

Affirm, Refine, Aspire

HS4 Learning Services Newsletter October 2021

Grateful for Time Together

If there is anything that I have learned over the past year, it's that I value the gift of time spent with others more than ever. The ability to gather in various forms apparently had to be taken away before I could truly appreciate what it means to me.

Every year I look forward to the opportunity to gather as a school division to share in new learning, collaboration and fellowship. On Monday, October 25 we will be fortunate to be able to do just that -- learn and collaborate with one another! Once again, we are excited to welcome back Dr. Ron Ritchhart who will be facilitating a thought-provoking morning session filled with opportunities for conversation and reflection with colleagues. Dr. Ritchhart will build on his message from last year about the importance of creating a culture within each of our schools where thinking is valued, visible and actively promoted in all interactions. All Holy Spirit staff will gather at their schools/sites to participate in the session. In the afternoon, all teachers will plan for an afternoon of collaborative learning with colleagues. As always, our collaboration time is dedicated to self-selected, self-directed professional learning with colleagues of your own choosing. As this is a common non-instructional day for the whole Division, it's a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues both within and outside of your own school, to explore and grow together. There is more information linked in this newsletter below, and more information will be shared as we get closer to October 25th.

I know we are all looking forward to the Thanksgiving long weekend. I hope you are able to find time to gather with those you hold most dear -- even if it is just those in your immediate household. I am thankful for all of you and for the opportunities we've had to gather to learn from one another. I wish you a most blessed Thanksgiving.

Carmen Larsen
Director of Learning



**HS4 Division Professional Collaboration
Day - Monday, October 25, 2021**

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
Professional

Collaboration Day

Monday, October 25, 2021

Be the link!

Allow. Refine. Aspire.

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

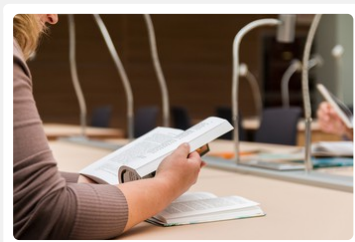
Dr. Ron Ritchhart
Division Keynote Speaker

Professional Collaboration Opportunities - Scan QR

DRAFT AGENDA - [click here](#)

If you are planning to collaborate with colleagues on a topic that might be of interest to others in the Division, please email learningservices@holyspirit.ab.ca and we will add it to our agenda.

Meanwhile, check out Dr. Ron Ritchhart's work on **Cultures of Thinking** and a **Spotlight Thinking Routine: [Connect - Extend - Challenge](#)** "This routine helps students connect new ideas to those they already have and encourages them to reflect upon how they have extended their thinking as a result of what they are learning about or experiencing." For more thinking routines: [PZ's Thinking Routines Toolbox / Project Zero](#)



Literacy

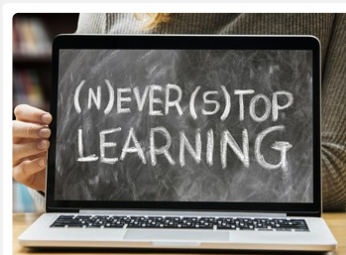
Are you looking for strategies to support your readers?

A critical step in learning to read is developing phonological awareness. Find information and instructional activities here: [Phonological Awareness](#)

Use your observations of your readers to plan for instruction:

[If/Then Chart for Planning Reading Instruction](#)

[Top 10 Teacher Techniques to Support Middle School/Junior High Readers](#)



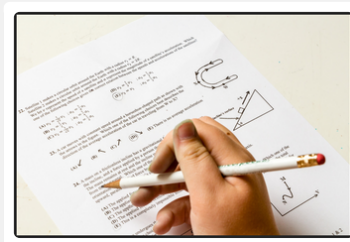
Numeracy

Want to get all your students talking about math? Try a new Math Talk routine: [Math Routines.pdf](#)

Use the Scope and Sequence for Number to determine what your students already understand and what their next steps might be. These resources include Achievement Indicators and links to examples of instructional routines:

[Alberta Math Scope and Sequence K-6: Number Strand](#)

[Alberta Math Scope and Sequence 7-9: Number Strand](#)



Assessment

[Alberta Assessment Consortium](#)

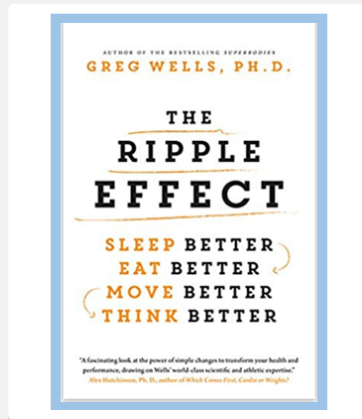
This site includes many synchronous and asynchronous professional learning opportunities, as well as classroom assessment resources. Log in with your regular Holy Spirit username and password.

