



February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Parent Teacher Interviews Gr. 7-12 Pizza Day	2 Hot Dog Day	3 Hot Lunch Day Soft Taco and cookie	4 Much Music Dance 7:30 to 12:00 Freezie Sale	5
6	7	8 Pizza Day	9 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	10 Teacher Convention NO SCHOOL	11 Teacher Convention NO SCHOOL	12
13	14 Gr 1 to 6 Sock Hop 3:30 to 5:00 pm School Liturgy 10:30	15 Pizza Day	16 Gr 5/6 Swimming 10:00 am to 11:00 am Hot Dog Day	17 Hot Lunch Day— Ski trip surprise Festival du Voyageur	18 Freezie Sale Drop in Badminton 5-7 pm	19
20	21 Family Day—No School	22 Subway Lunch Day	23 Hot Dog Day Pink shirt Day	24 Hot Lunch Day— Cultural Special First Communion Classes begin 3:30 Elementary Assembly	25 Sundae/Float Sale Drop in Badminton 5-7 pm	26
27	28					



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St. Mary's Messenger

News You Can Use!

FEBRUARY 2011

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 1 Gr. 7-12 Parent Teacher Interviews 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Pizza Day
- Feb 2 Hot Dog Day
- Feb 3 Hot Lunch— Soft taco and cookie
- Feb 4 Much Music Dance 7:30 to 12:00
Freezie Sale
- Feb 8 Pizza Day
- Feb 9 PD DAY—NO SCHOOL
- Feb 10 Teacher Convention—
NO SCHOOL
- Feb 11 Teacher Convention—
NO SCHOOL
- Feb 14 Gr. 1-6 Sock Hop
Spirit Day—red and white
School Liturgy 10:30 am
- Feb 15 Pizza Day
Spirit Day—Crazy shoe day
- Feb 16 Gr 5/6 Swimming 10:00 to 11:00 am
Hot Dog Day
Spirit Day—Jersey Day
- Feb 17 Hot Lunch-Ski trip surprise
Festival du Voyageur
Spirit Day—Nerd Day
- Feb 18 Freezie Sale
Drop in Badminton 5-7pm
Spirit Day—Bend it Day
- Feb 21 Family Day—No School
- Feb 22 Subway Hot Lunch
- Feb 23 Hot Dog Day
Pink Shirt Day
- Feb 24 Hot Lunch— Cultural Special
First Communion Classes 3:30 pm
Ski Trip
- Feb 25 Ski Trip
Sundae/Float Sale
Drop in Badminton 5-7 pm
- Feb 26 Students return from Ski trip

St. Francis Teams have a Name

St. Francis Falcons Win as Team Name

We have a winner! The teams for the New St. Francis school will be known as the St. Francis Falcons.

The name Eagles came in second closely followed by the name Seraphim that was trailed in third place by the name Guardians. The top three choices were all very close but in the end, the Falcons won!

A contest for a mascot and team emblem will run once the School Logo contest closes in February. Details will follow. See the website for details about our logo contest.

Thank you to all those who voted and helped get the votes.

Check it Out!!!

St. Mary of the Lake School's website is up and running. You can find all your child's assignments that are due, upcoming events and much, much more. You can find our website at

www.stmaryofthelake.ca



PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL QUIZ

Answer the following question correctly and you will be entered into the monthly draw for Pizza with the Principal.

Question: When did Festival du Voyageur start in Manitoba?

Student's Answer

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Important Reminder

2010/2011 Provincial Satisfaction with Education in Alberta Telephone Surveys As in previous years, the Ministry of Education will be conducting its annual telephone surveys, Satisfaction with Education in Alberta, to collect public and stakeholder perceptions of Alberta's education system. The surveys gather responses from a random sample of parents, the general public, high school students, teachers, principals and school board trustees in the province. The survey responses are completely confidential and only aggregated data will be reported.

CCI Research Inc. has been contracted to administer the telephone interviews from January 12, 2011 to February 18, 2011. Your participation is very important and provides valuable information toward reporting on Education's business plan measures. A summary of the information from this survey will be posted on Education's website. Last year's survey results are available at www.education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/outcomes/resultreport.aspx .

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Raj Gill, Business Planning and Performance Reporting, at 780-427-3748 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or by e-mail at raj.gill@gov.ab.ca .

Keray Henke, Deputy Minister for Alberta Education

THANK YOU

PRE SCHOOL— Mrs. Borchert would like to thank all parents for baring the cold weather and taking to time to attend the Annual Pre school Craft Night. Also, a special thank you to Mr. Borchert for the incredible role that he played at the Craft Night.

