



Phone: (403) 223-3352 ● Fax: (403) 223-3855 ● spt.holyspirit.ab.ca

Michelle Nevil, Principal • Mary Tilleman, Associate Principal

March 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 • Lenten Prayer Service at 9 AM (hosted by 4/5P)	2
• SPT Choir is singing at 9 AM Mass at Church	4	• Lenten Dollar Day # 2 – One Colour Day	Hot Dog Hot Lunch Cancelled Choir Practice Parent/Teacher Interviews (4-7PM)	 2/3Du & ECS – Mass at 9 AM (Church) Lenten Prayer Service at 2:30 PM (hosted by Grade 2/3De) School Council Mtg @ 3:45 PM Spring Fundraiser Forms going home Parent/Teacher Interviews (4-7PM) 	School PD Day – No School SPT Staff Hosting Stations of the Cross at St. Augustine Church at 6 PM	9
10	• Division PD Day • No School	• Lenten Dollar Day # 3 – Wacky Tourist Day	• M/W ECS Kindergarten Grad Photos	• T/Th ECS Kindergarten Grad Photos	• Lenten Prayer Service at 2:30 PM (hosted by Grade 1F & 1V)	16
17	• St. Patrick's Day – Wear Green Day	19	• ECS Parent & Teacher Interviews	• ECS Parent/ Teacher Interviews • Lenten Dollar Day # 4 – No Shoes Day • Rock Your Socks for Down Syndrome	• Lenten Prayer Service at 2:30 PM (hosted by Grade 4/5G)	23
24	25	26	• Easter Mass At St. Augustine Church at 11:00 AM	• Lenten Dollar Day # 5 – Wear your Shades Day • Last Day before Easter Break	• Good Friday – No School • Easter Break begins	30



= Grade 4/5 Thunder Athletics Program (3:15-4:15 PM)



March 2024

Our Motto is Learning to Love and Loving to Learn

Lent at SPT

Our classes will be hosting prayer services throughout the Lenten season, here is the schedule:

Mar 1 - 4/5P @ 9:00am Mar 7 - 2/3D @ 2:30 pm Mar 15 - 1F & IV @ 9:00am Mar 22 - 4/5G @ 9:00pm

Mar 8 - Ours school will be hosting the Stations of the Cross at St. Augustine's Church at 6:00pm.

We will be celebrating our Easter mass at St. Augustine's on Mar 27 @ 11:00 am. You are more than welcome to join us.



Rock Time is our weekly assembly that happens the first day back from the weekend at 8:45 AM in our gathering space. You are welcome to join us.

This month, as we journey through Lent, we reflect on these Gospel readings at Rock Time. These are all the Sunday Gospel Readings for March.

John 2:13-17 John 3: 16-21 John 12: 23-26

John 12:12-16 Palm Sunday

We will celebrate St. Patrick Day on March 18. Wear green that day and at Rock Time 4/5W will be hosting a liturgy for St. Patrick.



One Book One Community Literacy Project brought to us by

Love of reading

The Very, Very Far North By Dan Bar-el

All families received a copy of the book. We invite to read with us and if you want to be a quest reader please let your child's teacher know.



Thank You



who donated baked goods and to all community members who rented a table. Theu raised \$1300 for our school. Thank you.

This month the Thunder Athletes will learn Basketball and Badminton

SPT Teacher Office Hours:

The teacher office hours are set aside for you to get to know your child's teacher, address any concerns you may have about your child's learning, or if you need help with SPACES, etc. Let your child's teacher know you would like to meet with them during their scheduled office hours.

with them during their scheduled office flours.							
Grade		Mrs. French (1F)	Parent/Teacher Interviews:				
1		Mrs. Visscher (1V)	March 6-7th from 4-7 PM Be sure to book a time with your child's teachers for either one of these days.				
		Mr. De Coste (2/3De)					
Grade 2/3		Mrs. Gutfriend (2/3G)	Parent/Teacher Interviews: March 6-7th from 4-7 PM Be sure to book a time with your child's teachers for either one of these days.				
-		Miss Duncan (2/3Du)					
		Ms. Gross (4/5G)					
Grade 4/5		Miss Paul (4/5P)	Parent/Teacher Interviews: March 6-7th from 4-7 PM Be sure to book a time with your child's teachers for either one of these days.				
		Mrs. Wickson (4/5W)					



