

Club de Francais!

Est-ce que tu veux apprendre français?

If you are in Grades 7 – 12 and you don't know what that means but you'd like to learn, then Club de Français (French Club) is for you!

Beginning after-school on Thursday, November 17, Club de Francais will be meeting at least once a month to learn and practice French!

All levels of French (from knowing nothing to being fluent) are welcome to attend, even if the student is not currently enrolled in French classes! Students will not earn credits or grades for their participation in the French Club, but will have the opportunity to participate in simple to complex conversations, interesting cultural activities and possible field trips. Some suggestions for Club de Francais activities include cheese tasting, making traditional French desserts and appetizers, eating fondue, listening to French music, watching French movies, playing French games, and organizing or assisting with French fundraising activities.

Because the French Club is an extra-curricular activity, students will be required to pay dues in exchange for participating in the club. The current proposed fee for French Club is set at \$5 per meeting though this may increase or decrease based on the club's activities.

While the first portion of the first meeting of the French Club will be held in English, once students have agreed and signed "Le Contrat" (aka "The Contract"), they will speak only French during Club de Francais meetings. Students who do not adhere to this contract or who do not maintain the "3 As" (Attendance, Attitude, and Academics), will be removed from Club de Francais.

Parents or students with questions regarding Club de Francais are asked to attend the first meeting of the club which will be held in the SMOTL Library at 3:30 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2011.

A bien tot!

Mo-vement

This year all of the male teachers have decided to put a fundraising team together for "Movember". If you are unsure what "Movember" is, here is a brief description:

Each year during the month of November, **Movember** is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces, in Canada and around the world. With their "Mo's", these men raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer. On **Movember 1st**, guys register with clean shaven faces at Movember.com. For the rest of the month, these selfless and generous men, known as Mo Bros groom, trim and wax their way into the annals of fine moustachery. Supported by the women in their lives (Mo Sistas) **Movember** Mo Bros raise funds by seeking sponsorship for their Mo-growing efforts.

Mr. Peters, Mr. Lang, Mr. Mellsen, Mr. Lu and Mr. Mitchell have decided to make our school part of these fundraising efforts this year. On October 31st, (the day before **Movember's** official opening) during Monday morning assembly we will challenge each grade to raise as much money as they can for this "GREAT" cause. We said that each class that raises \$25 will be entered into a draw to get the chance to "dye" a teacher's mustache at the end of the month. Each \$25 dollars gains another entry into the contest. Also, the grade who raises the most amount of money automatically gets to choose and dye a teachers mustache the colour of their choice. We look forward to the next month of showing off our mustaches, as well as spreading awareness in our schools the importance of male health issues.

Feel free to follow us online at Movember.ca and search for team "Falcons" or the teachers individually; Shaun Peters, Trevor Mitchell, Charles Lang, Evan Mellsen and Patrick Lu. *Online donations are also greatly accepted and will be added to your son or daughters class totals.*

Thanks in advance,



409 – 6th Avenue SW, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A4
Tel 780-849-5244 Fax 780-849-1919
www.livingwaters.ab.ca

St. Mary's Messenger

News You Can Use!

November 2011

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 1	Parent council meeting 7:00PM
Nov 3	Hot Lunch - Sloppy Joes & cookie Safety Patrol meeting 12:50
Nov 4	Grades 5-7 Field Trip to the John Walter Museum in Edmonton
Nov 6	Time Change
Nov 7	Remembrance Day Mass 10:00 AM at the church
Nov 9	Report cards go home Pizza Hot Lunch
Nov 10	No School - PD Day
Nov 11	No School - Remembrance Day
Nov 15	Parent - Teacher Interviews 5:30-7:30PM Call to make your appt.
Nov 16	K-6 Assembly Pizza Hot Lunch
Nov 17	Hot Lunch - Soft taco & pudding with topping
Nov 18	Elementary Sock Hop 3:30-5:00PM
Nov 18	Sundae/Float Friday Sale
Nov 23	Pizza Hot Lunch
Nov 24	Hot lunch - Soup with homemade bun & cookie
Nov 25	No School - PD day
Nov 27	Advent begins
Nov 30	Pizza Hot Lunch

The Paperless Challenge

In an effort to save paper and reduce waste, our schools are trying to reduce the number of notes we send home. Please expect:

- Hand written notes by your child in your child's agenda about upcoming events or announcements
- An update-to-date calendar on school websites
- A monthly calendar in school newsletters
- Class activities posted to our Home Logic site
- Automated email or telephone notifications about important events
- Less and less paper being sent home

To **be prepared** for these changes, you can do a few things to help be ready:

- Ensure we have your email address in the Office. Call if we do not.
- Sign- up for automatic newsletter emailing by using the sign- up for newsletter option on our website main pages
- Register to be a Home Logic user by calling the school Office or by following the link on our schools' main page and the sign- up option. To use the self- registration option you need to have your email address on file with the Office and well as your child's Alberta Health Care Number.
- Make a habit of reading your elementary child's agenda each day

Websites . . . websites . . . websites . . .

