



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Principal: Mrs. Sharon Pardy

FVSD Trustee: Mr. Keith Lambert

Welcome to the 2016—17 school year!

At St. Mary's Elementary School we are looking forward to another fun year of learning and growing together. We have **135** students in our school this year! We have all the same teachers, and some new support staff. See the complete staff list on the next page.

Our Student Recognition Model will be the same as last year, where students are recognized for academics, special talents, positive behaviors and work habits. At Month End Assemblies, certificates will be awarded for outstanding performance in these areas.

St. Mary's is a PAX school, where students are instrumental in creating classroom and school-wide guidelines for maintaining a peaceful environment. Each day, students may be awarded 'Tootles' for modelling good PAX behavior. Students receiving Tootles will be entered for daily and monthly draws. Students can also award each other with Tootles!

There are many curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students this year, including Citizenship Club/Student Council, Cheerleading, Dance, Choir, Cross Country, Track and Field, Soccer, Green Team, Health and Wellness Team, Science fair, Public Speaking, Art Show and many more! It promises to be an exciting year!



SMES Online!

Please check out St. Mary's website, to get information about our school, programs, calendar and special events at:

<http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/school/stm/Pages/default.aspx>

Our website will have a new look, coming soon!

You will also find useful links, teacher pages, important documents, staff list, news announcements, and even some pictures of our students learning and playing at school!



Find us on Facebook

St. Mary's also has a **Facebook** page! To get regular reminders about upcoming events at our school, or even bus cancellations, go to: **St. Mary's Elementary School FVSD** on Facebook, and 'Like' us!



St. Mary's strongly encourages parents to join our **email list**. Newsletters and memos that are sent home from the office will be sent to the parent email list. It's not too late to join!

We're Going Back To School



Fort Vermilion School Division #52

Volume 7, Issue 1

September, 2016

Inside this issue:

Staff List	2
Important dates	2
"Peanut-Free" Twitter	2
PAX	3
Lice Bussing	3
Cross Country Soccer	4
Cheerleading & Dance	4
Hot Lunch	4
Birthdays!	5
School Safety / Lockdowns Info	6
Parent Council Reminders	7



List of Staff Members for 2016-17:

Teachers:

ECS—Ms. D. Guitard
 Grade 1—Ms. J. Winsor
 Grade 2—Mrs. S. Zoski-Charles
 Grade 3—Ms. C. Brand
 Grade 3—Mrs. C. White
 Grade 4—Mrs. K. Wright
 Grade 5—Ms. R. Reeves
 Grade 6—Ms. K. Street
 Phys. Ed.—Mrs. A. Hammond
 Inc. Ed. Coordinator—Mrs. K. Gamble
 Principal—Mrs. S. Pardy
 Student Teacher—Ms. L. Wain
 Student Teacher—Mr. S. Higgs

Support Staff:

Secretary(Sept/Oct)—Mrs. L. Klassen
 Secretary—Mrs. M. Boissy
 Librarian—Mrs. D. Toews
 Student EA—Mr. M. LeClair
 Student EA—Ms. N. Cardinal
 Student EA—Mrs. N. Reid
 Student EA—Mrs. T. Beach
 Student EA—Mr. N. Ward
 Student EA—Mrs. A. Randle
 Literacy EA—Mrs. W. Auger
 Speech EA—Mrs. D. McIsaac
Community Literacy Coordinator:
 Mrs. J. Dempster

Student Support Services:

Counselor (MHT)—Ms. B. Higgins
 Child Circle Worker—Ms. T. Driedger
 CCW(back in May) - Ms. M. Harris
 Wellness Coach—Mrs. C. Paul
 Wellness Coach—Mr. N. Gray
Cook: Mrs. M. Dyck
Head Custodian: Mr. B. Martens
Custodian: Mrs. M. Martens
Bus Drivers:
 Ms. J. Belcourt
 Mr. D. Driedger
Trustee:
 Mr. K. Lambert



Upcoming Events / Important dates:

Sept. 5—Labour Day (No school)
 Sept. 6—First Day of School (1—6)
 Sept. 12—First day for ECS
 Sept. 20—Meet the Staff Night
 Sept. 22—Early Dismissal (1:45)
 Sept. 23—PD Day (No School)
 Sept. 27—Parent Council Meeting
 Sept. 28- Divisional Cross Country Run (Rocky Lane)
 Sept. 29—Terry Fox Walk/Run (pm)
 Sept. 30—Rocky Acres Fall Celebration

Oct. 3—Month End Assembly (2:15)
 Oct. 6- HASS
 Oct. 10—Thanksgiving (No School)
 Oct. 22—Iron Chef Competition
 Oct. 25—Picture Day
 Oct. 27—Read for the Record
 Oct. 31—Month End Assembly
 Nov. 9—Early Dismissal(1:45pm)
 Nov. 10—PD Day (No School)
 Nov. 11—Remembrance Day (no school)

Nov. 18—First Report Card sent home
 Nov. 23—Div. Authors' Lunch
 Nov. 23—P-T Interviews (5—8 pm)
 Nov. 24—P-T Interviews (4—7 pm)
 Nov. 30—Month End Assembly
 Dec. 20—Christmas Concert
 Dec. 22—Early Dismissal 1:45 pm,
 and last day before holidays!



SMES is a Peanut-free school!

At St. Mary's, we have students with peanut allergies, so PLEASE do not send snacks, treats or lunches with peanuts or peanut butter in them! This is important to remember on special occasions such as Halloween, Christmas, Easter or any evening events.



For Bus Cancellations

FVSD has set up a Twitter account for bus delays and cancellations. If you already have a Twitter account, just go ahead and follow them at [fvsdbuses](https://twitter.com/fvsdbuses).

If you prefer to receive updates via text message, send a text message from your cell to phone number 21212. Insert the message follow [fvsdbuses](https://twitter.com/fvsdbuses). If you just occasionally want to check the latest on buses, you can find the Twitter updates at www.twitter.com/fvsdbuses or at www.fvsa.ab.ca.

PAX



St. Mary's has been part of a study/research project called PAX—the Good Behavior Game, for the past few years. Staff and students love it! It is a fun way to learn and function in a classroom environment, while also learning how to become more aware of other people's behaviors, and how to control your own impulses and behaviors. This 'game' does not detract from class instructional time. The 'games' can be played during and in between instructional activities. We are using PAX as our school-wide behavior program as well. PAX means **Peace, Productivity, Health and Happiness**.

A PAX student is:

- * **Respectful**
- * **Responsible**
- * **Safe**

You may also hear your child talk about Spleems. Spleems are inappropriate behaviors for that time or location. For example, running in the classroom is a spleem, but running on the school yard during recess is acceptable. Talking in a normal voice during a group discussion is acceptable, but talking in a normal voice during a test or silent reading is a spleem.

Tootles are notes to others, ac-

knowledging something nice. Staff and students can write Tootles to each other. We want students to notice positive behaviors in others. We have PAX pockets for all students on the hall bulletin boards, so that students' Tootles can be stored there. We also draw names for daily PAX prizes! We are very enthused about this program, and we have seen a remarkable improvement in student behaviors and self-control. You can read more about PAX on the following websites:
<http://paxis.org/products/view/pax-good-behavior-game>
<http://paxis.org/>

Lice

Although the staff at St. Mary's takes precautions to avoid the spread of lice in the school, it still occasionally happens, unfortunately. Please check your child's head regularly, so we can be proactive in stopping those pesky creatures before they spread to others. We also have brochures available, with information on how to deal with this problem. These are available upon request and

may be sent home at a later time, if necessary. If your child has lice, please keep him or her at home and treat the problem promptly.



Bussing



The FVSD provides two buses to transport students to St. Mary's. Our drivers are Ms. Joyce Belcourt and Mr. David Driedger. This service is subsidized by the government for rural students, living outside the town boundary. In-town students are also welcome to ride the bus, for a **monthly** fee of:

- \$40.00 per student
 - \$100.00 per family of 3 or more
- Also, if you pay 5 months in advance,

you get a 5% discount. If you pay for the full 10 months in advance, you get a 10% discount.

If you have financial constraints, you are welcome to apply for waived bus fees. Please call Mrs. Boissy, our secretary, or Rachel at the bus garage, for more information regarding this option.

