



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

CALDER'S COMMENTARY

February is upon us and this year it brings the registration process for the 2021-2022 school year. With all that has happened this year, it's hard to believe that we are already beginning to plan for next year. Our re-registration and registration will be online again this year so please keep your eyes peeled for emailed information regarding this process.

Mrs. Ellert and our staff have been doing a great job posting pictures of all of our amazing learning at OLA on Facebook and Twitter. We always appreciate your positive comments and likes of these posts. As we look ahead to welcoming new families from our community through registrations, I would ask you to consider sharing our posts with your friends and family. We are doing amazing things at OLA and want to share them with as many people as possible. By sharing our posts, you help bring recognition to our awesome school.

On a more reflective note, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday fall during our February break this year. This means we will not be observing these important days together. I encourage you to visit the All Saints parish website <https://www.allsaintslethbridge.org/> to find ways you can participate in these important holy days. Upon our return on February 22, students will begin our Lenten challenges, focusing on the important self-reflection of Lent through practices of gratitude and graciousness.

Consider this prayer as we focus on fasting this Lenten season

Let Us Fast

While fasting with the body, brothers and sisters, let us also fast in spirit.

Let us lose every bond of iniquity; let us undo the knots of every contact made by violence;

let us tear up all unjust agreements;

let us give bread to the hungry and welcome to our house the poor who have no roof to cover them,

that we may receive mercy from Christ our God.

-Byzantine Vespers

xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer

Many blessings,
Mrs. Calder

CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that due to a change in our Spiritual Development Day the **no** school days in March will be Friday, March 19 and Monday March 22, 2021. There will be school on March 16, 2021

ACT LIKE MARY – FEBRUARY CHALLENGE



In February, we are continuing to build on our students' understanding that being grateful and gracious in our lives can add so much to the lives of others in our school and community. Earlier this year, during one of our challenges, students identified ways that we can be grateful and gracious here at Our Lady of the Assumption School. These gracious and grateful actions will be the center of our Lenten calendar this year. Each week of Lent students will be challenged to participate in a gracious and grateful act. This year we will use each Friday as a day of reflection to look at how these actions make our school a more wonderful place to be. This year's Lenten calendars

will be shared right before the start of Lent. We encourage all families to participate in these challenges at home as well. Our hope is that we continue to grow through this year's faith plan in which we are Transformed by the Journey.

Important dates this month are:

- 16 - Shrove Tuesday
- 17 - Ash Wednesday
- 21- First Sunday of Lent
- 28 - Second Sunday of Lent

TEXT MESSAGES

Text messaging is a great way for us to get information to our parent community in a timely matter. When we had the recent power outage, our phone system was not working and the quickest way for us to reach you was through text. If you have not already done so, please consider signing up for this service.



**HAVE YOU OPTED-IN
TO RECEIVE
TEXT MESSAGES
FROM US?**

Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 978338



SCIENCE FAIR

We are continuing the tradition of our school science fair this year and it will take place on Wednesday, March 17. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 who wish to participate must complete a registration/project proposal and recording permission form by Friday, February 5, 2021 and return to Ms. Nadeau. We are encouraging students to work on their own projects, but they may work with a partner from their cohort (same class or sibling) if they choose. Parents are encouraged to provide assistance and guidance; but please remember it is your child's project. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to have parents view the projects as we have done in the past. Instead, each student will be video taped explaining their project and it will then be shared with the OLA community. If you do not wish your child to be video taped they may still submit a project.

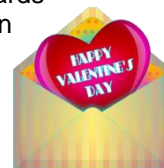
The 2021 Lethbridge Regional Virtual Science Fair is scheduled for March 26 & 27. More information will follow.

WINTER WALK DAY

On Wednesday, February 3rd, Grades 1 to 6 will be walking to Gyro Park, which is located at 11 Ave S and 16 St S. and while there, each class will participate in a fun outdoor activity. We plan to leave the school around 1:00 and return before 3:00 pm. Our route will take us west on 12 Ave S and east at 16 St S. Please send your child to school with appropriate warm winter clothing.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021. We ask that all Valentine cards are sent to the school with your child on Monday, Feb 8. Due to restrictions there is to be no sharing of food, so please do not send any treats from home. School Council will once again be supplying a small treat bag for each student.



