

# ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL - FEBRUARY 2009

## ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL TOWN HALL MEETING #2

"A continued conversation about Catholic education" - The "results" of the first Bow Island Town Hall Meeting held on December 8, 2008 at St. Michael's School in Bow Island; "are posted" on the division website @[www.mhce.ab.ca](http://www.mhce.ab.ca) and on the St. Michael's School Bow Island website. Copies are also available at the school office. All Catholic stakeholders in the communities of Bow Island, Medicine Hat, Redcliff and Dunmore are welcome to attend the **Bow Island Town Hall II, Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Bow Island; we will review the Questions/Comments/Feedback and Board Responses** at that meeting.

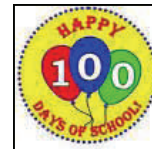
## CONFIRMATION

Students in Grades 7, 8 & 9 will receive the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Fred Henry on Sunday March 22. In order to help students prepare for this sacrament they must attend three classes at St. Michael's Church. The classes will be on January 26, February 9 and March 2 from 3:30 to 4:30. A retreat is planned for Friday, March 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..



## 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Students in Grade 1/2 will be celebrating the 100th day of school on Wednesday, February 11th. As part of the festivities they are trying to collect 100 Loonies for the "Education in Afghanistan Mission" which helps students in Afghanistan attend school. This is a mission that Col. Drew spoke to the students about during his visit to St. Michael's in November. If you are able to donate a Loonie for the cause, students can bring it to the office or the Grade One/Two room by Wednesday, February 11th.



A SPIRIT TO KNOW YOU - St. Benedict of Nursia  
Gracious and Holy Father, please give me: intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you a hear to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you and perseverance to look for you.  
Grant me a perfect end, you holy presence, a blessed resurrection and life everlasting.

AMEN

## WINTER WALK DAY

Students and staff of St. Michael's School have registered to participate the Winter Walk Day on February 11th. Walking is great for our health and the environment. This event is sponsored by SHAPE (Safe, Healthy, Active People Everywhere) in partnership with Winter Active and the local Be Fit for Life Centre. More details will be sent home with students at a later date.

## SHROVE TUESDAY

Students and Staff will be treated to a free pancake lunch on Tuesday February 24th compliments of School Council. We would like to thank our School Council for taking time out of their busy schedules.



## ASH WEDNESDAY

Family and friends are invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on February 25th. Father Fred is unable to attend this year and because the gym is not available we will be having to services. The first will be for the Jr./Sr. students and staff at 11:00 and the second will be for the Elementary students and staff at 2:30. Both services will be in the library.



## MINI-BASKETBALL

Mini-basketball for students in Grades 4 to 6 will begin in February with practices starting on February 10th. Games will begin on March 10th with the finals set for blocks 7 and 8 on April 9.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kyle Croymans, Leandra Byam, Aiden Huisman and Wade Mastel who won tickets to a Tigers hockey game from the CIBC Read To Succeed Program.



## **FASHION SHOW**

The eighth annual St. Michael's School Fashion Show is set for Thursday, February 26th at 7:00 in the school gym. The theme this year is "Surf's UP". It is presented by the Grade 9 to 11 students along with help from their parents and Miss Dudas. Tickets are \$7.00 each and are now available from Miss Dudas, participating students and the school office. Proceeds from the fashion show will go toward future graduating classes. Bring your friends for a fun night of fashion and socializing. Thank you to Miss Dudas for helping the students organize this event.



## **PARKING**

Please remember that student safety is our primary concern, therefore parking is not permitted in front of the school at the end of the school day. This results in congestion with the buses and jeopardizes student safety. If you park in either the east or west parking lots at the end of the school day please remember that you must not move your vehicle until all buses and students have left the school. Parking is available along the street on the west side of the school.



## **PARENT COUNCIL**

Please find attached the minutes from the January Parent Council meeting. The next meeting will be March 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting is available.

