

Be Part of the Heart



St. Benedict School Newsletter, November, 2011

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe that September and October have come and gone already! We have enjoyed a successful first few months to our school year. Our students have settled in and harmony and routine have come into place beautifully. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all parents who assist their children in coming to school prepared and ready to learn. Making education a priority in your home sends a message that promotes learning. These habits that are being instilled in your children play a big part in their success. Parents, please continue to support the learning process for your children, as it really does make a difference.

Report cards go out on Wednesday, November 16th and the Celebration of Learning student-led conferences will take place on Thursday, November 17th and Tuesday, November 22nd from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. for students in Grades 1 – 5. Kindergarten parents, please be aware that parent-teacher interviews will take place at the first reporting period rather than student led conferences. At the 2nd reporting period, however, your child can “show off” all that he or she has learned after six months of kindergarten in a Celebration of Learning student-led conference.

Speaking of celebration, our “basket” fundraiser was a huge success. The draw for the 13 baskets took place at the end of our CAT CHAT concert. Thanks to all families who contributed by sending in items for the classroom baskets and by selling raffle tickets. This major fundraiser brought in \$ ____ which will be earmarked by our Parent Council to support our students throughout the year. Thanks also go to Whispers Corporation and to St. Michael's Parish Knights of Columbus for generously donating money which helped pay for the cost of the CAT CHAT concert which was offered free to St. Benedict School families. A good time was had by all!

During the month of November our Walking in Jesus' footsteps theme is “Conscience – Obeying the will of God”. This means that the focus will be on doing what

is right -- to listen to God's voice who calls us to love and to do good in our lives.

God bless!

Monique Tellier-Phillips

Remembrance Day Prayer



God our Father, your Son Jesus gave up His life to free us from the power of sin and death. He showed us that the greatest love is in giving up one's life for others.

Let us remember those who fought and died for our freedom. We ask you to bless and console them together with their families. Help us to understand the sacrifices they made in leaving their loved ones to face the horrors of war. May we never forget their generosity.

May your Holy Spirit give us the courage to resist evil in all its forms and show us how to be peacemakers through prayer and action, lest we forget those who fought, suffered and died that we might have the freedom and peace we enjoy today.

Lord, hold our troops who serve today in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect others. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for others. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

NO SCHOOL REMINDER

There is no school on November 1st, 11th & 25th.

EARLY DISMISSAL (GR. 1-5)

Wednesday, November 2nd at 12:20 pm. No kindergarten on that day.

NEW STAFF

Three new staff members have joined St. Benedict School. Welcome to Mrs. Schaefer who is the new music teacher for Grades 1 - 5. As well, welcome to Mrs. Vos and Mrs. Flynn, who are St. Benedict School's newest Educational Assistants.

Welcome to the following student teachers from the University of Alberta who will be doing a practicum in our school from November 21st until December 23rd:

Kaitlyn deMilliano - in Mr. Stadlwieser's class
Christy McCoppen - in Mrs. Badry's class
Christine MacDonald-in Mrs. Ealey's class

St. Benedict School Giving Christmas Tree

This year we will be doing something a little different for Christmas. We are decorating our Christmas Tree with gift tags. Students/Parents/Staff are invited to pick a gift tag. Each tag will state if the gift you will purchase is for a girl or boy and the age it is intended for.



If a family opts to choose a gift tag, please be aware that once you purchase the gift as per information on the tag, please tape the tag on the gift item and place it under our Giving Tree. We ask all gifts remain *unwrapped*. Leduc Santa Anonymous will be picking up our all our donations on December 15th, so we ask all gifts to be under our tree by then. We will also be raising money for Santa's by selling Jingle Bells on our December 8th Spirit Day. Students can purchase the premade Jingle Bells, that you pin on, for \$1 or they can bring Jingle Bells from home to wear. Students will be allowed to ward their bells on the 23rd as well.

St. Benedict School will also be giving gift cards for Sobeys and Wal-Mart out to families in need this upcoming Advent season. If your family is experiencing financial difficulty and could use a gift card to purchase food and/or gift items, please contact Mrs. Tellier-Phillips in confidence at monique.phillips@starcatholic.ab.ca or at 780-986-7480 (Ext. 222).

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

We congratulate the following students who demonstrated leadership and responsibility this past month.

