



DECEMBER 2011

WWW.NOTREDAMEACADEMY.CA



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

"GET IN THE GAME"



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1. PARENT TEACHER IN- TERVIEWS 5 TO 8PM. Book fair open same time!	2. Hot lunch Hamburger sales	3.
4.	5. Parent council meeting 7pm.	6.	7.	8.	9. Hot Lunch	10.
11.	12. Candy Cane sales start 25 cents each	13.	14.	15.	16. HOT LUNCH Grade 6 Wal- mart shopping trip	17.
18.	19. Christmas Winter Fest/Band 6pm. start	20.	21.	22. CHRISTMAS DANCE ST. MARY'S	23. Last day for students and staff Last day candy cane sales!	24. Christmas break
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31. January 9th 2012 - back to school

HomeLogic will be turned off during the Christmas vacation.



January 2012

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NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

"GET IN THE GAME"



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HomeLogic will be turned off during the Christmas vacation.						
8	9	10	11 Mission Mexico Day Bring a loonie	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Grade 8/9 ski trip	26 Grade 6/7 Ski trip	27 Hot lunch	28
29	30 PD Day No school	31 Option Change 2 of 2 for Grade 9 students				

HARD WORK RECOGNITION AWARD

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for the "Hard Work Recognition" Sports Academy Award for the month. Each student received a "Once a Bulldawg...Always a Bulldawg" t-shirt.

BASEBALL

6/7: **Brendan Weisgerber**

8/9: **Jordan Wold**

GOLF

6/7: **Theryn Berndt**

8/9: **Kaitlyn Watz**

SOCCER

6/7 **Daniel Haskayne**

8/9: **Brooklyn Hagel**

HOCKEY

6/7: **Martin Watz**

8/9: **Bailey Anderson**



TOP DAWG AWARDS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER AWARD WINNERS



Grade 6: Ryan Schultz, Gavin Harty

Grade 7: Noah Irvine, Travis McKim

Grade 8: Brad Wall, Drake Folk

Grade 9: Mackenzie Penrod, Jeff Schlosser

It's KOOL to be a KID at NDA !

RECYCLING RECOGNITION

TOP CLASS: 6-2

RECOGNITION: 7-4, 8-4, 9-2



SCHOLASTIC Book Fairs.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is Coming Soon!
Our Book Fair will run two evenings only.

Thursday Nov.30th from 3:00 until 6:00 pm and
Thursday, December 1 from 5:00 until 8:00 pm for
Parent-Teacher Interviews! Mark your calendar!
Families will have an opportunity to win \$25 in
free books for your child and \$25 in free books
for our library.

"Helping Children Become Life Long Learners!"

MISSION MEXICO DAY December 11

Bishop Henry has again declared the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec.12), as Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese of Calgary. Mission Mexico is an outreach project of Catholics in our Diocese to marginalized mountain communities in southern Mexico. In partnership with a number of accountable on-site agencies, we fund culturally sensitive, dignity-affirming initiatives in health, education and human rights. These have included construction of a high school, equipping computer labs and libraries, funding clean-water and sanitation projects, underwriting adult literacy programs, and providing student bursaries, to name just a few areas. **We are asking every student and staff member to contribute a loonie on Mission Mexico Day to support this missionary outreach**

Season greetings!

During this festive time of year, the Community Coming Together project has partnered with the Medicine Hat Youth Action Society Youth Wellness Centre, the Hugs program, the City of Medicine Hat Community Workers, and the Santa Claus Fund to adopt families within our community who are in need this Christmas.

Last year this same project was done on a smaller scale. Three families, the Youth Inn between Shelter, and the Phoenix Women's Shelter were adopted. With only one week to collect, the schools managed to bring in over 1300 food items. This year we are giving the schools three weeks to bring in food and are hopeful for the outcome.

We can all use a little help, especially around the holidays. We are asking of you, that you bring one food donation. Thank you for your time and consideration. People like you do make a difference!

