



# ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 5, 2026

WHAT'S UP WILDCATS

## ACADEMIC AWARD EVENING

St. Francis will be holding their Academic Award evening on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the school gymnasium. Those students who qualify for awards from the 2025-2026 school season will be honored. We look forward to celebrating the academic achievements of our students.



## PICTURE RETAKES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH  
BRING YOUR SMILES!!!!



*Happy*  
**October**

May this month be  
filled with God's  
goodness and grace



THINKABOUTSUCHTHING.COM

## OCTOBER EVENTS

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS  
OCT 15TH

PICTURE RETAKES - OCT 16TH

ACADEMIC AWARD EVENING  
OCT 19<sup>TH</sup> @ 7PM

THANKSGIVING DAY OCT 12TH  
OCT 13 - PD DAY  
OCT 14 - PD DAY  
**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK  
OCT 17 - 23

OCTOBER SCHOOL DANCE  
OCT 29

HALLOWEEN ASSEMBLY  
OCT 30

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Francis Families,

October is a beautiful and exciting month at St. Francis Junior High, and I am so grateful for the many ways our school community continues to come together in faith, learning, and celebration.

**Open Wide the Doors: Send to Love God**

Today was a particularly special day at St. Francis as we gathered together as a school community to celebrate Mass on the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Francis. There was something truly beautiful about being together in prayer, worship, and community as we celebrated the saint who gives our school its name and reminds us of the importance of living our faith through our everyday actions.

**As part of our Open Wide the Doors faith journey, October invites us to Love God.**

This month, we are looking at St. Francis de Sales, sometimes known as the *Gentleman Saint* because of his gentle approach to evangelization. He believed and taught that holiness was a vocation for everyone, something each of us could achieve in the ordinariness of our everyday lives. His focus on prayer makes him a wonderful saint for us to consider as we explore the Introductory Rites of the Mass this month.

Later this month, we will also celebrate Catholic Education Sunday and Week, October 18-23, with the theme "The Power of the Holy Spirit." There will also be a matching campaign for donations to Catholic education in Alberta, sponsored by the Diocese that weekend. We invite families to prayerfully consider supporting Catholic education and the important work we do together in forming young people in faith, hope, and love.

**Learning & Growing Together**

There is so much exciting learning happening throughout our school!

Our teachers are working hard to pilot and implement new curriculum, collaborating, learning, and reflecting on how we can continue to provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences for our students. I am incredibly grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our staff as they continue to grow together and put our students at the centre of their work.

**Parent Teacher Interviews:**

A reminder to families that our Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on October 15.

Please check the school website for information about booking your appointment.

Our standard interview times are 10 minutes. If you feel you need more time to connect with your child's teacher, we encourage you to book a time through the teacher's monthly office hours. This provides an additional opportunity for a longer conversation and ensures that our interview times remain available for all families.

**Congratulations, Wildcats!**

We have had an exciting start to our athletics season!

A huge congratulations to our Cross Country athletes, who have represented St. Francis with tremendous effort, determination, and sportsmanship. We are especially proud to celebrate our city champions this year!

Best of luck to all of our Wildcats who will be competing at Zones.

We are cheering you on! Our volleyball teams have also been representing St. Francis extremely well at tournaments throughout the season. We are proud of the way our students demonstrate teamwork, perseverance, respect, and Wildcat pride both on and off the court.

As we move through October, I am continually reminded of what makes St. Francis such a special place. Our school is filled with students who are learning, growing, taking risks, discovering their gifts, and finding their place within our community. We are blessed with staff who care deeply about our students and families who continue to partner with us in their children's education.

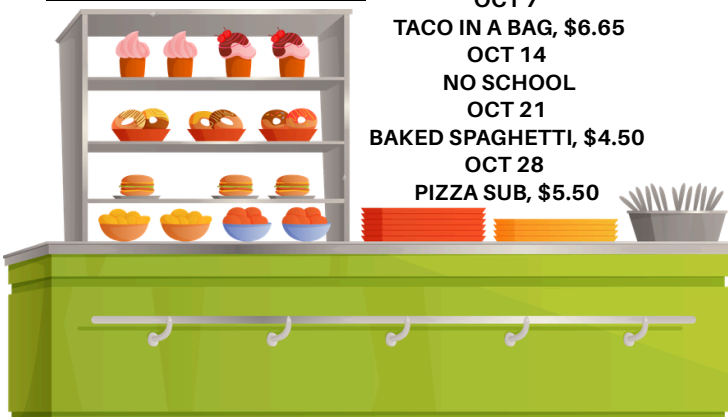
As we celebrate the life and example of St. Francis, may we remember that holiness is found not only in extraordinary moments, but also in the small, everyday choices we make to love, serve, forgive, encourage, and care for one another. May we continue to Open Wide the Doors of our hearts and our school community, allowing God's love to shine through all that we do. Wishing our St. Francis families a wonderful October!