In preparation for the move to the new St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy in the New Year, the new website for St. Francis of Assisi will be available and active beginning Nov. 1st. The web address is www.stfrancisassisi.ca. Please begin referring to this site for information about what is happening in classes for students from grades 7- 12. We will continue to create a common St. Mary of the Lake/St. Francis newsletter until the New Year. Information about St. Mary's Outreach can be found on their website at www.stmarysoutreach.ca. Links to all Living Waters Catholic Schools in Slave Lake can be found on any school's website including www.stmaryofthelake.ca. While visiting any of our school's websites, please be sure to sign up for a digital copy of our newsletter using the link on the main page.

respect
high quality education
values spiritual leadership
God



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: What is the Falcon's new slogan?

Student's Answer

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent Signature: _____

AMA School Safety Patrol

The AMA School Safety Patrol is coming to St. Mary of the Lake! Students in Grade 4 - 7 are invited to help younger students with crossing the street on the way to and from school. The first meeting of the Safety Patrol Club will be on Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 12:50 pm in the Computer Lab. Students who are interested in joining the Safety Patrol Club need to make a commitment to attend weekly meetings and to volunteer for at least one day of patroller shifts per week. Any parents or guardians with questions about the AMA Safety Patrol Club can speak with Mrs. Belbin or Miss Noel.

Sr. High News

For the senior high students, our big news is that the October field trip to NAIT's open house was terrific! We learned to interpret and discuss art at the Alberta Art Gallery. The day came to a close after we watched Death of a Salesman at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. Our students represented our school excellently and I was proud to be part of this field trip.



SPORTS HEADLINERS

WITH BASKETBALL SEASON STARTING ON BOB WHITES FIRST, ATHLETES BEWARE! MR. MELLESEN'S PLACE OF TORTURE (ALSO KNOWN AS GYM) WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS. COACH "DICTATOR" MELLESEN'S GOAL FOR THE YEAR IS TO HAVE THE FALCONS FLYING HIGH ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE, AND LOOKING FANTASTIC THANKS TO THE AMAZING NEW UNIFORMS COMPLIMENTS OF MOONLIGHT SCAFFOLDING, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU COME TO THE GYM READY TO WORK, READY TO SWEAT, READY TO WIN! OUR SLOGAN FOR THE NEW SEASON IS SIMPLE: "WE ARE ONE". WE WILL BE ONE FAMILY, LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER... WILL BE ONE LEADER, REPRESENTING OUR SCHOOL...WE WILL FINISH EVERY PRACTICE AND GAME WITH 100% EFFORT...WELCOME ALL FALCONS.

To date, the girls volleyball team here at St. Francis of Assisi has made great improvements throughout the year. We had our first tournament in High Prairie on the first weekend of October and the girls, who unfortunately never placed in the top three, did very well seeing as this was their first tournament working together with a new system.

We have been going strong 3 days a week and have played 2 games in the past few weeks succeeding against the Roland Michener Rams for the second time this season, as well as knocking off the teachers in a three set game. The girls continue to work hard and can now see what the future has in store for them in upcoming seasons. I am very proud of the girls for showing both dedication and hard work in this "rebuilding" season!

Mr. Peters

Check out the school website at www.stmaryofthelake.ca

Counsellor's Corner

October has been a very busy month....

I have been meeting with various students; working on education planning, and helping others deal with life's challenges. I have made a few home visits and attended 3 out of school meetings. I have been sitting in on meetings within the school and have started seeing students on a one to one basis. I believe that I now know all the teachers (by name) and can even find their class rooms.

As for the students I know a lot of them to see them; however I am still trying to get the names straight.

I am really enjoying my time here at St Mary of the Lake, The staff and students have been very helpful, teaching me the ropes.

