



St. Louis School

861 Fourth St. S.E.
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0L5
Phone: 403-527-7411
www.stlouisschool.ca



December 2011 Issue

With the Birth of the Christ Child - A New Family is created. How Would Jesus Treat Them?

"While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." [Luke 2:1-14](#)

Could things have been any more difficult for Mary and Joseph? They were away from their home, had no place to stay, Mary gave birth to their child, and their only possessions were found on a donkey. The fact that their son was not just an ordinary child made the pressures of being a parent even greater. They had the responsibility of looking after their son who would be a king.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [Luke 1:31-33](#)

You may wonder what kept them going during this difficult time. For most new parents, they gained their strength from a few different sources - the love of their family, unselfish hard work, and their faith in God. It was no different for Mary and Joseph. Each day with God as their guide, they worked with great love, care, hard work, and faith to raise their special son into the man we know as Jesus. It is these things which help parents get through the good times and difficult ones, work that is exhausting and unending, and times of great love and care that come with raising children.

So how do you think Jesus treated his parents knowing that they lovingly cared for him each and every day of his life? How would he treat them knowing that they worked very hard each and every day to provide the best life they could for him? What would Jesus do if his father or mother asked him to help with some chores, do his school work, or help another person? Would he listen to them or ignore them? Would he talk with respect or use a harsh tone in his voice?

Would he listen or argue to their instructions and wishes? How would Christ show his parents that he appreciated all that they did for him? This month we will take a look at the dedication, love, and hard work that comes from being part of a loving family of Christ.

As we together celebrate the season of Advent, may the light of Christ shine forth from our Advent candles to warm your hearts and welcome the birth of the Christ child.



God Bless and Merry Christmas from the Staff of St. Louis School

Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 22** in the school at 6:00 pm with a dress rehearsal at 1 pm



NO SCHOOL December

**24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,
January 1,2,3,4,5,6,7.**
Students will return on
January 9, 2012

The staff of St. Louis School would like to wish you and your family a blessed Advent and Christmas season. May the light of the star shine upon your families as you celebrate together this season of new life.

Thank you

To all parents who have helped at the school with the hot dog days, parent council or any other activities. Without assistance from our families we could not function as effectively.





Please remember that the healthier your child(ren) eat, the healthier your schools fundraising pockets will be!!

For every lunch purchased @ kidsplate.ca, we donate back to your school. Last year, we donated over \$250 dollars to our participating schools and for this year, we've already surpassed that mark and we haven't reached the 1/2 way mark of this school year. Congratulations!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE NEW YEAR!!

December Pizza Day

Thanks to generosity of CARO (A foundation dedicated to working with communities around the world to improve the lives of children) our students will receive a hot pizza lunch once a month. There will be no charge for this. We give a huge thanks to CARO. For more info on this foundation see their website at www.carocanada.ca.



Tues. Dec. 6

Let's Make a Difference

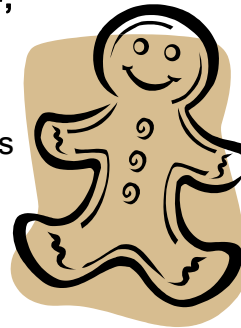
The Grade 5/6 class would like to do their part in making Christmas special for other children this year. They are collecting **Canadian Tire Money** to purchase toy for the Angel Tree. Please send the money into the school anytime before Christmas. Thanks.



Library Notice

No Library books will be issued to students for over the Christmas holidays. Please have all books returned to the school by **Wednesday, December 14, 2011.**

Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Library!