**JACKIE KRAEMER**

PRINCIPAL, ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

***"BRINGING TO LIGHT THE BEST WE CAN BECOME."***

## Canteen News



The canteen offers regular menu items including hamburgers, chicken burgers, wraps, pizza subs, hot dogs, nachos, muffins, cookies, chips and various beverages. There are also exciting daily specials such as cheezy garlic fingers on Monday, mini pizza on Tuesday, etc. The daily special menus are posted on the daily announcements. Payment can be by cash, debit tap, or through buying prepaid canteen cards on School Cash Online. Canteen cards can be purchased in increments of \$20.00. Your student can then purchase items at the canteen by just telling the canteen staff their name and that they have canteen funds. The staff will keep track of your student's spending and will let them know when funds are getting low.



## **WILDCAT ATHLETICS NEWS**

***ALL PRACTICES AND GAMES ARE ON THE  
ST. FRANCIS ATHLETIC CALENDAR (CLICKABLE LINK).  
REFER TO IT OFTEN FOR UP TO DATE CHANGES.***

**CROSS COUNTRY ZONES - OCT 7TH**

**JR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT @ FAIRBAIRN - OCT 16 & 17**

**SR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT @ CPW - OCT 16 & 17**

**DV BOYS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT @ GPMS - OCT 16**

**DV GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT @ GPMS - OCT 17**

**SR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT @ FLVT - OCT 22 - 24**

**DV TOURNAMENT @ WILSON - OCT 23 & 24**

**JR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT @ GS LAKIE - OCT 23 & 24**

**THIS YEAR'S FULL-YEAR (2026-2027) SCHOOL CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND HERE:  
[HTTPS:// SFJH.HOLYSPIRIT.AB.CA/CALENDAR](https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/calendar).**

- **Important Dates:** <https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/important-dates-2026-2027>
- **For athletic events, please visit the SF Athletic Calendar**
- **St. Francis bell times for the 2026-2027 school year which can be found here:  
<https://sfjh.holyspirit.ab.ca/bell-times>**
- **St. Francis uses the PowerSchool student information system. Students can access their timetables for the 2026-2027 school year through PowerSchool (go to "Dashboard" and use the "Class Overview" to select full year or by quarter).**
- **Parents/ guardians who have NOT completed the re-registration form through SchoolEngage, this process MUST be completed before your child(ren) is provided with a timetable. Please go here to complete your child's re-registration form  
<https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/registration>**
- **SafeArrival: an absence management system using SchoolMessenger to improve student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence. Please check the website to learn more about this effective way to report your child's attendance.**

# CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER



Each year at St. Francis Junior High we encourage students to participate in a chocolate fundraiser. This is a longstanding tradition and one that helps us offer so many valuable opportunities for our school communities. This is one of the only fundraisers we offer, that benefits virtually every student in school.



We have shared with students what we are fundraising for, as well as the prizes available to be won. Before they can volunteer, each student needs to have their Permission Form completed, giving them consent to participate in this Fundraiser. The fundraiser Started on Tuesday, September 29th...Once the permission form is signed, students will be given a box to sell and the cost of the box will be added to your child's School Cash Online. Parents are encouraged to pay online. While we will accept cash, our preferred method of payment is online. Once students have sold their first box they are encouraged to sell additional boxes. Chocolate monies and chocolates must be returned no later than October 26th.

For every full box of chocolates that a student sells, their name is added to the prize draw. We sincerely thank you for your commitment to ensuring the success of this fundraiser.

## School Fees

**School Cash Online** Holy Spirit School Division uses [School Cash Online](#) for the payment of all school items such as fees, canteen cards, club/athletic fees and spirit wear.

Additional fees for upcoming option classes and co-curricular activities will be added as they are applicable.

