



St. Michael's School—March 2010

Congratulations

Another successful Fashion Show was enjoyed by all in attendance. February 12th saw several students and staff members model clothing from stores in Medicine Hat, Taber and Lethbridge. A huge thank you goes out to all those who helped organize the event. It takes many hands and your efforts are greatly appreciated. Also thank you to our emcees, Mr. Bauche and Mrs. Schlachter for taking time out of their busy schedules to help make the night special.



Grade 8-12 Ski Trip

The Grade 8 to 12 students will be heading for Hidden Valley Ski Hill in Elkwater. The trip has been booked for Thursday, March 4th. There will be opportunities for both skiing and snowboarding.



February 4th was a busy day at St. Michael's. The Grade 1/2 class celebrated the 100th day of school. They collected \$78.00 in loonies which was donated to the Haiti Relief effort. They also collected 123 canned goods which was donated to the local Food Bank.

Student Council also held a "Hats for Haiti" campaign. Students who paid \$1.00 were allowed to wear a hat in school. They raised \$69.00 which was again donated to the Haiti Relief effort.

As a result the staff pledged to each donate 10% of the total raised from

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is set for Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30. Baby-sitting is available. Please find the minutes of the January meeting attached.



Helping Haiti

the two events.

We will continue to collect donations for Haiti until the end of the year to help them obtain clean drinking water. As of February 8th we had already collected \$338.50. Great job everyone. Please remember to keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.



P.A.R.T.Y.

The Grade 9 class will be travelling to Medicine Hat on March 15th with Miss Miller to attend the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevention of Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth).

An Old Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

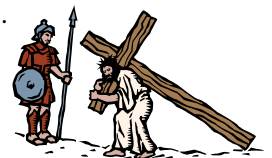
Torch Relay

St. Michael's celebrated the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics by participating in a Division-Wide Torch Relay on February 5th. Five elementary students accompanied by two Grade 12 students ran the torch from St. Michael's School to the highway. Five more students from St. Michael's were then transported to Crescent Heights where the torch was run on a pre-determined route to St. Michael's School in Medicine Hat. Students were chosen in a random draw.



Lent Celebration

Everyone is invited to join us for our Lent Celebration on Thursday, March 25th at 11:15 a.m. Several students under the leadership of Mrs. Van Ham will be performing a shadow tableau of the Stations of the Cross.



Home & School...A partnership for success

Whether you are at school, home, work or play, the ability to plan, organize and manage time will benefit your child in every area of life. Parents, you can help reinforce this at home by showing them how to manage their time.

What can you do as a parent to be part of something great?

- For elementary children, keep a fridge calendar that shows important dates about school projects and events.

For older students, set them up

- with a desk calendar to keep their dates and assignments organized.
- Be involved with your child in checking their agenda or teacher website for upcoming assignments or tests.

Planning . . . Be a part of something great!



Report Cards/Parent-Teacher Interviews

Elementary report cards will be sent home with students on Tuesday, March 16th. Report Cards for Jr./Sr. students will be sent home April 14th with their Progress Reports.

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday, March 18th from 4:00 to 8:30 p.m. for all grade levels. Please respect the time for interviews as teachers must be

allowed time to prepare their classrooms after a full day of teaching. All interviews will be held in your child's classroom on a first come basis. Parent/Teacher Interviews are a vital part of your child's education. Please plan to attend.



Library News

January's winners of the Read to Succeed program sponsored by CIBC and Medicine Hat Tigers were: Piper Ell, Alexa Kielstra, Benjamin Gouw, Seth Hansen, Meredith Van Roessel, Joseph Mastel, Kayl Byam, Adriana Van Tryp, Wyatt Pahl, Jaime Hansen and Adrianna Hansen. Remember to hand in your sheets by February 25th to see if you can win tickets to the March game.

As of February 22nd the AR Program has been operating for 101 days. In that time the students have read 1196 books, passing 1107 quizzes and giving the school an average of 84.6%. We have 56 out of 84 students participating. Good Job everyone!

