

OCTOBER 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

30
No School
National Day for
Truth and
Reconciliation

Last day for chip
order

1
Science Sizzle
3:50 – 5:20

Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

2
picture day


3
Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

4

5

6

7

8
Science Sizzle
3:50 – 5:20

Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

9

10
Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50



11
Liturgy 9:10am
Hosted by 5T



12

13

14
No School



15
PD Day



16
Office hours
Gr 4, 4/5, 5 & 6
4:00 – 5:30

17
Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

18
Quiznos lunch
orders due

19

20
Catholic Education
Sunday

21

22
Science Sizzle
3:50 – 5:20

Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

School council
online mtg 7 pm

23
Board Meeting
3:00pm

Office hours
Gr 3 – 4:00 – 5:30

24
Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

Quiznos sub lunch


25
Mass – 9:00am
4S & 6G


Volleyball Jamboree
1-6pm

26

27

28

29
Science sizzle
3:50 – 5:20

Volleyball practice
3:50-4:50

30

31



E WASTE COLLECTION OCT 28 - OCT 31
DROP OFF AT THE FRONT OF SCHOOL



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have had an amazing start back to OLA. We were blessed with a beautiful September and have much to celebrate at our upcoming Thanksgiving gatherings.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our amazing community. It has been wonderful to have our returning families and students welcome the many newcomers who have joined our community this year.

We look forward to learning together and appreciating our amazing, inclusive community this year.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Click on this [link](#) to open Mrs. Swark's Blog.

SUPERVISION

Morning supervision – starts at 8:30 am

Afterschool supervision – there is no after school supervision on the playground. The school is closed at 4:00pm, so we ask that all students be picked up by then.

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those families that have already paid their school fees. School fees are now due. Please register with School Cash Online to pay all fees. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tracy Bozzi at the school office. Email: bozzit@holyspirit.ab.ca or phone: 403-327-5028.



PICTURE DAY

SMILE! Wednesday, October 2 is picture day. All students will have their individual picture taken.

VOLLEYBALL

Grade 5 & 6 volleyball practices will start on Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 3:50 – 4:50pm. Practices will be on Tuesday and Thursday after school, from 3:50 – 4:50pm. Please be prompt when picking up your child at the end of practice.

HALLOWEEN

Students are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Thursday, October 31. We ask that students do not bring any form of weapons or props (stuffed, etc.) and refrain from wearing gory costumes. When deciding on a costume remember that students will still be doing their school work and need to be comfortable sitting at their desks. Watch for further information from classroom teacher.

E-WASTE COLLECTION OCTOBER 28-31

The grade 4 class at OLA will be collecting E-Waste from October 28-31. Bring your E-Waste to the front of OLA and drop it off in the bin. We will be collecting small appliances (irons, shavers, clocks, etc.), power tools (drill, grinder, etc.), audio visual (headphones, CD player, DVD player, etc.), printers, cell phones. Almost anything with a cord. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions email stellark@holyspirit.ab.ca



SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

We held our Annual General Meeting on September 25th.

OLA's 2024/25 Council members are:

Chair: Michelle Dormer

Vice Chair: Deena MacWilliam

Hot Lunch/Fundraising Coordinator: Selestia Jackson

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

We are still looking to fill a few positions and would love to have some new members. We encourage all parents/guardians to attend meetings, help us vote on items and contribute ideas for the coming year. We have some great things planned and look forward to another wonderful year!!

Our Welcome Back BBQ took place on September 18th and it was great to see everyone there! A big thank you to all our volunteers, to Dennis Dirtworx for donating the water, to Lakeview Bakery for providing us with a discount on the buns and to Kona Ice for supporting us with 25% of the sales from the BBQ!

Hot Lunch:

Our first hot lunch of the year will be from Quiznos (sub sandwiches and chips) and will be on October 24th. Last day to place orders is October 18th. No late orders will be accepted.

Fundraising Update:

Thank you to everyone who supported our Old Dutch Chip fundraiser. Funds raised will go towards school events, student activities, classroom gifts, hardship fund and the IB program. Thank you for your support!



Understanding Assessment & Reporting

Grades 1-6

It is important for parents/guardians to understand how their children are doing in school. Research shows that students are most successful with active parent/guardian involvement in their learning.