A huge Thank You to parents that donated to our Stable Fundraiser, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

PICTURES OF EVENTS FOR THE LAST 5 MONTHS AT ST. MARY OF THE LAKE



Junior High Foods Class in January



St. Mary's first Pep Rally



December School Wide Mass



Terry Fox Run



January Mass at the church

PICTURES OF EVENTS FOR THE LAST 5 MONTHS AT ST. MARY OF THE LAKE



RCMP VS Girls Volleyball Team in September



School Wide Mass October 2010



November Church Mass



Boys Basketball game

Success in School

Mr. T. Mitchell

Success in School

The key to achieving success in school for most students is no secret. Students need to attend school regularly, pay attention/participate in class, and complete their work/assessments.

When I speak with teachers about students who are not achieving, it very frequently boils down to attendance, participation, or incomplete assignments. There are a few basic principles that schools operate from that all parents should be aware of:

Attendance matters and directly affects student achievement. Unless a child is sick or participating in a special religious holiday, they should be at school. Alberta Education expects that students attend school 90% of the school year. Medical appointments, funerals, family vacations, etc. greatly impact student success and should account for no more than 10% of the school year. These numbers were developed because they reflect what research has shown: that students who miss more than 10% of school in any given year do not do as well as those who attend 90% of the time or more. To help promote good attendance, St. Mary of the Lake School monitors attendance closely. We have an automated call-out system that calls or emails parents if their child is away from school and we do not know why. Each month we review each student's attendance and send home letters to parents of children who have missed a significant amount of time. We meet with parents to discuss attendance issues. We also involve the Government Attendance Board when attendance becomes an issue we cannot resolve. Every report card stipulates attendance. Teachers also call parents and communicate to students the importance of being in school regularly. Our school expects good attendance. We want students to succeed.

For learning to happen, students need to engage with the concepts that they are being taught. Students need to ask questions, use their minds to work through problems, sort-out information, and make information meaningful to them. To do this, they need to participate in class. This might be reading what is assigned to them, asking questions, taking part in discussions, engaging in labs, projects, or group activities, or using materials to experiment with. Teachers design lessons to present, reinforce and test knowledge or skills. Much effort, time, and thought is put into teaching. Students also need to put time, effort, and thought into their work if learning is to happen.

Practice leads to improvement. We all know this but sometimes students believe that because something may make sense to them when it is first presented, it automatically means that they "know it". For a student to truly master a concept, they must play with it; use it, apply it, and practice it so that the experience becomes long term learning that is not quickly forgotten. In school, this is done through the activities, work and assignments teachers give students. When teachers expect that students would have mastered a concept, they assess/test to confirm learning has occurred and to determine the extent of the learning. In fact, before they can assign a grade or marks, they must have evidence of learning. This may happen in a variety of ways. Teachers may observe students, get students to create something, have a discussion with them, or have them complete a formal assignment, project, or exam. Accurate grades cannot be given if students do not demonstrate the level to which they have learned a concept. In other words, students must do something with the concepts the teacher has given them. Teachers provide feedback to students so that they can focus their learning and improve their understanding. They also keep students informed of what assignments students are missing. Report cards inform both students and parents about their child's progress in school and give feedback about areas of success and those needing improvement. Teachers encourage parents to remain in close contact with them between reporting periods through email or telephone calls. Many students, especially older students, have limited success in school because they simply do not do the work and show their teachers what they might have learned.

St. Mary of the Lake School works hard to ensure all students meet with success. Our primary goal is achievement. We value the diverse people in our building. We have faith that if school, home and community work together, all students will achieve success. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress at school, please speak with your child's teacher.

TEXTBOOKS WANTED

Are there any textbooks cluttering up your house?

If so, send them back to school...

We will gladly put them back to work



Cultural Worker L.McCauley

December was a very busy month. I invited an elder in (Mrs. Rita Hogan) to judge the dream catchers the students in Grade 4, 5, and 6 had made. We then presented a beautiful pictured journal to each student in each grade who we thought put the most work into their dreamcatcher.

Being a long time resident of Slave Lake Mrs. Hogan shared some of her memories with the students about what Slave Lake was like 50 years ago. They had many questions for her.

We also started the Metis dancing component in the Phys. Ed Program, from kindergarten to grade 6. Our own St. Mary jigging group was extremely busy also. They were booked to go to the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre and Vander well Heritage Lodge. They did a terrific job at the center, the elders and seniors so enjoy watching them dance. They were served Soup and Bannock by the SLNFC staff. The children enjoyed it immensely. Hats off to everyone involved. We did not make it to Vanderwell Heritage Lodge but they are now booked to perform there on Feb 24th at 2pm. So they are looking forward to that. And not to forget about the Kindergarten students which danced the Red River Jig at our Christmas concert, I heard many parents saying what a sight they were. They brought many smiles to everyone's face.