Sincerely,

Patty Gullion

School Counsellor

Skipping Club 2011

The SMOTL Skipping Club kicked off its first season in late September. The original idea was to get a few older students participating in a fun physical activity that gave them an opportunity to practice cooperation, teamwork and patience. This activity was so popular that it quickly exploded into a favorite pastime involving a large number of students in Grades 1 - 6. Now, at least once a day during morning or lunch recess, a group of dedicated Skipping Club participants gather on the basketball court for a recess of jump rope and rhyming songs

Thank you to the Jump Rope for Heart Campaign for inspiring the birth of the Skipping Club. We are so excited to welcome this fundraiser back into our school in the spring. Thank you for helping us to get our hearts pumping! We can't wait to show you how we can jump rope!

Thank you to Mr. Peters for generously donating the group and individual skipping ropes to the Skipping Club. We couldn't have had this much fun without you!

And finally, a great big thank you goes out to all of the students who have come out to make Skipping Club 2011 as fun and as popular as it has been! We hope you have enjoyed learning and playing. Even though the skipping season is almost over, we hope everyone will remember the fun we had, the laughs we shared and the growth we experienced as we improved our skills.

SEE YOU IN THE SPRING!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

**Extreme Couponing:
SMOTL Style!**

The Grades 1 – 6 students have been turning in their Lunchmate Bucks off of their Schneider Lunchables packs for the past several months. We were recently able to order our school library 3 different DVD! (Sacred Planet, Disneynature: Oceans, and Disneynature: Earth) We are only a few days away from being able to order a 4th DVD (National Geographic's Great Migrations). Thank you to everyone for helping us to save up for these FREE educational resources!

The Grade 3 students will participate in the "Roots of Empathy" Program (R.O.E.). This program teaches children about their own feelings and feelings of others. Once every three weeks, baby Corbin, and his parents will visit the classroom. A trained R.O.E. Instructor will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they will watch the baby grow through the 27 sessions of the program.

Mrs. Ureta-Pablo

Tanisi Everyone!

Time is flying by November (Iyikopiwisim means frost month) is here and it is much colder outside. The grade 8 and 9 Cree students were fortunate to take advantage of the last of the warmer weather last week. We went on a field trip to the High Prairie museum and to the Barranch Cornfield maze. The students were fascinated with the history lesson provided by the museum. The Barranch allowed the students to walk through the Cornfield maze, the students had a lot of fun! The student's field trip finished off with a trail wagon ride. We are thankful that Coralee Delaney the Cultural Connections Aboriginal Youth Coordinator (C.C.A.Y) of the Slave Lake Native Friendship Center sponsored the field trip through her program. Coralee and myself will be working closely together this year in the Native Education program and plan on having more interaction between our programs.

We are well on our way with our conversational Cree with the grade 4-9 Cree classes. The students are doing very well with the Language and are eager to learn more. There is so much to be learned in such a short period of time. I am open to suggestions as to what you would like see happen in the Cree as a second language program. I can be contacted at the School at 780-849-5244.

Ekosi pita. (That's all for now)

Ms. Potskin



Native Education Liaison/Coordinator



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!!!

Home Logic goes live!

Our schools' Home Logic site is now live. You can use this site to learn about what is happening with your child in school. Once you register as a user, you can see your child's attendance record, discipline record, assignments, and see class announcements and news. You can also set your preferences for the site to automatically email you about your child at school. The site will notify you if your child is unexplainably absent from school, receives a discipline reprimand, or is assigned homework. We encourage all parents to visit this site regularly. To sign- up to be a user you can call the Office. You will need to provide us with a valid email address. You may also self- register to use this site by following the links on our website. To do this we need to have your email address on file at the school as well as your child's Alberta Health Care Number. Only parents/guardians listed in the registration documents can self- register to be users. As a security feature, all questions relating to the parent and the student must be answered as they were completed on the registration forms. If there have been changes or if you have difficulties please call or visit the school office.

Report Cards and Parent– Teacher Interview Changes

As with the last few years, all report cards this year will be outcomes- based. Explanation sheets will be sent with the first report card only. It is our goal to make sure every parent clearly understands how their child is doing in school. Report cards will be sent home with students on Nov. 9th.

For Elementary students, parent- teacher interviews will be held in traditional fashion for the first reporting period. For all junior and senior high students, including first report card, as well as for all elementary students from second report card on, traditional parent- teacher interviews will be replaced with Student- lead conferences this year. In keeping with current research and best practices, students will lead conferences with parents and teachers following each report card. We really hope to see all parents visit in November.

Students are working hard to prepare for these conferences and to show you what they have been working on in school, how they are doing in their courses, and what they are learning about themselves as learners. Staff is excited to show you this new process for communicating your child's school experiences. Parents will be contacted by email, or note, confirming their conference. Elementary interviews will run the evening of Nov. 15th from 5:30- 7:30pm. Student- lead conferences will run the week of Nov. 14th. If you have a preference of day or time, please notify the school by Nov. 4th. If you have not done so, a time will be scheduled for you on the evening of Nov. 15th. It is important every student has a parent or guardian supporting their education by coming in to the school to see what is happening.