If you have already registered for School Cash Online at another school in the Holy Spirit School Division, you will see the 2026-2027 St. Francis school fees in September.

If you are new to Holy Spirit, you will need your student's ASN to register which can be found in PowerSchool. If you prefer to pay by card, cash or cheque, you can always do so by coming into the office.



St. Francis Junior High uses [PowerSchool](#) as its student information system. It provides parent and student portals which gives users access to real-time information including attendance, grades and assignment descriptions and report cards. Be sure to log in to your Parent PowerSchool portal often to monitor your student's academic progress. **Use District Code: RHZW**  
If you are unsure of how to access PowerSchool please contact the school at 403-327-3402.

**SchoolCash Online**

# Pay for school fees online

## fast, free & easy!



### WHY SIGN UP?

- ✓ 24/7 online payment access, anytime and anywhere
- ✓ Email alerts when new fees or activities are posted
- ✓ No more sending cash or cheques to school
- ✓ View and print payment receipts at any time

Sign up for  
**SchoolCash Online**

<https://holyspirit.schoolcashonline.com/>

**Free to join!**



Scan to create  
an account



## Fair Notice Letter

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca).

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools

Updated August 2026



## Notice to Parent or Guardian of Religious Permeation

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.

Univeristy of Lethbridge  
Conservatory of Music

# Youth Percussion Ensemble

**Ages 12+**

Our percussion ensemble is for enthusiastic teenaged percussionists dedicated to the pursuit of excellence. The goal of this group is to create a community of percussionists who are drawn together to develop and share their passion for music. We strive to enhance the talents of students who have discovered an interest in all types of percussion, and offer new opportunities including Steel Pans, Brazilian Samba, Classical Percussion, Japanese Taiko, and Polynesian drumming. Auditions are not required, but before you register, please send a quick email to our instructor to discuss your percussion experience and ensure this ensemble is a good fit: [marcvantolpercussion@gmail.com](mailto:marcvantolpercussion@gmail.com).

**FRIDAY, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. (Located at Casa)**

**FALL 2026: Sep 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 11 (Concert: Dec 12, 7:00 p.m., Casa Community Room)**

<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/music-conservatory/programs>



Univeristy of Lethbridge  
Conservatory of Music

# Group Violin Lessons

Our group violin classes welcome students from beginner to experienced levels, from ages 6+! Students will attend the first class on October 3 at 9:30am, and then be assigned their class time (within the times 9:30-12pm) for the rest of the semester. These classes allow beginners to learn the basics of violin technique, music reading, and playing skills, while also having an opportunity to play with one another and develop valuable ensemble skills. Intermediate and experienced students will work together on technique and musicianship, and have the opportunity to develop ensemble skills through chamber music groups. At the end of the semester, there will be a short performance for family and friends!

**Saturday, 9:30 - 12:00\* | Location: Casa (230 8 St S)**

(\*students attend 30 minutes within this time block; times will be assigned at the first class based on level/experience)

**FALL 2026: October 3 - December 12 (No Class: Oct 10, Nov 21)  
Cost: \$150**



SCAN HERE



Holy Spirit  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

# Piitawaani

## Traditional Powwow

Thursday, October 8th

5:00pm-7:00pm

Grand Entry at 5:00pm

Children of St. Martha School

206 McMaster Blvd. W.

- ◆ Host drum will be paid.
- ◆ First 14 registered dancers will be paid (all dancers welcome).
- ◆ Food trucks available for purchase of dinner.

Please bring lawnchairs or blankets.

***Everyone welcome!***



Dancer Registration Form



# PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY 2026-2027

St. Francis Junior High has implemented a **phone-free policy** for all students during the school day. All students are required to keep their phones and other personal electronic devices **stored in their lockers from arrival at school to 3:00 p.m.**, and are not allowed to access them at any point during the day. Additionally this year, students are not to be on **computers at lunch**, unless for educational purposes (**no gaming**).

## WHY?

- improve attention and focus
- enhance social interaction
- student mental health
- brain development



## WHAT?

- **all cell phones**
- **bluetooth headphones/earbuds**
- **smart watches, glasses, trackers**
- **all gaming devices at lunch**

## VIOLATIONS

1st Offence: picked up by the student at the end of the day

2nd Offence: picked up by a parent or guardian

3rd Offence: family meeting to create a support plan for the remainder of the school year



**Technology off**



**Learning on**