CSM Update for Families

Week of November 23–27, 2026

A Message from Mrs. Clamp

We are heading into the final week of November, and there is a lot happening as we prepare to enter Advent and the month of December.

This week includes our first restaurant hot lunch, Whole-School Mass, Term 1 reports, our monthly Grow & Glow Assembly, Colour Team Day, and the final week of our November Food Drive.

A huge **congratulations to our Grade 5 and 6 volleyball players** as they finish their season! Thank you for your hard work and commitment over the past six weeks. You improved so much, we loved spending time with you, and we especially loved watching you play in your final games last Friday. We are very proud of the way you represented CSM.

As we move into this busy season, thank you for continuing to support your children, stay connected to their learning, and participate in the many opportunities happening at CSM.

As always, thank you for trusting our school with your children.

Mrs. Clamp

A Quick Look at the Week

Monday, November 23
🥫 Food Drive continues

Tuesday, November 24
Regular School Day

Wednesday, November 25
🍕 Papa John's Pizza Hot Lunch
🖍️ Colouring for a Cause entries due

Thursday, November 26
⛪ Whole-School Mass
🗳️ Student voting for Colouring for a Cause

Friday, November 27
🌈 **Colour Team Day — Wear Your Team Colours!**
✨ Grow & Glow Assembly
🎉 Celebrating Classes 2A and 2C
🏆 Colouring Contest winners announced
📄 Term 1 Reports released in SPACES

Coming Up

Sunday, November 29 — First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, December 2 — School Council Hot Dog Day
Wednesday, December 2 at 6:15 PM — School Council Meeting in the Library
Thursday, December 3 — Christmas Concert
Monday, December 15 — CSM Holiday Turkey Dinner

Ready to Learn

Attendance & Momentum

Learning builds from one day to the next.

A lesson on Monday often prepares students for Tuesday. Tuesday's practice may make Wednesday's work possible. When students miss a day, they sometimes return needing to catch up on yesterday while the class is already moving forward.

Whenever students are healthy and able to attend, consistent attendance helps them maintain confidence, momentum and connection to their learning.

This Week's Habit — Fuel for Learning

Eating enough during the school day helps students stay focused, regulated and ready to learn.

Please encourage your child to eat their lunch and use lunchtime well. Our school also has universal food options available through the lunch cart in the gymnasium for students who need a sandwich, fruit, vegetables or another addition to their lunch.

A good question to ask this week might be:

"Did you eat enough today to have energy for the afternoon?"

Faith in Our Week

November Scripture

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses… let us run with perseverance the race that lies before us."
— Hebrews 12:1

As November draws to a close, this scripture continues to remind us that we are shaped and supported by others.

We carry the examples of saints, loved ones, teachers, family members and people who have served before us.

This coming Sunday begins **Advent**, a new season in the Church year. Advent invites us to prepare — not only our homes for Christmas, but also our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Growing in Our Catholic Faith

What is the Paten?

The **paten** is the small plate used during Mass to hold the bread that will become the Body of Christ.

Like the chalice, it is treated with great reverence because of its role in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Learning about these sacred vessels helps students understand that the objects used during Mass have meaning and purpose and are treated with care because of what they hold.

Advent Begins This Sunday

This Sunday marks the **First Sunday of Advent**.

Advent is a season of waiting, preparation and hope. It invites us to slow down and remember that Christmas is more than decorations, gifts and celebrations — it is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The first week of Advent is often connected with **hope**.

Family Advent Challenge — Week 1

This week, find one small way to **bring hope to someone else**.

You might send a kind message, help someone without being asked, pray for someone who is having a difficult time, donate something your family can share, or tell someone why you appreciate them.

A simple family question:

“How can we bring hope to someone this week?”

Colour Team Day — Friday

Friday is **Colour Team Day!**

Students are encouraged to wear their team colour as we gather for Grow & Glow and celebrate together.

Our Colour Teams are an important part of building cross-grade relationships and helping students experience belonging beyond their own classrooms.

We would also love to eventually provide **Colour Team shirts for our students**.

