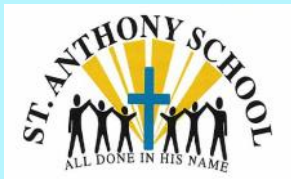




December 2020

With Christ as our foundation, St. Anthony school community is dedicated to sharing our faith through learning and service.



4921 43rd Street
Drayton Valley, AB
T7A 1P5

Phone: 780-542-4396

Fax: 780-542-4429

<http://stan.staratholic.ab.ca>

or

<fb.me/StAnthonySchoolDraytonValley>

St. Thomas Aquinas Roman
Catholic Schools RCSRD
No. 38

(780) 986-2500

www.staratholic.ab.ca

www.facebook.com/staratholic



**No School
Days**

4th—PD Day

**21st—January 2nd
Christmas Vacation**



“Winter Wonderland Fair online this year. Class Theme Baskets for Raffle and Silent Auction items to bid on. Check out the group page on Facebook, Winter Wonderland Fair - St. Anthony School”

St. Anthony STAR

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we enter Advent and approach the Christmas season, we are provided with the opportunity to reflect on God's love and mercy for us. Pope Francis has said, “The season of Advent restores...hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!...Let us think about and feel this beauty.” With all that is happening in the world today, this feeling of hope is truly needed.

Report cards have been sent home, interviews have occurred and soon our students will be at home enjoying their Christmas break. Thank you for sharing in your child's learning and discussing their progress with our staff. We have had to find different ways to connect with you this year, and we appreciate your willingness to adapt. It is when we can work together as a team that we will see the greatest progress in our children!

As this Christmas season approaches, we begin with anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus. This season is a time when we can share with others in return for all the gifts that God has given us, especially the gift of Jesus. Let us remember this as we go through the holy season of Advent.

Throughout Advent we are undertaking a couple of service projects. We are hoping to fill 10 Christmas dinner hampers for families in need from within our St. Anthony School family. We will supply a Christmas dinner for each of these families. If you would like to nominate a family for a hamper, please call or send me a message. These nominations will be kept completely confidential. If you would like to make a donation to these hampers, please give the school a call.

Our second project will be our giving tree. This year we are focusing on the collection of food bank items, and further information will be coming home related to this. We are also looking to collect toiletries, and the traditional mittens, toques, socks and blankets. These items will be gathered around our giving trees which will be in the front entry of the school and will be donated locally.

As restrictions continue with the pandemic, I would like to remind you of a couple of things:

- ◆ Please try to plan ahead so that drop offs of lunches and other items are not necessary inside the school. We are trying to limit outside traffic entering the school building. This is extremely important with the rising number of Covid19 cases in our community.
- ◆ If it is necessary for you to enter the school building, please ensure that you are **wearing a mask**. All people from grade 4 and up, including visitors, must be masked when entering the common areas of the school.
- ◆ Please adhere to your scheduled drop off and pick-up time to alleviate congestion and to ensure that we can safely distance as we enter the building.
- ◆ Please remember to always use the crosswalk so that we are modelling this behavior for our children and keep the traffic in the laneway flowing smoothly.
- ◆ If your child is in grade 7 or 8 and has been moved to online learning, please work with us to ensure that school work is getting completed. Students will be accessing live lessons each day and will be required to be in attendance for these. Together we will get these students through this difficult time.

Advent offers us a chance to slow down – to think about what the meaning of Christmas really is. During the season of Advent, we pray that this holy time will help us to come closer to God and recognize His existence and purpose in our lives. We prepare ourselves for receiving God's most abiding gift, His Son Jesus. During Advent we need to relearn how to accept each other with full hearts. We strive to welcome the outsider, heal family divisions and spend quality time with our loved ones. Through Jesus' birth we experience the joy of the season and hope for the future.

We wish you a blessed Advent season and a very merry Christmas!

All Done in His Name;

Trish Molzan, Principal

*The following students received designation on the
"Principal's Honor Roll"
for the first reporting period.*

Grade 7:

*Olivia Birnie, Faith Buttrey,
Madison Furoy, Duke Ginson,
Taylor Hudson,
Gabrielle Limkimso, Destiny Maristela,
Kiara Muir, Carly Neal, Lilyann Ranger,
Madison Taylor, Leah Terry,
Julianne-Rae Tobias, Moriah Walwal
and Arianna Ward*

Grade 8:

*Rhianne Balarao, Destiny Bennett,
Annabella Czerniak, Sean Huseby,
Peyton Jeffery, Avery Karach,
Amy Lang, Jasmin Lemus,
Preslie Magnuson,
Maira Nadeau, Sara Neal*

Way to go everyone!



