

Holy Family School

JANUARY - New Year - NEWSLETTER



Welcome back and blessing for the new year! School re-starts on Monday, January 9th.

The New Year began with two very special celebrations for Catholics. January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and it was also the World Day of Peace. This is a hopeful way for us as a community and society to start our year by turning our eyes to the woman who brought the Prince of Peace into our world. She then shared him with us. This makes a wonderful resolution for us all, to welcome Jesus into our lives, adore him, and share our love for him with the world.

With the beginning of the new year, our school starts the process of planning for the 2023-24 school year. Those of you who have children or who have friends with children turning 5 years old this year are eligible to attend Kindergarten this fall. Registration opens on January 9th, please visit our website [link](#) to register. If you know of someone who is just beginning their education journey, please share your great experiences with Holy Family School.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.

**May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each
of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.**

May the Lord make your New Year a happy one.

**May He give you the strength and community support needed to
adjust to the fluidity of the pandemic.**

Amen

Merry Christmas - to our Ukrainian Families

The rituals of Ukrainian Christmas Eve (Jan 6) and Ukrainian Christmas Day (Jan 7) are dedicated to God, to the welfare of the family, and to the remembrance of the ancestors. A prayer is said and the father says the traditional Christmas greeting, "**Khrystos rodyvsya!**" (Christ is born!) which is answered by the family with "Slavite Yoho!" (Let Us Glorify Him!)

Epiphany - You are invited to attend Mass with us

We invite everyone to join us for our Epiphany Mass on **Wednesday, January 11th at 10:30 a.m @ St. Mary's Church**. Reading for this mass will all be done by parent volunteers from the Holy Family and Maryview School communities.

During our Feast of the Epiphany, we hear the story of the three wise men who visited the baby Jesus, bringing Him gifts. The Christmas story is all about gift-giving...the wonderful gift of Jesus that God gives to the world and the wonderful gifts that we give back. Think of the wonderful things you did for others this past year and make resolutions to continue to give back to God the gift of yourself through helping others.

Kindergarten - Registration open on January 9th

Registration is now open for the upcoming school year for all children who will be turning 5 years old in 2023. We will be offering Full Day Kindergarten:

- **Option 1:** Monday & Wednesdays with scheduled Fridays
- **Option 2:** Tuesday & Thursdays with scheduled Fridays

Submit your completed registration online on January 9th at [Kindergarten Link](#)

School Council - Family Fun Coming

Our School Council Meeting is MONDAY NIGHT!!

- Monday, January 9th @ 7:00 PM (Virtual Meeting)
- Click [HERE](#) and sign up for the meeting if you are able to attend HFS School Council Meeting

In our year-end survey in June, we asked: what else can we do as a school? You told us: to have more family activities (i.e. barbeques and dances). The School Council continues to work hard to bring family events alive at Holy Family School. All students and their families are welcome to attend the **First Annual Winter Dance**. DJ Sabotage is booked, and there will be some fun to be had by everyone with a photo booth and concession available.

We also heard that you would like the opportunity to purchase **Holy Family Swag** for your children. The School Council has been working with a supplier and will be bringing a proposal forward at the meeting. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities and details to purchase items.

Tonight our School Council is meeting and you are invited to attend our virtual meeting to confirm the Family Dance date, help get organized to ensure our event is a success and decide on clothing for your children. Please fill in your information and let us know if you are attending or if you are not able to attend but would like to help out with the dance please complete the following [LINK](#)

Career Day - Thank you!

One of our school goals is to help our students feel prepared for lifelong learning, the world of work and citizenship. This opportunity will give our students a chance to explore a variety of career options as they consider their futures while connecting with members of our community.

Thank you for your continued support of our students' growth. A huge thanks to the parent and community volunteers who are making this event possible with presenting sessions to our grade 3-5 students. All students kindergarten to Grade 5 can dress in their career of choice on January 26th.

Raising Digitally Responsible Youth - Parenting is hard

The rapid rise of technology and social media use in the lives of their kids makes it harder.