## **ON TRACK**

A summary of the January On Track program along with an overview of February's activities is attached.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE** by: Karen Franchetto, Youth Ministry Coordinator

You can be a light for Christ! Youth are called to **Lead, Involve, Grow, Help and Trust**. All students in Grades 6-12 and their families are invited to come out Sunday, February 8th for some winter fun. Meet us at the hill beside St. Patrick's School for tobogganing from 1:00-3:00. Join us at St. Patrick's Church from 3:00-4:30 for hot chocolate, hot dogs and goodies. Our next Youth Gathering will be February 22nd in the Faith Room at Holy Family Parish - 4:00 for grades 6-8 and 7:15 for grades 9-12.

Also, students in Grades 7, 8 & 9 are invited to a **FREE** workshop Tuesday, February 17th - Thursday, February 19th. The Diocesan Youth Leadership Group is coming from Calgary to offer an exciting certificate program. It will be hosted at St. Mary's school from 9:30-4:30 with snacks and lunch provided. For more information and registration, please contact Karen, Youth Ministry Coordinator at (403)527-6933 or [karen.franchetto@mhcbe.ab.ca](mailto:karen.franchetto@mhcbe.ab.ca)

God Bless!  
Karen

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

- ◆ We are now 71 days into the AR Program and students have read 1538 books passing 1346 quizzes. This gives the school a 79% overall average.
- ◆ A reminder that students participating in the NHL Reading Pool still need to remain active in the reading program in order to have a chance at the Flames tickets. The winner will be announced at the March Birthday Assembly. The NHL Reading Pool will remain active after this date to the end of the NHL regular season as we have received 3 autographed Flames pictures, Kippersauf, Regehr and Purdy.
- ◆ Student reading records have once again been submitted to the Medicine Hat Tigers for the CIBC Read to Succeed Program. Hopefully we will have winners again to represent our school.
- ◆ AR prizes will be handed out during the February Birthday assembly for the first half of the program has come to an end. A winner will be drawn from each grade for the participation in the program. Every book read counts as an entry ballot.
- ◆ February 7th Flames tickets will be drawn at the February Birthday Assembly.

## ***SCHOOL BOARD NEWS***

### **STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010**

February is registration month in all Catholic schools in Medicine Hat and Bow Island for the 2009/2010 school year. Internal Division-Wide registration (for those students currently enrolled) is February 9 to 13. New Students (Kindergarten & Grades 1-12), Division-Wide registration is February 23-27. Registration forms will be sent home with students in February. Please have them completed and returned to the school by February 27. St. Michael's School will be holding an open house on February

### **ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEY**

Alberta Education is conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Surveys from January to end of February 2009.

Parents of students of grade 4, 7 and 10 students (all parents of students grade 4 and above for Charter schools) will receive a survey mailed to their homes directly from Alberta Education. In addition to English and French the survey will be available in Mandarin/Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. Parents wishing to have surveys in a language other than English or French can contact their principal.

In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (all students grades 4 and above in Charter schools) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online through their schools.

All surveys are anonymous and no reports will be issued if the number of respondents is fewer than six to further protect the privacy of respondents. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experiences they have had at their school. Responses for parents of students who have moved during the current school year will be attached to the school in which the student was registered on September 30, 2008.

We strongly encourage your participation as the results help us identify our school and jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses. Survey results will be available to jurisdictions by the start of May 2009, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of the Annual Education Results Reports in the fall of 2009.

### **SPECIAL DRAW**

Please fill out the coupon below (a parent/guardian must sign it). If the coupon is returned to the school before February 5th your child's name will be entered into a draw for one of ten free concession treats.

**GOOD LUCK!**

#### **COUPON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

Children's Names

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Council Meeting  
St. Michael's School  
Thursday, Jan. 22nd, 2009

Present: Shawna Crooymans, Cindy Voeller, Mike Weisgerber, Gwen Young, Corien Bastiaansen, Mitch & Cindy Hansen, Anne Marie & Warren Bridge, Natalie Van Tryp, Rhonda Gregus, Curtis Gouw, Margriet Crooymans, Sandra Huizing, Jane Ficiur and Melinda Taylor

Warren called the meeting to order and Mike led us in prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were accepted.