The winner of the NHL Reading Pool will be announced on Thursday, March 4th. Good Luck!

Prayers for Lent

Father, through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of Your Son's death and resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Father in Heaven, the light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness and the gift of Your light.

Grant this through Christ our Lord
Amen

Student Council News

March 17—Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day



March 30—Pajama Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear their p.j.'s to school that day.

April 1—Pep Rally in the gym at 1:00. Everyone is welcome to attend.



H.E.A.L. Committee

March 16th is the next H.E.A.L. Committee hot lunch day. The committee will be serving chicken quesadillas.

The next H.E.A.L. meeting will be March 2nd at 3:30 in the school library.

Starting March 17th green jello will be available in the concession for 50¢ while quantities last.

Science In Motion

Once again Telus World of Science will be visiting St. Michael's with their "Science in Motion" program. Through experiments, demonstrations and hands-on activities, they make science fun, dynamic and easy to understand. Science in Motion is a valuable resource that meets learner objectives set out by the Alberta Science Curriculum. The program will be at the school on Tuesday, March 23. Parents are welcome to drop in during the day to check out the various activities.

Bear Necessities

With the recent addition of a container deposit on milk cartons (June 1, 2009) as well as several price increases over the past months, we find ourselves having to pass the cost on to you. We have kept price increases as low as possible, as the milk in the concession is not intended to be a big revenue generator, but rather a part of a healthy eating program for your child. Our milk costs are currently 67¢ for chocolate and 65¢ for white. Therefore, our new prices will be as follows:

Individual Milk 85¢ (white/chocolate)
Punch Card \$8.50 (our cost 77¢ each)
(10 milk plus a bonus)

Alternate milk products are also available:

Yogurt cups and tubes - 50¢

Cheese Strings - 40¢



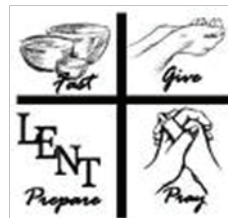
The Season of Lent

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works in preparation of the celebration of Easter.

Over the years, modifications have been made to the Lenten observances, making our practices not only simple but also easy. Ash Wednesday still marks the beginning of Lent, which lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays. The present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast (having only one full meal a day and smaller snacks to keep up one's strength) and abstain from meat; on the other Fridays of Lent, the faithful abstain from meat. People are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice.

Moreover, an emphasis must be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading and most especially making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution.

Although the practices may have evolved over the centuries, the focus remains the same: to repent of sin, to renew our faith and to prepare to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation.



2010/2011 Registration


Remember, Registration Forms for the 2010/2011 school year need to be returned to the school as soon as possible. The sooner we have the forms back the better we will be able to prepare for next year. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school at 545-2131.



School Board News

- ◆ Please find a copy of the February Board Bulletin attached.
- ◆ You will also find a summary of the February On Track program attached which includes the March overview
- ◆ "Relationship Matters: Harness The Power of Attachment" is a free regional event for parents. See the attachment for more information.

March 2010

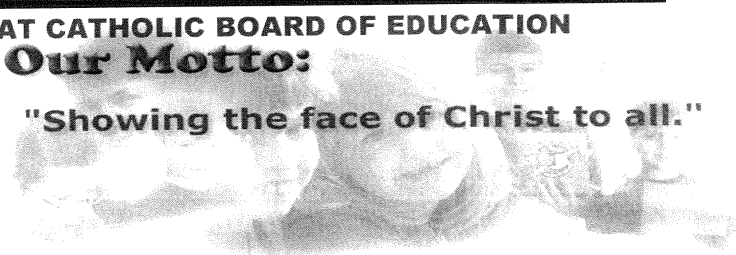
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Birthday Assembly @12:51 Parent Council Meeting @6:30	3 Jr./Sr. Progress Reports Home Today	4	5	6
7	8	9 Grade One Parent Day 8:35-10:45	10	11	12	13
14	15 P.A.R.T.Y. Program for Gr. 9 students	16 Elementary Report Card Home Today	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day Wear Green 	18 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00 - 8:30	19 NO SCHOOL STAFF PD DAY	20
21	22	23 Science In Motion 9:00-10:00 Gr. 5/6 10:40-11:40 Gr. 3/4 12:40-1:40 Gr. K-2 2:10-3:10 Gr. K-12	24	25 Lent Celebration @ 11:15	26	27
28	29	30 Pajama Day	31	Apr. 1 Pep Rally @1:00 Mini-Ball Finals @2:00 HOLY THURSDAY	Apr. 2 No School GOOD FRIDAY	Apr. 3