Mission Mexico Day

Once again Bishop Henry has proclaimed Monday, December 12, 2011, Mission Mexico Day for schools and Sunday, December 11, 2011 for parishes in the Southern Alberta Diocese. He is encouraging all schools and parishes to participate. At St. Louis School we have decided to make it **Loonie/Toonie Day**. If you are so inclined please send a Toonie or a Loonie with your child for this very worthwhile cause. For more info please view <http://youtube/Q0yccaFb1Ac>

TERRIFIC KID AWARDS

Once a month, through the generous contributions of the Medicine Hat Kiwanis Club, the students of St. Louis are honored with Terrific Kids Awards. The Terrific Kids for November are:

- K— Braxton Asprey
- Gr. 1—Nolan Trapp
- Gr. 2- Tyler Thompson
- Gr. 3—Emilie Castillo
- Gr. 4—Jayde Castillo
- Gr. 5—Mason Beaulieu
- Gr. 6-Clinton Anderson



School Fees

School Fees equal textbooks for your children. Please pay your fees as soon as possible. If you are interested in a monthly payment plan, please contact the school. Thank-you.

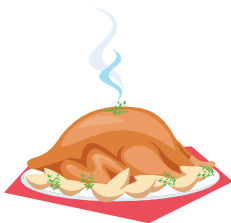
The fees are as follows:

Kin—Gr. 6
\$45.00



Advent Mass and Christmas Turkey

On **Thurs. Dec. 15** the students will join St. Thomas School and **attend mass** at Holy Family Parish church at 1:15 pm. All parents are welcome. On **Fri. Dec. 23** the students will enjoy a **Turkey lunch** sponsored by Parent Council at 11 am. Students will be **Dismissed at 11:40 am.**



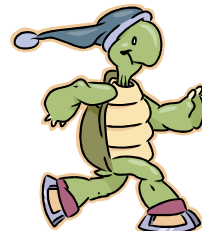
Skating Schedule

This year all students from K-6 will be skating at the same time. Please see the schedule below.

Parents are more than welcome to join us when their child is skating. **Parents please remember that if you are going directly on the ice that you must have skates on. Please place your child's skates in a backpack.** Also children skating must have helmets meant for skating. Bicycle helmets are not acceptable.

Mon	Dec-05-2011	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Wed	Dec-07-2011	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Fri	Dec-09-2011	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Dec-12-2011	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Dec-19-2011	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Jan-09-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Fri	Jan-13-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Jan-16-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Jan-23-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Wed	Feb-01-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Fri	Feb-03-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Feb-06-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Wed	Feb-08-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Mon	Feb-13-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink
Wed	Feb-15-2012	01:00 pm	02:30 pm	Arena Rink

The Kinsmen Walk/Skate-a-thon will be held on Wed. Feb 15/2012 Envelopes will be distributed after the Christmas holidays.



Three Types of Reading Experiences

Reading To Children: When you read out loud to children you are able to share text that is considerably beyond their reading level. These reading experiences introduce children to words, ideas, and information. It is an opportunity to share the joy of reading and have lively discussions. This is the **'I Do'** part of the learning cycle.

Reading With Children: When children need a little assistance to read text successfully you are there to help them when they are stuck on a word or confused about an idea. This is the **'We Do'** part of the learning cycle.

Reading On Their Own and Getting Better Every Time: Children need lots of opportunities to practice with text that is easy for them to read. This provides a solid base for future reading growth. As with learning any skill, practice leads to feelings of confidence and a readiness to try something harder. This is the **'You Do'** part of the learning cycle.

Tasty Tuesday

The students and staff offer Tasty Tuesday snacks once a month. Proceeds this year will go towards the needy. Parents are asked to take a turn at sending approx. 1 dozen individually wrapped snacks with their child during the month that is their turn. The cost per item is \$.25.