Assessment happens every day, in every classroom, throughout the school year. Assessing a student's progress is one of the most important ways teachers support the continued learning of our students. Throughout the school day, students engage in learning tasks, activities, and discussions that have been designed by a teacher. Each learning opportunity is connected to the learning outcomes from [Alberta Programs of Studies/Curriculum](#). Teachers regularly use a variety of assessment methods to collect and interpret information about what students know and can do in relation to the intended learning outcomes. The primary purpose of assessment is to **improve student learning**.

Assessment:

- ➡ Guides the development of learning tasks
- ➡ Promotes learner engagement and adaptive learning strategies
- ➡ Leads to adjustments in instruction
- ➡ Is shaped by the nature of the learning outcomes

During a unit of study, students have multiple and varied opportunities to develop, demonstrate, check, and refine their understanding of learning outcomes. Throughout this process, teachers and students engage in formative assessment; a way of checking learning to decide what to do next. Teachers provide timely and descriptive feedback and plan for next steps in learning based on the needs of their students. Students participate in developing criteria for learning tasks, monitor their own progress, provide feedback to their peers, and identify goals and strategies to support their own growth and progress.

What is your child learning in school?

Alberta Education has a resource for parents/guardians who want to know what students are learning at each grade level. Visit [New LearnAlberta](#) to see what your child is learning!

How is my child doing in school?

It's important to know how your child is doing in school. Knowing more about your child's interests, strengths and areas for growth are critical to help you support their learning. Conversations with your child's teachers and the school administration team are great places to ask questions and discuss specific concerns. Beyond these conversations and the ones you have at home with your child, there are a number of ways you can learn more about your child's learning, progress, and achievement.

Where can I find information about how and what my child is doing at school?

Regular communication between you, your child, and their teacher builds an understanding of student achievement over the course of the year. Communication can happen in a variety of ways throughout the year.

- Ongoing reporting through our digital portfolio platform, SpacesEDU, helps you understand how your child is progressing and learning toward grade-level outcomes.
- Informal communication occurs on an ongoing basis and serves to build shared understandings of what students know and can do in day-to-day learning experiences.
- Individual Student Plan (ISP) meetings, office hours, student learning conferences, and/or parent/teacher conferences

- General programming information shared throughout the year (via SpacesEDU or other methods) helps you understand what your child is learning and demonstrates some of their learning experiences, but does not provide details about individual student progress and achievement (e.g., field trips, celebrations of learning, student performances, agendas, etc.)

What does my child's SpacesEDU portfolio tell me?

The SpacesEDU portfolio is an ongoing communication tool about your child's learning. Both teachers and students are encouraged to create posts that share details about the learning but also communicates achievement over time. Most of the posts on your child's SpacesEDU portfolio will include the following components:

- Evidence of the student's work/learning (this may be a photo, video, audio recording or link to a file the student created)
- Curriculum Outcome(s) addressed by the project/learning activity
- Proficiency Scale with an achievement indicator to let you know where your child is at that time in relation to achieving the intended learning outcome
- Feedback/comments from the teacher to indicate areas for growth and suggestions on how to improve

Some SpacesEDU posts may include:

- A rubric that identifies the success criteria of a given learning task/assessment
- A student reflection on their learning
- An opportunity for parents/guardians to respond to the post

What is the Proficiency Scale?

The Proficiency Scale contains the achievement indicators used to describe to what extent a student has demonstrated achievement of Alberta Curricula outcomes. When a teacher attaches an achievement indicator to a post in your child's SpacesEDU portfolio, it serves as an indication of where the student is at a given point in time. The same outcome(s) may be revisited and reassessed throughout the year. Often the achievement indicators will be accompanied by teacher comments, specific to your child's growth, in the SpacesEDU portfolios.

Not Yet	Basic	Proficiency	Excellent
The student has yet to demonstrate an acceptable level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). Evidence may be vague or undeveloped. Targeted adjustments to planning and instruction will be necessary for further learning in this area.	The student demonstrates the required level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). The student may not demonstrate the required level of performance consistently or may require support. Evidence may be adequate and/or concrete. Adjustments to planning and instruction may be necessary for further learning in this area.	The student demonstrates a good level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). The student consistently demonstrates this level of performance. Evidence may be clear and/or well-reasoned. Students achieving this level can be confident in being prepared for further learning in this area.	The student demonstrates an outstanding level of performance in relation to the learner outcome(s). The student consistently demonstrates this level of performance. Students achieving this level have excellent demonstration of grade level outcomes and can be confident in being prepared for further learning in this area.