BOARD BULLETIN

February 09, 2010 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS – The Superintendent of Schools forwarded a letter acknowledging the athletes and basketball fans for the upcoming **3A Provincial Basketball Championships** to be held in Medicine Hat in March 2010, this tournament is hosted in partnership with the Public School System. – A letter was sent to the Minister of Education expressing our ongoing and continued **support of the Alberta Distance Learning Centre**. – The Deputy Minister of Education notified school boards that the **proposed changes to the School Act will now be delayed** in order to undergo further engagement with stakeholders across the province including school boards. – Notification was received that **Section 71** of the **School Act** has received royal assent that now entitles Trustees of School Boards to participate in public board meetings via video conference or telephone conference. – **Mrs. Amanda Crowley** was announced as the full-time Religious Education Coordinator beginning Feb 01, 2010. This is an exciting announcement for our Catholic school division. Mrs. Crowley will engage our schools, parents and parish communities. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Crowley to our Division & to Medicine Hat.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT -

- **Policy 11 – Board Delegation of Authority** – The Board of Trustees approved first and second reading of Policy 11 to include Employment Standards references and also to extend the delegation of authority of The Superintendent to terminate contracts for support staff.
- **Grade Reconfiguration Work Plan** – Senior Administration will do a site-visit/inspection of the St. Thomas Aquinas School property to prepare for the re-opening in September 2010, St. Thomas Aquinas School will be the home of our K-6 French Immersion Program.
- **Division Wide Registration and Sacramental Preparation** – As part of our February registration process, information was circulated focusing on Sacramental Preparation and First Nation, Métis and Inuit declaration.
- **Administrative Procedure 550 – Transportation of Students** – Annually the Division will communicate the protocol regarding school bus transportation. Recently a letter was forwarded to our parent community informing parents/guardians of the **school bus cancellation policy** of TOTEM Transportation.
- **Official Languages in Education Program** – We will receive the final grant payment from the Federal Action Plan for Official Languages in Education in the amount of \$11,000. We have made application for another 4 year grant to support Second Language Programming in our Division.
- **Provincial Budget** – At this time there is uncertainty from the 2010 Budget as recently announced by the province. The Budget could certainly have an impact on division operations. The final Budget will be approved by the Board by May 31.

TOWN HALL MEETING BUDGET CONSULTATION - The Board directed Senior Administration to prepare a **summary of costs** associated with program and service delivery from topics generated at the Jan 18, 2010 Town Hall Meeting and that a 2nd Budget Consultation Town Hall Meeting be held to communicate that information to stakeholders.

ALBERTA AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS INDEX (AAWEI) – The Board approved the **(AAWEI)** of **5.99%** to be applied to certificated teacher salaries and allowances retroactive to the start of the 2009–2010 school year.

SOUTHBRIDGE RECREATIONAL & WELLNESS CENTRE and NOTRE DAME ACADEMY OPERATING AGREEMENT – The Board approved the Operating Agreement that ends on August 31, 2011 with an annual cost of \$11,550 per year. The previous annual cost was \$11,000.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PARENT COUNCILS – The Board is currently paying **\$715 per/school per/year** for Directors/Officers Insurance for school councils in all nine schools. The insurance only covers one council in each school. We are the only Board in our insurance consortium paying this premium. The Board asked administration to take this item to Parent Association for discussion to determine whether school councils could take on this expense.

BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS 2010-2011 – The Board approved the budget assumptions as amended and that a budget scenario be developed **without the \$200/year full day everyday kindergarten and without a support staff salary increase**. The Board will continue budget deliberations.