A child can only ride the bus to a friend or family member's house on the following three conditions:

- if their bus fees are covered
- a note from you must be provided
- if there is room on the bus (buses are sometimes full to capacity during the winter months)
- buses will not drop students off at stops that are not part of their regular routes.



FVSD Divisional Cross Country Run



This year's Cross Country Run was held on Wednesday, September 28th, at the Rocky Lane agricultural grounds. Students in Grades 1 through 6 trained hard in the hopes of representing St. Mary's. The top runners from each age category were chosen to attend this event, for a total of twenty-one students. They represented our school well and several students placed in the top ten in their categories! Kylie McLean, Asia Carinal and DJ Flett won medals.



Super Soccer Saturday



Super Soccer Saturday took place at Blue Hills Community School this year, on September 24th. St. Mary's Grade 4 to 6 students participated. There was a lot of interest and we had two teams! Everyone worked hard to improve their soccer skills during physical education classes as well as during lunch time and after school practices. It was a great day and they had a lot of fun! Thank you to all the parents who made the trip out there to watch and cheer our students!

Go Huskies!



Cheerleading and Dance!



Cheerleading will be offered at St. Mary's this fall for grades 4–6 students. Mrs. McIsaac will be the coach again. Watch for a note coming soon! Cheerleading practices will be after school, starting in October. This year we are asking that cheerleaders pay \$15 to participate. This will help offset the costs associated with cheerleading.

Dance has started already! Dance practices will happen during recess breaks at school.



Hot Lunch Program



St. Mary's has a free Hot Lunch Program for all students. Staff members can also eat from this program, but they pay for their meals. A hot lunch menu was sent home with students at the beginning of the year, and any time a change is made, a new menu will be sent home. The menu is also accessible on our website. The only time the menu may not be followed is in the rare instance that the regular items were unavailable, or at the end of the year, when the cook may be trying to use up food items. Please let the school know right away if your child has any food allergies. If your child does not like certain meals, you can send along a lunch and/or snack from home on those days.

The hot lunch menu may change from time to time based on survey feedback from students and parents. The Parent Council was involved in this process two years ago and they were very helpful in preparing a survey and examining the responses. Creating a hot lunch menu is a challenging task, when having to consider likes/dislikes and healthy options. Everyone's tastes are different and opinions vary on what should be added to/removed from the menu. In creating the current menu, we tried to find a balance between 'made from scratch' meals and faster 'ready made' or 'pre-packaged' alternatives, find healthier options that children will eat, keep the popular items, and add some new suggestions from parents and students. We welcome feedback anytime. We would like our menu to promote healthier eating, reflect students' tastes and is still manageable for our cook. This is always a work in progress! Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback.



Birthdays!



September:

Date:	Name:	Grade:
5th	Spencer Meneen	3
8th	Camden Moberly	5
13th	Jace Clarke	2
13th	Brooklyn McLean	K
14th	Kash Randle	4
17th	Jarrin Reid	3
18th	Tara Cardinal	3
24th	Olivia Judd	K
25th	Scott Boese	5

November:

Date:	Name:	Grade:
6th	Lerah Metchooyeah	5
9th	Rhianna D'or	4
10th	Asia Cardinal	4
18th	Kyver Mitchell-McLeod	6
20th	Memphis Flett-Uhersky	3
20th	Kadenlynn Cardinal	2
23rd	Kayde Semansha	3
27th	Hanna Laboucan	3
28th	Dalton Flett-Uhersky	1



October:

Date:	Name:	Grade:
1st	Janet Amoo	K
7th	Macey McLean	4
7th	Ethan Cardinal	2
10th	Ashton Auger	3
17th	Jorja Auger	5
17th	Stephanie Batt	4
17th	Kobe Lafferty	3
21st	Lisa Auger	3
22nd	Cheneil Cardinal	3
22nd	Paytan Auger	4
24th	Abby Flett	5
27th	Mickaela Lizotte	2
28th	Amelia O'Neill	K
29th	Sophie Shelton	1





Notice to Parents: School Safety and Security (in partnership with the RCMP)



As you are likely aware, St. Mary's practices lockdowns as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. We will be having our first practice lockdown sometime this fall. Most of our staff and students are familiar with lockdowns, and the rest will be trained soon. We would also like to increase your knowledge of our procedures, and what we would expect of you, in the event of a real lockdown.

