

OCTOBER 11, 2024

WEEKLY NEWS

St. Paul Catholic Elementary School : Principal Memo

UPCOMING CALENDAR

• Monday 14

- Thanksgiving Monday
- No School

• Tuesday 15

• Wednesday 16

• Thursday 17

- Kinder B at Zoo AM
- Grade 5 Info Detectives Presentation
- Early Dismissal @ 12:10 PM

• Friday 18

- Healthy Hunger- Subway
- Kinder -Grade 2 Skating #3



THANKSGIVING PRAYER

O'God of Creation, you have blessed us with the
changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier
setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.
May the brilliant leaves remind us of the wonder of
your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us
that it is you who gives us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the
abundance we have been given and the bounty we
are to share with others.

Amen

Principal Message

This morning we walked to the church for our Thanksgiving Mass. As always, it is such a special time for us to gather together as a school community of faith and to take some time to reflect on our tremendous blessings.

Our cereal drive was a huge success. Special thanks to our Grades 4-6 Leadership Team for organizing, promoting and collecting our cereal. Almost 200 boxes of cereal were collected to help serve those in need within our School Division! Thank you St. Paul!

With humility we love and serve - School Charism

On October 21st, we are kicking off our Read A Thon! Envelopes and information will be sent home to families next week. There are exciting prizes to be won! All proceeds raised will go directly back into the school to support our literacy programming.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving weekend!

Mrs. Carr-Jeschke & Mrs. McNamee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

14 Thanksgiving- No School
17 Kinder B Zoo Morning
21-25 Read A Thon!
**31 Halloween Haunted House
& Class Parties**

November

1 St. Paul PD Day - No School
8 & 11-12 Fall Break –enjoy!
14 Kinder A Zoo Morning
15 Picture Retakes
**28 Parent Teacher Interviews & Grade 6
Immunization #1**

HALLOWEEN UPDATE

- Thursday, October 31st
- Students come to school in costumes
- Outdoor Parade:
 - 🎃 Grade 1 to Grade 3 – 10:45 – 11:05 AM
 - 🎃 Grade 4 - 6 - 11:15 - 11:25 AM
- Kindergarten will celebrate Halloween on Wednesday October 30th due to no school on Thursday 31st or Friday 1st. Students will wear costumes to school on Wednesday the 30th and both classes will parade outside on the tarmac at 11 AM before dismissal.
- We want to celebrate a FUN and not scary Halloween- no replicated weapons or costumes that are excessively gory.

Halloween Snacks & Treats:

Teachers will communicate to families their plan for the AM and if they need/want snacks or treats. Please remember that we are a nut free school due to severe allergies within the building.

Haunted House

The Grade 6's will be running a Haunted House on October 31st. Homerooms will receive a scheduled time. Classes will organize parties/crafts/movies in classrooms for the AM.



Drop Off Zones

When dropping off/picking up students, please use the designated drop off zones. These are 96 Ave (in front of the school) and 145 Street (the west side of the school). **Please DO NOT use the staff parking lot for student drop offs or pick ups.** There are a lot of blind spots and vehicles coming in and out. Please choose safety over convenience and use marked cross walks and drop off zones to ensure students arrive safely to school.



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

Read A Thon 2024

First Prize:

KIDS SCOOTER!

Second Prize:

E-READER

Third Prize:

\$50 CHAPTERS GIFT CARD





The perks of parent engagement: Why and how to support your child's school experience

In this article, we use the term parent broadly. We include all adults who play a primary role in caring for children, including biological parents, stepparents, grandparents, foster parents, guardians, aunts, uncles, and the like.

As the saying goes, the parent is a child's first teacher. We help our kids learn their earliest lessons—how to tie their shoes, how to be a good friend, how to ride a bike, and so much more. Yet as our kids grow, they settle into their school journey and become more independent. It can sometimes feel like they don't need us to play a role in teaching and learning anymore.

In fact, most children do want their parents to be part of their school experience. While they may not ask us to volunteer for every field trip, they do usually want parents to feel welcomed, connected, and valued in the school community.

By getting involved in your child's school experience, you show them that you value and care about their education. Research also suggests that you boost their chances of success—students whose parents are engaged in school tend to do better academically, enjoy school more, and stay in school longer.

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Here are some practical things you can do to support your child's school journey.

Lend you voice

Share your unique insights and ideas on what's most relevant and important when it comes to your child's education. Alberta schools value parent voice—they want to know what matters to your family and community, and they aim to use your input to shape decisions.

Here's what you can do:

- Take part in consultations that solicit parent feedback—most schools and school authorities seek parent input on annual plans, budgets, policies and procedures, and other priorities.
- Go to trustee forums or school council meetings—if you can't make it, read the minutes or ask for recordings.
- Fill out parent surveys, like school climate surveys or other assessments.
- Tune in for casual gatherings, both virtual and in-person. Some schools offer drop-ins with school administrators, grade-level meet-ups with teaching staff, or sharing circles with parents.

Consider a volunteer role

Consider volunteering, inside the school walls or out. Schools in Alberta welcome, respect, and value parent volunteer contributions. Most offer a variety of ways for you to share your time and talents. Ask school staff what you can do that makes a genuine contribution. Here are some examples:

- Help out with school committees, like the school health action team
- Organize walk-to-school or bike-to-school events or meeting spots
- Collect donations for the school breakfast or snack program
- Set up student art or cultural displays
- Support community clean-ups and greening activities
- Build sets for drama or music performances
- Take part in cultural or heritage events and celebrations
- Care for the school garden during the summer months

Learn alongside your child

Help your child to create positive day-to-day experiences and build healthy relationships at school. Your actions can help them feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn. Try these ideas:

- Find out what your child is doing at school, and how you can reinforce learning at home. You'll find great information on school websites and in emails, e-newsletters, blogs, and social media channels. Some schools also offer parent education sessions, orientations, open houses, and the like.
- Take a few minutes each day to check in with your child. Ask them what they've been up to at school and how things are going. Give them your full attention. Help them brainstorm solutions to any challenges they might

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be facing, and make sure they can name caring adults to go to if they need help at school—like teachers, education assistants, bus drivers, and lunch supervisors.

- As much as you can, go to school events and activities—even virtual ones, like online school plays, music shows, or cultural celebrations. These are fun and novel ways to experience school life, bond with your kids, and get to know others in the community.

Remember, parents are important partners in education. Just like educators, we want kids

to be happy, healthy, and successful in life. Connect with your school community in the way that makes sense for you, your child, and your family. The perks will follow.

Additional resources:

- [Alberta School Councils' Association](#)
- [Community Education Service](#)
- [My child's learning: A parent resource](#)