



From Mrs. Baier's Desk...

With September's dust settling behind us, we look ahead to a busy October, and the celebration of Thanksgiving weekend just around the corner. The very first Canadian celebration of thanksgiving is historically attested to Martin Frobisher, who in 1578 celebrated the fact that, even though he did not find his way through the Northwest Passage to the Orient, was infinitely happy (I imagine) to be alive and standing on Newfoundland soil. The date for Thanksgiving moved around somewhat after that, but in 1957 the government proclaimed "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed ... to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."

Our lives may not reflect the life or death experiences of an explorer of the 1500's, but certainly the Thanksgiving holiday is still an important one in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In our agricultural community, Thanksgiving still marks a time of celebration for a bountiful harvest –the fields are harvested and readied for winter's rest, the grain crops put in the bins, vegetables and sugar beets off to factories. It may take the form of a family gathering, a relaxing weekend, a walk in the coulees, a camping trip in the mountains, volunteer time at the soup kitchen– there are so many possibilities. Whatever the setting, the invitation of the holiday is beautifully simple – to give thanks for our abundant blessings.

St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School community continues to be richly blessed with supportive parents, dedicated staff, and talented, joy-filled students. We treasure the freedom to celebrate our Catholic faith, and to talk about Christian values as an accepted part of our everyday lives in classrooms. As a Eucharistic minister, I see the humbleness on the children's faces as they come forward during Mass to receive the Eucharist or a blessing; they do indeed understand that God is with them always – truly a blessing unto itself.

*A Thanksgiving Prayer*

*"For the haunting rhythm of our universe,  
we thank you, Creator and Lord.  
For the still-reaching reachers of our world,  
we thank you, Creator and Lord.  
For giving us a history and a destiny,  
we thank you, Redeemer and Lord.  
For becoming yourself, a man among men,  
we thank you, Redeemer and Lord.  
For drawing us into the mystery of life and love,  
we thank you, Spirit and Lord.  
For touching us with stars and blades of grass,  
we thank you, Spirit and Lord."*



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St. Patrick Fine Arts  
Elementary School  
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Lethbridge, AB  
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*Uniting the Arts and  
Gospel values*

Principal – Shelley Baier

Associate Principal –  
Valeria Lazzaretto

All  
God's  
Children

Excellence  
in  
Learning

Sacramentality

Our  
Collaborative  
Community

Ministry

Stewardship

## RELIGION

The October theme in the student agendas is '**COURAGE**' – *Doing the right thing even if you are afraid.*

Staff will be looking for evidence of this virtue in students during the month and at our next Crusader's assembly we will be able to affirm a number of children who exemplify courage at school. Please spend some time reading the monthly themes in your child's agenda as the prayers, readings and suggestions can assist you in parenting your child in the Catholic faith. While you are at it, take special note of the feast days for Saints. October leads right up to All Saints and All Souls days, and this may be a most appropriate time for you to explore the saints your family members may have as their name-sake.

October is also the month for praying the rosary and we encourage you to find time to recite the prayers of the rosary with your family. Many people find great comfort in these prayer beads and even more people offer the intentions for those in need of prayer support all across our world. Try these sites for guidance with the ritual of praying the rosary: <http://www.how-to-pray-the-rosary.com/> and <http://www.virtualrosary.org/>

With their pumpkin-lanterns and witch costumes, there's many a child who'll have great fun Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> celebrating **Hallowe'en**. Although it was derived originally from an ancient pagan festival, it has become part of our culture and generally it is an innocent excuse for people to have a good time.

Literally, of course, it is the eve of All Hallows - a preparation for the November 1<sup>st</sup> observance of the **Feast of All Hallows or All Saints**. That feast gives the assurance that there is a state of being that stretches beyond our life here on this earth - an affirmation of the essential spiritual nature of human life. Please keep this in mind when having Hallowe'en fun in your household.



## FINE ARTS

Now that Grade 4F has been able to move into the new modular, the Plum Tree drama space is available for use, much to the pleasure of Mr. Pariseau, Mrs. Rosner and intern, Ms. Kennedy!