As this is a new process for our school, staff, and students, we will need your patience as we learn as well as your feedback about how to improve the process. Everyone has been working hard to make this a meaningful experience and a valuable use of everyone's time. These conferences will be a good thing. They give students an opportunity to take ownership for their learning, to develop effective communication skills, to reflect about themselves and their learning and to show off knowledge, skills and processes they are learning in school. Please help make these great experiences.

Parent Council Needs YOU!

On Nov. 1st at 7:00pm we will hold our next parent- council meeting. To date we do not have a parent-council for this year because of lack of members. If we do not get enough members to fill the executive and form a workable council at this next meeting, there will not be a parent council at our school this year. Parent council adds a lot to our school. They offer advice to the Principal and School Board, support school initiatives, represent the School in a variety of ways, and help fundraise to support the playground and field trips. Without a strong parent council, these things may be lost. If you can help out on parent council this year, please come to this meeting or call Mr. Mitchell and pass along your interest in joining.

Spiritus Mundi

November is an exciting month in terms of Catholic Education. November 6th is designated as *Catholic Education Sunday* for this year, and the theme is 'open wide the doors'. When Pope John Paul II began his papal duties, some of the first words he spoke were: "Do not be afraid. Open, I say open wide the doors for Christ." Pope John Paul's message is also echoed here at St. Mary of the Lake, and our entire division, as we committed to being 'Catholic schools of choice for all'. We try to not only open the doors to our schools, but to our hearts and minds as well. With this message also comes an invitation to come celebrate with us at Mass:

St. Peter Celestin Catholic Church

208 3rd Avenue NW

780-849-3029

Father Jeyapaul

Saturday Mass @7:00 PM

Sunday Mass @11:00 AM

We would love to have you with us to celebrate Catholic Education Sunday on November 6th, so come on out and join us if you can.

November also marks All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day on November 1 and 2 respectively. All Saint's Day is a feast honouring all the saints of the Church, known and unknown. The occasion gives us the opportunity to reflect on the nature of sainthood and to celebrate the exemplary faithfulness of holy men and women everywhere and to be inspired by their actions. All Soul's Day is traditionally reserved to pray for those who have died, and to honour the memories of those who have lived and died before us.

November is also the month for our Remembrance Day observances. In keeping with the solemn spirit of All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, we remember with gratitude all of the men and women who have died in wars and conflicts all over the world for our safety and freedom, and for the safety and freedom of others as well. So let us all take some time this month to pray for all of those who have died before us, and to pray for our friends and families too.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and they staff they comfort me." Psalm 23



A drum roll please...

Starting Wed, November 9th our Beyond the classroom students would like to introduce a weekly Pizza Hot Lunch as a part of their Lifeskills program.

All proceeds from the Pizza Hot Lunch will go towards St. Mary of the Lake ECS & Beyond the classroom programs.

Order forms will be sent home with students and anyone wishing to partake must have order forms and payment in to office no later than 9:00am Wednesday morning.



The Inclusive Education Planning Tool: A digital resource to build teacher capacity

The move to a more inclusive education system forces us to rethink how teachers plan for student success. The Inclusive Education Planning Tool (IEPT), the new digital resource, focuses on helping teachers change their instructional practice to better meet the needs of our diverse learners within our school community. The resources provides information and strategies on getting to know students, understanding the implications of medical conditions and disabilities on student learning, and identifying instructional supports students need to be successful. All of this information can be used to support and enhance a more inclusive approach to planning for student success.

Alberta Education is piloting the *Inclusive Education Planning Tool* in grades 1 to 9 with over 200 schools across the province in the 2011-2012 school year (no new pilot sites can be accommodated for 2011 and the pilot is limited to three schools per school authority). Participating pilot schools will provide feedback to inform future development of both content and functionality of the *Inclusive Education Planning Tool*, as well as providing feedback that can be used to inform future policies and practices.

Supports and strategies align with the Language Arts programs of study and assume that the program of studies is the starting point of instruction for all students. To allow teachers more time for using the IEPT to build learner profiles, schools participating in the IEPT pilot for 2011-2012 school year will not create IPPs for students in grades 1 to 9.

For more information please visit <http://education.alberta.ca>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the IEPT, please call me at the school at 780-849-5244.

Thanks,

Mrs. Karen Nadeau

Special Education Coordinator

(Source: <http://education.alberta.ca> .)