



“With Open Arms”

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.” - Philippians 4:13

Lakeland Catholic School Division 150

December 2019

Principal's Message

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!

Each month we will be highlighting something to debunk a myth that is out there about our school. We ask that you please help us to spread the word about the great things at Holy Family!

This month's message:

Grades 7/8/9 are not a triple split! Grade 9s are, in fact, a single class for their core classes, and the 7/8s are the combined class. The three classes are combined for Exploratory, Religion, and PE.

As we enter the advent season I'd like to take this opportunity to truly express how grateful we are for our parent volunteers as we appreciate all your efforts into School Council and its activities, Hot Lunch, the Harvest Supper and Silent Auction, and many more. We are also continuing our many traditions that create cohesion and make us a family. Thank you for being a part of them to help our children grow through kindness and generosity.

May your households benefit from the joy and peace of the season that comes with the growth of generous spirits in our children.

Warmest regards,

Ms. Ollikka



H.F.C.S. **HAWKS**

May God bless you with a festive, loving
and peaceful celebration this Christmas
and all throughout the year.

Merry Christmas



WSYF Fundraisers

Growing Smiles will be delivered Dec. 6

We will be holding our annual Christmas market during light up on Dec. 6th.

Joy Bags

We will continue with the tradition of our joy bags during Advent. Each evening a different family will have the opportunity to celebrate Advent by receiving a joy bag. The joy bag will contain a prayer book and a tin of cookies. We ask that you take the time to reflect, to share and write a prayer to others.

The bag must be returned to the school the next day with fresh cookies and prayer book.

These prayers will be shared on our prayer tree.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert will be on Dec. 10th. Students need to be in their classrooms to get dressed by 6:30 and concert will start at 7:00. Before the concert students will be collecting items for Christmas Hampers. There will be donuts and refreshments after the concert provided by school council.

Hot Chocolate and a Cookie Days

There will be **NO** hot chocolate and cookie days for December.

Dress for the weather

As the weather starts cooling down a reminder to parents that students will be going outside in the morning and for recesses. Please make sure that they have the appropriate clothing. Unless the temperature or wind chill are below -25 C students will be outside.

School Council

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to help with the Harvest Supper, Holiday Gift Store and Christmas Lunch.

May you be blessed with love, happiness and family this Christmas.

The Celebration of Advent

The Advent season is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. It takes place the four weeks prior to Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. In the classrooms, Advent wreaths will be placed on prayer tables, with the four candles. The purple candles represent royalty and the pink candle reflects the joy of His birth.

The first Sunday of Advent - Celebrating Hope
The second Sunday of Advent - Celebrating Faith
The third Sunday of Advent - Celebrating Joy
The fourth Sunday of Advent - Celebrating Peace
With God's gift of faith, we will keep Christ at the centre of our lives. We will keep Christmas in our hearts all year long.

Holiday Gift Store

School Council will set up the Holiday Gift Store December 2-4. Students have been sent home information with an envelope. They can choose who they want to buy for and how much to spend. Keep in mind that \$20.00 goes a long way. We will have parent volunteers' help guide them with their purchases and wrapping.

Shopping dates:

Dec. 2nd - Grades 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-12

Dec. 3rd - Kinder, Grades 3, 4, 7, 8

Dec. 4th - Anyone that was missed.

Healthy Lunches

Healthy lunches for November are:

Dec. 5 - Meatballs

Dec. 19 - Rice soup & a bun

Highlight on Junior High – What do classes look like?

The year is broken into 2 semesters so that Science and Social Studies will be offered in either one of the terms, but English Language Arts and Math are offered all year long to ensure continuity of foundational learning. Their schedule also includes year-long Religion/ Health, and Physical Education. Courses such as Fine Arts and Exploratory are offered in either one semester or the other. Exploratory is our name for CTF (Career and Technology Foundations). We are on a 3 year rotation for what we have offered in the program and this has included many exciting things such as wood-burning, hand stitching, coding and robotics, foods, tech take apart robot challenge, and recreational leadership planning school-wide activities. We are proud to offer a program that has all of the many learning opportunities that it has! It explores all of the competencies including critical thinking and problem solving!

