

# École Mallaig School

*Being the best we can be*

Box 90, Mallaig, AB T0A 2K0

Phone: 780-635-3858

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Webpage: [www.mallaigschool.ca](http://www.mallaigschool.ca)

Email: [mcs@sperd.ca](mailto:mcs@sperd.ca)

## November 29, 2024 Newsletter



We are greatly appreciative of our Parent Council for providing a meal for the staff during Parent Teacher Conferences.



Congratulations Miss Hills on being one of November's Most Outstanding Teachers! She was nominated to Lakeland Connect which came out to present her with a gift card as a thank you for all you do.



**Christmas break**  
**December 21-**  
**January 5**

### **Student absences**

Please call the school if your child will not be attending school. If we do not get a call, we will be contacting the parent to verify the students absence.

**Call-780-635-3858**

(messages can be left at this number) **or**  
**text 780-646-2777 or the**  
**SchoolMessenger app**  
**for Safe arrival**

**SCHOOL FEES ARE DUE**  
**AND CAN BE PAID AT THE**  
**OFFICE OR ON**  
**SCHOOLCASHONLINE**



When visiting our school please take a minute to read our Wall of Hope. Our staff and students shared what their hopes are and the love and compassion for others shine through.

Advent Mass and Interfaith Service will be held at the St. Jean de Brebeuf Parish and Mallaig Baptist Church

**Thursday, December 5@ 9:00am**

Everyone is welcome to attend!

### **Christmas Eve Mass times:**

St. Lina @ 7:00pm

Mallaig @ 10:30pm

**Christmas Day:** Mallaig @ 10:30am

**New Years Eve:** Mallaig 7:00pm

**New Years Day:** St. Lina @ 9:00am

Mallaig @ 10:30am

**What do we remember each week of Advent?**

 <b>Week 1</b> <b>Hope</b>	 <b>Week 2</b> <b>Faith</b>
<p><b>Reminds us...</b> Jesus is coming</p> <p><b>Bible verse</b> Romans 15: 12-13</p> <p><b>Bible verse</b> Luke 2:10</p> <p><b>Reminds us...</b> The joy at the coming birth of Jesus</p>	<p><b>Reminds us...</b> To prepare the way of the Lord</p> <p><b>Bible verse</b> Luke 3:4-6</p> <p><b>Bible verse</b> Luke 2:14</p> <p><b>Reminds us...</b> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"</p>
 <b>Week 3</b> <b>Joy</b>	 <b>Week 4</b> <b>Peace</b>



# EXTREME WEATHER

## Is my child's bus running? Coming home early?

Throughout the winter, weather and road conditions are constantly monitored with the safety of students and staff at the center of all of our decisions. We strive to inform parents of any delays or cancellations as quickly as possible. Here's how you may be notified:

- Bus driver contact
- Call/text from your school
- Local radio stations
- Bus Status app
- Division social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Division website  
<https://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/transportation/bus-status>



### How we decide:

When temperatures and/or wind chill is -40 or colder, buses are CANCELLED. Notice may be given the night before or in the morning.

-40°C

Buses may run in the afternoon during extreme cold weather under certain circumstances.

Weather checks start very early with The Weather Network and phone calls to designated staff living in each local area.

Even if buses are cancelled schools remain **OPEN**.

- If your child attends: meaningful learning still occurs
- If your child is absent: efforts will be made to ensure they do not fall behind



Decision is based on:

- Local road conditions
- RCMP travel advisories
- Weather and wind warnings
- Local municipality

Your bus driver also has complete discretion to cancel a route should they feel travel is unsafe.



If a decision is required around temperature and/or road conditions, the Director of Transportation consults with:

- Local bus drivers
- School principals
- Superintendent of Schools



Parents always have the final say about their child's safety and well-being and can always choose whether or not to have their child take the bus.



**The Nations of Saddle Lake, Whitefish Lake and Frog Lake make independent decisions about their buses. Please contact them directly for any questions regarding their transportation policies.**



# ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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**December 11, 2024**

**@ 6:30**

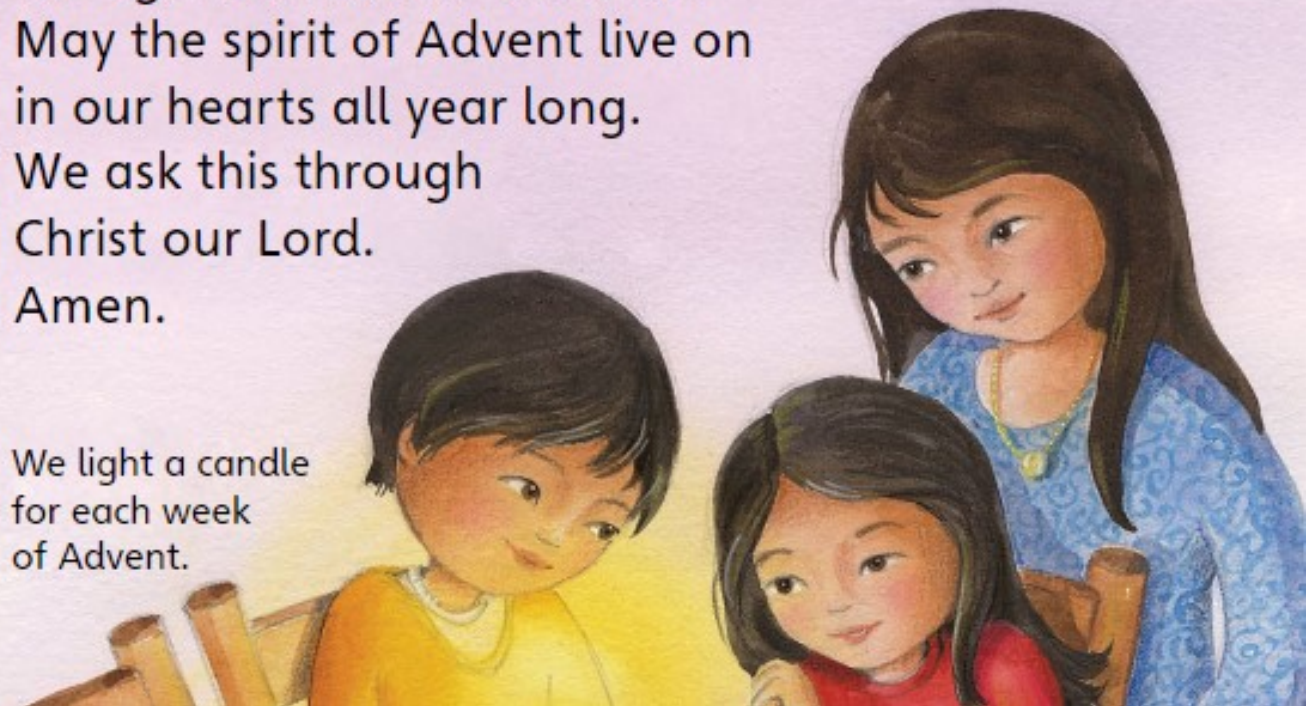
Please join us for an  
evening of Christmas joy!

The Grade 5/6 class will be selling bags of popcorn as a fundraiser for their fieldtrip

# Prayer for Advent

Loving God,  
We praise and thank you for the gift  
of your Son, Jesus.  
Help us open our hearts to share the hope,  
faith, joy, and peace of the Advent season.  
May our actions be a reflection of  
the light of Christ in all of us.  
May the spirit of Advent live on  
in our hearts all year long.  
We ask this through  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

We light a candle  
for each week  
of Advent.



## The Story Of The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath with its candles symbolises the passage of the four weeks of Advent in anticipation of the celebration of Christmas. It is a symbol of continuous life and the circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life found in Christ.



# CAREER CORNER

Mrs. Kotowich-Dubrue Ph: 780-614-7803 kotosusa@sperd.ca

## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 1: USask deadline to apply for admission to be eligible for the Best & Brightest Scholarship

Dec 4: UAlberta Scholarships 101 webinar at 5-6pm

Dec 4: The King's University Admission Online Info Session at 4pm

Dec 11: Olds College Future Students Info session (virtual) at 6pm

Jan 31: Deadline to apply for the UAlberta Getaway experience for Grade 11 students



## SCHOLARSHIPS

- Dec 1: Deadline for the UCalgary Prestige Awards
- Dec 1: Deadline for the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award
- Dec 15: Deadline to apply for the USASK Best & Brightest Scholarship
- Jan 10: UAlberta entrance scholarships deadline (webinar Dec 4 @ 5-6pm)
- Feb 28: Deadline for the Don Mazankowski Scholarship

More scholarship information can be found on our school website at [www.sprhs.ca/students/scholarships](http://www.sprhs.ca/students/scholarships)



## DIPLOMA PREP

Rock the Diploma is offering both in person (in Edmonton) diploma prep courses and online diploma prep help for grade 12 students. Please visit their website at [rtdlearning.com](http://rtdlearning.com) to get more information.

## STUDY HELP

Have you checked out [alberta.exambank.com](http://alberta.exambank.com)? They have practice questions that can help you with your core classes like English, Social, Math and Science. You can log in using "regional" and password "success"

## DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know we have partnerships with different post-secondary schools to offer dual credit courses? Students in our division are able to take a post-secondary course and earn both high school and post-secondary credits. It's a great way to get a head start on your post-secondary and ease your way into the first year of university. It's also a

great way to try a FREE (no tuition) course and see if you are interested in the subject before committing to a full program. In February, we will be offering two courses: CSCR 101 (coding/robotics) and PSYC 104 (Intro to Psychology). If you are interested, please talk to your Career Counsellor to discuss your 2nd semester timetable.

## Ecole Mallaig School Spirit Days for December!

Wednesday December 4- Red and Green Day



Wednesday December 11- Dress your best



Friday December 13- Favorite Christmas socks



Tuesday December 17- Ugly Christmas sweater day.



Thursday December 19- favorite Christmas headwear



Friday Dec 20 - Pajama day!












We would like to thank our special guests that helped make our Remembrance Day celebration more meaningful...Father Paulson, Pastor Owen, Mr. & Mrs. Rumsey, Constable Noseworthy, Mr. David Inscho, Mr. Martin Kaplan, Mrs. Beatrice Amotte and Mr. Duane Fleming. Thank you Mrs. Kully and Mrs. Amyotte for organizing the celebration and to everyone that came to honour this important day.

This year, during Advent, Mallaig School's Santa Helpers will be fundraising and collecting items for the following charities;

- **St. Paul Food Bank**
- **Columbus House of Hope**
- **Sunnyside and Extendicare**





















**Between Dec. 2nd - Dec. 13th**, classes will compete in an Advent Bingo Challenge to collect a variety of items for these charities. All new items will be accepted, however, the class that crosses off the most items on their list will receive a class prize!

Please send new items.

AD	V	E	N	T
				
				
				
				

***Thank you for your support!***

Please send new items.

AD	V	E	N	T
				
				
				
				

**Thank you for your support!**





# EMS Advent Activities



*During this Advent Season, we are preparing for and celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, through faith development and good works projects!*



## Advent Mass



All are invited to attend our Advent mass at the church on **Thurs, Dec. 5th at 9:00am**

## Pictures with Elsa on Friday, Dec. 13th



(\$2.00 ea.)



## Star of Bethlehem

As part of our faith development, students will be creating and displaying Star of Bethlehem projects during our Elementary Christmas Concert



*Grade 7, 8 & 9 students are putting on a Volleyball Tournament- Hollyball Smash, A Video Game Tournament, Door Decorating Activities*

## Advent Item Collection

**Dec 2 - 13th**

(items can be dropped off at front office or handed in to Homeroom teachers)

**We will be collecting:**

- Cash Donations \$
- Grocery/Gift Cards

**We will also be working with My LuvPak Lakeland and collecting:**

- New Toques
- New Snowsuits
- New Mitts/Scarves
- New Toiletries
- New Backpack

*\*To be distributed in surrounding communities*

**We will also be working with Extencicare and Sunnyside collecting Adult Sizes:**

- New Slippers/Gloves
- Large Print Books
- Puzzles/ Word Searches
- Craft supplies for Wreaths
- Hot Chocolate/Apple Cider
- Crayons/ Markers/Paints
- Canvases
- Cookie Decorating



## **Take a Picture with Elsa**

Everyone is invited !



**On Friday, December 13th, 2024**

**In the Mallaig Library from 10:20-11:40**

**Cost - \$2.00 per picture**

(the picture will be emailed to you)

\*Funds collected will support Santa's Helpers

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*Complete one form per picture and send it back to the school by Tues, Dec. 10th*

**Please circle:**          Single picture          or          Group picture

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_          **Class(es):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Picture to be emailed to:** \_\_\_\_\_

*For Office Use:*          \$2.00 Paid?          Photo # \_\_\_\_\_



We would like to thank all those that supported our volleyball season. The success of our program is due to the dedication of our coaches, teacher supervisors, bus drivers, referees, and cafeteria volunteers.

Thank you: Mrs. Handford, Mrs. Paradis, Mrs. Martin, Ashley Dechaine, JP Dechaine, Corey Amyotte, Mr. MacGillivray, Dawson Dechaine, Mr. Christensen, Mrs. Roxy Feland and everyone that stepped in to act as supervisor for the season.

We would also like to thank the many volunteers that helped out with the Jr. High home tournament. Your time spent helping out is so appreciated!

Jr. Girls-2nd place home tournament  
SPAA-competed in semi finals



Jr. Boys-2nd place home tournament  
SPAA-competed in semi finals



Sr Boys-Home tournament champions

SPAA Champions

-Bronze medalist at Zones

-4th place at provincials



Sr. Girls-Home tournament champions

4th place at Zones



**Way to go Stingers!**

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

## BOARD MEETING

# HIGHLIGHTS



### **Remembrance Day**

Schools across the Division held ceremonies to honor the sacrifices made for our freedom. We extend our gratitude to the special guests who joined us, making these moments of remembrance truly meaningful.

### **Kutryk Presentation**

Two community members from Two Hills approached the Board of Trustees seeking support for a tribute recognizing the accomplishments of Canadian astronaut and Two Hills School alumnus, Joshua Kutryk. Trustee Rajoo will represent the Division on the tribute planning committee.

### **Council of School Councils Meeting**

The Board is hosting a Council of School Councils Engagement Meeting on November 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Education Division Office.

### **Criminal Record Check Bylaw**

New provincial rules for local elections are resulting in boards and municipalities needing to decide whether to implement a bylaw requiring a criminal record check for individuals submitting nomination papers before running in an election. Such a bylaw would need to be passed before December 31, 2024. The new rules state that a conviction does not necessarily disqualify a candidate. Given the tight timeline, St. Paul Education trustees chose to defer the Board's response until after the next election and consider addressing a criminal record check requirement in policy for any elected trustees.

### **Election Update**

Nomination packages for individuals who might be interested in running in the October 2025 school board election will be available in January 2025. The Board is not planning any changes to its ward structure.

## New Curriculum Update

Alberta's government is working with education partners this fall to develop the junior high and career education curriculum. Drafts for Grades 7-9 mathematics and social studies, Grades 7-10 physical education and wellness, and Career and Life Management (CALM) will be created this school year, with input from teachers, system leaders, and subject experts. A public release of the refined curriculum is anticipated in spring 2025, and schools will have the option to pilot it in the 2025-26 school year.



## Education Act Changes

Bill 27: Education Amendment Act, 2024, was introduced by the provincial government to improve transparency and support student choice regarding topics of gender identity, sexual orientation, and human sexuality. The bill also establishes a right to education during emergencies, emphasizing access to in-person learning, with new requirements for emergency learning plans. If passed, these changes are expected to take effect for school authorities on September 1, 2025.

## December Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. at the Division Office. A livestream will be available on the Division's [YouTube](#) channel.



## Literacy Update

A literacy consultant has been hired to provide direct support to teachers and staff, enhancing their ability to build early literacy and reading skills. The Acadience tool has been instrumental in identifying areas where students need support, allowing for the development of targeted interventions. To further support a systemic approach to literacy, a speech-language pathologist has also been hired to aid language development.

## Enrolment Update

Enrolment is down 70 students compared to last year but is 32 higher than projected, which will positively impact funding.

**For more information,  
contact:**

**Dr. Peter Barron**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
**[barrpete@sperd.ca](mailto:barrpete@sperd.ca)**



**St. Paul Education**

*Learning Together, Growing Together*

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**[www.stpauleducation.ab.ca](http://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca)**

# December 2024



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1	2 Day 4	3 Day 5	4 Day 6 Wear <b>Red</b> And <b>Green</b>	5 Day 1 Advent Mass @ 9:00am	6 Day 2	7	
8	9 Day 3	10 Day 4	11 Day 5 Dress your best! Christmas concert @ 6:30	12 Day 6	13 Day 1 Favourite Christ- mas socks	14	
15	16 Day 2	17 Day 3 Ugly Christmas Sweater	18 Day 4 Christmas meal	19 Day 5 Favourite Christ- mas headwear	20 Day 6 Pajama Day Early dismissal @ 2:00	21	
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28	
29	30	31	<b>Christmas Break</b>			<b>December 21- January 5</b>	