[Connect2Learning Assessment Course](#)

Explore 12 quick fixes to re-examine teaching and assessment practices. Contact Carmen for your access code.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Click [here](#) to view Literacy, Numeracy and Assessment Opportunities - and more!

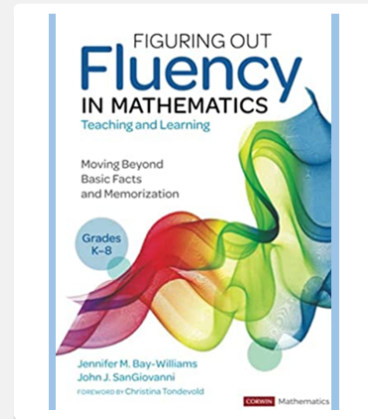


**A Great Resource
for Personal
Optimization!**

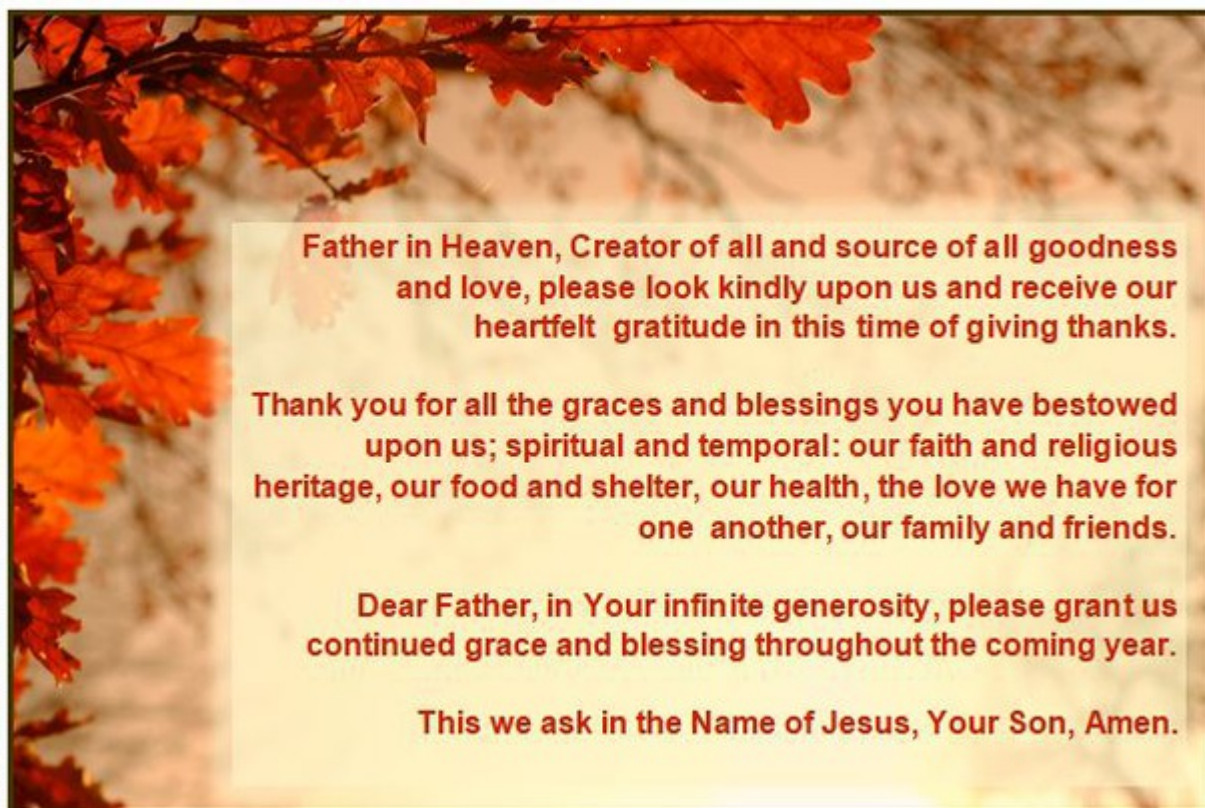


**Check out HS4
Professional
Lending Library!**

Click [here](#)



**A Great Read for
All K-8 Math
Teachers!**





Learning Services

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

The Learning Services Team

Carmen Larsen - Director of Learning

Tia Wever - Administrative Assistant

Dianne Brodie - Learning Coach

Louise Knodel - Learning Coach

[Learning Services Help](#)

Working together to improve student learning

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