Currently, both Choirs, Drama I and Dance II are operating this term and the number of students participating is outstanding.

Several students are taking group piano lessons with Mr. Gierulski, however we are still seeking a violin instructor for students interested in playing a string instrument. The U of L Conservatory Junior Choir currently rehearses at our school after school hours.

## From the Library...

Well, we are off to a good start with library classes starting at the beginning of September. It is encouraging to see so many enthusiastic readers! Ideas for books for purchase have been coming in which means that there was a lot of reading going on over the summer. A large number of books have been donated, which is very welcome. We are especially grateful for a collection of books about the life of Jesus as it is not easy to find books about his life for young readers. Thanks this month for donations from Neeve Keohane, Drew Samek, Anna Nicolacopoulos, Mackenzie Putland, Alyssa, Brayton and Caden Lancaster, Adam Thom, Savannah Ruston, Mrs. Hanna, and Mrs. Demory.

There is always lots of work to do, and the library is no exception, especially with all the recent donations. If you can spare an hour or two each week to come and help out, it would really be appreciated. The tasks are varied, depending on what is happening each week in the library. Please see Mrs. Lavkulich if you are interested.

The students have enthusiastically embraced signing out their books, and now we have to encourage them to also bring them back on time. Please help your children return their books each week. To help your child remember, the following are the days for library classes: Tuesday – Grades -- 1K, 1P, and 3F, Wednesday – 2C, 2P, 4R, 5 and Kindergarten – PM, Thursday, Kindergarten – AM, 3S, 4F and 6. If your child has overdue books, they will not be able to borrow until the books are returned. If you have one place in your home to keep the library books it will help your children to not lose their books.

## CLUBS

**St. Pat's Pets Div I Choir:** More than seventy children have committed to primary choir this year and although rehearsal time is limited, we are already preparing for performances. Many of the members are joining other singers from the school on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Exhibition Pavilion for the RUN FOR THE CURE event.

We are also looking forward to singing for the Breakfast Santa at the Lethbridge Regional Hospital Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our first Pizza lunch was a great success and we extend special thanks to several moms who assisted. The profit from this will go toward covering bus expenses and seasonal accents to our performance attire.

In the meantime, please do a double check on availability of performance clothes: make sure they fit your child and are of performance quality.

**DIV I Drama:** Division 1 Drama club is under way. We have a great turn out. The children meet every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch. They are rotating between 4 different areas. They are working on puppetry with Mrs. Bruce-Brown, characterization with Miss Swark, improvisation with Mr. Pariseau and mime and theatre games with Miss Kennedy and Mrs. Rosner.

## Thanks

To Mr. Flaig – for coordinating the Terry Fox Run School Day....it was a great success! As a school, we walked/ran around the school field for one hour, and pledges for the Terry Fox Foundation totaled over \$3000! Thank you!

To School Council – especially Linda Lindsay and Suzanne Green – for hosting the welcome back barbeque. It was a wonderful community builder!

To parents who helped with Pizza Lunch – proceeds go to the Division I Choir activities.

To Fr. Fernando at St. Martha's Parish – for presiding at our opening Mass. And to Mrs. Lazzaretto, Mrs. Van Dellen, Mr. Flaig, Mrs. Scott and the Grade 5 class for leading us in prayer and song. What a beautiful celebration!

To Mrs. Hanna and Miss Ferrari – for their work in re-organizing the Crusader's assembly Christian action recognition. As well, a thank you to the teachers who spoke so eloquently about the students receiving their recognition for September's theme of 'Faith'.

To parents for coming out to the Meet the Teacher evening. There were many positive comments about this informal, yet informative night.

### Kindergarten Advisory Committee Meeting

Our first meeting will take place at the school on Tuesday, October 6th. We will start at 6:30 p.m. All kindergarten parents are welcome to attend. We will be needing to fill the following positions:

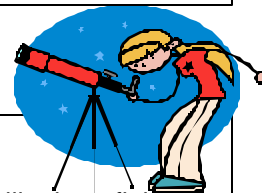
Chairperson  
Vice Chairperson  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Special Events Coordinator

Our meetings will be very informal and will only take place a few times in the year to plan special events or activities for the kindergarten children. It is a good opportunity to meet other kindergarten parents and to become involved with your school community. I hope to see you there.

