

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

"A COMMUNITY OF FAITH DEVOTED TO STUDENTS"



OCTOBER 2011

Rachel's Challenge

Students and staff had the privilege of hearing an incredible story of courage and hope. Rachel Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School Tragedy on April 20, 1999. She left behind an amazing legacy and a simple challenge to anyone who will accept it—**treat others with kindness and compassion and you just may change the world you live in.** Rachel's Challenge is a bullying and violence abatement program. St. Michael's has taken up the challenge to be kind to all we meet. A banner is hanging in the school with the

names of all people in the community who have pledged to take up "Rachel's Challenge". St. Michael's has always been proud of the programs we offer that promote a caring and kind environment. "Rachel's Challenge" is another step in our goal to make our school a safe environment. To learn more about "Rachel's Challenge" go to www.rachelschallenge.org.



Terry Fox Foundation



A single dream. A world of hope.
The Terry Fox Foundation
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This year students and staff gathered in the school gym for a "Dance-A-Thon" in honour of the annual Terry Fox Run. Students dressed in costume depicting different eras or genres of music or a

specific entertainer. This year students raised over \$3600 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to Mrs. Nelson who once again organized this event.

Concession

Please note a credit system is available in the concession. Thank you to all those who are using this system. It helps those working in the concession and keeps the IOU's to a minimum. Students are asked to pre-order their lunch in the morning. This helps everyone get their lunch quicker.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to work in the concession or help prepare food. If you can help in this area please contact Melinda Mastel at 545-2131.

See You At The Pole

We would like to thank Taria Gouw for once again organizing "See You At The Pole" on September 28th. It is exciting to see that each year the number of participants grows. Approximately 40 students, staff and parents gathered at the school flagpole to pray our school, our families and another successful year.



H.E.A.L. Hot Lunch

Hot lunches are a free meal served once a month by the H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating Active Living) Committee and parent volunteers. Thank you to all those who have generously made financial donations to this program.

The first H.E.A.L. committee hot lunch will be October 18th. The committee will be serving subs and pumpkin surprise.

The next H.E.A.L. meeting is set for October 6 at 3:30 in the school library. Thank you to all those parents who help prepare and serve these meals.

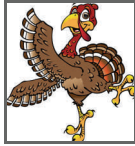


School Pictures

SC Photo will be at the school on Tuesday, October 11th for school pictures. Buddy pictures will be taken for a cost of \$5.00/person. Please have correct change.



Student Council



Student Council has another activity packed month ahead. October 11 will be "Toss the Turkey" during the lunch break. October 21st is "Blue & White Day" and October 27th is "Halloween Gross Guess" Parents are welcome to attend all school activities.



Thanksgiving Celebration

Everyone is invited to join us for our Thanksgiving Celebration on Wednesday, October 12th at 11:00 in the school gym

Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your



comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.

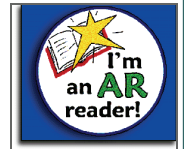
Amen



Library News

The Accelerated Reader (AR) Program is up and running. To date there are 22/87 students participating with 75 quizzes completed and 70 passed. Our school average is 85.6%. Great start!

Thank you to Carter Nelson who donated books to our school library. Book donations are always appreciated.



School Council News



Parent Council will once again be holding their annual school auction and supper. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 2nd. This always proves to be a great fundraiser for the school and everyone's participation is needed. Anyone wishing to get involved is asked to attend the first commit-

tee meeting on Wednesday, October 5th at 3:15 p.m. in the school library. Monies raised from this event supports the school's music program, field trips and other events. Your help is greatly appreciated.



The next School Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m. Free baby-sitting is available at every meeting.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL, PLAN TO ATTEND!

Library News

The Division Youth Ministry Coordinator, Lance Rossen, is back by popular demand. He will be at St. Michael's School once a month. The next Youth Night is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Students in Grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend.



Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education Centennial Celebration News

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education and Service. Let us celebrate our earliest student, teacher, and support staff member. Are you or someone you know the earliest student or staff member to attend our

Catholic System? Win two tickets to the Bishop's Dinner and be recognized as an important part of our century celebration. If you feel you were part of our Catholic system earlier than anyone else, please contact

Mr. Kelly Wilkinson at 403-527-7223 with information. Thanks in advance for making our homecoming weekend a special time for our Catholic community.