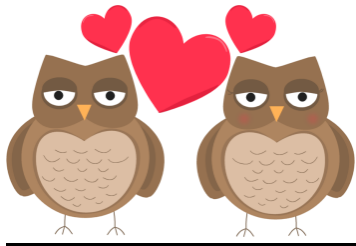
PINK SHIRT DAY

On Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021, we encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying. The theme this year is "Lift Each Other Up".



SCHOOL COUNCIL

There will be no meeting in February. The next school council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10. All meetings are held virtually through google meets and all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>2021/2022 Re-Registration Look for an email during the week of Feb 1 -5 and complete the online "Registration Update Form"</p>		<p>Happy Groundhog Day!</p>				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<p>Send in Valentine's cards</p>			<p>Gr 6 - 9:00 am SFJH Student Orientation for Grade 7</p>	<p>Pink / Red Day</p>	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<p>HAPPY FAMILY DAY</p>	<p>Shrove Tuesday</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>Teacher Convention</p>	<p>Teacher Convention</p>	
<p>No school for students</p>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>First Sunday IN LENT</p>		<p>Stem Day</p>	<p>PINK SHIRT DAY</p>		<p>Lenten Mass - 9:00am</p>	
28						
<p>Second Sunday IN LENT</p>						



LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR WITH ...

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION 2021/2022 REGISTRATION

RE-REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email during the week of February 1-5, 2021 asking you to complete the online "Registration Update Form" for all of your children.

This update allows us to make sure the information on file is accurate and that any legal declarations, preferences and consents are renewed. It also allows our schools to plan for the upcoming school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time as they re-register older students.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2021/2022 school year are invited to register online starting on February 22, 2021.

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Our **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2021.

For information about our Early Learning and Kindergarten Programs, or to discuss your child's specialized programming requirements, contact our Early Learning Coordinator, Lynn Saler, at 403-381-8495 or salerl@holyspirit.ab.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need assistance with the online registration process, or have any questions, contact your child's school or visit the school division's website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
...where students are cherished and achieve their potential.



ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH



2021 GRADE 7 INFORMATION

We are very excited about the possibility of your child attending St. Francis School. In order to help with this transition and to assist all students to feel more comfortable at St. Francis, we usually arrange to have the Grade 6 students visit our school, but this year we needed to rethink how things are done. We will be live streaming over a zoom session with your child's class.

During the zoom session, the students will get a chance to meet some teachers and staff from St Francis. school, take a virtual tour, listen to some experiences from current SFJH students, and find out about the many possibilities at St. Francis. Our motto is "Bringing To Light The Best We Can Become". Whether this is in an academic core class, one of our many option classes, or in participating in one of our clubs or teams we strive to help every child to be the best they can be.

This Grade 7 Orientation will take place on **Thursday, February 11, 2021.**

- **St. Paul, Ecole St. Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Teresa of Calcutta (9:00am - 10:00am)**
- **St.Patrick Fine Arts & At Home Learners - (1:30pm - 2:30pm)**

St. Francis School is also hosting two 'Virtual Showcase' Parent evenings for all **parents** on **Wednesday Feb 10th, 7:00pm-8:00p** or **Tuesday Feb 23rd 7:00pm- 8:00pm** . These evenings will be an opportunity for parents to see all the wonderful things that St. Francis has to offer for your child in the next stage of their learning journey.

We look forward to meeting all of the students and parents. This is certainly an exciting time of the year as we start planning for a journey into Junior High.

If you have any questions please contact Darren Miller, Jackie Kraemer or Crystal Lothian. (403)327-3402
millerd@holyspirit.ab.ca kraemerj@holyspirit.ab.ca lothianc@holyspirit.ab.ca

GRADE 7 ORIENTATION PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS:

TIME : 7:00-8:00PM
DATES: FEBRUARY 10TH, 2021
FEBRUARY 24TH, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75745465116?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75745465116?pwd=TFBPVXBCaFF0aXowWVVRa0tIWTVVUT09)
 Meeting ID: 757 4546 5116 Passcode: ZPk58i

