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Welcome to October!

We'd like to start with a big thank you to staff, students and families for adjusting to our new guidelines and practices including the entry and dismissal process for Holy Family School. Thank you for supporting the focus on the 3 D's: distancing, disinfecting and don't share.

We are entering an exciting second month of school. Just a few notes about what is happening in October.

This **Monday, October 5 is World Teachers' Day**. This is a day that we celebrate our teachers. We are thankful for the grace and kindness our community has shown all of our teachers. We appreciate the power of working together as we strive to provide high quality learning experiences for every student.

What better time to teach our students about gratitude than at Thanksgiving. Our focus this month will be giving thanks to God and others; *And be **thankful**. ... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:15-17). Father Mirek will be visiting our school on **Tuesday, October 6 as we celebrate our Thanksgiving Liturgy**, in our classrooms, being led by Mrs. Hanasyk's grade 2H and Mrs. Gilet's grade 4G classes. Our liturgy will be shared with parents on Tuesday.

Friday, October 9 is Teacher Professional Development Day. There is no school for our students on this day. Our staff will be learning about wellness, mindfulness and trauma informed care. Staff will also be learning more about using technology in our classrooms.

Monday, October 12 is Thanksgiving Day and there is no school for students or staff.

Photo day will be on October 14 and 15; Mrs. Schmidt will re-share the schedule in our Week at a Glance this coming Friday. Be sure to check the Week at a Glance for information on class times. **Please note that this year there are no whole class photos as a result of physical distancing measures.**

School Council Meeting will be held on October 19. All parents are invited to attend the meeting. Sign up information for the virtual meeting will come out on October 12.

Friday, October 23 is Teacher Professional Development Day. There is no school for students that day. The professional development day will provide an opportunity for teachers to focus on faith, trauma informed care and knowing the student learner.

Where all Students Learn Through Christ

Halloween is always a hit with the students and staff. We are currently preparing alternative fun activities to enjoy. Details will follow.

Friday, October 30, Halloween will include coming to school dressed up in costumes. Your child's teacher will share specific information with you.

Remember to complete the Daily Checklist each morning prior to sending your child to school. Helpful information is linked each week on our Week at a Glance. [Week at a Glance 10/05](#) Please be sure to call the attendance line if your child is absent and indicate if your child is sick and/or at home isolating. If your child is isolating at home and is well enough to do schoolwork please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements to pick up a package at the office.

As we move into October, our staff will be exploring how we can safely use lockers for students. Our teachers will be examining returning to good teaching practices of group work with safe measures including hand hygiene, mask wearing, potentially pushing desks together with students forward facing/not facing one another; we recognize this is harder to achieve in younger grades where mask wearing is not required. All plans are reviewed by the school administration and our division ACT team, who consults with Alberta Health, prior to implementation.

This month, we will continue to practice our Emergency Protocols, including a Fire Drill and Lock Down. Please speak with your child about these practice drills to assist them with their learning. During these times, all drills are practiced slowly and with distancing guidelines, this means that the students will not be hiding together in a small area during the LockDown drill. The teacher will be talking to the students about what we would do if there was a need to move quickly or take cover.

As always, we ask for your assistance to keep our students safe. Our Safety Patrollers have now been trained and will be at the cross walk on the corner of Douglas Avenue and Dunlop Street. Please watch out for our grade 5 patrollers and follow their directions. Please do not block private driveways at any time at drop off or pick up time.

Please frequently check your email, school website and for our grade 1 to 5 students, EDSBY, for all updates and information letters from your child's teacher and the school.

Thank you to our entire Holy Family School community for your continued support. Each day we are reminded that we are blessed by our students, families and community. If you require support or are seeking answers, please contact teachers, counsellors, administration or contact the office. We are here to help families and students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel
Principal, Holy Family School

Mrs. Stacey Martz
Vice-Principal, Holy Family School