

St Catherine's School Council Annual General Meeting and September Meeting Agenda, September 23, 2026 7:00 pm

A. Annual General Meeting:

1. Call to order 7:09 pm
2. Record of attendance: Esther Ritz, Lenae Brilman, Ashley Kohut, Deanna Brilman, Gabi Kolk, Alyssa Murray, Chelsea VanderHeyden, Crystie Praskach, Lexi Paskal, Dan Vanden Dungen, Brian Dawydiuk
3. [Opening prayer and Land Acknowledgement](#) - Dan
4. Bylaw update - Vote on changes presented in May 2026
 - Passed - First: Deanna Brilman, Second: Lenae Brilman
 - Updated bylaws will be posted on school website as of Sept 2026
5. Nominations and Election
 - Chair: ***vacant***, no nomination accepted
 - Vice-Chair: ***vacant***, no nomination accepted
 - Secretary: Carlee Nummi (Term 2)
 - Division 1: Alyssa Murray
 - Division 2: Lenae Brilman
 - Division 3: Esther Ritz

B. September 2026 School Council Meeting:

1. Review and adoption of minutes from previous meeting ([May 8, 2026](#)) -
 - Esther Ritz
2. Old Business:
 - a. SafeArrival Software
 - Going well, people like the plan ahead option. Maybe there could be an option for "Full Morning" absence to make it easier if a parent knows they are bringing their child at lunch break.
 - b. Kindergarten Coffee Date - How many this year? October?
 - Gabi will arrange a date for October with Isabel and Darcie and the office, and Crystie will give her the supplies. Consumable supplies can be purchased and receipts given to Daniel to be covered from the School Council Initiatives fund.
 - c. ASCE Grant - Art class or parents materials?
 - Possibility of English classes, or Spanish classes!
 - Art class/night
 - Stock a few more titles in our parent library.
 - Will be topped up again (\$500) in February if we spend some of our current carry over from last year.
3. Reports:

- a. Principal (attached below)
 - b. Associate Principal Faith Report (attached below)
 - c. Finances - Crystie
 - Account balances and uses - Crystie
 - \$731.36 in ASCE Engagement Fund - Grant
 - \$441.65 in School Council Initiatives fund - topped up yearly from Home and School, when needed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. none
5. New business:
 - a. Goals and initiatives for the year
 - Movie Night
 - Continue to support sports and promote building Jr High teams.
 - Track and Field - can parents support a more formal day? Paint Lines, help get pits ready etc.
 - Invite parents to school activities more specifically (Mass, Gospel, Track Days, events in evenings.
 - b. "Tryouts" for Junior High teams. There is always talk of grade 7-8's being able to play either Jr or Sr, generally getting divided by grade, not level of development. Can we put more emphasis on appropriate developmental level, rather than grade. Open "evaluation" days? No cuts, just placement based on skill and experience. Social connections can be a factor, but we want kids to be and feel successful. Senior teams should be generally more competitive. Love having grade sixes, even as practice players.
6. Next meeting: Wednesday Oct 21 (after P/T Interviews)
7. Closing prayer:
8. Adjournment: 8:29 pm

Principal's Report

1. Enrolment - As of Sept. 23, here is our current enrolment:

- Pre-K 20
- Kinder 15
- Gr 1 18
- Gr 2/3 21
- Gr 4 23
- Gr 5 13
- Gr 6 24
- Gr 7 20
- Gr 8 16
- Gr 9 11
- **Total: 181** (In Sept. 2205 we were at **191**, Sept. 2024 - **212**, Sept. 2023 - **221**)

2. Staffing:

- We have one less teacher this year, since we have a combined grade 2/3 class. Mrs. Fuller was moved to Children of St. Martha School in Lethbridge. In addition, Mrs. Rasmussen accepted a position with the school division as an Early Learning Lead Teacher.
- We have hired **Ms. Nicola Alvarez** as our junior high English teacher. She is teaching a variety of other courses in grades 6-9.
- **Mrs. Pia Virginillo** has been hired to teach grade 4 until Christmas, covering the remainder of Mrs. Ortynski's maternity leave
- Welcome to **Leyla Donahue** who is covering Gloria Soucie's 6 week medical leave until the end of October.
- **Chris Snow** will be away on medical leave starting Friday and he expects it to be for a week or two. Rita will be covering his shifts in the meantime and Maintenance is arranging relief for her shifts.
- We have no PSIII students this fall but we have a few teachers who have applied for PSIs for fall and/or PSIII for spring. We will let you know when we hear anything.