Waskatenau School Youth Foundation (WSYF)

Would like to thank the following people and business' for all the items and cash donated to our silent auction held on November 8, 2019. Proceeds are going towards music equipment for Holy Family Catholic School.

Ace High Farms	Happy Handss Wholistic Healing (Denice Martens)
AgriTerra (Waskatenau)	HFCS Council
Akillo Mechanical Ltd.	Linda Boyd
Alexander Family	Ollikka Boys
Andy & Shawnalee Shwetz	Peppers Petra
ATB Financial (Redwater)	Raelynn & Alyssa Ollikka
Behind the Seams (Shelley Banister)	Richardson Pioneer
Bellis Veterinary Service	Shaggies Hair Salon
CERA Contracting Ltd.	Shawnalee Shwetz
Chad & Jessica Ollikka	Shwetz Boys
Cruickshank Family	T & T Ironhorse Cafe
Diapazon Ventures Ltd.	The Pea Patch
Dombowsky Family	Thorhild Co-op
Doug & Jocelyn Toronchuk	Tim & D'Arcy Macyk & Family
Gary & Bernice Macyk & Family	Turenne Family
Glen & Emily Ollikka	Waskatenau Curling Club



Thank you to all the parents who volunteered and to everyone who gave generously to this project

Holy Family Catholic School -Giving Manger-



This year Holy Family Catholic School will be putting on a giving manger. We will accept **non-perishable** food items.



Other items that we will be accepting for the Giving Manger are:

blankets, sleeping bags, mittens, toques, scarves and toiletries.

All of these kindly donated items will be donated to:
Local Christmas Hampers, Thorhild Parent Link and WJS in Smoky Lake.

Thank you for helping us bring awareness about our role of social responsibility towards others.
WE School Students



We will be accepting donation at our annual Christmas Concert on December 10th.



Every School Day Counts

Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

Did you know?

- Even in kindergarten, too many absences can cause a child to fall behind.
- Missing a day or two days every few weeks can cause students to fall behind.
- Missing 10% of school or about 18 days can make it more difficult to learn to read.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Student absences affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning so the absent students can catch up.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?

Good Attendance
9 days or less

Warning Signs
10-17 days

Chronic Absences
18 or more days

What Can You Do?

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Pack backpacks and lay out clothes the night before
- Children can respond to feelings of stress and anxiety and may complain of stomach issues or headaches. Talk to your child, the teachers, administrators,
- about how they are feeling, monitor their feelings and find ways on making them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Only allow your child to stay home when really sick, to avoid building the habit of missing school over minor issues or illnesses such as a headache.
- Avoid scheduling medical appointments, family visits and extended trips on school days.

Important Dates

Nov. 29 - Hot dog Friday

Dec. 4 - Early Dismissal 1:45

Dec. 5 - Healthy Lunch - Meatballs

Dec. 6 - Growing Smiles Delivered

Dec. 6 - Village of Waskatenau Christmas Light Up
5:00-8:30

Dec. 10 - Christmas Concert 7:00 (students need to
be in classrooms by 6:30)

Dec. 11 - Christmas Lunch/Pajama Day

Dec. 13 - Hot Dog Friday

Dec. 18 - Early Dismissal 1:45

Dec. 19 - Advent Mass at the Church 9:15

Dec. 19 - Healthy Lunch - Rice soup and a bun

Dec. 20 - Last Day of Classes before Christmas

Jan. 6th - First Day of Classes

**Parents are always welcome to attend and
volunteer for school activities.**

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Tortilla cups	3 Eggo waffles & Sausage	4 Oatmeal	5 Yogurt & Berries Healthy Lunch	6 Breakfast Scramble	7
8	9 Bagels & Cream Cheese	10 French Toast	11 Muffins Christmas Lunch	12 Breakfast Sandwich	13 Tuna Melt Hot Dogs	14
15	16 Quesadilla	17 Eggs & Toast	18 Muffins	19 Yogurt & Berries Healthy Lunch	20 Variety	21
22	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28
29	30 No School	31				

If you are able to volunteer to help prepare items for breakfast or serve for the free hot lunches please contact Mrs. Decker at the school