LEARNING ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE – The Annual Learning Assistants Conference is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2010. This is an exciting opportunity for all Division Learning Assistants Staff to participate in a full day of professional development.

"EDUCATION WEEK" APRIL 25–MAY 01, 2010 **Education: The Heart of Our Communities**

Alberta has been celebrating "Education Week" for over 75 years. It was established by the teaching profession to give Albertans an opportunity to celebrate education and its importance to society.

Today, more than ever, teachers are committed to creating an inspired future for every child. Teachers and their professional organization, the Alberta Teachers' Association, are working hard with education partners to ensure that students have optimal learning conditions.

Join in the celebrations, attend special Education Week events or visit your child's classroom.

Education Week 2010

Education: The Heart of Our Communities



Education Week April 25 - May 1
Education Week celebrates school community
partnership and the contributions of staff and employers
in each school. Visit www.education.gov.ab.ca
or www.teachers.ab.ca for ideas and updates.

www.education.gov.ab.ca
www.teachers.ab.ca

The next Catholic School Board Meeting is **Tues., March 09, 2010 @ 6:00 pm**
at the Catholic School Board Office
1251 – 1st Avenue SW., Medicine Hat. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Demonstrating a variety of activities that focus upon all four areas brings awareness to students on how important it is to take care of all parts of your life. At a very early age, children become aware of the areas that need additional attention. On Track sessions are designed to assist them in the awareness and importance of a healthy, active lifestyle.



Summary of February

MHCBE Division-wide Olympic Torch Event February 5	Winter Olympic Activities MHCBE Passport to the Olympics
Winter Walk Day February 10	Communication Bingo / Active Listening / Ball Handling Skills

Overview of March



If you have any questions/concerns about the On Track program please contact Kim Rae – MHCBE On Track Facilitator at kim.rae@mhcbe.ab.ca

St. Michael's Parent Council

Minutes of January 19, 2010 Meeting

Present: Natalie VanTryp, Rhonda Gregus, Mike Weisgerber, Stephanie Hlady, Melinda Taylor, Sandra Huizing, Penny Pahl, Melinda Mastel, Warren Bridge, Cindy Hansen, Star Byam
Stephanie moved that we accept the minutes of November 17, 2009 meeting. Warren seconded.

Trustee Report – Not available

Treasurer's Report: Melinda read report.

- See Treasurer's book for various bills paid.
- Balance of Casino account is \$20180.70 and balance of general account is \$33621.74.
- Melinda went over Auction Summary (see attached for details).
- Warren submitted request to pay electrical modifications out of casino account which was turned down. Sandra made a motion to pay from General account. Seconded by Cindy Hansen. All in favour. Carried. The improvements to concession have been very helpful as more sandwich makers are needed to keep up at lunch time.

Teacher's Report: Rhonda Gregus

- Teachers express their thanks for all the help for the Christmas program (cookies and juice).
- Also thanks for the hot lunch recently.
- Representatives from Tyrell Museum will be here January 20 and 21st and this is sponsored by Shell Canada.
- Birthday assembly is February 2.
- 100 day celebration for Grade 1 & 2's is February 4.
- Fashion show is February 12 – Student council is asking for a donation to pay cost of advertising again this year. In the past we donated \$200. Stephanie made a motion to donate \$200 to the student council to cover the cost of advertising. Cindy seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Principal's Report: Mike Weisgerber

- Conversations About Assessment – A Parents Guide – This information will be coming home with February newsletter.
- School Accountability survey – We will be sending home an information package soon listing some things we do pertaining to each question. Many of our schools do this, and the process has been approved by Alberta Education.
- Girl's basketball jerseys – are ready today! Mike ordered 25 jerseys so we have enough for other years and more of each size for a cost of \$1323.00. Parent council had already approved \$1000 and b/c more sizes ordered more money is needed. Natalie made motion to spend the extra \$323.00 for the jerseys. Melinda Taylor seconded. All in favour. Carried.
- Budget Meeting went well and they are looking where they can cut costs. Small groups were formed and brainstormed ideas. Discussed untouchable things such as Faith development, PD days and catholic focus. Other things suggested such as CAT tests, achievement tests, bussing in Medicine Hat, Kindergarten, etc. (these are just some examples). More meetings will be planned.

