



École St. Mary School September 2009 Newsletter

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Holy Spirit Catholic Schools

Principal's Message

On behalf of the entire staff at École St. Mary School I would like to welcome everyone back. As we enter a new year of Catholic Education together, I hope and pray that each of you have had a restful summer holiday and are eager to work together to help your children reach their fullest potential.

It always amazes me how in just two short months children can change so much. It is not uncommon for them to come back after the summer three or four inches taller than they were when they left, or for them to become more mature and more focused in school. It reminds me of how when you are with someone all the time you don't notice them changing. When they go away for some time then return the change is evident. As parents and teachers we must remember that our children are changing and growing all the time, and in this we must be supportive and sensitive to their changing needs.

I ask each of you to remember that you are the first educator of your child. You have selected our school for your daughter or son and we must work together to support their learning. This can best be accomplished through a direct and open line of communication between the school and home. Our teachers and support staff will appreciate your strong support. Please remember to approach individuals directly with questions, concerns or compliments. This works best in any school community. As for me, and our new Associate Principal Anthea Boras, we promise to do our best to support the students, staff and parents of our school.

Here's to a great year. May God bless each of you.



Of Special Interest

Sept. 07, 2009

Labour Day—No School

Sept. 08, 2009

First day for Kinderplay/
Kindergarten

Sept. 10, 2009

"Welcome Back BBQ"
Evening/5:00 –7:00 pm

Sept. 10, 2009

School Council AGM/7:00
pm (Staffroom) following
the BBQ

Sept. 16, 2009

Opening Mass at St. Patrick's
Church—9:30 am.

Sept., 25, 2009

Terry Fox Run—10:30 am

Welcome Back BBQ—Hot Dogs and a Beverage will be provided.

This is a great informal opportunity for parents/guardians to meet your child's teachers.

Date: Thursday, September 10th 2008

Time: 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Venue: École St. Mary School Grounds

SCHOOL COUNCIL—Plan to attend our Annual General Meeting on
Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm in the Staff Room after the BBQ. We need your
voice in your child's education.



*****IMPORTANT*** PICKING UP YOUR CHILD AFTER SCHOOL**

Parents/guardians who are picking up their child after the school day are asked to meet them in the gym foyer. The door between CCH and our school on 5th Avenue opens at 2:30 pm. If your plans change during the course of the day, PLEASE contact the school office **before 2:00 pm**, so that the message gets to the student before dismissal.

Registration for Sacramental Preparation:

All the Lethbridge Roman Catholic Parishes invite those who intend to have your children celebrate any of the Sacraments of First Communion, First Reconciliation or Confirmation this coming year to register and participate in a Parish Preparation Program.

Please register on Tuesday, Sept. 8 **OR** Thursday, Sept. 10 from 7 to 9 PM at All Saints Parish **OR** St. Martha's Parish. The cost to cover the supplies is \$25.00. Please bring a copy of your child's *baptismal certificate*.

Emergency Contact & Change of Address

Please ensure that you have informed the school office of any changes to your address, home, work and cell phone numbers and also if your emergency contacts have changed. This information is vital if the school has to contact you in case of an emergency.



Absences—When a child is absent from school due to illness, appointments, holidays, or will be arriving to school late please call the school office at: 403-327-3098. If we do not hear from parents/guardians, we must contact you to have your child excused. Prior to 8:30 am please leave a message on the Answering Machine. **The students are required to pick up an "Admit to Class Slip" at the office upon their arrival which is given to their teacher prior to attending class.**

Sports Day 2009—Mr. Baptista

I would like to thank all of the parents who helped with our Sports Day on June 23rd last school year. Some parents helped with preparing a hot dog lunch for the whole school while others came in the afternoon to help with running the stations for Sports Day. The staff felt that this was one of the best Sports Days we have had in a long time and this was mainly thanks to the help from the parents. Your presence meant that staff members could spend more time enjoying themselves with the students, which was a very nice way to end the school year. Thank you very much for your support.

BLAST—Students that are attending the BLAST program after school are to be picked up in the Gym Foyer entrance.

"LOST AND FOUND BOX"

The Lost and Found Box is a labeled box located in the Gym Foyer. Please drop by the school and check the box periodically for any lost items and encourage your child to check the box frequently.

AGENDA

Each student will be receiving an Agenda. Please ensure that:

- Student's name and contact numbers are in the front.
- Read over with your child the Code of Ethics and Computer Contract and ensure that both are signed by student and parent.

Canteen News

Canteen is up and running. Thank you to Mrs. Spearman for having us organized so quickly.





Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer full of relaxation, great memories and time to read a few good books.

Summer Reading: The Summer Reading Sheets should be returned to the library by Wednesday Sept. 9th so they can be counted to see if we met the challenge of 4000 books.

Used Book Sale: The Used Book Sale will be September 9, 10, 11th. Books will be 25¢ or 5/\$1.00. It is a great time to pick up some great books at a great price.

Scholastic Book Orders: Orders will be due back before September 16, 2009 by noon. I will then place the orders and they will take up to 2 weeks (sometimes longer) to get back.

We will continue this year to do book talks. All students are required to do 3 book talks before the end of May 2010.

House Team Program

We are continuing our "house teams" this year and with 10 teams. The concept is made up of the following:

- Every student in the school has been placed on one of the ten (10) teams. Each team is named after an animal. The team names are Brown Mustangs, Black Bears, White Wolves, Silver Dolphins, Blue Sharks, Red Robins, Gray Whales, Orange Tigers, Golden Hawks, and the Green Gators.
- The teams are mixed with students from each grade level. Students will remain on their team for the entire school year.
- Students will have an opportunity to earn points for their team. And the team that totals the most points will be rewarded with a special activity at the end of the month.
- The point system will be organized through our already popular GOTCHA Program. When awarded a coupon, the student will write their name, grade and team on it and bring it to the office to be included in the monthly draw.
- GOTCHA coupons will be awarded for a variety of reasons, including day to day positive and helpful behavior, and participating in co-curricular and intramural activities.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTANT INFORMATION/REMINDERS:

- **School Fees:** \$60.00 per student for the year and are **due September 30, 2009.**
- **Student Absentee:** Please remember to send in a note with your child for a late slip to ensure that we keep accurate attendance records.
- **Campbells Soup Labels:** Last year was awesome for label collections. Please check out the Campbell's website often for an up-to-date list of products. Let's make this year an even better one!!! Mrs. D. Hooper, Librarian
- **Native Dance:** Native Dance will commence in mid October, 2009. If you are interested in joining, please contact Miss Medicine Crane at the Board Office as soon as possible as participation is limited. Her phone number is: 403-327-9555 and her email is: medicinecranej@holyspirit.ab.ca
- **Peanut Free Zone:** A number of students have various allergies that include allergies to food containing peanuts, nuts or nut products. Please do **NOT** send any food products that contain any of these items. Some allergic reactions can be life-threatening and require immediate action. Let's keep our students safe!
- **Supervision:** Children are supervised at all times during the school day, beginning at 8:45 am before the start of classes and continuing until 3:10 pm after dismissal. Please **do not drop off your children before 7:45 am and please be sure to pick them up no later than 3:10 pm.** Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds under any circumstances unless a parent or guardian comes to pick them up and signs them out at the office.
- **Lunch In The Classroom and Microwaves:** All students are supervised over the lunch hour and microwaves are available in the school. Students have twenty (20) minutes to eat their lunch and more if they require it. Due to the length of the lunch hour and the demand for the microwaves it is important to know that the microwaves should be used for **heating up food that requires only one minute or less.** We would like to thank parents/guardians for their support and cooperation with this issue.