MONSIGNOR FEE OTTERSON, 2026

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



A Profound Quote for the Month of November

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

" I will never attend an anti-war rally;
if you have a peace rally, invite me."



ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU

At MFO, we recognize that **'peace'** begins in our own hearts and in our daily interactions with one another. It is important for each one of us to reach out and share the spirit of peace with those we encounter daily. There is nothing more beautiful than observing the students model compassion, understanding, and forgiveness when needed. This enables us to reflect on the importance of creating that inner peace which celebrates the value of one another.

BE A PEACEMAKER...



- By learning how to solve problems peacefully in your own life, because peace begins with you.
- By praying for peace.
- By forgiving others.
- By learning how to listen and how to see things from another point of view.
- By learning about what is happening in the world around you.
- By learning about different ways of living and thinking.
- By modeling kindness and patience
- By performing acts of service that strengthens community and strengthens relationship.

Let's 'Think Peace, Speak Peace, Act Peace.' During our November journey, we will discover the peace within us and the peace that surrounds us at Monsignor Fee Otterson... where everyone belongs.
Principal Lily Kucy; Assistant Principals Mr. Kiryluk; Mr. Banco



📺Monsignor Fee Otterson MORNING BROADCAST 📺

NEWS CREW



Our **Junior High Communications Crew** has been hard at work, since the start of the school year, to lead our morning announcements broadcast.
This practice will continue for the school year and is a daily time commitment, from 8:13 - 8:25 a.m. It is open to all junior high students who wish to share their gifts and talents in front of the camera or behind the scenes (tech support set up) in the following ways:

- A **caring** heart to work as a team player.
- The **knowledge** to plan, prepare and execute the morning broadcast for announcements.
- The ability to **communicate** appropriately and effectively to deliver information.
- The ability to demonstrate fair and sound **thinking** if/when unexpected situations occur.
- A **principled** attitude to make a commitment to arrive on time, complete responsibilities, remain calm, be patient, be creative and have FUN!
- A **reflective** response to challenges and things about ways to solve problems vs. giving up.
- A **balanced** person able to manage their time and other school duties.
- A **risk-taker** willing to try something new, collaborate with others and **serve as a role model!**

Lunch Leaders (Grade 6 students) demonstrate servant leadership by supporting younger students as they eat their lunches. This dedicated group of students will be demonstrating the following:

- A **caring** heart to supervise younger children.
- The **knowledge** to treat all students in a respectful, responsible, and fair manner.
- The ability to **communicate** appropriately in response to student requests and needs.
- The ability to demonstrate fair and sound **thinking** if/when unexpected situations occur.
- A **principled** attitude to make a commitment to arrive on time, complete their responsibilities and remain calm and patient.
- A **reflective** response to challenges and things about ways to solve problems vs. giving up.
- A **balanced** person able to manage their time and other school duties.
- A **risk-taker** willing to try something new, collaborate with others and **serve as a role model.**

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS...

ENGLISH AS ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE DESIGNATE~MRS. LECKNESS





October was another busy month, continuing to dive into the curriculum and engage students through hands-on, collaborative learning experiences. These experiences not only foster language acquisition but deepen understanding of academic material for all students.

Throughout the grades we focused on understanding tier two vocabulary, those academic words that appear within the program of studies. Words such as analyze, justify, contrast, apply were

examined and students worked together to show their understanding of these words.

In grade 5, we have been focusing on adding games to learn and deepen our understating of key vocabulary words from Social Studies, looking at ancient civilizations and empires. We have played vocabulary Tic-Tac-Toe, teacher vs student sorts, and a Family Feud style game having Rome battling Mexico City! The kids enthusiasm and engagement helped harness a true level of understanding of the concepts.





INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES MRS. WOOLLEY;MRS. WALKER

PDF **October 2026 IC NEWSLETTER.pdf** Download 1.1 MB

INCLUSIVE INSTRUCTIONAL COACH MRS. SWEETLAND

We are excited to celebrate a successful start to Year 3 of our Pathways to Reading project and reading intervention program! Students are building confidence, strengthening their literacy skills, and working hard each session. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and commitment to growing as readers!

October was AAC Awareness Month! This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many way students communicate and to help ensure that every voice is heard, valued, and respected. We

invite school staff to explore our SharePoint Site for ready-to-use activities, resources, and ideas that promote understanding, build inclusion and support advocacy for students who use AAC.



📗READ IN WEEK OCTOBER 5-11📕





LET STORIES SOAR!

Read In Week was a tremendous success! We were grateful to welcome several guest readers, staff who took the time to share a favourite book, and parents who joined us in celebrating the joy, while demonstrating the value and importance of literacy in our world. What a beautiful way to bring our school community together while nurturing a love of reading and learning in our students. All staff members were invited to choose a book from home or the library that they LOVE and inspire someone else to read. Our junior high students had the opportunity to read to their buddy students. Our older students were true leaders in the spirit of celebrating literacy in our lives. We were also elated to have Division senior administrators, and Trustee Turchansky to read to a variety of grade level classes.