Heal Report – Stephanie

- Going very good thanks to food donations and parents helping in concession, and thanks to Melinda and Mike but if any parents are looking to help that is always appreciated. Thursday and Friday tend to be the busiest days.
- The electrical improvements are a big help.
- Concession now has started PrePaid Tabs so if you would like to give kids a lump sum, they can keep track in concession.
- If anyone see's Veggie Chips from Costco please buy b/c they seem like a hard item to purchase and store only carries it sometimes.
- Penny was wondering if we could purchase more items locally so a parent doesn't always have to make a trip to town. Stephanie and Melinda will look into this idea to see if a contract on certain items can be made so we know exactly what the price is going to be before we purchase.

Auction Report – Went well

- Set date for next event – December 4, 2010. Sandra was looking at having another function as well – maybe bring in a show and sell tickets for dinner and show to earn money. Sandra will look at few ideas.

New Business

- S'Cool Life Program – Organization that we can apply for grant to get supplies – to add school spirit (eg. Bears logo on crash mats). Warren will investigate
- Spring Potluck – We talked about what options we should explore. The month of June works well for Monique. We decided to go with June 4 – Potluck at 5:30 and then concert performance at 6:30. Discussed maybe using this as a Kick off to St. Michael's 50th Birthday.
- AR Reading Program – Melinda mentioned that we need about 167 Dog tags but she can order more so we have an ample supply. Warren made a motion to spend up to \$500 at this time. Stephanie seconded. All in favour. Carried. We talked about what we should do when kids reach the highest level. Talked about maybe having a plaque at the school recognizing those individuals. Any ideas are welcome.
- Bussing concerns – Burdett bus has broken down at least 3 times recently. Where can we take our concerns? We suggested talking to contractor, then Val Miller, then principal. If nothing comes of concerns raised, try going above Val. Mike mentioned that he will write a letter expressing concern.
- IGA Bucks – Melinda will be handling this while Gwen is away.
- Haiti – Any ideas welcome to see if school or parent council would like to do something.

Next meeting: Due to Family week during the 3rd week of February we decided to have meeting on March 2 @ 6:30 – Babysitters available.

Stephanie made a motion to adjourn meeting.

2009 AUCTION SUMMARY

AS OF JANUARY 11TH

INCOME	AMOUNT	INFORMATION
Donations	\$ 1,090.00	
50 / 50	\$ 240.00	
Pocketbike	\$ 70.00	
Supper	\$ 1,680.00	261 served
Live/Silent Auction Deposit 1	\$ 6,113.10	Includes float \$1200.00
Live/Silent Auction Deposit 2	\$ 3,366.00	
Live/Silent Auction Deposit 3	\$ 2,286.00	
Live/Silent Auction Deposit 4	\$ 472.00	
Outstanding	\$ 516.00	
	<u>\$ 15,833.10</u>	

INCOME \$ 15,833.10
 LESS BILLS \$ 3,046.95
\$ 12,786.15

BILLS	AMOUNT	INFORMATION
Float Taken	\$ 1,200.00	
Blaine O'Donnell	\$ 35.00	Sign rental
Sandra Huizing	\$ 603.15	Auction items
BI Ag Society	\$ 50.00	Table rentals
Melinda Mastel	\$ 103.21	Auction /Supper
IGA Card	\$ 278.91	Supper
Lens	\$ 172.18	Supper
Canada Post	\$ 122.79	Mass mailout
Canada Post	\$ 56.70	Stamps for Thank you's
BI Hardware	\$ 11.54	50 / 50 tickets
Gwen Young	\$ 294.99	Mixer
BI Commentator	\$ 118.48	Thank you in paper
	<u>\$ 3,046.95</u>	