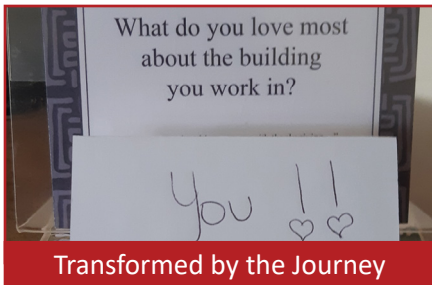
GRADE 7 STUDENT ORIENTATION

FEBRUARY 11TH 9:00-10:00AM
SCHOOLS: OLA, STC, SPS, ESM

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75745465116?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75745465116?pwd=TFBPVXBCaFF0aXowWVVRa0tIWTVVUT09)
 Meeting ID: 757 4546 5116 Passcode: ZPk58i

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2021 1:30-2:30
SCHOOLS: SPFA & HOME LEARNERS

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75745465116?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75745465116?pwd=TFBPVXBCaFF0aXowWVVRa0tIWTVVUT09)
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Transformed by the Journey

FEBRUARY

Monthly Theme: Mercy



Special Days to Remember Month of the Holy Family

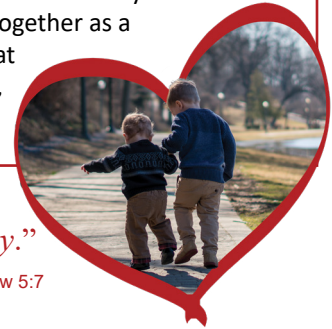
- 2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 14 Feast of St. Valentine
- 17 Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins
- 21 1st Sunday of Lent
- 28 2nd Sunday of Lent

Be Grateful

A few years ago, some of you may have seen a movie called *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* It was about Fred Rogers, "Mister Rogers", who had a long running children's show in the US. Mister Rogers was actually a minister and he used his folksy humour and gentle kindness to teach about radical goodness and truth. He was famous for teaching children to "Look for the helpers" in scary times. Knowing his background, I have no doubt that he was pointing these children to look for people who were showing the presence of God through their merciful acts to help others in need. As William Barry observed, Mister Rogers knew that, "People can be the images of God because of the presence of the Spirit of God moving all of us in that direction." So this month, let us be grateful for the helpers — those who show our children how to show mercy to others in times of need. And let's all work together as a community to teach our children that by showing mercy to others in need, they can be the helpers too!

*"Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy."*

Matthew 5:7



Catholic Education

While we follow the traditional calendar of the school year, another important calendar that we follow in Catholic schools is the liturgical calendar. This month, we begin the liturgical season of Lent on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17 this year. Because we will not be in school to receive our ashes, we encourage you to check with your parish to see about the Ash Wednesday services that your family can participate in. During this season, we are called to repent for our sins and to engage in the three pillars of Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider posting this [Lenten Family Calendar](#) so that you can engage in those 3 calls to action during your family's Lenten journey.



We hope you are enjoying the Mass Transit Cards to discuss the Sunday Gospel with your family. To access the February cards, click [here](#).

Resources: *Experiencing God in the Ordinary*, William A. Barry, SJ
Teaching Kids to Care, Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP

God of mercy,
when there is hurt or anger in our home,
show us how to settle our disagreements.
Remind us to listen to each other.
Help us to forgive each other.
Keep laughter and kindness
a part of our daily lives.
Keep peace in our family.
Amen.

Adapted from *Prayers and Rituals for the Home* (Kathy Hendricks)

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

Be Gracious

One of the days in February that often gets a lot of focus for children is Pink Shirt Day which occurs the last Wednesday of the month. The theme this year is "Lift Each Other Up," which connects so beautifully to our call to action this year — "Be Gracious". In our Catholic faith, one of the ways in which we lift others up is to show them mercy. Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP describes mercy as, "Compassionate kindness and steadfast love shown to others, especially toward people who are suffering or in distressing situations." Perhaps each day this month, each person at your dinner table could share an example of mercy they have seen that day. What a beautiful way to help your child remember to keep their eyes open to the goodness in the world!



Faith & Family



God sent his Son, Jesus to teach us about the great kindness and mercy of God. Jesus showed with his actions who God is and we are called to do the same. As a family, you might consider this month working together to model the way of Jesus by coming up with a plan to intentionally engage in the Works of Mercy. Deanna Bartalini reminds us that it is in our family, the domestic church, "where the faith is first seen and passed on, in all the little things we do each day with and for each other." Check out her [article](#) to see her suggestions for ways to keep your family focused on the works of mercy during the upcoming Lenten season.



"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

(Luke 6:36)