



St. Angela Merici Catholic School

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Friendly Friday Update # 19: Jan. 29th - Feb. 2nd

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, it is marked by a number of religious and secular feasts. Perhaps this is a sign of human resilience in the face of a lingering winter!

February is the Month of the Holy Family.

When February begins we find ourselves in a period of Ordinary Time. February 1st is the Feast of St. Brigid. February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus. (This is also the World Day for Consecrated Life.) February 3 is the Feast of St. Blaise. February 6th is the Feast of St. Paul Miki and Companions (The Holy Martyrs of Japan.) February 7th is the Feast of our Lady of Grace. February 8th is the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. The Feast of St. Scholastica is on February 10th. February 11th is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (World Day of the Sick) and the Feast of St. Valentine is on February 14. Ordinary Time ends on February 13th. On Ash Wednesday, this year on February 14th, we begin the season of Lent, a time of simplifying oneself and preparing for Easter. It is a time of prayer and reaching out to others and reflecting on what is truly important in our lives.

Throughout the month of February we will pray the Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Week at a Glance

Monday 29th	Tuesday 30th	Wednesday 31st	Thursday 1st	Friday 2nd
Mindful Mondays	Happy Tuesday	January Virtue of the Month Ceremony: Unity	Thinking Thursday Math Day	PA Day

Looking Ahead:

- February 8th - Catholic School Council Mtg, 6:30 pm
- February 5th - 9th - Book Fair and Carnivale Week
- February 13th - Term One Reports available to parents/guardians
- February 13th - **Valentine's Day Civvies/Shrove Tuesday**
- February 14th - Ash Wednesday
- February 19th - Family Day Holiday
- February 28th - **Pink Shirt Day - Anti-bullying awareness**

Safe and Caring School Environments

Mindful Mondays: Each Monday during morning announcements students will listen to a Mindful Monday quote/thought for the day. Classes will then take some time during their day to reflect on this message and find meaning to further support a positive mindset and healthy well-being essential for learning and achievement.

Equity Events: February is Black Heritage Month. Black Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of people of African Ancestry to the development and culture of the Church and of Canada. Black Heritage Month is about celebrating Black Excellence. It is about celebrating resilience, innovation, and determination to work towards a more inclusive and diverse Canada. This year The Lunar New Year begins on Sunday, February 10th, and will mark the beginning of the Year of the Dragon. February 15th is the 59th anniversary of Canada's national flag. This year Family Day, the day established to set aside time with loved ones falls on February 19th. February 20th is the World Day of Social Justice. Designated by the United Nations in 2007, the World Day of Justice aims to elevate awareness about social inequality and to promote worldwide social justice.

SAM Catholic School Council - Our next St. Angela Merici CES Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend!

Save the Dates

Grad Photos are April 10, 2024 and Grad Retakes are April 25, 2024

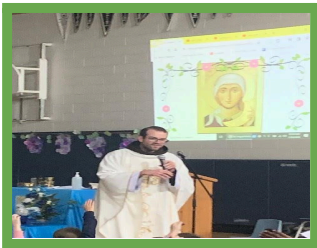
Continuous Improvement of Student Learning / Achievement

Term One Report Cards: Term One Report Cards are available to parents on the Parent Portal Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Interviews will be available upon request.

Thinking Thursdays Math Days: An exciting new initiative is starting this week at SAM to build students' skills and confidence in Mathematical Problem Solving. Once a month, all grades/classes will be provided with a Thinking Thursday Math Problem, which they will work on solving in a small group. The Mathematical Problems will be differentiated to reflect the grade level, however they will be similar in concept/operations to demonstrate and reinforce the continuum of learning from FDK to Grade 8. Students 'thinking' or finished products/solutions will be displayed outside their respective classrooms for others to appreciate. We hope to engage all mathematical minds with this new monthly initiative, which culminates in May during Catholic Education Week with a Thinking Thursday showcase.

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Feast Day of St. Angela Merici Mass: Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in our Feast Day Mass with us today. It truly was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate St. Angela Merici as a school community. Father Josh and Father Charles will return to St. Angela Merici on February 14th to lead our Ash Wednesday Liturgy with our school community. Please join us if you are available, the service will begin at 9:30 am.



February Virtue of the Month: Wisdom



This month we celebrate the virtue of wisdom, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In fact the spirit of wisdom is perhaps the virtue most closely associated with the Third Person of the Trinity. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: **“Wisdom is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her.”**

This Year's 2023-24 Catholic Education Theme and Faith Day 2023 Theme: ***Catholic Education: We are Called to Love***