

WEAR BLUE TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION

May 2024 Newsletter

Christensen's Corner: May 2024

May is the month of Mary, it is considered the season of the beginning of new life. The weather turns warmer, birds are singing, the grass is greening, farmers are planting their fields, baby animals are born and track and field takes over the SJS athletics landscape. The colourless days of Lent are behind us and ahead of us are forty days of school before summer vacation begins. This means eight weeks of hard work, good attendance, review, practice exams, Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT's) for students in grade 9, and final exams for others. Students in grades 6 - 9 complete regular classes on Friday, June 21st and exams begin on Monday, June 24th concluding on Thursday, June 27th. Please check the google calendar for more details regarding the junior high exam schedule. All students will be out for summer holidays beginning on June 27th while SJS staff will be wrapping things up on June 28th before their summer begins on June 29th. Last day for Kindergarten will be June 13th and the Early Learning Program will finish on Wednesday, June 12th and our grade 9 farewell celebration will be June 6th.

Students in grades 7 and 8 who attain an average of 85% or higher by June 17th, in their yearly work, can be exempted from school final exams with parent permission. Students may choose to write final exams, this is left to the discretion of students and parents or guardians. Students in grades 6 through 9 are permitted to depart the school after their exams have been completed, however they are welcome to stay and attend study hall or get extra help from staff. Students will be writing both PAT's and final exams in their regular classrooms, supervised by their regular teacher, rather than in the gymnasium. Research shows that this alleviates test anxiety as they are in a familiar environment. Research also shows that students will succeed academically if they study for short amounts of time over a long period of time instead of cramming at the last moment. If you have questions concerning final exams please contact the office.

Patience, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, isn't easy to practice as it involves the pursuit of peace. In practicing patience we must resolve conflicts peacefully, without resorting to violence. Another aspect of patience is forgiving others. Probably the most difficult aspect of patience is waiting without becoming upset or annoyed and continuing on in the face of difficulty. May, the month of Mary, a woman of grace and love, but most of all patience lived a life full of difficulties and uncertainty but she bore them with patience and faith in God's will. We will be celebrating the life of St. Mary during the month of May. A statue of Mary has already passed though SJS during her yearly pilgrimage through all Holy Spirit Schools and parishes. Mrs. Baron and the grade 4 students are putting together a liturgy for the whole school to honour Mary on May 3rd at 9:30am in the gymnasium. Please feel free to join us for this liturgy if you are able.

Brent Christensen



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Principal - Mr. Brent Christensen

Associate Principal - Mr. Bruce Gal

Parents/Guardian our monthly newsletters are availbale on our website: sjs.holyspirit.ab.ca

May 2024 mai • Atsiinaimo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ice Cream FUNDRAISER Canteen Closed	2 SJS Band at BUILD fest 6:00pm-8:30pm Exhibition/Agri-Food building	3 St. Mary Celebration at 9:30am in gymnasium ALL are Welcome	4 Gem of the West Museum COWPOKE DAY FREE Admission 10 am - 4 pm
5 Catholic Education Week May 6-10	6	7	8 Track & Field Junior High 7 -9 McHappy Day Spirit Day Character Day	9 Grades1-3 Mass 8:45am-9:45am World Catholic Education Day	10 Kindergarten AM & PM Mother's Day Tea SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	11
12 Mother's Day Ascension of the Lord	13 ALL Cast Rehearsal 3:30pm-5:30pm	14	15 COLJHAA Track Meet Junior High 7-9 Track Meet Grade 4-6 ALL Cast Rehearsal 3:30pm-5:30pm	16 Grades 4-5 Mass 8:45am-9:45am Office Hours 5:00pm-6:30pm	17 PD Day SJS No School for Students	18
19 Pentecost Sunday	20 Victoria Day No School	21 TECH Rehearsal Morning ALL Cast DRESS Rehearsal Afternoon ALL Cast	22 HOT LUNCH Taco in a Bag Grade 6 ELA Part A <i>Nursery Crimes</i> <i>Performance</i> 7:00pm-8:30pm	23 Nursery Crimes Performance 7:00pm-8:30pm	24 SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	25
26 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	27 Spiritual Development Day No School for Students	28	29	30 Grades 6-9 Mass 8:45am-9:45am	31 SJS Young Drums 1:00pm-3:00pm	

PLEASE SUPPORT this event at the **Coaldale McDonald's**. ALL proceeds will remain in our home town community supporting **Big Brothers Big Sisters**.