Children benefit from daily opportunities to be read to. “There is an emotional and intellectual impact **reading aloud** to children has on their ability to learn to read (*Mem Fox*).” Reading aloud sparks interest and enthusiasm and places books in the hands of the children. Thank you to all our stakeholders for supporting this important week.





TRUSTEE TURCHANSKY READS TO GRADE 1A



SPECIAL GUEST READER



ROBERT MUNSCH BOOKS ARE SO FUNNY!

🦃THANKSGIVING DAY CELEBRATION OCTOBER 9🍗



DEACON GORDON



STUDENT LECTOR



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

We enjoyed a wonderful **Thanksgiving celebration at our school**, taking time to reflect on the many blessings for which we are grateful. Having Deacon Gordon as our celebrant, It was a beautiful opportunity to come together as a school community to give thanks to God for the many blessings, and recognize the importance of gratitude in our daily lives.

🌳GRADE 7 STUDENTS AT STRATHCONA WILDERNESS CENTRE OCTOBER 21🎄





JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT RETREAT



GAMES



HAVING FUN WITH OUR MFO STUDENTS

Our Grade 7 students had a wonderful opportunity to visit the **Strathcona Wilderness Centre** for a fun filled field trip focused on community building and belonging. Throughout the day, students had opportunities to connect with one another, strengthen friendships, and build a greater sense of community within their grade. Experiences like these are an important part of creating a school culture where students feel connected, valued, and that they truly belong. We are grateful for opportunities that allow our students to learn, laugh, and grow together beyond the classroom. We hope our students came away with many wonderful memories from their day together! Thank you to Mrs. Draudson for planning and organizing this wonderful event.

🚶 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ELEMENTARY/JUNIOR HIGH LEADERSHIP

TEAMS🚲

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

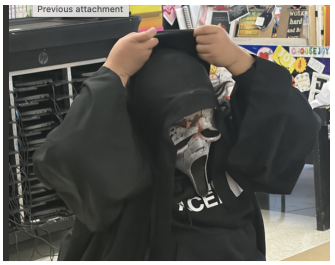
We are excited to see our Elementary and Junior High students taking an active role in our **Mental Health and Wellness Leadership Teams**. These teams provide students with opportunities for voice and choice as they generate ideas, plan activities, and take leadership in supporting the social and emotional well being of our school community. It is wonderful to see our students recognize that their ideas matter and that they can positively contribute to creating a welcoming, caring, and inclusive school where all students feel seen, safe and belong. We would like to thank Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Lehman for leading these teams and for supporting this important initiative.

👻HALLOWEEN FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 🎃





JUNIOR HIGH



FLEX



SESSIONS



FLEX SESSIONS



We all had a fabulous Halloween at MFO this year!
The morning began with our students showing off their awesome costumes as they entered the doors of the building. We 'kicked off' a Halloween Parade in the gymnasium in the afternoon. All students and staff showcased their costumes as we danced one lap around the gymnasium cheering each other on. There were many creative, funny, cute and even spooky costumes. Students then engaged in Halloween activities (flex sessions throughout the day) and for the remainder of the afternoon. Thank you to our staff who made the classroom parties SO much fun for our students! There were games, art and goodies galore. Our students are blessed to have the opportunities to have fun at school every day, Halloween included. Hopefully your trick-or-treating experiences are just as fun.



MFO STAFF



DANCING



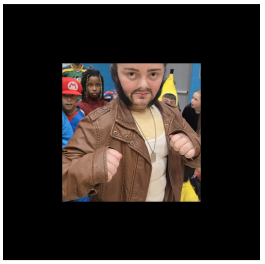
HALLOWEEN PARADE



FUN



SPOOKY



WOLVERINE

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

MFO STUDENTS ARE PRINCIPLED

For the month of November are students will focus on being **Principled**. This means that we act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
For more literature linked to the Learner Profile, please visit this website.
How can parents help to develop students who are Principled at home?

- Involve your child in deciding on the rules for a game or activity and then ensure that they stick to the ones that have been decided upon.
- Encourage your child to play games that involve teams. Discuss with your child the qualities of a team player. What sort of person would they want on their team?
- When your child wins a game insist that he or she is a well-mannered winner. They might thank their opponent or shake hands with them if it's appropriate.
- When playing a game, don't change the rules or let your child win. Being a gracious loser is just as important as being a good winner.
- Use the learner profile language when discussing home rules.