Sincerely Yours,
The Community Coming Together Project



CITY TRANSIT BUS SERVICE FOR NOTRE DAME STUDENTS LIVING IN SAAMIS & VISTA HEIGHTS



- Students living more than 2.4 km from the school are eligible for bussing at no charge but still require a pass which may be picked up from the school office.
- Students residing less than 2.4 km from the school may use this service but must pay for a pass. The cost is \$30.25 per month. Cheques only please ... should be made payable to MHCBE.
- **The Transit bus will accommodate 56 passengers.**
- **Passes will be held in reserve for eligible students (more than 2.4 km from the school)**
- **ALL OTHER PASSES WILL BE SOLD ON A 'FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.**

For information regarding eligibility, please call the Catholic School Board office (403-502-8351).

Just a friendly reminder to report your child's absence by contacting the school at:

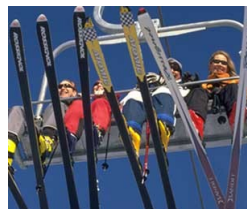
(403) 527-5118

Select 1 to leave a message on the absent line



School Ski Trip:

We will be having a school ski trip at Hidden Valley in Elkwater. The dates for the trip are as follows:



Grade 8/9 January 25th, 2012

Grade 6/7 January 26th, 2012

* Can be cancelled due to lack of participation

CANDY CANE SALES



25¢ each



December 12th—23th

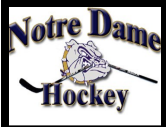
Lunch-time only

Sports Page



SOCCKER ACADEMY

Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather for the bus ride to and from the Field House. They are also reminded to bring their water bottle every day as it is a required piece of equipment. During the last week before Christmas Holidays students may be partaking in alternate activities such as swimming and bowling. Students will be informed in advance if there are going to be alternate activities taking place and what they will be required to have. Thanks to all of the soccer academy students for their hard work and effort this term; with such strong effort and positive behavior the students truly do make the Academy a wonderful learning environment!!!



HOCKEY ACADEMY

With Christmas right around the corner hockey academy students will be participating in the annual "COUP DE BULL DAWG" segment 1. This will happen Monday, December 19 to Thursday, December 22. Parents are invited out to support their son or daughter during this exciting week. As well, hockey academy students will be training at Notre Dame Wednesday, December 7 and Thursday, December 8. Please stay current by checking the hockey academy schedule found on the Notre Dame Home page.

Equipment storage times Monday – Thursday 7:15am – 8:30am and 2:30pm – 4:45pm.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
~ Aristotle ~



BASEBALL./SOFTBALL ACADEMY

During the winter months students are reminded that they will need all of their baseball gear, water bottle and indoor footwear. Students will be notified of alternate activities (bowling, swimming, curling, etc.) in advance.

We hope that all of our students and their families enjoy some down time during the holidays and have a wonderful Christmas.



GOLF ACADEMY

Golf academy moves full time into the NDA gym for golf based fitness and Phys Ed activities. Please be sure your son or daughter has a full change of clothes and water bottle with them daily.



Remember Christ is in
Christmas all year long.



"Notes From the Band Room" **Band Update**

Christmas Concert & Silent Auction, December 19th with a 6pm start.

The Silent Auction coincides with our **Christmas Concert/Family night (December 19th, 6pm start)**. This is the 5th year of having the concert in our gym and we feature all of our musical groups as well as have sleigh rides (weather permitting), hot chocolate and fire barrels. Guests will have the opportunity to place bids on donated items at our silent auction where 100% of the funds raised go to the Band Program here at NDA.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the Band Programs for Grade 6-9 at NDA or our fundraising activities than please do not hesitate to contact myself (Mr. Corbie Dorner) at the school. I would be happy to answer all questions. I thank you for your continued support of the ARTS at NDA.

Sincerest Regards,
Corbie Dorner
Notre Dame Academy

The NET youth team, who are here for the school year, are looking for billet homes for a two-week period. The Team is split up so that a family can have up to 3 of these young people in their home. The Team also have their own transportation. For more information, you may contact Trish Carr at the school or call either Dianna Frey at 403-527-4338 or Anabell Marroquin 403-529-0536.