The next school council meetings will be held on:

Thursday, March 7th @3:45 PM

Thursday, April 11th @3:45 PM

Follow our SPT School Council on Social Media to stay up-to-date with how they are supporting our SPT School Community. (Click on the links below)

<u>Facebook</u>

Instagram

Upcoming Important School Council Dates:

- March 6, 2024 Hot Dog Hot Lunch
- March 7, 2024 School Council Meeting at 3:45 PM
- March 7, 2024 Spring Flower Fundraiser Forms will be sent home with students.
- March 21, 2024 Taco Time Hot Lunch
- March 25, 2024 Spring Flower Fundraiser Deadline

Please email <u>sptschoolcouncil@holyspirit.ab.ca</u> for any questions you may have. Contact your child's room rep if you would like to volunteer to help with hot lunch.

Greetings families and welcome to our Spring Fundraiser!

This year our Spring Fundraiser is going towards an addition to our outdoor playground. We will be working towards the purchase of a U-Swing. An inclusive swing for everyone in our school.

This year we have had the wonderful opportunity to partner with another local business in Taber, Sunnyside Nursery! We have been working very closely with Cindy from Sunnyside Nursery to offer affordable and beautiful flowers. You will be able to pick up your orders at your convenience with the dates we have provided straight from Sunnyside Nursery. Attached you will find a product form and price list. The school will be profiting 21-32% of all sales. The Spring Fundraiser order deadline is Friday, March 25th, 2024

No late orders can be accepted.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation in lieu of ordering, you may send cash or cheque in an envelope marked "DONATION". These monies are considered a benevolent gift to the school; therefore, no tax receipt will be issued.

All orders & money must be submitted by: FRIDAY, MARCH 25th, 2024

Order pick up: MAY 29th - 31st 2024 AT SUNNYSIDE NURSERY

Payments can be: Cash, Cheque and online via SchoolCashOnline.

Make cheques payable to St. Patrick School Council

Blessing to you and your generous support!



It is important that your child comes to school prepared to go outside for recess. The only time our students stay inside for recess is when the weather feels colder than -20 degrees Celsius.

Please make sure your child comes to school with warm clothes. A winter coat, snow boots, gloves/mittens and toque/earmuffs are very important. Please label all of your child's winter

gear.

It's Winter Time!



We will be participating in "Rock your Socks" for World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday, March 21st, 2024. This campaign encourages people to wear fun, mismatched, colorful socks to represent a celebration of differences. It is a way to build awareness and acceptance and remind us that different is beautiful and wonderful.

Lifetouch Kindergarten Graduation Photos Wednesday March 13th and Thursday March 14th

Wednesday, March 13th and Thursday, March 14th

Hello SPT Families,

We are so excited about our One Book One Community Literacy Project. We are in our second week of reading "The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el. We hope you are enjoying the story as you read along with your family.

Reading Schedule:

February 26-March 1 – Introduction to Chapter 4

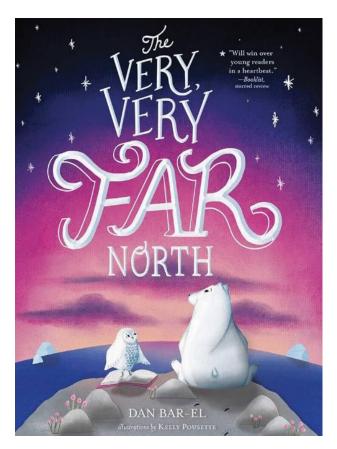
March 4-8 – *Chapter 5-7*

March 11-15 - Chapter 8-10 (page 173)

March 18-22 – Chapter 10 (page 174) to Chapter 11

March 25-28 - Chapter 12 to Conclusion

Save the Date April 12th, 2024 for our One Book, One Community wrap up day! More details to come.