ALL SAINTS DAY~NOVEMBER 1

On November 1, we celebrate All Saints' Day, a special day in our Catholic faith when we honour all the saints, known and unknown, who lived lives of faith and devotion to God. The saints provide beautiful examples of what it means to live our faith through love and service. As a school community, All Saints' Day reminds us that we, too, are called to follow Jesus, share our gifts, care for one another, and bring joy and hope to the world around us. [catholic.com]

ALL SOULS' DAY~NOVEMBER 2

https://www.catholic.com/tract/all-saints-day-catholic-answers-guide

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GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATIONS~NOVEMBER 2

IMMUNIZATIONS

Nurses from Alberta Health Services will be visiting our school to administer routine immunizations for Grade 6 students. These vaccinations are part of the provincial health program and help protect against preventable illnesses. Consent forms have been sent home and must be returned prior to the scheduled date.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office. Thank you for your support in keeping our students healthy and safe.

📷EDGE IMAGING PICTURE RETAKES~NOVEMBER 6📸

Picture Retake Day is November 6! Edge Imaging will be at our school for students who require a photo retake or were absent on the original Picture Day. They will begin promptly at 8:30am.

INTERNATIONAL INUIT DAY~NOVEMBER 7

INDIGENOUS VETERAN'S DAY~NOVEMBER 8

November 8th is a day we recognize First Nations, Métis, and Inuit soldiers, their contributions and sacrifices to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and other missions.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

CEREMONY



LITURGY



The poppy is proudly worn over our hearts as Remembrance Day draws near. On November 11, this national day, Canadians remember and honour our fellow soldiers who lost their lives.
Please join us for our school wide Remembrance Day Liturgy on **Tuesday, November 10 at 10:00 am.** Our students will gather in the gymnasium for a Liturgy of the Word to remember those who have died so we may live in peace. Families who wish to join us are welcome.
Poppies will be given to students that morning. We will be accepting donations to the poppy fund. Donations collected for the poppy fund will be greatly accepted.
May we take this moment of time to be reverent as we reflect upon all of those who sacrificed themselves so that we may have freedom and peace.
We are often reminded, on many occasions, of the importance of peace and we will continue to pray that our lives will be blessed with a peaceful world.

REMEMBRANCE DAY/FALL BREAK WEEKEND



FALL BREAK

THERE IS NO SCHOOL ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS...
Wednesday, November 11: Remembrance Day: NO SCHOOL
Thursday, November 12: Fall Break: NO SCHOOL
Friday, November 13: Fall Break: NO SCHOOL

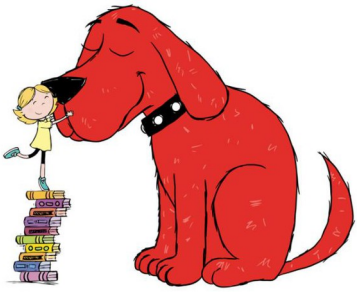
Students Return to School on Monday, November 16

METIS WEEK~NOVEMBER 14-22

Métis Week is an annual commemoration held in November to honour the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Métis people, in Canada. This week of recognition centers on Louis Riel Day, and his important role in Métis history. [rupertsland.org], [albertametis.com]. Métis Week includes ceremonies, educational events, and community gatherings to celebrate Métis identity, honour historical resilience, and highlight the ongoing contributions of the Métis Nation. It serves as a time for both reflection and pride, acknowledging past injustices while celebrating the vibrant Métis culture and the strength of its people today.
Throughout this time, we encourage our students to continue learning about the rich history and vibrant culture of Métis people. As a school community, we are grateful for opportunities to grow in our understanding, honour diverse perspectives and histories, and strengthen our commitment to reconciliation.
Join the Métis Week 2026 - Otipemisiwak Métis Government to honour the legacy of Louis Riel and celebrate Métis culture and heritage. This annual event features commemorative ceremonies and activities across Alberta.

📚 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16-19~ MFO BOOK FAIR📚

💰SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR🔑



Get ready, readers! The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be at **Monsignor Fee Otterson** from **Monday, November 16 to Thursday, November 19**

The Book Fair is a great way for students to discover exciting new stories, favorite series, and all the latest must reads. Each class will visit the Fair during school hours, so your child will have a chance to explore and find books that spark their imagination!

When you shop at the Book Fair, you're not only encouraging your child's love of reading but you're also helping our school earn new books and resources for our classrooms and library.

Thank you for supporting our readers and our school. We can't wait to see you at the Book Fair!

