



St. Angela Merici Catholic School

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Friendly Friday Update # 20: Feb. 3rd - Feb. 7th



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 3rd	Tuesday 4th	Wednesday 5th	Thursday 6th	Friday 7th
Mindful Monday OCSTA National Catholic Health Care Week	Happy Tuesday	Happy Wednesday	Winter Walk Day Xpress BBQ Chicken make-up day	Last day for Term One Friday Pizza

Looking Ahead:

- February - Black Heritage Month
- 11th - Term One Report Cards available via Parent Portal, 4pm
- February 14th-20th - Random Acts of Kindness Week
- February 14th - **Valentine's Day**
- **February 15th - National Flag of Canada Day**
- February 17th - Family Day
- February 18th - 21st - **Carnivale**
- February 26th - **Pink Shirt Day**
- February 26th - Catholic School Council Meeting, 6:45 pm
- March 4th - Shrove Tuesday
- March 5th - **Ash Wednesday**
- April 7th - 11th - **Sharelife 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.

Winter Walk Day: St. Angela Merici CES families are invited to participate in this year's [Winter Walk Day, February 6th](#) by walking to and/or from school. This is a fantastic way to embrace the winter season! Winter Walk Day is a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and stay active, even when the temperature drops. It's a fun way to bring the community together, too. Please see the attached flyer for more details on how you can participate.

OCSTA is again pleased to offer our full support in promoting National Catholic Health Care Week, which will be celebrated from February 2nd through 8th, 2025. This promotion recognizes the important work of Catholic healthcare organizations in our province and across Canada.



The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada produces this promotion, and the theme they have established for Catholic Health Care Week 2025 is ***"Caring for our Common Home."*** This theme celebrates the interconnectedness of all creation. It helps us reflect on how our individual and collective actions and our health, social, and economic systems can promote a healthy world where all can thrive. It emphasizes the integral connection between human health and the planet's health, echoing Pope Francis' call to care for the earth as our common home in [Laudato Si](#).

By Your Side Parent/Caregiver Hub:

The new By Your Side Parent/ Caregiver Learning Hub is an online resource centre designed to meet the needs of Ontario's families. Resources and support are made available in multiple formats—including web content, PDFs, videos and webinars (coming soon!) to ensure families can access information and strategies that promote mental health and well-being at home.

Key topics in the parent/caregiver learning hub include:

- understanding mental health
- promoting mental health at home
- supporting mental health at school
- stress and anxiety management

Please see the [By Your Side - attached postcard for additional information](#)

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](#)

Safe and Caring School Environments

School Day Update: Just a reminder that Term Two Hot Lunch Products are still open on School Day. If you have not done so already, please log on and place your orders before the closing deadline, **January 31st**.

Continuous Improvement of Student Learning / Achievement





National Flag of Canada Day: **February 15th, 2025**, marks 60 years of the Canadian flag! The Government of Canada invites Canadians from coast to coast to mark National Flag of Canada Day by learning about the fascinating history behind the Canadian flag!

The Government of Canada has a dedicated [website](#) which offers in-class and at-home activities for students and families, including a Canadian symbols scavenger hunt, a Canadian flag quiz, a printable Canadian flag colouring sheet, and a Canadian flag crossword puzzle.

Please note the following activity kits:

- [Ages 5-12 \(French version\)](#)
- [Ages 13+ \(French version\)](#)

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

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 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.

Throughout the month of February we will close with 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.

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