May 8

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Do good, feel good.

May Athletic Report

For the last month and a half the students have been practicing badminton. Tryouts were held and the grade 7-9 teams were chosen. The turnout we had for tryouts was tremendous and all athletes, regardless if they made the team or not, need to be commended on their willingness to give their best effort. On April 18th our teams competed in the County of Lethbridge Badminton Tournaments held at RI Baker, Coaldale Christian and St. Joseph School. Our athletes represented our school very well and we are proud of the effort that all of them put in. Our grade 7 team consisted of the following athletes: Evan Penner, Adelyn Wiskerke, Jonathan Dyck, Nova Mulder, Elena Templeton, Ainsley Hazell, Ayden Brady and Finn Abrey-McKeown. Our grade 8 team athletes included: Kaden Pauls, Janessa Withage, Oliver Ondrik, Caleb Burton, Willow Haase, Ryley DeLeeuw, Lucas Burton and Jessie Cox. The grade 9 team consisted of: Mason Noble, Marcia Withage, Foster Robison, Jasper Mayo, Mikayla Hazell, Alexis Bachmeier, Samantha Wright and Alexander Coles. Some of our athletes will be competing at the Zone Championship Tournament in Medicine Hat on April 27th. We wish them all the best as they represent our school and our County of Lethbridge. As we enter May we look forward to Track and Field and our own track meet as well as County Track Meet and the Zone Track Meet.

Sincerely,

Bruce Gal

Praise the Lord and Alleuia for the enthusiastic volunteers at our April 28th SJS coordinated Youth led Mass! Our St. Ambrose Parish is so blessed when you share your precious time and talents! Blessings to everyone who supported our Youth by attending this Mass! A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for serving cookies and juice after Mass!

The next SJS coordinated Youth led Mass will be on Sunday, June 9, 4:00 p.m.. This will be a very special Mass as several of our SJS students will be receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion!

Volunteer forms will be sent home the middle of May.

Bless You for sharing your precious time and talents to make this Mass extra-special for our St. Joseph School and St. Ambrose Families.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers." - Psalm 24:1-2

St. John Bosco 1815-1888 (Feast Day: January 31)

Dohn Bosco, more commonly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian priest, educator and writer in the 1800s. He was born into a poor farming family, and his father died when he was two, leaving his mother to raise him and his brothers. During his youth, he was drawn to the church, and often found himself policing fights between his classmates. He left school at the age of 12, working as a shepherd and farm worker before entering the seminary at the age of 20. Once ordained a priest, he moved to Turin, a large city with slums, prisons, and many orphaned and abandoned youth. Instead of expecting these children, particularly boys, to come to him at the church, he went to them in the shops, marketplaces, and squares of the town. He found homes and shelters for them, helped them to find jobs or to become apprentices, and instructed them with love and compassion. This was in contrast to the typical methods of school discipline used at the time. He and his companions founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales in 1859 to support this work.

His work and life were hard in this time, and he faced much opposition—even assassination attempts! However, year after year, his efforts continued to bear fruit and to grow. At the time of his death in 1888, the original group of Salesians that was founded with 22 members had grown to over 1,000, and quickly expanded to include many types of schools, seminaries, recreational centres, and youth clubs. At the time of his death, over 130,000 children were being supported. It is no wonder then that Pope John Paul II gave him the title "Father, Teacher, and Friend of the Youth."

"Building" In Our Schools

Catholic Education Week is celebrated in May. This year, we will be highlighting the creativity and arts being "built" in our schools. Leading up to Catholic Education Week, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division provided a two evening experience of live performances and student work installations in a come-and-go-festival type setting at the new Lethbridge and District Exhibition.



Catholic Education Week - May 6-10, 2024 -

We take a short pause from our look at the Corporal Works of Mercy this month to celebrate Catholic Education in the province of Alberta.

Each year, Catholic Education week is held in May - this year, May 6-10. This year, we will be distributing short videos each day that highlight the various aspects of our schools, as well as information to our partners in Catholic Education. You will be invited to wear blue for Catholic Education on Thursday, May 9, as well as joining in common prayer throughout the week.