If you, your family, your workplace or someone you know may be interested in **sponsoring our Colour Team shirts**, please contact Mrs. Clamp at **csmadmin@holyspirit.ab.ca**.

November Food Drive

Our food drive continues through the end of this week, and we will continue accepting donations until **Thursday, December 3**.

All items collected will be delivered to **Catholic Central High School following our Christmas Concert** in support of Santa's Anonymous.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed.

Every item helps.

Colouring for a Cause

Our **Colouring for a Cause** contest is wrapping up this week.

Entries are due Wednesday.

Some classes have completed colouring pages at school. If your child would like another page to colour, additional copies are available in the **school office**.

Students will vote on Thursday, and winners will be announced during Friday's Grow & Glow Assembly.

Thank you to everyone participating and helping us raise funds for Santa's Anonymous.

Papa John's Pizza Hot Lunch — Wednesday

Our first restaurant hot lunch is this Wednesday!

Orders were due last Friday, so ordering is now closed for this lunch.

If you missed this one, don't worry — **School Council plans to offer a restaurant hot lunch each month**.

Thank you to School Council for bringing these opportunities back to CSM.

Term 1 Reports — Friday

Term 1 reports will be released through **SPACES on Friday, November 27**.

If you are not yet connected to SPACES, please contact your child's teacher so they can help you get set up.

Reports are one part of understanding student progress. We also encourage families to look through the learning already shared in SPACES and ask children to show you work they are proud of or something they have worked hard to improve.

Grow & Glow Assembly — Friday

Our monthly Grow & Glow Assembly will take place Friday.

This month, we are especially excited to celebrate **Classes 2A and 2C**.

We will sit together in our Colour Teams, celebrate student growth and recognize our Colouring for a Cause winners.

Families are always welcome to join us as we recognize the many ways our students continue to **Belong. Grow. Shine.**

Holiday Turkey Dinner — December 15

We have an exciting change to share about our annual school Turkey Dinner.

Our Turkey Dinner has been moved to **Monday, December 15**, when CSM will participate in the **Sky & Table Holiday Plate Project**.

Through this project, Sky & Table will provide a **free holiday meal for our students**.

We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to gathering as a school community to share a special Christmas meal together.

More information about the day will be shared as we get closer.

Christmas Concert — December 3

Preparations are well underway for our CSM Christmas Concert.

Thursday, December 3

🎄 **Matinee — 1:15 PM**
🎄 **Evening Concert — 6:15 PM**

Students should arrive at **5:45 PM** for the evening performance, and parents may take them directly to their classrooms.

Our evening audience will be very full. If every student brings only two guests, our gym will already be near capacity.

We strongly encourage grandparents, extended family members and others who are able to attend during the day to join us for the **1:15 PM matinee**.

Your child's teacher will communicate what your student needs to wear for the concert.

Parking Lot Safety

A reminder that our parking lot is safest when vehicles are **parked in designated parking spaces only**.

Please do not stop or idle in the driving lane while waiting for students.

Yes, this may occasionally mean circling the block or waiting for a space to become available, but doing so helps us keep students safe.

Families may also use the **bus loop for short pick-up and drop-off**, while remaining mindful of bus traffic and school procedures.

When vehicles stop in the driving lane, drivers' views and students' views can become obstructed, and students may begin walking or running between moving vehicles.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep arrival and dismissal as safe as possible.

Thank You — Knights of Columbus Coats 4 Kids

The St. Martha's Knights of Columbus have shared a heartfelt thank-you to our school community for supporting the **Coats 4 Kids Campaign**.

Across the westside Catholic schools and St. Martha's Church, close to **100 gently used or new coats** were collected.

Approximately **40 coats were distributed to children in the four westside Catholic schools**, with close to another 40 made available to students at École St. Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Francis Junior High.

Snow pants, gloves, toques and mittens were also distributed.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this possible.

Holiday & Community Supports

As Christmas approaches, please remember that community supports are available for families who may need assistance with food, winter clothing, gifts or other seasonal needs.

If support would be helpful, please contact the school. We will do our best to help connect families with available resources.

All conversations are handled with care and confidentiality.