Devin Nahajowich
Karen Ealey
Keelyn Naprawa
Adam Wilson
Alanna Broughton
Kendra Nahajowich
Blake Hochhausen
Anna Richert
Trystan Pradine
Austin Wasilka



Leduc Knights Of Columbus Fundraiser

GROCERY GIFT CARDS for SOBEYS and NO FRILLS (SUPERSTORE)
-\$100.00 and \$50.00 cards
Proceeds: **Cornerstone of Faith Project**
(Building the new St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College) Contact: Richard Yoner 780-986-0471 or richard@yoner.com
Great Christmas Present!!!

COLDER WEATHER

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for Alberta weather. Our playground can be quite windy. Bus student's need to be well prepared in case a bus should break down. Please label all jackets, lunch bags, shoes, hats, boots (visibly on the outside) and snow pants. We often have incidences of students wearing the wrong footwear.



Thank you to all the parents who have come out to help with hot lunch, especially the co-ordinators Pam Horn & Tammy Tingey. Your time is very much appreciated! Remember, anyone who wishes to help, please come to the kitchen around 11:45 on Tuesdays.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This year our **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held on **November 8-15th**. Students and parents are invited to stop by the library and have a look at all the items available for purchase. If you would like to purchase a book to donate to our library, please talk to Mrs. Lorentz. The donated book will have a sticker with-"Donated by the _____ Family", inside the front cover.

ICE CREAM

Ice Cream Day will be held on Thursday, November 3rd. Cones are \$1. Also we are in need of volunteers to help out with scooping ice cream during that time. If you can help out, please call the school at 986-7480.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Christmas Concert this year is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st at the MacLab Center.

More information will follow as we get closer to the event. Our students are practicing and very excited about the upcoming performance. Hope to see you there!

PART OF THE HEART READING PROGRAM

Please keep reading! Send in your forms when full. Students receive a book for every 100!

Last year many of our student's experienced tremendous success with a new program called Precision Reading. This program is a research-based daily reading activity designed to increase sight word recognition and reading fluency.

Along with these two activities our school will be updating the Accelerated Reading inventory in the library this year. This program assists students in the area of comprehension and also helps improve their fluency. All of these activities plus the continued encouragement from the home is helping our students to become awesome readers!

TIME GOES BACK ON SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 6TH AT 2AM.



Celebration of Learning Interviews

Student Led Interviews will be held on Thursday, November 17th and Tuesday, November 22nd from 4-7pm for Grades 1-5. Parents & Students will be allotted 30 minutes time slots for two or four students at a time. (Depending on the class)

Kindergarten interviews are individual interview times and will be 15 minutes each. Please drop by or call the front office to book your time now. Please take this opportunity to find out how your child is doing in their new grade. We look forward to seeing you!

*Only 36 more School
Days until
Christmas Holidays!!!*



BUS RULES

Your children mean the world to us! For this reason, and to ensure student safety (the driver and the school must know who is on the bus in case of an accident or an emergency), we cannot allow the occasional transportation of friends or students. Thank you everyone for your cooperation at adhering to our bus loop rules. This has made for a much safer environment for our students.



Also, we are having a slight problem with students not catching their bus after school thinking that their parents are picking them up instead. If your child is a bus student he/she must go home on the bus. In the event that they are to be picked up after school, you must provide a note to the teacher or write it in their agenda. **If there is no note, we will send your child on the bus.**

*Did you know that it takes the interaction of 72 muscles to produce human speech?



*You can help your child speak more clearly by repeating what your child says and emphasizing his/her error sound. Don't expect your child to repeat what you have said. What is important is that your child hears the correct sound.

*Did you know that there are 25 different variations of the /r/ sound? Each vowel changes the production of the /r/.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

SUPERVISION

Just a reminder to parents that there is no supervision in the morning until 8:20 am. Please do not drop your children off before then. Only students registered in the Morning Care Program should be in the school before that time. Also, our school playground becomes a community playground after school hours and is not supervised after 3:10 p.m. Students are requested to go home immediately after school and check in with parents.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

On Monday, November 7th at 9:30 a.m., St. Benedict School and Leduc Estates School will be gathering together to partake in the **Remembrance Day Ceremony** to honor our Canadian veterans of war and current Canadian peacekeeping troops. The celebration will be held in Leduc Estates gym this year. All friends and family are welcome.