It is important to know that school staff would implement a lockdown and call police if/when there is reason to believe that imminent danger may exist. At this stage, everyone in the school will move to a secure location, safe from harm. Police will respond to the school and no one will enter or leave, until the situation is resolved.

The first instinct of parents/guardians is to either phone the school or your child, or to come to the school right away. You are asked not to do any of these things, but instead to understand and follow the procedures outlined as follows:

Roadways need to be kept clear for responding emergency vehicles, and parents and others attempting to drive to the school can slow police and other emergency responders from getting to and securing the area as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you hear that a lockdown is occurring at your child's school, do not come to the school. Instead, please wait at home to receive information which will be provided by police and/or school representatives, through media such as TV, FVSD website, radio or telephone. Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep you informed as to what is happening during the event. Experience has shown that incorrect information often circulates during an event when it does not come directly from the police or school board. Please note that, for safety reasons, some situations may require that some information be withheld until the situation is resolved. (In lockdown situations you may also contact the school division by calling 780 927-3766.) After the lockdown, you may be asked to go to the school or to wait where you are until your child is brought to your location. Or, you may be asked to go to a different site, such as the community hall or a church.

We also ask that you not attempt to phone your child. In a lockdown, everyone must remain quiet, and a ringing cell phone may draw undue attention to the secure location where your child and his/her classmates are.

Aside from lockdown procedures, the school may also implement a precautionary "Hold & Secure" if there is an unrelated emergency situation occurring outside the building or in the neighbourhood, that could potentially present a danger to the school. In this case, all doors to the school are locked and monitored to allow any students from outside entry into the school. Classes will generally continue but no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the situation is resolved. We also ask that you do NOT come to the school unless asked to do so by school division staff.

The RCMP will be at the school when we practice our lockdown drills, so please do not be alarmed if you see them at our school! If you hear a 'Lockdown' call, please remember that it is likely a practice drill. The first lockdown practice drill will be expected by our students, but we may have more surprise lockdown drills throughout the year. We encourage you to discuss school safety with your child and to address any concerns they may have. We welcome any questions you have about this or any other issue related to the safety and security of our school.

Mrs. Pardy



St. Mary's Elementary School

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Phone: 780-927-3201
Fax: 780-927-4737

"Building Success
—One student at a time"



St. Mary's Elementary School held the **AGM** (annual general meeting) at 6:30 pm on **Tuesday, Sept. 27**. Parents opted not to hold elections. All parents are welcome to all school council meetings. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 pm**.

Parents play an important part in student success; school councils are an excellent way for parents to be involved in their children's education.

Get involved.



Reminders to parents:



- ◆ Please keep the bus lanes clear during the loading and unloading of students, from ~ 8:20—8:40 in the morning and from ~ 3:00—3:20 in the afternoon.
- ◆ St. Mary's has outside recesses, unless it is raining, stormy or colder than -20° . Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather.
- ◆ Classes start at 8:40am. Classes end at 3:12pm. St. Mary's opens at 8:15am. It closes at 3:20pm. On early dismissal days, classes end at 1:45pm.
- ◆ Students will not be permitted to use the phone to make arrangements to go to a friend's house after school. Arrangements need to be made ahead of time and the bus driver will need a note, to allow a student to go to an alternate place after school.
- ◆ 'O Canada' is played at St. Mary's every morning at 8:40. All parents and visitors, along with staff and students are asked to stand respectfully during the playing of our national anthem.
- ◆ Please pick up students promptly after sports practices and school clubs. When teachers donate their time for these activities, it is unfair to expect them to stay longer supervising students until parents arrive.
- ◆ Please sign agendas regularly and use them as a communication tool between home and school.
- ◆ Please refer to the magnetic calendar as well as monthly calendars, newsletters, and the website, to find out about upcoming events, so that the office doesn't receive excessive phone calls about dates and times.
- ◆ Let's work together to help your children learn and grow!

