



St. Angela Merici Catholic School

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Friendly Friday Update # 21: Feb. 10th - Feb. 14th



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 10th	Tuesday 11th	Wednesday 12th	Thursday 13th	Friday 14th
Snack Shack Opens all week	Term One Report Cards available via Parent Portal, 4 pm	Happy Wednesday	<i>STREAM</i> Centre - Ms. Ieraci, Gr. 6s	Valentines Day - Valentines Civvies Day

Looking Ahead:

- February - Black Heritage Month
- February 14th-20th - Random Acts of Kindness Week
- February 15th - National Flag of Canada Day
- February 17th - Family Day
- February 18th - 21st - Carnivale
- February 25th - BHM Museum Walk, AM
- February 26th - Pink Shirt Day
- February 26th - Catholic School Council Meeting, 6:45 pm
- February 28th - Rare Disease Day - Colours Civvies Day
- March 4th - Shrove Tuesday
- March 5th - Ash Wednesday
- March 25th - BHM Museum Walk
- April 7th - 11th - Sharelife Week
- April 14th - 17th - Holy Week

Save The Dates

- May 5th - Catholic Education Week, SAM Community Evening Mass, St. Peter's Church, 7:00 pm.
- June 10th - End of Year/Grade 8 Mass
- June 13th - Area of Schools Track and Field Meet
- June 19th - End of Year School BBQ
- June 24th - Grade 8 Promotion Celebration

Catholic School Council Update

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26th at 6:45 pm. All are always welcome to attend.

Safe and Caring School Environments

Spotlight on Kindness. Throughout the month of February St. Angela Merici staff and students will be showcasing acts of kindness in various capacities. Kindness will be recognized and celebrated through various initiatives, such as: "Be the I in Kindness", highlighting Random Acts of Kindness throughout the day, and Kindness Shout Outs over morning announcements. At our SAM, we believe that kind is one of the most important things a child can be. Please look for the various front foyer displays as we showcase a culture of kindness in our classrooms and school community.

Rare Disease Day: Rare Disease Day is observed every year on 28 February (or 29 in leap years)—the rarest day of the year.

Over 6000 rare diseases are characterized by a broad diversity of disorders and symptoms that vary not only from disease to disease, but also from patient to patient suffering from the same disease.

- A disease is Rare when it affects fewer than 1 in 2000 people
- 70% of Rare diseases start in childhood
- More than 6000 Rare diseases have been identified
- 72% of rare diseases are genetic
- 3.5 - 5.9% of the population is affected
- 1 of 5 cancers is Rare

Rare Disease Day is a globally-coordinated movement that raises awareness for the 300 million people living with rare diseases around the world. It is working towards equity in social opportunity, healthcare, and access to diagnosis and therapies for people living with a rare disease.

The long-term goal of the Rare Disease Day campaign is to achieve equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, health, education and social opportunity for people affected by a rare disease. It is about acknowledging Diversity and Inclusion. A day to bring awareness to the community and all students regarding the challenges that children with rare diseases experience and how to include them in student interactions.

Share your [Colours](#) through your [Civvies Clothing, February 28th](#), to help shine the light on people living with a rare disease and help to improve the lives of our students living with rare diseases.



Safe and Caring School Environments

[Reporting Student Absences/Lates/Illness](#)

Please continue to use our Safe Arrival System to report absences and lates. Before bell time for the current day, please call 1-855-856-7862 or online at: [go/schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca). As well, the SchoolMessenger App (blue icon) from the Apple App Store or Google Play store.

Students are strongly encouraged to arrive on time. Should your child arrive late, please use the entrance buzzer and a staff member will instruct you when to enter. **Students arriving after the bell will be asked to be signed in at the office by parents/guardians.** Please have a pick-up plan in place in the event that your child is not feeling well and needs to be picked up. (see attached information card) [LINK](#)

[Kiss'n Ride](#)

If your child must be driven to school, here are the guidelines we would like everyone to abide by.