Dec. 6
Grade Kin/1

No DREAMCENTRE LUNCH BOX for December

Hot Dog Day: Friday, Dec. 16

Once a month, students will enjoy Hot Dogs at noon. **\$3.50 for a Hot Dog, a pop and chips.** \$1.00 for each additional hot dog. Forms will be sent home for students to



Red and Green Day

Please dress in red and green from top to bottom.
Friday, Dec. 23, 2011



WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY PARISH

1451 Strachan Road SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1B 4V3
Phone: 403-527-6933 Fax: 403-526-2482
e-mail: contact@holyfamilymh.ca
website: www.holyfamilymh.ca

MASS TIMES: Saturday - 5:00 pm; Sunday - 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 pm (except December 24)
Pastor - Fr. Philip Le; **Associate Pastor** - Fr. Roque Pereira
Parish Office open Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed Statutory Holidays)

CHRISTMAS & SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE

In Canada, there are two Holy Days of Obligation: Christmas and Solemnity of Mary

Christmas Masses:

Saturday, December 24 - 5:00 pm, 8:30 pm & 10:30 pm
Sunday, December 25 - 8:30 am & 10:30 am
(Please note: No 6:00 pm Mass on Sunday, December 25)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses:

Saturday, December 31 - 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 1 - 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Tuesday, December 6 - 7:00 pm
at Holy Family Parish
Tuesday, December 13 - 7:00 pm
at St. Patrick's Parish

BLESSINGS to the children who have recently prepared for First Reconciliation and will receive the Sacrament on December 3 or December 10.

THANK YOU to the parents/grandparents/guardians who have shared in the ministry of Jesus by bringing their children to catechism classes for First Communion and Confirmation.

PARISH BREAKFAST will be held **Sunday, December 11** in the parish hall after the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses. Bring the family and enjoy!

YOUTH MINISTRY: Have you met the NET Team yet? Come to 6:00 pm Mass on Sundays and meet Kyle, Isaac, Joel, Rachel, Bernadette, Gloria, Tanya and Lauren. They have planned great events: **EQUIP** for students in grades 6 to 9 (Friday, December 9 from 7 - 9 pm in the parish hall) and **UN-CHAINED** for students in grades 10 to 12 (Sundays, December 4 and 11 after 6:00 pm Mass in the hall). We are looking for **host families** to accommodate 2 or 3 members at a time for two weeks. Please call Dianna (403-527-4338) or Anabelle (403-458-2699) for further information.

Join us for **REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM** sessions which will be offered by Fr. Philip and the Pastoral Team on **Thursdays** from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the parish hall after the New Year.

*A Blessed and Joyful Christmas to everyone from Fr. Philip, Fr. Roque, Dcn. Robert, Dcn. Bill and the parish staff. May the peace of the infant Jesus guide you in the New Year.
For more parish information, please check the weekly bulletin at the church or on our website.*

BOARD BULLETIN

November 2011 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Note: The November 08, 2011 Board meeting was broadcast via video-conference to St. Michael's School Bow Island to allow the parents in Bow Island to gather in the school library to hear the High School Program Review presented by the ASBA Consultant.

PRESENTATION –Mother Teresa School representatives, Mrs. Candy Neuman, Mrs. Kim Rae and Mrs. Barb Moll gave a presentation on the *Mother Teresa School Peace Garden Project*. This project involved many of the students with a goal of creating a designated space for their school community to gather to remember those that have fought for our freedom. The stonework was graciously donated by Medicine Hat Monumental along with lots of hard work from parents and volunteers and students. Poppies will be planted to complete the project. A dedication plaque accompanies the display.

PRESENTATION – Mrs. Monica Braat, a Teacher from St. Michael's School MH highlighted the *Learning Assistance Program*; in particular the integration of students into the regular classroom. The goal of transitioning students to Monsignor McCoy High School has been realized, and has not only been a huge benefit to the students transitioning, but has created many opportunities and benefited students at the high school. Although most students will require life-long care, our goal is to give them a voice to have control over their lives. Through the *Action on Inclusion Initiative*, the goal is an *autonomy continuum* for the student; by developing a communication system, enhancing literacy skills, increasing social interactions and life experiences.