The Advent season can be a great time for families to celebrate "the reason for the season"—Jesus Christ. Because of the restrictions this year, we are not able to spread joy through our joy bags, so we have decided to do things a little differently. Every day, we will post a fun way for us to celebrate the season and take the focus off presents and point us more to an attitude of gratitude and giving. We would love to see photos of your family participating in these activities! Please feel free to add a photo or reflection in the comments.

Together, let's explore the true meaning of Christmas!

What Are the



Colors of Advent?

Advent is the first season on the Christian calendar. It is a time of preparation. This is true both of the secular world and the Christian world. Yes, there's all the shopping and pictures with Santa, but the real meaning has nothing to do with either.

There are several tools you can use to show what Advent means and to prepare your child for the religious part of Christmas. One of them is an Advent wreath. Every Sunday, we light the appropriate candles and read the sections of the story relevant to that Sunday.

At the onset of Advent, evergreen boughs, wreaths and trees are displayed in churches. This green is to symbolize the promise of life brought on by the birth of Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, holly was also displayed with the evergreen decorations, which is why the colors red and green are associated with Christmas.

Purple has traditionally been the primary color of Advent, symbolizing repentance and fasting. Purple is also the color of royalty, demonstrating the anticipation and reception of the coming King. Today, however, many churches have begun to use **blue** instead of purple, as a means of distinguishing Advent from Lent.

Pink (or **rose**) is also one of the colors of Advent used during the third Sunday. It represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration.

White is the color of the center Advent candle, representing purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Also, those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

We need your help!!

Classroom interruptions disrupt the flow of the lesson and make it difficult for students to re-focus on the task at hand. The office is receiving a number of requests during the day to relay messages to students or to call students from class.



If you are dropping an item off for a student or calling to leave a message for a student, they will be held at the office until morning recess or lunch break.

Although we attempt to ensure all students receive their messages or items dropped off, there are times that students do not respond to these calls and if we receive them after the 12:30pm, we can not guarantee that the student will receive them. Please assist us by attempting to make all arrangement with your child before he or she leaves for school in the morning.

Only in cases of emergency, we will call into your child's class.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep interruptions to a minimum.

Please Let The Office Know

If your child is going to be late or away from school all or part of the day, please call the office at **780-542-4396** or email kerrie.lemermeyer@starcatholic.ab.ca



Outside of regular business hours (which are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm) or if you get the answering machine, please leave a message.



Please use the crosswalk at the front of the school to ensure student safety. We do our best to keep traffic moving, but it is difficult for drivers to navigate the parking lot when there are people crossing from many different areas. Adults we need to ensure we are modelling the procedures we expect our children to follow when we are not with them.



Need Christmas gift ideas for your children?? Why not get them St. Anthony Spirit Wear!

It's easy...go to <https://stanthonysschool.entripyshops.com/>

Just click the + button in the top left corner to register and you are on your way to custom ordering your St. Anthony School Spirit Wear!

Don't have enough in orders to qualify for free shipping...how about go together with another family and save yourself the shipping fee!



Thank you to Lindsey Hore and Cindy Bierkos for their generous donation of food for our pantry cupboard for students in need. They raised this money through a portion of their profits from their home-based businesses, Homefresh and mitten sales.

Captivating Moments



Some of Mrs. Schatz's grade 5 students helping load the Halloween food bank donations.



Kevin Lang from Evergreen Gas Co-op presents Mrs. Molzan with a \$1,000 donation for the breakfast program.

Library Corner



Wow! I am feeling so blessed and grateful for the support of our school community! Together we have read almost 73,000 minutes and raised over \$16,000 during the Read-a-Thon. Mrs. Molzan and I had been

talking about a bit of an update to the library and with these funds we are able to replace some of our favorite well loved series that have seen better days, buy new ones and make a plan for a few changes as we transition to a learning commons space. I look forward to hosting you all one day soon in the library for a Book Fair to see what we are able to accomplish with your help.

You will have noticed at the beginning of November we started sending books home with the students. For those of you who are new to our school each class has the opportunity to visit the library once a week and check out books. Books are then due back in the library when they visit the next week. We are following the same protocols as the public libraries in our province and returned items are held on a "quarantine" shelf minimum of 3 days before they are put back into circulation for another student to sign out.

Joke of the Month:

What is a book's favorite food?