SPT SCHOOL ALONG WITH THE PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

THE ROWAN & ABIGAIL MEMORIAL GARDEN

You are invited to attend the first planning meeting of the Rowan and Abigail Memorial Garden; the last installment of our Natural Playground.

If you love landscaping, and have good ideas for gardening please join us in making this beautiful memorial something special.

MARCH 13 3:45

IN OUR GATHERING SPACE





More information contact Michelle Nevil at +14038922773 or nevilm@holyspirit.ab.ca

Important Reminders:

Late or Absent Students – Please call our school office by 9:00 AM if your child will be late or absent from school! Our phone number is 403-223-3352.

Agenda Notes – The agenda is an important communication tool between home and the school. If there are any changes in your child's schedule, a change in bus/kidzone schedule, or a change in who is picking up your child, please make note in your child's agenda. If the change occurs during the day, give our school office a call and we will pass on the message to the classroom.

Picking up Students During School Hours – Parents, if you are picking up your child during school hours, please check-in at our office to sign out your child. While signing out, the office will contact your child's homeroom teacher to have your child sent down to the office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation by helping us to continue to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students.

Medical Notes/ Medication – If your child needs to take medication at school, please see Mrs. Mankow in the office to fill out the required paperwork. Additionally, please keep us updated on any allergies or medical changes the school should be aware of.

Microwave Use at Nutrition Times — We have two 15-minute Nutrition Breaks for our students to eat and the entire school eats at the same time. Due to the limited time please send your child with lunches that do not require a microwave. This will ensure that all students will have ample time to eat their lunch. More time will be provided in class for those students who need to eat more.

Milk and Juice Program - We are excited to be offering our chocolate milk and juice program again this year. The program will be run by our Grade 5 students with the help of Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Wickson. Chocolate milk and juice will be available for purchase during the 1st Nutrition Break. Milk cards can be purchased at the office or on SchoolCashOnline. If you pay for a card online, please have your child come to the school office to request the card. Thank you.



We have two types of cards available:

- 1) \$10 punch card valid for 10 individual milk/juice purchases
- 2) \$20 punch card valid for 20 individual milk/juice purchases.

If you don't want to purchase a punch card, students are also able to purchase milk or juice individually. Each drink is \$1.00

***Proceeds from the milk program support school activities, STEM, our SPT Leadership Program and our Grade 5 Farewell. ***



Stay Connected:

Check out our school website: spt.holyspirit.ab.ca
School Calendar: spt.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/calendars

Follow us on Social Media:





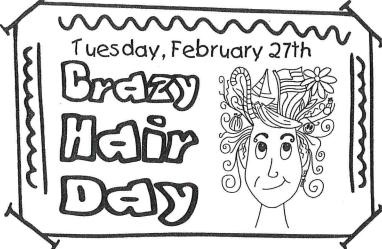


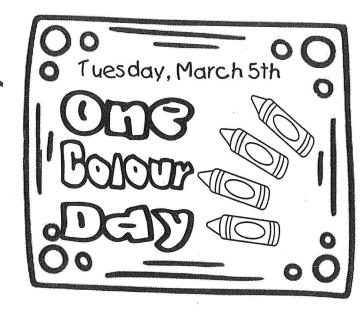
Board Briefs:

Each month, the School Division Trustees publish a summary of their meetings: https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board administration/board of trustees/board meetings



Lenten Dollar Days







Thursday, March 28th



Lenten Dollar Days at SPT

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." -2 Corinthians 9:7

This Lenten Season, SPT will be hosting a number of special theme days. We invite your child to donate \$1 or more to participate in the theme day. The money raised each theme day will go towards Holy Spirit schools' partnership project with St. Odilia School through Chalice International.

Your child has decorated the poster on the back of this page. Please display this somewhere in your home so you know when the theme days are. Below is more information about Holy Spirit's Initiative with Chalice.