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.



Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16

“Let the children come to me: do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” — Mark 10:14-15

Jesus loved spending time with children, even though in his time and culture most people didn’t think children were very important or special. He knew that adults have a lot to learn from children, like their playfulness, trust, and ability to love others, and he doesn’t want children to ever stop being like that. Jesus challenged the adults to always approach him with the joy and excitement of children because living in God’s way should be joyful and freeing, not always so serious and boring. God wants everyone to come to him eagerly, not because it’s something we “should” do.

What do you think Jesus loves about you as a child?
For adults: How do you think you could become more childlike again?



Prayer:
*Dear Lord, we want to come to you to love and be loved, without any reservations.
Help us to surrender our hearts to you in a simple way.*



Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-30

“Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” — Mark 10:23

We may not consider ourselves wealthy people. But to most of the world, we are extremely wealthy. Once, a very poor man in Haiti said “If you eat everyday, you are rich.” We put a lot of value on our “stuff,” so much so that we begin putting our possessions before our desire to love and serve the Lord and one another. Jesus told the rich young man to sell what he owned and give to the poor. Practically speaking, Jesus probably isn’t asking all of us to sell everything we have. However, we could start by looking at what our needs are and what our wants are. This can help us detach ourselves from our “stuff” and free us to attach ourselves to God and others.

As a family, what are our needs versus our wants? What can we do as a family to “let go” of the things we don’t need?

WANTS

vs.

NEEDS

Prayer:
Dear Lord, sometimes we get caught up in what we want to buy, where we want to eat dinner, where we should go on vacation, and more. Please help me to be more concerned with sharing what we have with others who don’t have as much.

Download this month’s [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St.Teresa of Avila
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:35-45

“Whoever wishes to great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be slave of all.” —Mark 10:43-44

In our world today, we often want to get good grades, be great at sports, be known as a good artist or musician, etc. In contrast, Jesus wasn’t considered successful or accomplished. He grew up in a very small town as the son of a simple carpenter - which wasn’t a very respected job. Jesus was looked down upon because of where he was from, he wasn’t always admired, and he was constantly questioned. Yet he taught that it is better to be last than to be first, and to be a servant than to be the one who is served. It may not be easy to follow that example, but our faith calls us to live our lives for others as Jesus did.

There are a lot of people in our lives who “serve” us, even if they aren’t our slaves: waiters, cashiers, garbage truck drivers, gardeners, babysitters, janitors, etc. How can we treat them with respect rather than treating them like servants? What can we do to be a servant to someone else this week?



...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

- Matthew 10:42

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we are sorry for the times when we try to be better than those around us. Please help us to be less concerned with ourselves, and learn to put others’ needs before our own.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:46-52

“Jesus told him, “Go on your way; your faith has saved you.” — Mark 10:52

In the Gospel story today we learn it is okay to ask Jesus for what we want. After all, Jesus asked the blind man “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man got exactly what he asked for; he got his sight. Sometimes we don’t get exactly what we ask for and it may be awhile before we understand why God didn’t seem to answer our prayer. Other times, we may get what we asked for, but it comes in a different way than we imagined it would. God cares about us and wants what is best for us and sometimes that means not giving us what we think we want. It’s like a parent who won’t feed their child donuts every day for breakfast even if that’s what the child asks for because the parent knows it’s not good for the child. Keep asking God for what you need, and trust that he knows what is best for you.

When I pray, do I find myself praying only for my own concerns or do I also pray for those around me who have greater needs? (e.g. the poor and forgotten)



Prayer:

Dear Lord, teach me how to pray in a way that doesn’t only ask for what I want, but that will teach me what you want for me.



Sources:
[St. Teresa’s 7 Essential Truths for Beginners](#)
[Saint Teresa of Avila | Stories of Saints](#)
[The Way of Perfection | St. Teresa of Avila](#)
[St. Teresa of Avila - Rediscover the Saints](#)

Sources (The Creed):
FORMED: [I Believe in God](#)
FORMED: [What is the Creed and Why is it Important?](#)
FORMED: [Who is God?](#)