Terry Fox Run will be held on Friday, September 18, 2020. All children will be running/walking in their cohort on this day, rain or shine, so please be sure they have appropriate footwear. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to explore the importance of giving to others. We are asking for "Toonies for Terry" but all donations great or small will be appreciated.

## Act Like Mary – September Challenge

One of the most important ways that we learn to be more grateful and gracious in our lives is by taking a moment and acknowledging how we are blessed as a school and community. Through our continued work with our Act Like Mary initiative, OLA students will be challenged to take a moment each day to acknowledge one blessing in their life that they are truly grateful for. Classrooms will be taking a moment each day to give students an opportunity to reflect and pray on what they are grateful for this September. Students will also be able to share these blessings on a communal bulletin board near our music room.

## School Fees

<b>Our Lady of the Assumption School Fees: 2020 - 2021</b>	
<b>Kindergarten Required Fee:</b>	
In Class Presentations	\$25.00
Field trips <b>may be applied at a later date</b>	\$25.00
<b>Total Due by September 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Grade 1 – 6 Required Fees:</b>	
Agenda	\$7.00
School Council	\$5.00
Technology Integration	\$5.00
<b>Total Due by September 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
Field Trip Fee <b>– to be applied at a later date</b>	\$25.00
<b>Extra-Curricular Fees (if required):</b>	
Basketball (Gr. 5 & 6)	\$22.00
Volleyball (Gr. 5 & 6)	\$22.00
Run Club	\$22.00

All fees can be paid on [School Cash Online](#)



# SEPTEMBER

## A New School Year Begins!

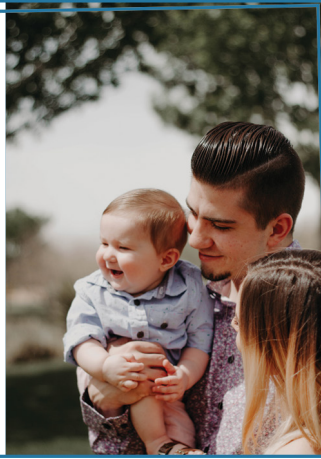
### Days to Remember

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 5 Feast Day of St. Teresa of Calcutta
- 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 15 Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
- 29 Feast of St. Michael

### A Blessing for a Family

May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen.

(Source Unknown)



Click [here](#) for a printable version of this prayer.

### Be Gracious

To be gracious is to be filled with good will and to treat others in the loving manner that Jesus taught us.

#### KINDNESS

St. Paul identifies kindness as one of the fruits of the spirit. We don't want to just teach our children to "do kind things" but rather to have kindness be our very nature. Model kindness for your children as often as you can and when you see them being kind, comment on it by name. As a family this month, focus on kindness in different areas: kindness at home, kindness in the neighbourhood, kindness at school, kindness to those we don't know, etc. The reward for being kind is not shown in any material way but rather in knowing that we are living as Jesus taught us.

Click [here](#) for a Kindness Prayer to pray with your family.



### Catholic Education

Thank you for choosing Catholic Education for your family. Along with your Church, we are partners with you in educating your child. We never lose sight of the fact that, as Pope Francis teaches, the home is to be "the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of faith," and where we learn "to pray and to serve our neighbour." This monthly newsletter aims to serve your family by giving you some ideas to share in the faith journey that your child is experiencing at school. This year, let us be *Transformed by the Journey* together.



### Be Grateful

This year we are focusing on finding grace (God's presence and love) in the ordinary moments of our day. We will be attentive to giving thanks to God for all of his goodness and being grateful to God for his presence.

One of our beautiful Catholic prayer traditions are prayers of Blessing. In prayer, to bless is to dedicate someone or something to God, or to make something holy in God's name. Saying that God has blessed us means that we acknowledge that we are held in God's heart, cherished and beloved for who we are.

Bestowing a blessing on one another in a family is an act of love. If you don't already do so, bless your child before they leave for school each day. Simply trace a cross on their forehead or place your hand on their head and say "May God bless and protect you today" and then pause for a moment of silence. This is one small way of showing how thankful you are to God for giving you his precious child to care for.



### Faith & Family

Nurturing a child's prayerful heart starts with simplicity - talking about God, finding God in the everyday, finding moments of prayer, and learning to respond to God's presence with prayer. This month's suggested *Faith and Family* activity is Prayer Walks.