Life Chain

In support of "All Life" you are invited to be a part of this year's Life Chain on Sunday, October 2nd. Supporters will gather at the corner of Highway #3 and Centre Street in Bow Island.



OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Life Chain 2:00-3:00	3	4	5 Student Council—Surprise Activity	6 H.E.A.L. Committee Meeting 3:30	7 NO SCHOOL STAFF PD	8
9	10	11 School Pictures “Turkey Toss”	12 Thanksgiving Celebration 11:00 Youth Night 6:30	13	14	15
16	17	18 H.E.A.L. Free Hot Lunch	19	20 School Council Meeting 6:30	21 “Blue & White Day”	22
23	24 NO SCHOOL STAFF PD	25	26	27 “Halloween Gross Guess”	28 Jr. Volleyball Teams host Tournament	29 Jr. Volleyball Teams host Tournament
30	31					

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL - B.I.
403-545-2131



Medicine Hat Catholic

Board of Education



Showing the Face of Christ to All

News



National Evangelization Team (NET)

The National Evangelization Team (NET) will be arriving on October 2nd and will be in Medicine Hat for 1 year.

They will need accommodations for the time that they are here. Request for Host families with children preferably between the ages of 9-18 years of age, to provide room and board for 2 persons for a 2 week period. Please contact Diana Frey at 403-527-4338 or hdfrey@shaw.ca.

Also we are looking for volunteers who would be able to assist the (NET) with sacramental preparation, as well as other activities as needed. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinators for St. Patrick's Church, Trish Carr 403-529-6824 or btcarr@shaw.ca and for Holy Family Church, Gaston Dostie at 403-580-6740 or gastond@telus.net if you are interested in volunteering. Your time, regardless of how

much you are able to give, will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a BBQ on Oct. 17 @5:00 at St. Patrick's Church for all volunteers both current and potential to meet with the NET ministry. All volunteers please bring either a salad or dessert to the BBQ.

Contact person for NET:

St. Patrick's Church—
Donna Schmunk 403-527-9661 or don_naschmunk@gmail.com

Holy Family—Ray Bosch at 403-528-7736 or ray_baschlifeteen@yahoo.ca

St. Patrick's School



St. Patrick's School needs your support. We have been chosen as a finalist in a nation wide contest to win \$20,000 towards building an outdoor classroom at the school. The project would allow students to have the opportunity to do science, religion, art, sensory-motor, projects, presentations, and experiments outside, using the environment as the foundation. The school has one of the highest utilization rates in the city, and an outdoor classroom would provide teachers with more options for creativity in their programs.

In order to win the \$20,000, we need the public's support in an on-line vote. The voting began of September 21st and each person can vote every day for six weeks. We are competing against other schools from across the country. You can support the school's bid by voting at www.majesta.com each day until November 4th. Pass along the information to your friends, co-workers, and family, because we all share the same vision for improving education for the betterment of our entire community.

Thank you so much in advance! Join the facebook page "Win \$20,000 for St. Patrick's School" for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Win-20000-for-St-Patricks-school/167759656638287> for further information or to help with the project, please contact Robin Seitz at 403-580-2348.

MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Celebrating a Century of Catholic Education and Service"

HISTORY BOOK—LEGACY PROJECT

- The rich history of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education will be profiled in a History Book. We hope to encapsulate the stories, the facts and the progression from our humble beginnings in 1911 to today.

We are offering an exciting opportunity for you to "*Sponsor a Page*" in the *History Book*. Be part of this Legacy Project, help us tell our story and have your name and dedication appear in the History Book. As a \$100 *page sponsor* you have the option to personalize your *dedication* in any number of ways including:

- In memory of one's family;
- Thank you;
- Your personal faith message;
- Scripture;
- On behalf of your family;
- If no dedication is submitted your name is displayed in sponsorship.

History Books published and available for purchase by Christmas 2011. History Books are \$40 each and would make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Dedications can be up to a maximum of 100 characters including spaces. To secure your history book page please contact: **Mr. Stan Aberle, Board Member & Centennial Committee Representative @ 403.878.7422.**

Call Today-History Book Page Sponsorship closes on Oct. 10, 2011.