Our new 'sister school' is St. Odilia School for the Visually Impaired. We have partnered with Chalice, the Canadian Catholic child sponsorship organization, as part of their School Connections program.

Hundreds of Chalice's sponsored students attend St. Odilia. It is one of very few schools in Zambia that serves children with visual impairments, physical disabilities, and albinism. It is a Catholic school, run by the Sisters of the Child Jesus.

Almost 500 students travel from wide swaths of the country to live on campus and experience a great education that's tailored to their unique needs.

Chalice has been supporting St. Odilia since 2011, as part of their Kawambwa sponsor site. Over that time, Chalice has installed water and solar power in the school, launched a robust school farm, and supported their campus meal program.

St. Odilia School has become so popular, it's becoming a challenge! The enrollment is increasing yearly, but the school's infrastructure hasn't been updated since it was built in the 1960s.

There are now too few classrooms to accommodate all the grade levels comfortably. Students are

cramped and uncomfortable. The teachers don't have the space to engage with each child in the hands-on ways they need to learn. Often, they resort to taking their classes outside or elsewhere on campus.

The Holy Spirit schools are partnering with Chalice to build a new classroom block for St. Odilia. It will be a block with three classrooms and two offices. The new space will be fresh, spacious, and bright.



a classroom for St. Odilia School for the Visually Impaired!

Join Holy Spirit Catholic School Division as we:

Build a classroom for visually impaired students. **Build** a connection with our brothers and sisters. **Build** a better world.











March 2024

Breakfast Program Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Granola Bar Fruit	Cereal 5 milk Fruit	Egg 6 Wraps Veggies	Crackers Cheese Fruit	No School PD Day	
	Granola Bar Fruit	Crockers ² Cheese Veggies	Toast 13 Fruit Yogurt	Cereal Milk Fruit	Granola 5 Bar Fruit	
	Crackers Cheese Fruit	Cereal 19 Milk Bananas	Fruit Cookie	Yogurt 21 Porfait W/ Granola	Smoothie Day &	
	Granola Bour Fruit	Apple 26 Pie Parfait	Toast 27 Fruit Cheese	Crackers Cheese Fruit	Good 29 Friday No School	
	No No	School	3) this	week	1115	
	Granda Bar Apple sauce	Notes:				

Build!

Pilgrims of kath hards

Hope

"Out of our common todays and yesterdays we are building for eternity.

No thought, no work of ours ever dies. We shall meet them all again,
and in the world to come shall find our gathered harvest."

- St. Katharine Drexel

St. Katharine Drexel 1858-1955 (Feast Day: March 3)

Katharine Drexel was born into a wealthy American family, and despite some personal hardship, grew up in relative comfort, with private tutors and the ability to travel widely. Her family was also very dedicated to prayer and service; they supported the poor and needy of their community from their abundant wealth. During a family trip to the western states, Katharine saw the plight of the Indigenous peoples of the west, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud, and began to send financial support to western missionaries.

In a later visit to Europe, Katharine met Pope Leo XIII and, after describing what she had seen and experienced in the western United States, asked him to send more missionaries to that area. She was surprised when the Pope suggested that she become a missionary! After prayer and spiritual direction, Katharine indeed joined a religious order, later founding another order known today as the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She used her wealth to finance the establishment of over 60 schools and missions across the United States that served the various First Nations and African-American communities, never hesitating to speak out against racial injustice and discrimination. Katharine passed away in 1955 at the age of 96. When Katharine was canonized, Pope John Paul II made specific mention of her courage and initiative in addressing social inequality, her perspective on the unity of all peoples, and her love of the Eucharist.

"Building" In Our Schools

Building in our schools and in our communities! On Tuesday, February 13th, students and staff at Children of St. Martha spread love and kindness to the community by hosting a "Take What You Need" event. The students created "heart art", which was placed on the fence in the bus loop. The community was invited to stop by and take whatever they wanted. Whether picking something up, or simply driving by, the art is a creative demonstration that we are all loved by God.



Corporal Works of Mercy — Clothe the Naked —

Living in southern Alberta in the wintertime is a clear reminder of our basic human need for clothing! When we think of Clothing the Naked, we often think of that literal level which is very important - but so also is the wider work of mercy that can be applied. This is outlined by Philip Kosloski in this article from the National Catholic Register. In it, he notes:

"When we search out the "naked" of our local community, we shouldn't only be looking for those without clothes. We should also look for those who are rejected, alone, and forgotten. They too are "naked," without friends or family, stripped of all meaningful human relationships. They are like the man in the parable of the "Good Samaritan." He was not only stripped of his clothes, beaten and left for dead, but also completely alone. Numerous people passed him by and no one extended a hand. He was treated like he was invisible."

Consider one of the following suggestions from the McGrath Institute at Notre Dame:

- Give up a particular item that you might normally spend money on and donate the funds to an organization that might be in need.
- Donate clothing (new or in good condition)
- Hold a baby shower for a mom in need.
- Consider reaching out to organizations that help children who might be in foster care or living in a shelter.

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For New Martyrs

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

For more Information: Works of Mercy

Catholic Social Teaching — Economic Justice —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

Last month, we looked at solidarity as the need to recognize our interdependence, to see ourselves in others and to seek to secure their good. One area in which we can see this specifically is economic justice. Many papal encyclicals that are now part of the magisterium of the church speak to economic justice. In 1891, with the release of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII responded to the conditions of the Industrial Revolution by highlighting both the need for private property as well as the rights of workers to fair wages and unions. More recently, we have seen Pope Francis write encyclicals such as Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti, in which he is critical of our 'throwaway culture' and speaks of a need for integral ecology in which to balance economic development with the environment. Throughout all of these encyclicals, we see the Church advocating for just economic systems that are rooted in the need to address both individual human dignity and the common good.

Learn more about economic justice with one of these resources:

Rerum Novarum
Laudato Si
Fratelli Tutti





Gospel Readings

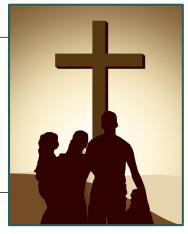
March 3 2024 3rd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-25

"Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." — John 2:16

Today in the Gospel we see that Jesus was angry with the way people viewed his Father's house. It makes me think about how we view God's house today. Would Jesus be happy with the way we act in church? Do we rush in and out because we have better things planned for our day, or do we take a few extra minutes to speak privately with Jesus? Do we prepare ourselves by the way we dress and quiet ourselves before we enter into the church knowing that Jesus is truly present there in the Eucharist? Do we genuflect out of respect? When we do these things we show God how much we love him.

What are some ways your family prepares for Mass? What could you change to prepare better?"



Prayer:

Dear Lord, we want to honor and worship you when we spend time in your house. Please give us the grace to fight off temptations of distraction so we may love and glorify you by our presence in church.

March 10, 2024 4th Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." — John 3:17

Some people think God is like an angry judge. They forget that he is a loving parent. He loves each one of us as his own children. Ask your parents how much they love you. It may be hard for them to express all the love they have for you in their hearts. But parents love their children a lot, wanting the best for them. God wants that for us, too. He saw that we needed to know his love, and the best way to show us was to send his Son. But he didn't stop there. He allowed his Son to show us God's love all the way to the cross. Jesus laid down his life for us, and then rose from the dead to love us even more. Our God really loves us a lot!

How do you view God? As an angry judge or a loving parent? Are you afraid of him or do you run into God's arms for love?



Praver:

Dear Lord, thank you for being a Father who is willing to go to any length to show us, your children, that you love us.

Download this month's Saint Prayer Card - St. Katharine Drexel



Gospel Readings

March 17, 2024 5th Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." — John 12:25

Today's scripture from the Gospel sounds kind of confusing. Most of us like our lives. It is hard to understand why we would lose it just because we like it. But I think that Jesus is looking deeper than what meets the eye. In different words, "whoever loves his life more than God will lose it and whoever puts God first will gain eternal life." If we live our lives only to please ourselves, we lose out in the end. But if we learn to put God first in our lives, we take steps closer to being with him forever in heaven.