A book worm

December Spirit Days:

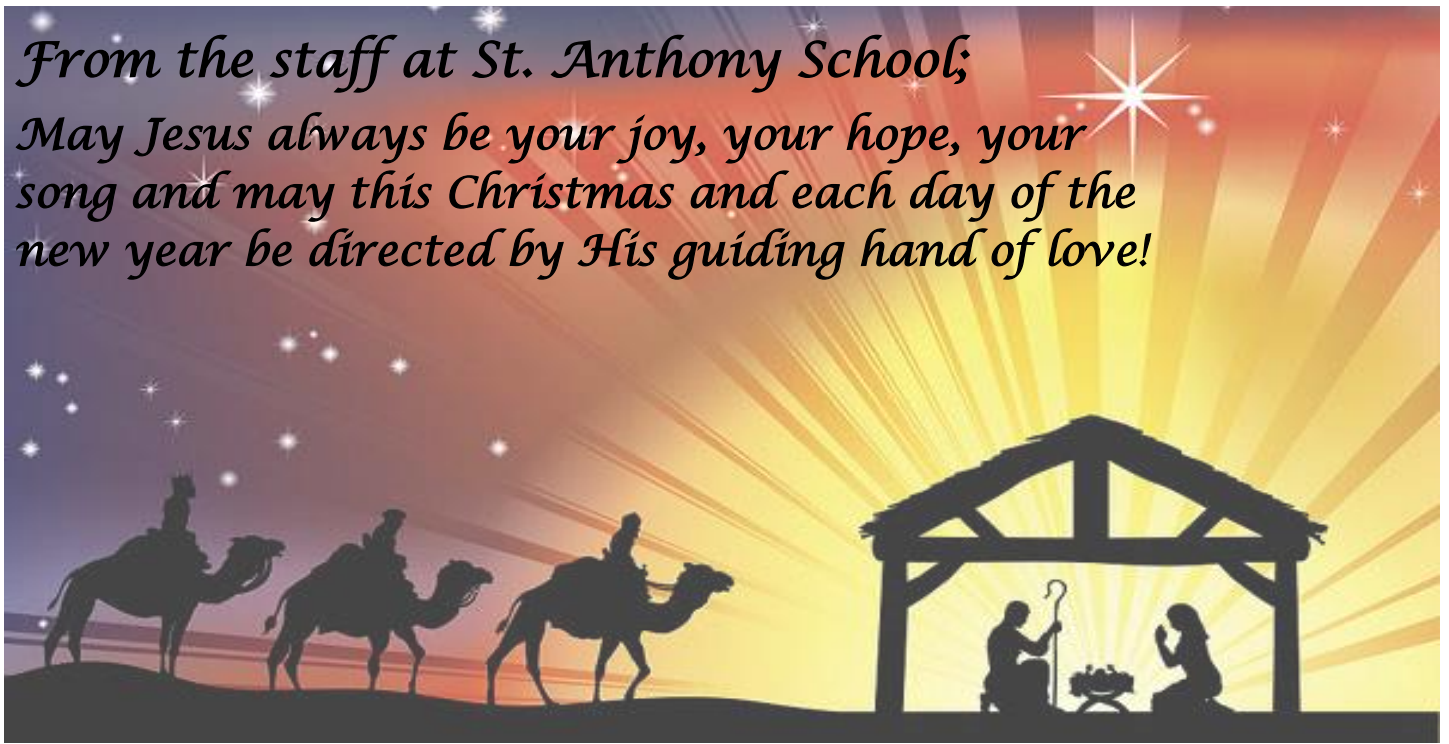
Thursday, December 3rd: "Not a Creature Was Stirring..." Dress like an animal!

Friday, December 11th: Formal Friday: Dress to impress! Wear your holiday best!

Friday, December 18th: Grinch's Nightmare! Dress in all things Christmas from head to toe!



*From the staff at St. Anthony School;
May Jesus always be your joy, your hope, your
song and may this Christmas and each day of the
new year be directed by His guiding hand of love!*



1st - 11th—Winter Wonderland Fair

4th—NO SCHOOL—Teacher Institute Day

3rd—School Spirit Day - “Not a Creature Was Stirring...” Dress like an animal!

11th—School Spirit Day - Formal Friday: Dress to impress! Wear your holiday best!

18th—School Spirit Day - Grinch’s Nightmare! Dress in all things Christmas from head to toe!



For the most Up-to-date information,
upcoming events, photos and what
we are busy doing at St. Anthony School,
visit our

website; stan.starcatholic.ab.ca

&

our Facebook Page; [StAnthonySchoolDraytonValley](https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonySchoolDraytonValley)