



FATHER LEONARD VAN TIGHEM, OMI, SCHOOL

25 Stoney Crescent West
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 6V5
(403) 381-0953 · Fax: (403) 381-0906



Greg Kostiuk, Principal
Patti Pilsner & Travis Magierowski, Associate Principals

August 29, 2022

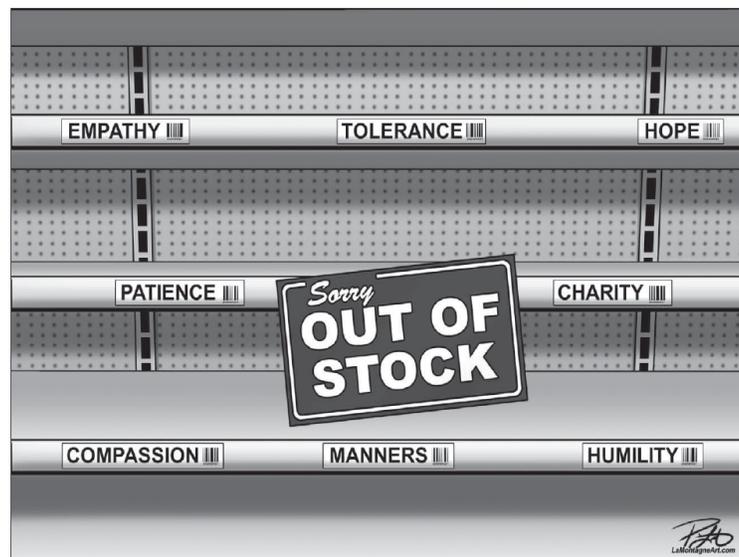
Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of all staff, I want to welcome you to the new school year on August 31, 2022. Our Grade 1-7 students attend all day, starting at 8:55 am. Our Grade 8 and 9 students only have a half-day and start attending at 1:30 pm.



Last week, our staff had our opening meeting, and I would like to share with you the main points of my opening remarks:

- 2021-22 Challenging Year
 - Last year was challenging and possibly the most difficult in my entire educational career. It was challenging not only for me but also for our staff, student, and parent community. During the summer, this editorial cartoon was in the Lethbridge Herald:



I found it to be a great reminder to make sure we all remember the importance of these values as we continue to live during the pandemic.

- Hopeful for 2022-23

- While last year was challenging, I am hopeful for this school year. A central theme of our new Faith Plan, *Arise! Pilgrims of Hope* is hope. As a Catholic faith community, hope is essential to who we are. Perhaps, this is a crucial year for

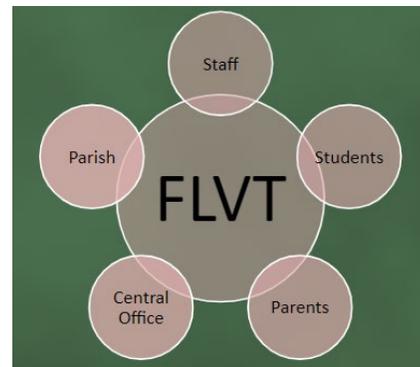


our community to apply our Van Tighem Virtues of **Honest, Accepting, Wise, Kind, and Spiritual** to all we do as a school community. Although we may not be returning to pre-pandemic norms, I'm excited about our new normal as we have learned to live and educate our students during the pandemic.

- Relationships

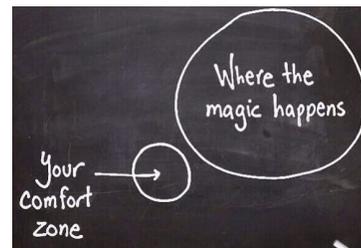
- The past few years have put a lot of strain on all our relationships in our community.

We created our various pandemic protocols to keep everyone safe, and I'm sure as a teacher, a principal and a school, we made some mistakes, but we also got many things right. I recognize our stakeholders' strains and the importance of focusing on rebuilding relationships.



- Opportunities

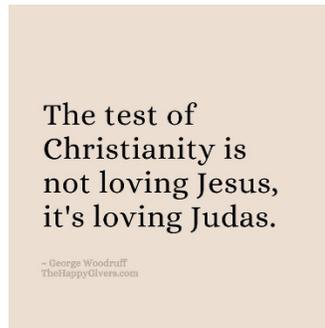
- 2022-23 brings many opportunities, including the Collaborative Response approach to support all our students, the new Alberta Education elementary curriculum implementation, and teachers leaving our comfort zone to engage our students. The crucial part of the Collaborative Response approach is collaboration; our staff is excited about the opportunity to work together to support students. Although the new Alberta Curriculum will present some challenges, slowly implementing it and focusing on numeracy, literacy, and wellness provides us with an opportunity to enhance our pedagogy. Likewise, with all its cohorts and at-home learning moves, the pandemic required us to be a little more traditional in our delivery. This coming year allows us to return to our more innovative practices.



- Positive Attitude
 - For some, being positive is natural. The pandemic and all its outcomes put positivity to the test, and sometimes the pandemic won. So I challenge everyone and myself to choose to be positive!



- Finally, I shared a powerful image I saw on social media earlier this summer:



Now, for some housekeeping news:

- We do not have any official pandemic protocols in place. Students and staff may choose to wear a mask if they want. Like any other year, if your child is sick, we ask them to stay home. For the safety of everyone in our building, we will be continuing to keep our doors locked, but please remember visitors and volunteers are welcome. Don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you want to visit your child's class. Here are the various entry doors for our homerooms; please go to these doors to drop off and pick up your child:
 - West Doors: 8PK, 7T, 7J, 2J, and 3K
 - Front Doors: 9H, 2TJ, 8P, and 9C
 - North Doors (side door near the front doors): Kindergarten am and Kindergarten pm
 - Library Doors (near the pond): 1M, IT, 3A, and 7G
 - Southeast Doors (near the long jump pit) 4LC, 8G, 4CC, 6W, and 6L
 - South Doors (south portables): 5R, 5V, 8CK, 9LH, and 7M
 - ELP: To be determined
- We will be short-staffed in our office for the first few weeks. As a result, sometimes phones may not be answered, or email responses may take a little longer. Again, we thank you for your patience as we wait for our entire office staff to be in place.
- There are still some challenges with doing any large gatherings to start the school year; therefore, we are changing and initial family gathering and Family Blessing. We hope to do an open house and Meet the Teacher event on September 13. We will share details once the planning is complete.

- We are getting bigger, both physically and in numbers. Despite our two new portables not being complete, we can start using them. Our student population, including our Early Learning Program, Kindergarten, and Grades 1 to 9, is close to 700.
- Finally, here are some helpful links:

Bell Times: https://flvt.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/bell_times

Calendar: https://flvt.holyspirit.ab.ca/resources_publications/news/whats_new/flvt_full_year_calendar

Bussing

Information: https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/transportation/lethbridge_schools_transportation

Bus Routes: <https://www.southland.ca/lethbridge/>

Class List Information <https://gregkostiuk.com/2022/05/31/class-lists-2022-23/>

Fee Payments: https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/schools/school_fee_information

School Supplies: https://flvt.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/supply_lists

School Website: <https://flvt.holyspirit.ab.ca/>

Divisional Website: <https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/>

Principal Blog: <https://gregkostiuk.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flvthawks/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/flvthawks/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/flvthawks>

Student Handbook (including Dress Code):

https://flvt.holyspirit.ab.ca/resources_publications/student_handbook

Student Cell Phone/Devices Policy – Away During the Day:

<https://gregkostiuk.com/2018/12/06/away-during-the-day/>

We look forward to working with you to continue to make Father Leonard Van Tighem School a special place. On behalf of our staff, I wish everyone a successful school year.

Greg Kostiuk

Principal