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For the Formation of Men and Women Religious, and Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship of Creation -

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of *Catholic Social Teaching* is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical Laudato Si/On Care for Our Common Home, stated:

*Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others."

Pope Benedict, in Caritas in Veritate, wrote:

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole... Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other."

Learn more <u>here</u> (Care for God's Creation YouTube)



"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved... you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."

(St. John Bosco)

Gospel Readings

May 5, 2024

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

"I no longer call you slaves....I have called you friends..." - John 15:15

Can you imagine God calling us a friend? Think about your best friend at school or work. What are some things you would do for him or her, even if you were tired, had a lot of other work to do, or had the opportunity of doing something with someone else? You would do whatever you could to make your friend happy, wouldn't you? Even very difficult things.

The more we come to know and love Jesus, the sooner we will consider HIM our best friend. He told us and showed us how much he loves us—he even died for us. Now it's our turn to show him how much we love him. Jesus told us how to do that. He said "Love one another."

What can you do to show Jesus that he is your best friend?

Prayer:

Jesus, help me to put you first in my life. Help me to remember that you are my best friend. Help me to love all people as you taught us.

May 9 or May 12, 2024

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:15-20

"Go into all the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." - Mark 16:15

Jesus' ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. It was the end of the time when the disciples could see Jesus, touch him, and eat with him. It was also the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. As he ascended to heaven, Jesus promised to send his disciples the Holy Spirit who would bring them power to continue his mission on earth.

Their task was to proclaim the good news of salvation to all the nations. That's what "Gospel" means—good news. It's the good news that God loves us and forgives us. Like the disciples, it is our task to spread this Good News of God's love.

How can you spread the Good News to your friends and family?



"By his great mercy he has given us a new birth

into a living hope through the resurrection

of Jesus Christ from the dead

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for loving and forgiving us! We want to know you and love you and serve you in this world and help to spread the good news of your love.

Download this month's <u>Saint Prayer Card</u> - St. John Bosco <u>Saint Prayer Card</u> (black and white version for colouring)



1 Peter 1:3h

Home Page

6th Sunday of Easter

Gospel Readings

May 12, 2024

Gospel Reading: John 17:11b-19

"As you did send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." - John 17:18

Do you know what your mission is in life? God sent Jesus to earth to show us how God loves us and to show us what it means to follow God, no matter what. Then Jesus passed on this mission to us!

How can we do this? Sometimes we need to take up our cross. When others are doing unkind and selfish things, we have to follow the loving, kind, and unselfish example of Jesus. It can be hard because people might make fun of us. But God will give us the strength we need to live as his disciples. We are called, just like Jesus was called.

What crosses do you have to carry? Remember, you can ask Jesus for his help.



Holy Trinity

Prayer:

Lord, help me to show people your love, and always point people to you. Give me the strength I need when it is difficult.

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May 19, 2024	Penteo

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23

"Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." — John 20:19

Have you ever been absolutely terrified by something? Maybe you experienced a tornado or earthquake. Or maybe you had to give a talk in front of a huge group of people. In our Gospel today, the disciples were terrified beyond words. They were hiding for fear of being killed like Jesus was. They bolted the door shut and huddled together, worried they would be discovered at any moment. Imagine their great relief when, all of a sudden, Jesus was standing there in the room! They knew Jesus died on the cross, but here he was, alive and well! Jesus' words to them—"Peace be with you"—are the same words he says to us. We have nothing to fear because Jesus is with us.

Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church because the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the courage to go out and spread the Good News of God's great love and forgiveness. How will you celebrate this special birthday?

May 26, 2024

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." — Matthew 28:19

If you were baptized when you were a little baby, you won't remember what happened, but your family remembers. Ask them and they'll tell you that the priest or deacon poured water over your head three times saying "In the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit."

When we enter a church, we bless ourselves with holy water, using the same words. In the Gospel today, Jesus commands that this blessing be used to change us from ordinary human beings into his disciples who live like children of God. On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we remember how much God loves us, as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit.

Why do you think water is used in baptism? What does your family remember about the day you were baptized?

Prayer:

Thank you dear Father, loving Son, and divine Spirit! Please keep me close to you always, my God.