PRESENTATION – ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL BOW ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM REVIEW – Mr. Jim McLellan, ASBA Consultant presented the High School Program Review for St. Michael's School in Bow Island. The scope of the work included: interviews with students, parents, staff and community members; comparisons of schools/programs in the province that are comparable in size; program and instructional considerations and community, transportation and financial considerations. Overall four recommendations were presented. The Board scheduled a *Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 in Bow Island at St. Michael's School* to discuss the recommendations at length and a moving forward strategy.

PREMIER'S DINNER – Four members from the Board and Senior Administration attended the Premier's Dinner held in Medicine Hat on October 20, 2011. It was an excellent evening hosted by the new *Premier of Alberta, Mrs. Alison Redford*.

BISHOP'S DINNER – Four members from the Board and Administration attended the Bishop's Dinner in Calgary on October 13, 2011. The Bishop spoke about the *dignity of human life* and the *growing issue of elder care*. Proceeds from the event will support an *Assisted Living Project for Priests* and the *Father Lacombe Health Care Foundation*.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – *Administrative Procedure 423-Graduate Studies* has been revised to include the opportunity for *non-certificated staff to access division funds in order to earn Diplomas and Certificates*. The AP is renamed: "Studies Incentive Program" and is effective immediately.

-*Administrative Procedure 360-Student Evaluation* is being completely revised to reflect the Division's work in Assessment through the AISI project.

ST. PATRICK'S PARENT MEETING – The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration held a parent meeting at *St. Patrick's School on November 01, 2011* to review the results of the survey administered earlier in the month. The survey results indicated that parents overall, *would not be favorable to changes in rezoning the boundaries* for St. Patrick's School to bring the utilization down at the school. About 75 parents attend the meeting which was an excellent turnout. The parents were informed that a recommendation will be presented for consideration at the December 13, 2011 Board Meeting.

Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."

COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING – The annual community religious education meeting was held. Representatives from the *Board, Senior Administration, Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, Catholic Women's League, Father Philip* and *Youth Ministry* were in attendance. Discussion focused on *Sacramental Preparation; Bill 18* and a *Catholic Girls' League* being started by the *CWL*.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY – Envelopes were circulated on Catholic Education Sunday, November 06, 2011 in all Catholic Parishes province-wide. Proceeds to: *St. Mary's University College* and *St. Joseph's Seminary*; proceeds for *Medicine Hat* will support *Youth Ministry*.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT & BUDGET –The Board of Trustees approved the *Audited Financial Statement as of August 31, 2011* and the *Fall Operating Budget for 2011-2012*. Copies of the financial documents are available on the division website at www.mhcbce.ab.ca or upon request at the Catholic School Board Office.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

★ **Centennial Flag Raising**
Monday, November 28, 2011 –

As a continuation of our 100th birthday celebration, a division-wide centennial flag raising event was planned at each school in Medicine Hat & Bow Island; event times varied by school. The 1:00 p.m. ceremony at central office was open to all. This is again an opportunity to acknowledge our past, celebrate the present and look forward to the blessings our future holds for us.

★ **History Book Launch** – The Centennial History Book Committee proudly announces the details for the History Book Launch:

Location: St. Mary's School, 155 – 11th St SW

Date: Monday, December 19, 2011

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

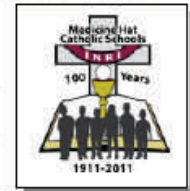
Program: 2:00 pm

- Introductions
- History Book - "Telling the story of Catholic education"
- Presentations
- Student Choir
- Cake cutting ceremony

History Books will be on-sale that afternoon at \$40. Please join us.

★ **CENTENNIAL BISHOP'S DINNER (JUNE 09, 2012) TICKETS** are now on sale. Purchase now and secure a table for yourself and your family or close friends. Either purchase individually or become a "Friend of the Centennial" and as a Sponsor, receive complimentary tickets. Proceeds to: *Youth Ministry & a Retirement Residence for Priests*.

★ **Sponsorship** opportunities are still available, contact Mr. Stan Aberle, Board Member & Centennial Committee Rep. 403.878.7422.



The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration extend warm blessings for the Holy Season.

Wishing all of you a blessed Advent Season... may your hearts be filled with joy, love and peace during this time of preparation and anticipation.

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, December 13, 2011 @ 6:00 pm @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 – 1st Avenue SW., Medicine Hat. Everyone is welcome to attend.

November 28, 2011

Dear Parent,

Great things are happening in Alberta's classrooms. Since 1999, the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting creativity and innovation in Alberta schools. AISI supports projects that focus on student engagement, inquiry, critical thinking, 21st century learning, assessment, differentiated instruction, literacy, life-long learning, and much more. Every 3 years, school divisions build AISI projects to help meet the needs of our students.

Planning for the next project has begun. On November 27th, 2011, a presentation was made to the Parent Association highlighting the impact of AISI in Medicine Hat Catholic schools and the importance of engaging you, the parent, to contribute to the next project. A representative from the Parent Association will now be sharing this process with School Councils. We are asking you to also become involved as your perspective will provide us with valuable information.

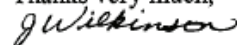
Ideas will be gathered through an e-mail process called Thoughtstream©. This process recognizes that you are busy; therefore you can choose when to participate. The entire process will take from five to ten minutes to complete.

What do you need to do?

1. Express your interest by emailing jill.wilkinson@mhcbe.ab.ca
2. Then, you will receive an e-mail from Jill Wilkinson requesting your participation by clicking on a link.
3. Next, you will have three questions to respond to.
4. Finally, a subsequent e-mail will include participants' suggestions and will allow you to prioritize the ideas that you feel are most valuable.

Your contribution is important. Please consider participating in this process. Be assured that any personal information gathered is used only for contact purposes and will not be shared in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the phone number below.

Thanks very much,



Jill Wilkinson

AISI Coordinator

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

jill.wilkinson@mhcbe.ab.ca

403-502-8353



Building Self-Esteem in Your Child

Parents, you have the greatest influence in shaping your children's sense of self worth. Provide your children with three important traits: *respect for others, responsibility and resourcefulness*. Self-esteem arises from self-sufficiency, the ability to stand on one's own two feet. Build good self-esteem in your child by:

- ~Providing them with LOVE and ACCEPTANCE
- ~Helping them feel SPECIAL and APPRECIATED
- ~Helping them DEVELOP PROBLEM-SOLVING and DECISION-MAKING SKILLS
- ~Being an EMPATHETIC PARENT and positive ROLE MODEL
- ~PROVIDING CHOICES for your child
- ~NOT COMPARING siblings or peers
- ~HIGHLIGHTING your child's STRENGTHS by providing accurate feedback

If you would like more information please go online to <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/parents.asp> to view the parent information series; How can I help my young child to be more confident?



December 2011



Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1	2 Intramurals 2 vs 3	3
4	5 Intramurals 1 vs 2 Skating for all students 1-2:30 pm at the arena Wear Your Black School t-shirt	6 Tasty Tues. Kin/Gr. 1 Free Pizza Lunch for all students	7 Skating for all students 1-2:30 pm at the arena	8 	9 All grade 4, 5 and 6 chocolate money is due. Intramurals 3 vs 4 Skating for all students 1-2:30 pm at the arena	10
11	12 Intramurals 1 vs 3 Mexico Mission Toonie or Loonie day Skating for all students 1-2:30 pm at the arena	13 	14	15 Advent Mass at Holy Family 1:15 pm	16 Hot Dog Day Intramurals 2 vs 4	17
18	19 Intramurals 1 vs 4 Skating for all students 1-2:30 pm at the arena Terrific Kid Presentation	20 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia</i></p>	21	22 Christmas Concert 6 - 7 pm Dress Rehearsal 1 pm	23 Last day before Christmas - Early Dismissal 11:40 Buses will pick up as usual Wear red and green Turkey Dinner for Students 11:00 am	24
25 	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31