The Grade 1 to Grade 6 students will be giving there grand finale for the Elders, Parents, Caregivers family and friends on the 27th of January. They are all excited about that. We will be serving Tea and Bannock to all our guests after each performance.

My next project is to bring in a Jingle Dancer (Arlene Twin) for one day, she will give some history on Traditional Dancing and offer a workshop on jingle dancing to the students in Grade 1 to 6. This is tentatively booked for March 3rd. I will also be doing a story with the children about a jingle dancer before she comes in and then to end this module all the students will be making a jingle to take home.

Spring is coming!!

GRADES 7 TO 12 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Interviews will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 fro 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Please the school at 780-849-5244 to book your interview times with you child's teachers.

First Communion Classes

For students in Grades 2 and up, interested in making their First Communion, classes will begin Wednesday February 24 at 3:30 pm at St. Mary of the Lake School. Registration forms can be picked up at the school or at the church from Father Jeyapaul.

Students need to be baptized to have First Communion. The children who plan on taking part in confirmation later in the spring who haven't made their First Communion are welcome to join the classes.

Any questions please call Mrs. Linda Miller at 780-849-5244

2010-2011 SCHOOL FEES

- PRE-SCHOOL** \$12.50 per day
2 - half days per week (payable monthly)
 - KINDERGARTEN** \$95.00 per child
(includes agenda \$20.00 and supplies \$75.00)
5 - half days per week
 - GRADES 1 - 6** \$155.00 per child
(includes agenda \$20, student union fees \$10, supplies \$50, text rentals \$75)
 - GRADES 7 - 12** \$180.00
(includes student union fees \$10, text rentals \$115, options \$55)
 - LOCKER FEES - \$5.00 - Non-refundable**
- School Fees are now past due. Invoices will be sent home each month. Please submit your payments as soon as possible. Any questions please call the school at 780-849-5244**

IN TOWN BUSSING

- ECS to Gr. 12 Fees:** \$286.65 per student/year
\$573.30 per family/year
- Preschool Fees:** \$114.66 both ways

REMINDER:

The second payment is to be **paid by Jan. 31, 2011.**
ALL BUS FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE
The child will be removed from the bus, if fees are not paid.
Students needing Bus Transportation, **MUST** fill out **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FORMS** before riding the bus.
Forms can be picked up at the office.

MRS. CARA BLOCK

The Apostle's Creed: a Joyful Story

by Victor Hoagland, C.P.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Everything I see
- the earth, the sky, the sea -
are gifts of God to me.

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only son, our Lord.**

And I believe God's greatest gift
is Jesus Christ, God's only son,
who came to earth to be my friend and brother.

**He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit
and was born of the Virgin Mary.**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
long, long ago;
he was born of the Holy Spirit,
and Mary was his mother, long, long ago.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

Jesus, so good, was put to death,
crucified by Pontius Pilate, a cruel Roman judge,
and all seemed lost
when he was buried in a tomb,
but it wasn't.

**He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.**

I believe God raised Jesus from the dead.
On Easter Sunday, his friends saw him alive,
and all his friends rejoiced and sang -- Alleluia!

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Yes, the Holy Spirit gives life to me, too,
and not only to me,
but to all the friends of Jesus,
who are his church.

The Holy Spirit forgives our sins,
and gives us hope of life forever. Amen.

<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/child/creed.html>

HELLO FROM YOUR COUNSELLOR

It's February, and love is in the air. Come February 14th, everyone young and old is given a reason to think about love and relationships. This includes your child! It seems that in the past few years, children have started to date earlier and earlier. Although this "dating" often includes completely avoiding each other, sometimes (often with peer pressure) it escalates into inappropriate and, at times, scary situations for your child. This is why it is so important to talk to your children and teens about dating and to set boundaries for them. Here are some suggestions as to what you can do with your child to ensure that lines of communication are open and honest:

Make sure that your children know what your expectations are about dating. Model this with your own partner, and talk to your children openly about it;

Make a rule in your house that you always must know where your child is, and who they are with;

If your teen is dating, discourage dating between them and significantly older/younger partners.

Talk with your child about their goals for the future. When children and teens have goals in place, they are less likely to make poor decisions;

Answer your child's questions openly and honestly. Discuss your own experiences (good and bad) and explain what you learned from each relationship.

As a very wise 12 year old, I decided that it would be fine for me to go on a date with

my "boyfriend". I was sure that my parents would not approve, so I planned to stay over at a friend's house for the evening and go to the movies with my friend, and this boy. This, of course, was all planned in a note, which I ripped up and threw into the bathroom garbage. When I got back from my sleepover the following day, the note was taped back together and sitting on the kitchen table. My Mom sat me down and we talked about it. Although I still maintain that this was one of the most embarrassing/traumatic moments of my childhood, it taught me that I didn't need to hide things from my parents. From that point on, I was open about my relationships, and still talk to my parents about what is going on in my life! So, before you need to tape back together a note, (or sneak on your child's texts/facebook/email) talk to your child about dating and relationships, and create that openness between you.