A letter was distributed to all in attendance regarding the results of the Town Hall meeting which was held Dec. 8th, 2008. Mr. Leahy joined us through video conferencing and let us know that everyone was impressed with our passion for our school. There will be another Town Hall meeting on Mon. Feb. 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee's Report: Mike Weisgerber

1. 4 x 4 is going ahead, where it is not a majority.

Auction Report: Sandra Huizing

1. Tyrell Museum sent us a family pass pkg. late. Decided will use it for a draw at school.
2. Sandra mentioned they need to have a meeting to see where they are at financially.

President's Report: Warren Bridge

Warren wondered if we had any more word on our casino date? Nothing yet! We know Father Fred does not approve of it but we already made a commitment and the money is spent. We will go ahead and do this one and that will be it.

Treasurer's Report: Corien Bastiaansen

Sheets handed out regarding our account reports and balances. We received a cheque from the Chinese Acrobats.

General Act. \$63141.04

Casino Act. \$16485.63

We need Penny to let us know when the books are finished so we know what amount of money is going where.

Teacher's Report: Rhonda Gregus

Feb. 5th: Birthday Assembly

Feb. 11th: 100th day for gr. 1 & 2

Feb. 12th: K-2 skating

Feb. 26th: Fashion show

Teachers wondering if we would pay the cost of skating and for the cost of having Robert Munsch show come to St. Mike's for gr. K-6.

Sandra made the motion we pay the \$45.00 for the ice rental, Gwen seconded, all in favor, carried.

Curtis made the motion we pay \$735.00 for Robert M., Corien seconded, 1 opposed, carried.

Principal's Report: Mike Weisgerber

1. Town Hall Meeting II will be held Mon. Feb. 9th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mike's.
2. Shrove Tuesday is Feb. 24th
3. Fat Cat Productions/Hoja, Feb. 13th. Will probably pass this way in spring, would council support this financially, cost is \$725.00 + GST.
4. Willy Wonka at the Esplanade, put on by the students of St. Mary's. Cost is \$2.00 per student, transportation approx. \$200.00. Will be k-4 or 1-5.
5. Missoula will be here April 27-May 2, balance left to pay is \$2000.00 U.S. After a discussion Mike will contact Sharlene Lyczewski to see if the directors can stay in her house and will contact Missoula management to make sure its okay.
6. Discussion about phone answering at the school. Mike will not answer the phone while Denise is on lunch, leave a message and Denise will check when she is back.
7. Field trips - teachers need us to make a decision on financing the trips.
8. Mrs. Cortez will begin maternity leave soon and will be back after the medical portion of her leave.

H.E.A.L.: Mike Weisgerber

1. Education about food choices to be introduced via the concession at tournaments.
2. Alta. Health & Wellness and Alta. Education are exploring options for encouraging schools to develop nutrition policies & eliminate junk food in schools.
3. St. Michael's was featured as a success story in the Everactive Winteractive/Summeractive Resource Manual.

New Business:

1. Natalie and Gwen agreed to look after the pancake lunch for Shrove Tuesday.
2. After much discussion regarding field trips Warren made the motion we pay \$5000.00 for the trips excluding Reesor Ranch, 5 in favor, 4 opposed, carried. It is decided for next year we will look at our finances and allot so much for the field trips.
3. Sandra let us know that Dave Hill, our auctioneer for the auction did not charge us anything and she would like to get him something. After a brief discussion Warren made the motion to purchase a pkg. at Elkwater Lodge up to \$250.00, Gwen seconded, all in favor, carried.
4. Gwen told us the IGA Bucks are still going well.  
Dec. \$3700.00  
Jan. \$3000.00
5. Mike let us know that the equipment is in for the gym.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be TUESDAY, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Babysitters available!

# BOARD BULLETIN

January 13, 2009 - Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 20

**MINUTES** - The Board unanimously approved Minutes from December 09, 2008 and the Action and Non-Action Agendas dated January 13, 2009.

**CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS** - The Board Issued two letters of support; for the application of *Modulars for Child Care Spaces* for St. Michael's School Medicine Hat and St. Mary's School. Mr. Hugh Lehr, Acting Director of Student Services will work closely with Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority to assess local priorities and develop a local agreement regarding construction and delivery of the modulars.

**CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS** - The Canadian Cancer Society recognized our donation in the amount of \$2,053.39; raised from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coffee Drive-Thru Event held at the Board Office. The event is held to remember colleagues in the Catholic school division that have lost their battle with cancer and those that are currently fighting the disease. Thank you to all of the employees in the Catholic school division for supporting this cause.

**BOARD POLICY** - The Board invites stakeholders to participate in making recommendations to Board Policy, as part of its Annual Board Policy Review. A communication will be circulated to stakeholders inviting their participation.

**BOARD POLICY 11 - BOARD DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY** - The Board unanimously agreed to a recommendation to amend *Policy 11-Board Delegation of Authority*; that would give the authority to the Superintendent of Schools to terminate temporary teaching contracts. The Board gave Notice to Amend Policy 11.

**BUDGET REVIEW, BOARD PRIORITIES & BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS** - Administration presented the Board with Budget Assumptions including but limited to: the continuation of Full-Day Kindergarten; a Full-Time Religious Education Coordinator; Technology Evergreening; Salary Increases and the continuation of the Full-Time Resource Officer at McCoy High School. The Board will base budget assumptions on current student enrolment.

**BOW ISLAND TOWN HALL MEETING** - The first Bow Island Town Hall Meeting was held on Dec 08, 2008 at St. Michael's School in Bow Island; the meeting was very successful. The Board sincerely thanks the Catholic community members, staff, parents and students for their attendance and participation in the evening. Questions/Comments and Feedback generated by those in attendance were compiled; the document now also includes responses from the Board. A second invitation is extended to the Bow Island Catholic community, to attend a *Town Hall II* scheduled for *Monday, February 09, 2009 at 7:00* at St. Michael's School in Bow Island to review the Questions and Responses.

**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS** - The Board unanimously agreed that, effective immediately, all regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held at the Catholic School Board Office (Catholic Education Centre) @ 1251 - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S.W. Note: Board meetings will no longer be held off-site at schools.

**STAFFING AND CAREER FAIRS** - Mr. Wayne Schlosser reviewed the staffing process and upcoming teacher career fairs. The Division has engaged the use of *applytoeducation*; a paperless web-based software application to manage the incoming job application data; at this time, only external applicants will apply using the web-based application. Staffing for 2009 - 2010 will begin in early March. ERIP applications are due by April 01.

## Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."



**URBAN SCHOOL INSURANCE CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT (USIC)** - The Board unanimously approved the USIC Agreement. The Agreement allows our Board to work with 13 other School Boards to collectively receive the lowest price from insurance providers.

**AON REED STENHOUSE** - The Board approved the circulation of the publication from AON Reed Stenhouse: *Group Home & Auto Insurance Program*, to division employees. The Board does not endorse the program.

**SUPPORT STAFF BENEFITS** - The Board reviewed an Analysis of school-based Support Staff Benefit Options as prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Greg MacPherson. The analysis reviewed salaries, benefits and hours of work. This analysis will be shared with the Support Staff Board Advisory Committee. Recommendations may be forthcoming.

**BOW ISLAND ROLLUP** - As of December 2008, the Board officially applied for Ministerial Approval to rollup 8 eligible districts into a Separate School District called: *Morning Star Roman Catholic Separate School District*. The timeline for the Bow Island rollup begins on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> with a letter to Catholic residents regarding the organizational meeting on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. In March, notices will be placed in newspaper(s) announcing the vote meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the roll-up is to enfranchise Catholic residents in the areas surrounding Bow Island.

**MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' EDUCATION FOUNDATION** - Your support enhances the Catholic Christian Leadership in our Division schools. Thank you. <http://www.mhcbce.ab.ca/cec/foundation.htm>



## \*FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH in all Catholic schools in Medicine Hat & Bow Island for the 2009-2010 School year

Internal Division-Wide Registration is Feb 9-13 (*for those students currently enrolled*)  
"New Students" Division-Wide Registration Week is Feb 23-27  
(Pre-School, Kindergarten, Grades 1-12)

Open Houses, Orientation & Information Evenings held throughout February  
Contact Your Local Catholic School for more information

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING is Tues. February 10, 2009  
6:00 PM @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

**we engage**



## Your voice matters.

You are invited to play an important role in your child's education by Alberta Education.

By completing this survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to improve the quality of education your child is receiving.

When you fill out the attached Accountability Pillar survey, you're adding your voice to the future of education in your school and throughout Alberta. Results are used by schools, school authorities and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved.

Thank you for your participation.

Dave Hancock, Q.C.  
Minister of Education

Your voice, sincere and confidential, is a priceless resource.

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Steve Mitchell, Alberta Education  
E: [Steve.Mitchell@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Steve.Mitchell@gov.ab.ca)  
T: (780) 422-2849  
(toll-free access within Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Please return your  
completed survey  
in the enclosed,  
pre-paid envelope by  
February 20, 2009.

**Alberta**  
Education

# A true picture of our success.

## Measuring the quality of your child's education

We want to know that our children are receiving a quality education in a great school. Grades are important but there's more to it.

A great school is caring and secure, allows parents to play a key role and helps every child to make the most of their talents and abilities. "It's all about each student's success."

While it's easy to agree on such goals, how do we measure our progress towards them?

The Accountability Pillar is an innovative and straightforward way of measuring our learning goals as schools, school authorities and as a provincial government.

School authorities receive a results report that is colour-coded and easy to read. At a glance, it points out successes and areas of concern from both a local and provincial perspective.

The results report shows which important measures have improved and which have declined. It allows everyone — parents, teachers, school authorities, students and the province — to respond to challenges together.

### The Accountability Pillar looks at:

- **Survey results** — every year between January and March we survey students, their parents and teachers to see how they perceive the quality of education they receive and take part in
- **Student learning indicators** such as dropout rates, high school completion rates, and the number of students eligible to receive Rutherford Scholarships
- **Student results** from Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

Details about the Accountability Pillar and how to obtain results are available online at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/accountability>

Medicine Hat Catholic Separate School Division #20, The On Track Program and our Community Youth Ministry Program are proud to present our

# MHCBE 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spiritual Wellness Conference

March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

St. Patrick's School, Holy Family Parish, Notre Dame Academy



## **Parent Wellness Conference**

When: Thursday, March 5

Where: St. Patrick's School and Holy Family Parish

Time: 6:30 – 9:00pm (sessions start at 7:00)

Who Should Attend: Parent/caregivers looking to meet the challenge of raising and parenting wellness (physical, mental, spiritual)

**Featuring: Renowned author and speaker Dr. Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart  
“Family Faith”**

**Holy Family Parish**

**Presenters include:**

**Medicine Hat City Police** – Const. Brian Brown DRUG AWARENESS

**Fit For Life** – Amy Risk Staying Active for Busy Families

**Palliser Health** – Kim Brooks – Healthy/Safe Lunches

**Positive Playground Ltd.** – Putting the play back into playgrounds

**John Howard Society** – Bullying Awareness and Prevention

**Evelyn Kleis** – Local Artist – Connecting Drawing with reading and Communication

**Shelly Bootland** – World Wellness Workshop Stress management techniques for busy lifestyles.

**Medicine Hat School of Performing Arts** – Genevieve Bourdon Stress relief activities

And many others.... including displays, booths, interactive fun

Brochures will be sent home with students in February with additional/sign-up information

**FREE BABYSITTING SERVICE SUPPLIED For Children ages  
3 - 12.**

For more information please contact Kim Rae at (403) 502-8356 or kim.rae@mhcbe.ab.ca