What are ways I put myself ahead of God? How can I make a change to start putting God before myself?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to put you first, even before all the things I want. Teach me to seek you in all I do.

March 24, 2024

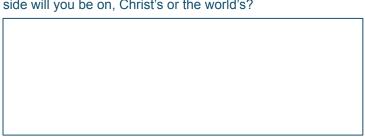
Palm/Passion Sunday

Gospel Reading: Mark 14:1-15:47

"...every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." — Philippians 2:11

Today we reflect on Christ's passion and death. In the midst of the story it is hard to believe that "every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Most voices at this moment are condemning him. There are only a few people that are standing by him, suffering with him. There are times in life when we have the choice to be a person who stands for God, even it's really difficult, or to be a person of anger, betrayal, and abandonment.

Which voice will you have in this week before Easter? Which side will you be on, Christ's or the world's?



Dravor.

Lord, you suffered because of your great love for us. Give me a voice to tell people how important you are to me!



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

"...he saw and believed." — John 20:8

Those who went to the tomb to see that Jesus was not there—that he had risen—were indeed blessed. But Jesus said, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing." That's us! We believe because of the stories we have been told, the traditions that have been passed down to us, the experiences we have had through Holy Week and Easter. We are blessed to have the gift of faith to hear and believe that: Jesus Christ is Risen today! Alleluia!!!

What does God want to bring to life in you today?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we praise you and thank for this Easter Sunday that reminds us of your gift of salvation. We are forever grateful for



(I)SWAG Presents:

ADHD UNDERSTANDING THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES

Ft. Aleigha from True Balance Counselling

5:30pm to 8pm March 20th, 2024

Join us as Registered
Psychologists Aleigha and
Ashley from True Balance
Counselling presents on
ADHD while we enjoy a
complimentary dinner and
the chance to win some door
prizes at a fun night of
learning.

Please RSVP @



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC

Location:

THE ESSIE'S BALLROOM

Sandman Signature, 320 Scenic Drive S, Lethbridge AB



Emily Williston



Billy Woitte



ALEIGHA ARKSEY

True Balance Counselling

Aleigha is a Registered Psychologist who specializes in working with youth, anxiety, and grief and loss, but does work with individuals of all ages.

Working with an open heart and open mind, Aleigha draws from a variety of approaches including Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy, Mindfulness, Play Therapy, Person-centered Therapy, Strength-based, and Solution focused.

This is a **FREE** event Intended auidence: parents, guardians, caregivers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, childcare providers, all school staff, bus

drivers, parishoner's

Please RSVP@

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7R9L8CC





PRECIOUS CONNECTIONS

WHAT

In this intergenerational program, seniors, children, and caregivers engage together in activities, which encourages improved social and emotional wellness for all involved.

WHEN

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, & 28 1:00-2:30 pm

WHERE

Clearview Lodge 4730 50th Ave, Taber

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Lauren

403-331-1325 lauren.tams@fcss.ca









MOVE IT! MOVE IT!



Albertan

WHAT

In this drop-in program, parents/caregivers and their children 0-6 years, participate in movement and physical activity through self guided and structured play.

WHEN

Wednesdays, March 6-27 6:00-7:00 pm

WHERE

Taber FCSS

5404 50 Ave

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lauren

403-331-1325 (call/text)
Lauren.Tams@fcss.ca



RAINBOWS FOR ALL CHILDREN



WHAT

In this 7 week program, children, **8-10 years old**, will process feelings of grief related to the loss of a parent or guardian due to death, foster care placement, divorce, deployment, or trauma. Children will participate in a variety of structured activities that will help them understand their emotions.

WHEN

Wednesday, March 6-April 24 4:00-4:45 pm

WHERE

Taber FCSS 5404 50 Ave

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Deadline March 1, maximum of 6

Rainbows

Milberta

Tanie

587-370-0215 Tanie.Reid-Walker@fcss.ca Lauren

403-331-1325

Lauren.Tams@fcss.ca