Support Staff Recognition Week

Here in Living Waters Catholic Schools, our goal is that every student who enters our doors will graduate successfully from a faith-filled, safe and caring environment.

Everyone has an important role to play in supporting this goal. Students and teachers rely on so many people to make school a great place.

Thank you and God Bless to all our support staff for the contributions you make every day.



Living Waters Catholic Schools
REGIONAL DIVISION No. 42

SPIRIT WEEK

Spirit Week at St. Mary of the Lake School will be happening the week of Feb 14th to Feb 18th.

- Monday, February 14th Red and White Day—Wear red and white clothes
Gr 1 to 6 Sock Hop 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 15th Crazy shoe day—Decorate your shoes
- Wednesday, February 16th Jersey Day—wear your sports jersey
- Thursday, February 17th Nerd Day—wear your pockets protectors and taped glasses
- Friday, February 18th Bend it Day—Pay \$1.00 to bend a rule (with in reason) example wear a hat, chew gum etc.

- February 23rd Support Anti-bullying day—Wear a Pink Shirt.

MRS. KAREN POTSKIN

Tanisi Everyone! We had a busy month in the classroom in January. The Second Language classes are focusing on Conversational Cree. The students are as enthused as I am and the students are practicing the language in the hallways (very good to see). For those families that speak Cree I encourage you to practice the language with your children at home.

We have a Virtue for each month, the Virtue for February (Miksiwipisim/Bald Eagle Month) is "LOVE".

SAKEHITOWIN "If we live in harmony we must accept one another as we are and accept others who are not in our circle. Love means to be kind and good to one another".

We have been focusing on a monthly virtue, the Staff has been very supportive in encouraging the students to practice each monthly virtue. Valentine's Day is coming up soon and we will be learning Valentines vocabulary to coincide with the virtue.

Miss. Noel and myself have planned a Winter carnival of a tentative date for Feb. 17, 2011. We will keep you informed as plans progress. If you would like to volunteer on this day, Please contact either one of us at the school, your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Before the Christmas holidays, Mrs. Bernard and myself looked at the Attendance issues that were forwarded to us and we have made phone calls home to the students and parents involved. We encourage that students come to school on a daily basis. If there are excusable absences for your child Please phone the school office and inform the staff that there is a valid reason for your child's absence. It is the Parent's responsibility: Parents can contribute to a student's success by:

- Insisting on good attendance and punctuality.
- Scheduling all appointments for students after dismissal or non-school days.
- Notifying the school before any absence.

At the end of each month attendance is reviewed for all students, if there have been more than 2 unexcused absences a letter will be sent home. The next step, Mrs. Bernard and myself are notified then we will make a home visit if the attendance issues continue. Let's work together in providing the best Educating for your child. If you have any concerns or suggestions, Please contact me at the school at 780-849-5244.

Ekosi maka, (that's all for now) until next month.

Ms. K. Potskin
Native Liaison/Coordinator.

When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us.

[Alexander Graham Bell](#)

Festival du Voyageur

"Festival du Voyageur" is an annual 10-day festival that runs in Winnipeg, Manitoba, during February. The festival has been running in Manitoba since 1967 and offers many cultural and language connections to the French, Cree and Metis cultural ways of life.

On February 17th, St. Mary of the Lake will host their own "Festival du Voyageur". This event will involve the whole school and will offer many interesting activities that honor the fur trader era. If you are available to volunteer for a portion or all of the day, please contact either Kristan Noel or Karen Potskin. We hope to see you there!

High School News

In early December the grade 9 - 12 students had the opportunity to travel to the new Alberta Art Gallery in downtown Edmonton. We participated in the Art Beyond Borders program offering a guided tour through 3 separate galleries within this very uniquely designed building.

The students were very impressed with the Canadian history show that included A.Y Jackson, Lauren Harris, and Emily Carr. This was a terrific opportunity for them to see some of our greatest works of art. For most students this was their first trip to an art gallery and many commented on how thick the paint was applied on some pieces, how rich and brilliant the colors remain and how they would like to come back another day.

We spent our afternoon at the Telus World of Science with junior and senior high in their own curriculum based lab. We were able to spend some time looking at the general displays before we headed to West Edmonton Mall.

The students were very well behaved and did a terrific job of representing our school. An exceptional example of this would be when Kara Worobec returned a lost package to a distraught shopper.

Unfortunately, as we left the city we were greeted by a severe winter storm that made the drive home a challenge. Thanks to our trusty bus driver, Wanda Risbriger, we arrived home safely after 4 and 1/2 hours on treacherous roads.