

January 6, 2020

Welcome back, everyone! We do hope that you had an opportunity to spend some quality time with your family and friends during the Christmas and New Year season.

The month of December allowed us the opportunity to gather as a Catholic community and to celebrate together. I would like to thank all the families, students and teachers who attended our Advent Mass and Celebrations for each week of Advent. A special thank you to all of the teachers and students, who worked so hard organizing and leading the mass and the celebrations. Thank you to our student choir, who serves as our music ministry, for sharing their beautiful voices at each of our celebrations.

Sunday, December 29th was the Feast Day of the Holy Family. Our Gospel tells us about The Holy Family, Joseph and Mary's flight into Egypt pursuing their mission to protect the Christ child. This models for us what family life should exemplify. The family is where love is freely given without self-interest. It is where we learn to love, to pray and to practice the gift of charity. Pope John Paul II has said, "The family, more than any other human reality, is the place in which the person is loved for himself and in which he learns to live the sincere gift of self". This story prompts me to say when everyone in the family focuses on God's call for one another, the family becomes more loving and peaceful.

The Annual Christmas Craft Night was also a huge success; thank you to our staff, parent volunteers and School Council for preparing the stations and organizing the event. This was a wonderful evening of family fun and connection. We had an excellent turnout; thank you to all of our families who attended. Also, thank you to all families who donated gifts, food, clothing and money to help support those in need at this special time of year.

We are now ready to begin the second half of our school year together, and we look forward to new learning, exciting activities and new friendships. Our youngest and our oldest students will encounter some great changes in the coming months.

- The grade 5 students will begin the transition process into Middle School. There will be Open House opportunities and presentations from their designated middle schools. Information will follow.
- Our Kindergarten students will also be transitioning into a full day of school for grade 1 next year.
- Our Pre-Kindergarten children will be registering for Kindergarten; online registrations can be submitted starting on Monday, January 13th at 8:00 am.

This New Year is a time to look forward to new goals and challenges. Please take a few moments with your child to set new goals for the remainder of the school year. Begin the conversation by asking your child what they could do to ensure continued success. This may involve academic work; however, it could also involve other categories such as developing social skills, being more aware of the needs of others, and trying to help those in need. It may also involve healthy lifestyle choices such as eating better foods, helping the family to prepare healthy lunches, exercising at least three times a week, and maybe cutting down on the amount of sugar eaten – less pop, treats and candy. We still have another six months left of school so it's not too late to start making a difference!

Below is a brief description of Holy Family School January events.

- Epiphany Mass on Friday, January 10th at 10:30 am at St. Mary's. This annual Mass is hosted each year by our School Council and parent community. If you would like to serve a ministry at this Mass please contact, Mrs. Meyer at the school. All are welcome to attend this Mass.
- Jersey Day, organized by our Spirit Team, will be held on Wednesday, January 15 wear your favourite team's jersey
- Family Movie Night, organized by School Council, will be held Thursday, January 16th. This is a free event for all families to attend and a great way to spend a cold winter night together. Popcorn and pizza will be available for purchase. School Council will send more information and details closer to the event.
- Indigo Circus on January 24th, school-wide presentation funded by School Council
- Rebel's Family Hockey Night on January 25th. The tickets can be purchased online. (www.ticketsalberta.com PROMO CODE: HOLY)
- STARS: Career Day will be held on January 30th in the afternoon. This is an excellent way for our parents and the broader community to become involved and share their gifts and passion for their job. Please contact Mrs. Franz at the school if you would like to be involved by sharing with our students your chosen career. A reminder that this is a Career Day-dress up organized by the Spirit Team
- Professional Development Day for all teachers scheduled for Friday, January 31 which means there will be no classes for students on this date; please mark your calendars.

I hope 2020 brings love, laughter and good health to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel and Mrs. Melissa Meyer