Sources:

The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love Story of Saint Don Bosco

Prayer:

Lord, help me to remember that even in the worst of situations, you are with me.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." Home Page John 14:27



The Catholic Bishops of **Alberta** and the de **l'Alberta** et des

Les évêques catholiques Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T 780.469.1010 F 780.465.3003

Catholic Education Week 2024

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this month of May, we celebrate Catholic Education Week in Alberta, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories. As the Catholic Education liaison on behalf of my brother Bishops, I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to the educators and all who serve in our Catholic schools.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024, "Courage to Lead", reminds us of the call and the responsibility to live and uphold the teachings of our Catholic faith, even amidst the challenges of the world around us.

The call to be courageous is deeply rooted in Scriptures. In the Book of Joshua, the Lord counsels us: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

In a time and place where conflicting ideologies are challenging the enduring truths of our faith, it takes tremendous courage to remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ's teachings.

This courage begins in the home, with parents entrusted by God with the vital responsibility of imparting the values and principles of our faith within the hearts and minds of their children. When parents make the courageous decision to entrust their children to the care of our Catholic schools, those schools become a supporting partner to parents in the education and spiritual formation of their children.







To Whom It May Concern,

We would love to invite you to the 30th McHappy Day that will take place on **May 8th, 2024**, at the Coaldale McDonald's location.

McHappy Day is a long-standing Canadian tradition and is at the heart of who we are and what we do at McDonald's Canada. For more than 40 years, McDonald's Canada has been a proud supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Canada.

The impact of Ronald McDonald House Charities across our communities is far-reaching. Today, 1 in 4 Canadians have either stayed at RMHC or know someone who has. Your support on McHappy Day makes a difference in helping those families stay close to their sick children, while they are accessing healthcare. We at Big Brothers Big Sisters are extremely proud to have partnered with RHMC and Coaldale McDonald's for McHappy Day.

Big Brothers Big Sisters makes a positive difference in the lives of youth through a variety of community and school-based mentorship programs in Coaldale. Serving as role models, our mentors teach by example the importance of giving and giving back, of staying in school, and of having respect for family, peers, and the community. We make a difference by providing professional, trained staff to carefully screen volunteers and match them in long-term, safe mentoring relationships while providing necessary ongoing management and support for the volunteers, children, and families, all free of charge.

In addition to purchasing a menu item at McDonald's either in person, through the McDonald's app, or through McDelivery, businesses such as yourself can provide support by purchasing Extra Value Meal Coupons for \$5, a pair of McHappy Day themed socks for \$5, or a \$5 50/50 ticket. Last years 50/50 winner was awarded over \$2,100! The 50/50 draw will be held at the end of day on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

All money raised at McHappy Day will go towards a variety of mentoring programs within the Coaldale community. 75% of the proceeds will go to the local partnered charity, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and 25% to RMHC Alberta. Your support is greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference today, tomorrow, and every day!

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Beckwith | Sam Machan

Big Brothers Big Sisters Rural & Intake Caseworker | Admin, Recruitment, & Teen Mentoring Caseworker P: 403.328.9355 | E: <u>info.leth@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca</u>

Denise Krista R. Badeo

JJBrown Food Services Ltd. Community Engagement and Special Projects Lead McDonald's Restaurants - Brooks | Taber | Coaldale, AB M: 587-370-288 | E: <u>denisekrista.badeo@post.mcdonalds.ca</u>

by

"Share the Mission" Award Call for Nominations!

Nominations are now welcome for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's "*Share the Mission Award*." This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have:

- Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students;
- Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow;
- Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools;
- Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations;
- Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions:

We are a Catholic faith community, dedicated to providing each student entrusted in our care with an education rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ

Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society, our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will live, celebrate, and proclaim their faith.

Our Catholic faith is the foundations of all that we do.

If you know of an individual or group deserving of the "Share the Mission Award," please forward their name to Rhonda Kawa at <u>kawarh@holyspirit.ab.ca</u> by June 7, 2024.

Nomination information is accessible on the division's website or by clicking on this link: <u>Share the Mission Award Nomination Form</u>

COALDALE FLAG FOOTBALL CAMP



WHO: Kids in grades 4-8

WHEN: Every Thursday April 25 to May 30 from 3:45-4:45pm

WHERE: RI Baker Field

WHAT TO BRING: Cleats (cleats will be available to borrow) and a water bottle. Mouth guards are optional. COST: Free!