- Please **do not double park in the school parking lot, we need to ensure a safe flow of traffic, as well as clear sightlines of all pedestrians.**
- Enter the Kiss and Ride lane close to the kindergarten play area and put your vehicle in park before allowing your child to get out of the car
- Students must independently exit from the right hand side of the car (closest to the school) and parents should remain in the car. Parents may then enter the “drive thru” (left lane) to exit the parking lot. **Parents are to leave immediately after drop off to keep the traffic flowing.**
- All student belongings (eg. Knapsack) should be **inside the car, rather than the trunk** for easy access and quick exit
- Parents who prefer to walk their children to their designated yards are asked to park on the street and walk them to the appropriate area. Our best advice is to leave home early and walk if possible.

[Dismissal/Pick UP](#)

Parents are reminded to arrive between 3:35 p.m.-3:40 p.m. at the designated areas.





[SAM Spirit Wear:](#) New Logos, New Designs and New Colour options! Check out our St. Angela Merici CES Spirit Wear Store offering a wide selection of clothing and accessory items. With the same flexibility of placing orders throughout the school year and knowing that deliveries will be made directly to the school, Parents/Guardians have the option of purchasing items with our new St. Angela Merici Knights logo or our Limited Edition 25th Anniversary design. Students will be permitted to wear all Spirit Wear purchased, including the Limited Edition 25th Anniversary items offered in Grey. Use the link to start shopping today: [SAM Spirit Wear Store 2024 - 2025](#)

Continuous Improvement of Student Learning / Achievement

SAM BHM Museum Walk: Honouring the contributions of Canadians of African Ancestry is an essential part of any curriculum delivery. During Black Heritage Month in February, we particularly highlight the legacy of Canadians of African Ancestry, past and present. This is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of people of African Ancestry to the development and culture of the Catholic Church and of Canada. It is an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the diverse stories and experiences of Canadians of African Ancestry.

The St. Angela Merici 'Door' Display Project is a school-wide endeavor where each classroom will research and study the life of a prominent Black Canadian figure. Students will then decorate their respective walls around their doors in creative ways to both honour their chosen individual and to educate other students about the life and contributions of their historical figure. Each class is asked to choose one of the Black Canadian noteworthy figures and showcase the figures significant impact on Canadian history. On **Tuesday, February 25th,** all classes will participate in a Museum Walk which rotates classes through various stations including a Gallery Walk of all the door displays, in addition to other learning activities which further celebrate Black Heritage Month. Additional information will be shared in the weeks to come on the exciting SAM Museum Walk.

Carnival Week: Our annual *Carnaval / Carnevale* week will take place on February 18th - 21st. Each day, students will participate in a variety of fun theme days and exciting events. More information regarding these events will be given to you as we approach Carnival Week.

<p>Tues. Feb. 18 Pajama Day</p>	<p>Wed. Feb. 19 Jersey Day</p>	<p>Thurs. Feb. 20 Wacky Hair / Mismatch Day</p>	<p>Fri. Feb. 21 Class Colour Competition Day</p>
			

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

February “Pilgrims of Hope” Bulletin: We are happy to share with you the OCSTA Catholic Education Week Committee’s “Pilgrims of Hope” bulletin for the month of February. It contains resources and ideas for celebrating this year’s theme. This month’s bulletin highlights our Catholic Social Teaching, Call to Family. This issue also promotes the month of the Holy Family which we celebrate during the month of February and its connection to the CST-Call to Family. Click [here](#) for access to the bulletin.

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.”

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 began on January 29th, marking the beginning of the Year of the Snake, and continues until February 12. February 14th is Valentine’s Day, which originated as a feast day but has in recent years become a popular secular celebration of romance and friendship. February 14th to 20th is Random Acts of Kindness Week. February 15th is the 60th anniversary of Canada’s national flag. This year Family Day, the day established to set aside time with loved ones. falls on February 17th. 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. Pink Shirt Day is on February 26th.

This Year’s 2024-25 Catholic Education week will take place from **May 5 to 9, 2025.**