The NET team has been coming to Notre Dame once a week during the lunch break to mingle with our students and talk about their own Faith journey. Please consider hosting two or three of these young people, their Faith is an inspiration to any family member.

Lost & Found Items

Our lost and found box has almost reached capacity....please drop by the school and have a look for your child's lost belongings.



Unclaimed items will be taken to charity during the Christmas Holidays.



School Sports



"A" Girls Team: Congratulations on a very successful season girls. Especially, for placing 1st overall in the Medicine Hat "A" league. As well, congrats on placing 2nd place for the 4J zones...a hard battle fought. Most of all, thanks so much for the great 3 years of volleyball...you all worked so hard every practice and were 100% committed to games/tournaments. It was a pleasure to coach such wonderful kids and to have the support of wonderful parents. Thanks again...best of luck in your future volleyball endeavors.

Coach Unreiner

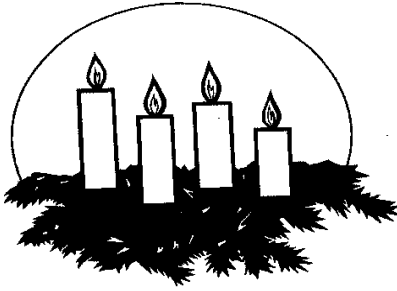
Volleyball Highlights – “B” Girls

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the “B” girls and their parents for their support this season. The year started off slow, but finished with a bang. During tournament play, our girls finished 2nd at PJHS and 2nd at CHHS. During league play we wound up in 2nd place. However during playoffs, the girls won an exciting 3 game match to take the league championship.

Coach Grisonich

Good luck to all the NDA basketball players and coaches !!





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.*



Distracted Driving

On Sept. 1 2011, the distracted Driving Law came into effect making it illegal for drivers to use hand-held cell phones, to text or email, or use electronic devices while driving. Distracted driving is potentially as dangerous as impaired driving and is much more common.

Before you start driving:

Adjust dashboard and electronic controls

Turn off your cell phone and tell everyone for safety reasons, you will no longer answer calls or text messages or emails while driving.

Deal with distractions such as putting on make-up, reading and grooming.

Stay focused while driving:

If you have to make a phone call, do so at a rest area, when you stop for gas or a bathroom break. Vehicles are not permitted to park on the shoulder of a provincial highway except in an emergency.

Visit: www.saferoads.ca for more information.

**Have a Happy, Healthy,
and Safe Holiday Season
From the
Comprehensive
School Health Team**



Tis the Season to be Healthy

In the holiday season, treats seem to be everywhere. Here are some quick tips to promote a healthy holiday season for your family:

Store treats until snack or meal time. Your child is more likely to nibble throughout the day if treats are left out in the open. Keep them away in a cupboard, refrigerator or out of sight.

Offer regular meals and snacks. Offer healthy food choices at regular times throughout the day. This will help to satisfy your child's appetite so they do not eat too many holiday treats.

Slow down and taste the food. Encourage your child to fill his/her plate and sit down to enjoy the food. Teach your child to enjoy small amounts of special holiday foods along with regular healthy choices.

For more information check out these nutrition pages: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2925.asp>

Winter Helmet Safety

Skiing and snowboarding are popular Canadian winter sports, but they do carry a level of risk. Head and brain injuries are the most common cause of death among skiers and snowboarders.

Wearing a ski helmet can effectively reduce the risk of head injuries by nearly 50 percent.

It is important to ensure everyone engaging in these activities wears a new, properly fitted and appropriate helmet.

Helmets should be either CSA, ASTM, or Snell approved. If the helmet has been involved in a fall it may need to be replaced, even if there is no visible damage. Check the manufacturer's instructions on when to discard. Do not use helmets designed for other purposes such as bicycle helmets as they are designed to absorb different types of impacts.

For more information on helmet safety access www.thinkfirst.ca or www.safekidscanada.ca.

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 28th, 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?

Express your interest by emailing jill.wilkinson@mhcbe.ab.ca

Then, you will receive an e-mail from Jill Wilkinson requesting your participation by clicking on a link.

Next, you will have three questions to respond to.

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

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.mhcbe.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.