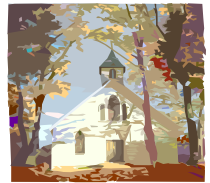


Happy Birthday!!

Celebrating **NOVEMBER** birthdays:

Brooklyn Payne on the 1st
Raquel Rempel on the 3rd
Mia Bullegas on the 4th
Belinda Albert on the 6th
Bradley Ariss on the 6th
Keelyn Naprawa on the 9th
Darby Walters on the 9th
Alexis Hamilton on the 10th
Riley Johnson on the 10th
Seneca Rendle on the 10th
Brianna Willner on the 12th
Kaedin Levers on the 15th
Michael Melloy on the 15th
Anna Richert on the 15th
Nevaeh Cook on the 16th
Allie MacLean on the 18th
Riely Carroll on the 19th
Sienna Engelage on the 19th
Erik Gullickson on the 19th
Sienna Gullickson on the 19th
Kaydee deWaal on the 20th
Cody Lingnau on the 20th
Dawson Tews on the 21st
Page MacRae on the 23rd
Sophia Bavaro on the 27th
Melinda Lindstrom on the 27th
James Hahn on the 28th
Brianna Heck on the 28th
Paulina Schultz on the 28th
Josh O'Neill on the 29th
Austin Winters on the 30th

ST. MICHAEL'S INFORMATION



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
WORKSHOPS ON THE NEW
ROMAN MISSAL!**

The changes to the mass will be taking effect very soon - the first Sunday of Advent, November 26th/27th. In order for parishioners be prepared for these changes, our parish is holding two workshops:

**Workshop for Parish Musicians and Music Groups:
Monday, November 7th @7 pm.**

As leaders of prayer and song, it is very important that all musicians attend this workshop.

**Workshop for All Parishioners:
Thursday, November 10th @7 pm.**

It is essential to learn about these up-coming changes in order for everyone to participate fully, actively, and consciously in the mass. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank you to all our Students
&

Families for last month's
Leduc Food Bank Donations.

We collected 1278 items!!

It has made a huge difference
for our community!

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Did you know that children with Type 1 Diabetes require approximately 1,460 needles and 2,190 finger pokes a year?



Over 300,000 Canadians live with Type 1 Diabetes and two of these are children from **St. Benedict School**. To raise awareness of this disease and to provide a donation to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation on their quest for a CURE, St. Benedict School will be going on a **Walk for Awareness** during the afternoon of Thursday, November 24th. We are asking that all students bring a donation of at least a toonie to donate to this cause.

Learning Day



At our Learning Day in Ponoka this past October 7th, Dr. Julie Causton-Theoharis, an expert in Inclusive and Special Education Program at Syracuse University, shared her wisdom and expertise in the area of inclusive education. Research which she presented indicates that inclusion leads to better outcomes in education for all students. The day was a very valuable learning day for all, as education in Alberta is moving toward more inclusion within the classroom setting. The goal of an inclusive education system is to provide all students with meaningful learning opportunities and supportive learning environments to enable them to be successful. In Alberta, inclusion in the education system is about ensuring that each student belongs and receives a quality education no matter their ability, disability, language, cultural background, gender, or age. To learn more about Alberta Education's Inclusive Education focus, please visit <http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/inclusion/about.aspx>

Also at our Learning Day, STAR Catholic School's long service awards were also presented during a lunch hour celebration. Congratulations to the following St. Benedict School staff who each received a long service award for their dedication to our school district:

Janice Ealey – 25 years
Chris Piro – 25 years
Paul Tchir – 20 years
Ben Stadlweiser – 10 years
Jaci McNair – 5 years
Leslie Freeman-Miller – 5 years
Tammy Sosnowski – 5 years

These awards are presented annually at five year increments.

ATA Institute Day is Tuesday, November 1st. Teachers will attend sessions of choice in various locations throughout Greater Black Gold Schools.

Achievement Tests Scores

The average marks attained by St. Benedict School's students on the Grade 3 Achievement Tests in both Math and Language Arts exceeded the average mark attained by all schools within the province. Way to go to everyone – students, staff, and parents – who work together to help our students in all areas of success!