NOVEMBER 19~ DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

STUDENTS SHOWCASING EVIDENCE OF LEARNING-SAVE THE DATE

Kindergarten - Grade 8 Demonstration of Learning will be held on **Thursday, November 19.** We look forward to each student in our school, in collaboration with their teacher, sharing evidence of learning.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of demonstration of learning is **to provide students with an opportunity to celebrate their successes and growth with their families.** This demonstration of learning provide students with as much responsibility as possible for sharing their experiences, thinking processes, projects and learning with you, their parent/guardian. This format for ongoing communication of student learning is foundational to our beliefs and practices at MFO School. It is important that we use this conference time to bring out the best in our students, so they feel proud of their accomplishments and personal growth. As a result of this conference, students will be motivated by new goals which will help shape their learning in the future.

Our goal is to provide students an enriching and empowering opportunity to demonstrate their learning and gain even more confidence with expressing what it is they are coming to know about themselves and the world around them. They become engaged participants in shaping their own future.

ENJOY YOUR CHILD'S NARRATIVE...

Your active participation in this process is a vital part of your child's educational journey!

Important Date:

Demonstration of Learning (K-8)

Thursday, November 19, 2026

A separate newsletter regarding the times and bookings to follow. If you have any questions or

require any additional information, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist you.

PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION BOTTLE DRIVE:
Thursday, November 19, 2026
During the demonstration of learning, families are also encouraged to participate in our Parent Fundraising Association **Bottle Drive.** This is a wonderful opportunity to support MFO while helping reduce waste. Proceeds from the bottle drive directly support school initiatives and student activities. A bottle trailer will be located at the **Front of the School** making it easy to drop off your recyclables when you come for the demonstration of learning day. We kindly encourage families to begin **saving their bottles at home**, and if possible, consider asking **friends, neighbours, and extended family** to contribute as well. Every donation helps support enriching opportunities for our students. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 780-430-8015. **More information to follow regarding bottle drop off times for this day.**

NOVEMBER 25~HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY

Honoring Holodomor Day

We will pause to remember the victims of the Holodomor, a devastating famine that took the lives of millions in Ukraine during 1932–1933. This solemn day reminds us of the importance of truth, resilience, and the enduring strength of communities. We honor their memory in recognition and remembrance.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL/PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)/PARENT FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION (PFA) MEMBERS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR: CHRIS BULLEN
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL VICE CHAIR: TIM MCMULLEN
PARENT FUNDRAISER ASSOCIATION CHAIR: CHARLES MANGWENDE
PARENT FUNDRAISER ASSOCIATION VICE CHAIR: KARLI LEWIS
TREASURER: HEATHER GRATIX BURT
SECRETARY: MARGARET BEMBRIDGE
CASINO CHAIR: VACANT
LIAISON: SIMONA SHROPSHIRE

As many of our current School Council and Parent Fundraising members will be moving on next year as their children transition from our school, we are actively seeking new family members to

join our School Council team for the 2027-2028 school year.

School Council plays a vital role in supporting initiatives that enhance the learning experiences and well-being of our students. From providing agency with school priorities to supporting special events and activities, the contributions of Council members help make a meaningful difference in our school community.

We will need parents and guardians to step forward and continue this important work. We encourage you to consider becoming involved. It is a valuable opportunity to have a voice in your child's education, build connections within our school community, and positively impact the experiences of all students. Please consider joining School Council and helping us continue the important work that benefits our entire school community. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

We are also going to need a parent to volunteer and coordinate the Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch Program for the 2027-2028 school year.

A FRIENDLY...



🏫🍎SCHOOL REGISTRATION FEES🎒



💲Paying Fees📲

The 2026/2027 School Registration Fees support the operational decisions made and we are dependent on this financial support to carry out the educational goals set for the school year. If you have not already paid the 2026/2027, **please do so immediately.** School Registration Fees, please check your PowerSchool account for any outstanding balances. Parents can access **"Parent Portal"** by going to the website **https://powerschool.ecsd.net** . We appreciate your attention to this request.

🍕🍱NOVEMBER HOT LUNCH🥧

DATES

Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch:
Friday, November 6: Subway
Friday, November 20: Boston Pizza

Healthy Hunger

Your school just signed up and you're ready for your first round of simple online lunch ordering.

healthyhunger.ca

Healthy Hunger Creating an Account

HOW IT WORKS
Step 1: Create An Account ➢ Click “REGISTER ACCOUNT” and create your new parent account. If you already have an account, you can just login.
Step 2: Add Student ➢ Login and add your child(ren) to the account (name, province, city, school, grade).
Step 3: View Upcoming Lunches ➢ View the upcoming lunch dates.
Step 4: Place Your Orders And Make Payment Online ➢ Place your orders and make payment online with Visa or MasterCard.

*Orders can be placed for individual dates or for all available dates.

NOTE: If your child is absent on hot lunch day and you’d like to pick up his/her order, please contact the school by 10:30am. If no arrangements are made for pick up, his/her order will be donated to a student who does not have lunch. You can cancel orders up to the deadline date. If the order is not canceled, no refund can be issued.


Smore
Beautiful class updates in a snap