More Information @ www.mhcbce.ab.ca or by calling the

Centennial Office @ 403-502-8347

Tax Receipts issued.

Proceeds to the Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation

Thank you/Merci for your gracious support

BOARD BULLETIN

September 13, 2011 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



The Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education endorsed the nomination of Board Chair, Mr. Peter Grad for Vice-President of the Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees' Association. Catholic School Board Trustees in the Province will vote at the Annual General Meeting in November in Edmonton. The Board fully supports Mr. Grad and wishes him well. The full Media Release is posted on the Division's website @ www.mhcbe.ab.ca

Excellence in Teaching Award - Nominations are now being accepted. Do you know a deserving Teacher or Principal nominate them for this Provincial Award? Nominations are open until February 2012 and forms are available online @ www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx

Mission Mexico Retreat – Father Fred Monk from St. Michael's Parish in Bow Island has created the opportunity for 4 staff members to travel to *Cuernavaca, Mexico* to participate in a donor sponsored Immersion Retreat. The Board is grateful to Father Monk and those travelling to Mexico to continue to bring light to the struggle against poverty and for social justice in Latin America.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION – The Board is engaged in their self-evaluation process in accordance with Board Policy. This item is deferred to the regularly scheduled Board Meeting in October 2011.

INSPIRING ACTION ON EDUCATION – The Province of Alberta is engaging School Divisions' to determine the future of Education in Alberta. Initiatives include: **Changes to the Education Act, Action on Inclusion, Speak Out, High School Completion and Action on Curriculum.** Overall, the Province is rethinking student needs and examining what they are teaching in the 21st Century. Their goals are **success for every student and transformation of ECS-Grade12 through collaboration.** As we move forward on these initiatives we will continue with our community engagement process through our Town Hall Meetings. The Province invites you to have "your say" @ <http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/engage>

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL (BOW ISLAND) HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING REVIEW – The Board circulated the parameters of the *St. Michael's School BI High School Program Review* to be conducted by an ASBA consultant. The consultant, Mr. Jim McLellan will be meeting with students, staff and parents to gather information to include in the report due to the Board in November.

DIVISION PROGRAM INITIATIVES – The Board unanimously approved the motion to support the exploration of new programming initiatives in the Division including extending the Sports Academy programming into High School. Some initial ideas are Baseball, Girls Hockey, Swimming and "Fitcademy". Our initial goal is to offer Sports Performance at the High School. Other ideas include expansion of CTS Programming in the middle schools.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT – The Board also supported the exploration of Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-Advanced Placement programming. These programs are for high achieving students who like a challenge and are interested in receive advanced credit for University. Monsignor McCoy currently offers Advanced Placement in Art. The Division is now exploring AP in Calculus and English Literature. Pre-AP is targeted for the Middle School student. How does AP work? Find out at Advanced Placement Canada www.ap.ca

"STOP THE CUTS" CAMPAIGN – The Board approved the *Stop the Cuts* campaign link placed on the Division website. The campaign is supported by *Alberta School Councils Association, Alberta Teachers Association and Alberta School Boards*

Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."



Association. The messaging to government is: Stop the Cuts to education funding. Read more @ <http://www.myalbertaschool.ca/index.php>

EVALUATION OF LANDS & BUILDINGS SURPLUS TO THE BOARD

The Board has determined, in accordance with Policy 19, that none of its School Buildings, Non-School Buildings or Reserve Lands are surplus to its need at this time. This information will be communicated to the Province.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEPT 19th

In the Board's continuing effort to meet its goal of increasing Catholicity, the Division offered a full-day of faith-based professional development. The day began with Mass at St. Patrick's Parish then moved to Monsignor McCoy High School where staff chose from a multitude of sessions to attend. Sessions included everything from Understanding the Sacraments; the telling of personal faith journeys; Consumerism & Youth; Forgiveness; Theology of the Body; Social Justice and Grief & Loss. Facilitators ranged from Division staff, representatives from St. Mary's University, Authors and Consultants. Father Fred Monk's session titled *Called to Make a Difference* explored the many outreach projects of Catholics in Southern Alberta in an effort to address the intense poverty and marginalization of mountain villagers in Southern Mexico. This was an exceptional PD opportunity for staff.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