Come out and join Coach Terry to have some fun and experience flag football at the Coaldale Spartans Spring Flag Football Camp! All Kids in grades 4-8 welcome, regardless of experience level or skill. This is a free camp!

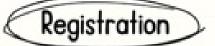
Questions? Contact Coach Terry at 403-393-8945



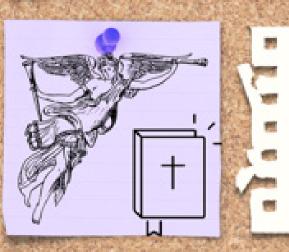


August 12-16

Save the date! From 8:00am-12:30pm every day during this week, kids will have the amazing experience of a Catholic camp aimed to draw them closer to God!



Registration is \$25 per child, ask for family discount if registering 3 or more siblings. Register before July 4 and get a T-shirt. Pick Up Registration Packages at All Saints Parish Office





Come experience the Catholic Mass and learn about our Weapons of Faith, enjoy field games, crafts and lessons, snacks and fun with friends!





Run Jump Throw (RJT) is a national program developed by Athletics Canada that teaches fundamental movement skills and develops physical literacy. Our goal is to provide a physical activity program that serves as a strong foundation for all sports.

Build a foundation of success...just by having fun!

Come be part of the Junior Horns Run Jump Throw Track and Field Program! Learn the fundamentals that apply to all sports as well as track and field.

Who? Anyone aged 7-13

When? Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00- 7:00 pm Program runs from May 6th-June 12th

Location? University of Lethbridge Community Stadium

What to Wear? Attire to be active

Primary Contact: Parker Allen (parker.allen@uleth.ca)

Cost: \$265

Maximum 40 athletes accepted into the program

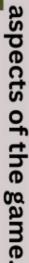


SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

Run Jump Throw assists children ages 7-13 in learning to move efficiently so that they grow into adults who are active, productive and healthy citizens. Using track and field inspired games, activities and skill challenges led by instructors specifically trained to teach the fundamentals of running, jumping, throwing that apply to all sports as well as track and field.



This is a great opportunity for young individuals sport, such as baseball. The coaches help each with cognitive and or physical disabilities to enjoy the full benefits of participating in a experience, and to assist players with all player by providing a safe and enjoyable





To Register:

activity

ANA A

Empowering children through physical with disabilities

seto849@icloud.com Or by email:





Registration! Free

<u>www.lethbridgelittleleague.com/challenger</u>



The Coaldale Spartans annual Spring Training for new players to try Football Club is hosting their Camp. This is a great opportunity out the sport.

Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 930am-3:30pm Kate Andrews-South Field Lunch Provided. Free of Cost

ATOM 8-10 yrs.

PEEWEE 11-12 yrs.

BANTAM 13-14 yrs.



Check out our Facebook page for updates- Spartans Football-Coaldale Call or text Alana Wheeler to register: 403 634 9953





Take the next step with... Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

2024/2025 REGISTRATION

Re-Registration Starts January 15, 2024

Families with students currently enrolled in our system should expect an email during the week of January 15-19, 2024 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child attending one of our schools in the 2024/2025 school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.

New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2024

All Early Learning to Grade 12 students who are new to the division and wish to enroll for the 2024/2025 school year are invited to register online starting on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

- Through play, our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- Grade 1 registrants must be 6 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2024.
- French Immersion is also available. Enrollment starts:
 - in Kindergarten/Grade 1 at École St. Mary in Lethbridge.
 - $\circ~$ in Grade 1 at St. Michael's School in Pincher Creek.

For More Information

Contact our Early Learning Supervisor to discuss Early Learning or your child's specialized programming requirements by phone (403-381-8495) or email (earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

To inquire about Kindergarten, you can contact your local school.

Contact our French Language Consultant to discuss French Immersion programming by phone (403-331-4458) or email (urquhartw@holyspirit.ab.ca).

Contact your child's school, or visit the division's website (holyspirit.ab.ca), if you need assistance with the online registration process or have any questions.

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Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

...where children are cherished and achieve their potential.