3. Maintenance and Facilities:

- The wiring for our **new video cameras** (inside and out) is installed and we are just waiting for the new equipment to arrive and be installed. We are expecting that within the next week. We also expect the equipment for Sarah to be able to monitor the front door and buzz people in.
- The **new grass** seems to be coming up well. We should try to keep students off it until spring to give it a good start.
- Our **wasp situation** is improving but continues to cause problems. We have done what we can, putting out wasp traps, removing the garbage outside regularly, and spraying areas where wasps seem to be congregating. The most effective solution would be to spray the nests, but we have not been able to find them. Probably, the wasps are nesting underground somewhere in our grassy area, and there may be multiple nests. In the

meantime, if a student is stung and you are the supervisor, please complete an incident report and let the office know where it happened as best you can. We hope that we will be able to locate the nests by zeroing in on where the attacks are happening most.

4. Curriculum and Assessment:

- **Literacy and Numeracy Screeners** - are being administered to grades 1-5 between September 14-October 2, 2026. Teachers have until October 6 to enter the results in Vretta. Alberta Education will turn these results into downloadable/printable reports which must be shared with parents. Some students will be identified as Requiring Additional Support in both literacy and numeracy. We are required to provide that support somehow and to report back at the end of the year on how we did so.
- **New Curriculum Support and Other Division Initiatives** - If it seems like teachers are out of the building a lot and that we constantly have subs in the building, it is because of there are multiple sessions at division office for teachers of the new junior high courses (PE & Wellness, Social Studies, Math, Career Education and Financial Literacy) as well as for our Literacy and Numeracy leads, Junior High Outcome-based Assessment, Music Task Force, Kindergarten, and Career Education Task Force leads. The sub costs for all of these meetings are covered by Education Services.

5. Instructional Leadership Initiative - This year, our school division is focusing on the instructional leadership role of principals within the division. You may notice a few new things that reflect that emphasis:

- **Principal collaboration time** - there will be designated, protected time for all principals to work collaboratively with other principals in the division. Dan has been partnered up with Kathy Jones, principal of St. Joseph's in Coaldale. You may see her in our school at various times throughout the year doing walkthroughs with Dan. Dan will also be going over to St. Joes to do the same.
- **Classroom Walkthroughs** - Classroom walkthroughs are changing: we aren't coming in to evaluate your teaching, but to gather real-time evidence on how our learning environment works so we can develop and refine our district's Optimal Learning Model together. Walkthroughs are designed to look at the instructional core—the interaction between the student, the task, and the environment. The focus is on identifying where learning barriers exist in our design (such as task format or reading demands) so we can proactively remove them using UDL principles, rather than judging individual adult performance.

Associate Principal Faith Report

The 2026-2027 school year has begun - and with it, lots of activities tied to our faith!

Events:

- **Hosting Divisional Mass for the start of the school year**
 - Our staff planned the opening mass for the division and played host for the entire division, serving in a variety of ministries - all with swanky new staff shirts!
- **Weekly staff prayer continues, with the resource**
 - With the new year, we are using 3-Minute Devotions to Bless Your Heart by the Barbour Staff
- **Parable and Saint of the Month - with Fr. Iqbal helping during Friday Gospel:**
 - September
 - **Monthly Theme: The Mass as the source and summit of Christian life.**
 - Pope Saint John Paul II was September's Saint
 - We celebrated staff as Saints of the Month on Sept 4. Their pictures have been added to our Wall of Saints.
- **Monthly Mass**
 - St. Catherine School staff led our monthly mass in May. In addition to doing all the readings and the prayers of the faithful, they also led song for our community on September 2nd.
- **Back to School BBQ and New Family Blessing**
 - We had a full house last Wednesday and welcomed all of our families to come and meet staff - new and old - as well as each other.
 - We invited new families to come to our New Family Blessing Liturgy with Father Iqbal during the BBQ. This has worked well in the past, but this year no families came forward to participate.
- **Bishop's Assurance Pilot**
 - Our school division is instituting a new process to examine the Catholicity of our local schools. St. Catherine School was chosen to be the first, which included Superintendent Axai, Chair Ellefson, as well as representatives from Medicine Hat Catholic and the Calgary Diocese. They interviewed nearly all our staff and many students to get a sense of our culture and practice. Things went very well and all parties were appreciative of our commitment to the project.

Looking Ahead: Catholic Education Sunday and Catholic Education Week

- This year, Catholic Education Week is Saturday, October 16 - Friday, October 23. Catholic Education Sunday will be held on Sunday, October 17th with a special invitation to all staff and students to attend mass at St. Catherine Parish.
- Everyone is invited to wear blue in support of Catholic Education on Thursday, October 22.
- St. Catherine's staff and students will be highlighted in social media posts on Tuesday, October 20th, with the focus on the virtue of charity.