As we wind down our summer days and look forward to the beautiful autumn season, it is the perfect time of year to go on a prayer walk with your family. Help your children to open their eyes more to the wonders of God's creation. God is not only Creator, but also present in creation. If we can begin both the conversation and our relationship with God by recognizing that God is near us always, it prepares the child for a lifetime of knowing that God is always with us. Bring up God on your walk and you might be amazed at what your child tells you!

#### Questions:

- Where do you see God?
- Where do you think God is?
- How is God like the item that you see?
- Why do you think God created this item?
- How does this item make you feel?



Resources: *Praying Together* by Karla Hardersen; *Prayers and Rituals for the Home* by Kathy Hendricks



*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



## NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

The *Alberta Human Rights 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 students' well-being. 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. 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 Student 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



## GRADE 3 STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

Alberta Education is once again providing the opportunity for school divisions in the province to administer the Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs). The SLAs are a digitally based provincial assessment that provides a beginning of the year “check in” based on outcomes related to literacy and numeracy. This assessment allows teachers and parents/guardians to learn about and identify student strengths and areas for growth early in the school year.

Holy Spirit School Division believes that continued participation in the SLAs will provide teachers yet another opportunity to get to know their students, use the results to help plan for instruction, and engage in collaborative professional development opportunities that will benefit student learning.

For more information about the Grade 3 SLAs, visit the government website at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/student-learning-assessments.aspx>



## GROWING IN FAITH GROWING IN CHRIST

**Our School uses the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program for Religious Education!**

*Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* features a Student-Home Website with videos, songs, bible stories, prayers, interactive activities and more – all designed for students and families to explore their faith together.

**Log in at:**

[www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home](http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home)

**Grades: 1-7 available!**

**Username: holyspirit99**

**Password: Student99**

**GROWING IN FAITH  
GROWING IN CHRIST**

Welcome to Your Student Website!

Grade 1 Sign In

Grade 2 Sign In

Grade 3 Sign In

Grade 4 Sign In

Grade 5 Sign In

Grade 6 Sign In

Grade 7 Sign In

**Grades 1-7  
NOW  
AVAILABLE!**

# OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 25 First day staff  
 Aug 26 School PD Day  
 Aug 27/28 Div. PD Day  
 Aug 31 Div. Opening Mass

O – 5  
 I – 0

AUGUST '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sept 1 First day students  
 Sept 7 Labour Day  
 Sept 14 First day Early Learning  
 Sept 23 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (26)  
 I – 21

SEPTEMBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Oct 9 School PD Day  
 Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day  
 Oct 13 Div. Collab. Day  
 Oct 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (47)  
 I – 19 (40)

OCTOBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov 11 Remembrance Day  
 Nov 20 School PD Day  
 Nov 25 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (67)  
 I – 19 (59)

NOVEMBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Dec 16 Div. Board Meeting  
 Dec 18 Last day before break  
 Dec 21-31 Christmas Break no students  
 Dec 25 & 26 Christmas & Boxing Day

O – 14 (81)  
 I – 14 (73)

DECEMBER '20						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 1 New Year's Day  
 Jan 4 First day after break  
 Jan 27 Div. Board Meeting  
 Jan 29 School PD Day

O – 20 (101)  
 I – 19 (92)

JANUARY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Feb 15 Family Day  
 Feb 16 & 17 Unassigned time teachers, No students  
 Feb 18 & 19 SWATCA  
 Feb 24 Div. Board Meeting

O – 17 (118)  
 I – 15 (107)

FEBRUARY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Mar 16 Div. Spiritual Dev Day  
 Mar 19 Div. Collab. Day  
 Mar 24 Div. Board Meeting

O – 23 (141)  
 I – 21 (128)

MARCH '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Apr 1 Last day before break  
 Apr 2 Good Friday  
 Apr 4 Easter Sunday  
 Apr 2 – 9 Easter Break no students  
 Apr 12 First day after break  
 Apr 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 16 (157)  
 I – 16 (144)

APRIL '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 21 School PD Day  
 May 24 Victoria Day  
 May 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (177)  
 I – 19 (163)

MAY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 16 Last day ELP  
 June 21 Aboriginal Day  
 June 23 Div. Board Meeting  
 June 25 Last day students and staff

O – 19 (196)  
 I – 19 (182)

JUNE '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 1-31

JULY '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

No students  
 Stat Holidays  
 School PD Days  
 Div. PD/Spiritual Dev Days  
 Div. Board Meetings  
 First and last days students