To help, we're sharing complimentary access to download ["Raising Digitally Responsible Youth – A Parent's Guide"](#) from [Safer Schools Together](#). The guide was designed to help introduce Parents and Caregivers to leading social media platforms, video games, and relevant trends that are either being used already or have the potential to be used by their children.

This guide is full of tips, how-to's and definitions for the most widely used apps - including TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and more.

Schoology - Growth as a Learner

While our Schoology learning goals are updated regularly, the *Growth as a Learner* comments are shared out three times a year, at the end of each reporting period. Term 2 has now begun and teachers will be starting to update assessments based on the outcomes they are covering this term. Please regularly check Schoology for updates on your child's learning progress.

If you require support with Schoology, please contact the office.

Need help with notifications and/or navigating:

- **Notifications:** Classroom News and Weekly Academic Progress [LINK](#)
- **Navigating:** Your Child's Schoology [LINK](#)

School Bus Delays & The Bus App - Stay Connected

While our school buses are almost always on time, the winter months and snowy road conditions can lead to delays for your child's school bus. To stay notified of your child's bus status, please see the following links for ways to check on bus times.

Holy Family School Website

Bus status can be found on the main page of our website. It will display if a bus is *on-time*, *delayed*, or *cancelled*. There will often be a comment next to the delayed buses indicating how long the bus delay is. Click the title above to link to our website.

Bus Status App by Box Clever

Alternatively, you can download the bus app for your Apple or Android phone. See the images below and click on them to go to your respective app store and download the app.



Volunteering - Be Prepared / NEW for January 2023

The RCMP has recently implemented new legislation for volunteers that include volunteering in the school, classrooms and/or field trips. All Criminal & Vulnerable Sector Checks are good for 3 years, if you already have one on file you do not need to get another one until the current one expires. Please contact the school office if you are unsure if your current check on file has expired.

Recent changes to RCMP policy require us, as a School Division, to be more compliant on whether or not the potential school volunteer requires a Criminal Record Check or a Vulnerable Sector Check.

Based on the role as a volunteer that you are being asked to support in our school community please consider the following:

Criminal Record Checks are required for these types of volunteer roles:

- Classroom volunteer
- Hot lunch/milk program volunteer
- Other school-based activities during school hours
- Field trip volunteer where no direct supervision is required / you are not in charge of a group and leading on your own / you are part of the large group

Vulnerable Sector Checks are required for these types of volunteer roles:

- Volunteer coach
- Field trip volunteer where direct supervision is required / you are taking a group of students and leading them away from the large group
- Overnight chaperone

After submission, you will receive a PDF letter on our school letterhead with the principal's signature in your email. Once you receive your official record please bring it into the office. If you would like to start obtaining the proper documentation please contact the office at 403-341-3777.

Looking Ahead - School-Wide Events & Activities

*** remember to check your child's classroom-specific communication in Schoology for upcoming activities**

Monday, January 9

Monday, January 9

Wednesday, January 11th

Friday, January 13th

Friday, January 13th

Wednesday, January 18th

Wednesday, January 18th

Friday, January 20th

Friday, January 20th

Tuesday, January 24th

Wednesday, January 25th

Wednesday, January 25th

Thursday, January 26th

Thursday, January 26th

Friday, January 27th

Friday, January 27th

Friday, January 27th

Monday, January 30th

Welcome Back - Classes resume

School Council - virtual meeting sign up [HERE](#)

Epiphany Mass @ 10:30 am - St. Mary's led by parents

Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten IN

Hot Lunch - Fresh Slice

Winnie the Pooh Day: wear red & yellow or character

Grade 5 Basketball Games (Boys @ FHV/ Girls @ HFS)

Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten IN

Hot Lunch - Subway

Grade 5 Basketball Game (Boys @ HFS)

Bell Let's Talk Day - Mental Health Awareness

Grade 5 Basketball Game (Girls @ HFS)

Career Day - dress up as your future career

Family Winter Dance- proposed date to be confirmed

Family Literacy Day: where a shirt you can read

Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten IN

Hot Lunch - Boston Pizza

Teacher PD Day - no school for students

Thank you for your support and we are so grateful to work together with you. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mrs. Stacey Martz - Vice Principal

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.