Mrs. Forrest

### School Council Annual Meeting:

Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m. at the school. At this organizational meeting we will be forming the executive, setting dates for meetings and events, and looking at goals for the year. Please come for coffee!



### Grade 6 Astronomy Field Trip

On October 21, the Grade 6 class will take a field trip to the Lethbridge Astronomy Society Observatory to learn about our solar system, our galaxy and beyond. If skies are clear, we will use the Society's telescopes to view stars and planets. Star gazing is from outside so please dress for the temperature. Please meet at our school at 7:00 pm.

<http://lethbridgeastronomysociety.ca/>

### Safety Procedures

During the months of September and October, classes discuss and practice safety procedures in the event of a fire or lockdown. Typically, children have numerous 'what if' questions surrounding circumstances that would cause a lockdown to be called. No one is able to predict every possible situation, but the overarching reason for all procedures is to ensure the safety of our students and staff in any emergency. Students will be practicing these procedures in the coming weeks, and we will be having both fire and lockdown drills as a school.

### Drop Off Zone Woes....



We have a real traffic jam in the dropoff/pickup zone at the school every day. If you would like to walk your child into the school or watch him/her on the playground in the morning, please consider parking down the block or across the street from the school. That way, the drop off zone will be left open for parents who plan to drop their children off and go on their way. As well, after school, many parents stay for awhile and watch their children play on the playground equipment – which is certainly very nice for all – but if you plan to do that, please park across from the school or down the street so that others may use the pickup zone. We really do need to work together to alleviate the congestion and impending dangers surrounding the pickup zone area.

### Grade 5 Mission Project

The Grade 5 class will be holding a raffle to raise money for missions. Tickets will be 25¢ each or 5/\$1 and will go on sale at lunch hours on Monday, October 19. The draw will be held on Friday, October 30. Prizes will be on display in the trophy case by the front door. Please support our fundraising efforts.

### Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition


The "Built to Last" exhibition will be on display at St. Patrick Fine Arts School for the month of October.

Built to Last is an exhibition of Cibachrome prints of vintage vehicles by Calgary photographer Mark Vitaris taken during travels throughout North America and Europe. The images range in content from landscapes to detailed close-ups revealing design elements that have stood the test of time.

"Formerly icons of freedom and prosperity they remain in this world long past their usefulness, eyesores to most who pass by. But when the quality of light is just right they can sparkle like diamonds and shimmer like gold, affording the inquisitive eye and wandering mind a treasure chest of dreams. They were built to last, and last they have." –Mark Vitaris



# St. Patrick Fine Arts School October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	<p>Mark 10: 2-16</p> <p>Students sing @ Run for the Cure @ Exhibition Pavilion @ 9:30</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Staff Meeting Early dismissal @ 2:35</p> <p>Grade 5 to Westside Firehall 12:30—2:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Kindergarten Advisory Committee meeting @ 6:30 @ St. Pat's</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pizza lunch sponsored by 1K</p> <p>Reconciliation Workshop @ St. Basil's 7:00-8:15</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Thanksgiving Celebration by 3F &amp; 3S @ 10:39</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10</p>
11	<p>12</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>District PD Day— No school for students</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
18	<p>19</p> <p>Grade 5 raffle tickets go on sale</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Picture Retakes</p> <p>Gr 6 to Lethbridge Astronomy Society Observatory @ 7:00</p> <p>Reconciliation Workshop @ St. Martha's 6:30-8:00</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Assembly in afternoon</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
25	<p>26</p> <p>Mark 10: 46-52</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Reconciliation Workshop @ St. Basil's 7:00-8:15</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Halloween festivities—costumes worn after lunch only (1:30—1:15)</p> <p>Grade 5 raffle draw</p>	<p>31</p> 