September 2011 –

- ★ The Board of Trustees was presented with the Official Centennial T-Shirt. Each student and staff member in the entire school division received a T-Shirt to kick-off the celebrations. Earlier this year, the Board acknowledged Notre Dame Academy Student Michael Fritzler as the centennial logo content winner; this logo is proudly display on the front of the T-shirt. This was an exciting event for our students and staff with more than 3,000 T-shirts distributed to our school communities in Medicine Hat and Bow Island.
- ★ The Centennial Sponsorship brochures were circulated to parents, staff and parish community members. The Brochure outlines:
 - Details of the Sponsorship Levels available
 - History Book "page" Sponsorship
 - Centennial Bishop's Dinner Tickets
- ★ For a copy of the Events & Sponsorship Brochure call the Centennial Office at 403.502.8347 or log onto www.mhcbe.ab.ca



October 2011 – T-Shirt order forms will be sent home in October Newsletters to allow family and friends the opportunity to purchase. Order deadline is October 17th. Interested? Call 403.502.8347 or email centennial@mhcbe.ab.ca

Thank you for supporting your Catholic Schools.

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 11, 2011 @ 6:00 pm @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 – 1st Avenue SW., Medicine Hat. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

1251 – 1st Avenue SW, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8B4

Toll Free 1.866.864.0013

Phone 403.527.2292

www.mhcbe.ab.ca

Fax 403.529.0917

September 23, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Once again we will be testing students' reading ability with the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests (**GMRT**) for students in grades one to eight. The goal is to garner valuable information regarding individual student strengths and challenges.

The objective information obtained from the **GMRT** will complement other evaluation methods and provide a solid basis for:

- Selecting students for further individual diagnosis and special instruction
- Planning instructional emphasis
- Identifying at-risk students prior to provincial assessments
- Locating students who are ready to work with more advanced materials
- Deciding which levels of instructional materials to use with new students
- Measuring growth of learning
- Evaluating effectiveness of instructional programs
- Reporting back to parents on student progress

The **GMRT** only requires 55 minutes of testing time for each group testing session. Students can perform a pre-test in the fall and a post-test in the spring. The fall administration of the GMRT will be completed by the end of October, 2011. French Immersion students will now start writing the **GMRT** in grade 1. If your child is absent, it may be possible for them to write the test another time.

Individual student and class reports will be created to assist teachers with program planning and program provision. At the schools' parent-teacher interviews, a **parent report** will be available for parents to take home so that you have information on the performance of your child. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Student Services Office at (403) 502-8365.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Lehr".

Hugh Lehr
Director of Student Services

"Showing the Face of Christ to All"

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education 1911—2011

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

"Celebrating 100 years of Catholic Education and Service"

Centennial T-Shirt Order Form \$10.00 each



We are excited to offer you an opportunity to purchase your very own Centennial T-shirt and help support community events during the Centennial Homecoming Celebration Weekend June 8 to 10, 2012.

The T-shirts feature the Centennial logo designed by Michael Fritzler, the Centennial Logo Student Contest winner from Notre Dame Academy.

Student's Name:

School:

Parents/
Guardian Name:

Home Phone: Cell:

Email:

		Please indicate quantity of each size				Price each	Total							
Youth:	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00	\$ <input type="text"/>						
Adult:	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	<input type="checkbox"/>	XL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	XXXL	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
TOTAL DUE													\$ <input type="text"/>	

Please submit order form with payment by Monday, October 17 to your child's school or directly to:

Centennial Office
Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
1251 - 1st Avenue SW
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8B4

The Centennial Office will contact you once T-Shirt orders are ready. T-Shirts can either be picked up at your child's school or at the Centennial Office.

Thank you for supporting Catholic Education.

Method of Payment

VISA MASTERCARD

Credit Card #

Expiry Date

Name on Credit Card

Signature

Cash (please do not send cash in mail)

Cheque (payable to Medicine Catholic Schools' Education Foundation)

Centennial Events and Sponsorship information at:
www.centennial@mhcbe.ab.ca or by calling (403) 502-8347

