



# St. Martin de Porres

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BELIEVE | CREATE | LEARN *School*

Welcome Back! We are so excited for all of you to see the changes to our building and classrooms over the summer. We are pleased to welcome back Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Gies as well as introduce our new secretary Mrs. Mandy Gamble and our new Grade 5 teacher, Miss Kelsey Paetz, who will be joining us this year. Due to increasing enrollment over the summer, we are adding an additional class and are currently in the process of hiring for that position. Stay tuned for that announcement. Please note the important dates and information that follows.

You will hopefully notice big changes as you walk through the doors of St. Martins this year. Our Division Maintenance department worked tirelessly all summer to apply paint and hang a variety of different displays, so our children's artwork can be highlighted and celebrated. Peek into the classrooms as well and you will see flexible seating offered in all classrooms. Flexible seating allows children a choice in their learning environment as well as encourages collaboration and creativity among the students. We are excited to see the effect that our new student-centred learning spaces have on our school community!

ADmazing Coupon packs are back! For \$25 you will receive hundreds of dollars in coupons. A portion of every book sold goes right back into creating fine arts experiences for your child(ren). Stop by the office today and grab yours as we only have a limited supply.

Yearbooks for the 2017-2018 school year will be in at the end of September. They will be sent home with your child in their backpack. For Grade 5 students, that have moved on to Middle School, we will be contacting parents to come and pick them up.

Optional supply drop in and drop off will be on August 29 from 9:00-11:00am. This time has been created to help reduce first day of school jitters for both students and parents. Teachers will be busy working in their classrooms during this time; however, support staff will greet you and show you where to drop off your supplies and introduce you to your new classroom space.

First day of school will be on August 30! We will open the doors at 8:35am and welcome all of you back for an exciting year!! Kindergarten parents will be contacted by Mrs. Gies regarding their staggered entry times on August 30 and 31.

Once again School Council will be organizing the Magazine Fundraiser. Information will be going home with your child on September 5. Families are encouraged to support this one and only big fundraiser, as all money raised goes toward supporting field trips for all classes. Last year our School Council gave over \$9000 to classrooms for student field trips due to your incredible support.

Opening Mass will be on September 12 at 11:00am at Sacred Heart Church. Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of the new school year together.

Edsby is the new reporting system that the elementary schools in Red Deer Catholic are using to communicate your child's academic progress. We require all parents to have a PowerSchool and Edsby login, so you can follow your child's progress along throughout the year. You no longer have to wait for a report card, you can keep up-to-date with your child's learning, live, throughout the school year. If you need assistance with Edsby, please contact the front office.

Now that we are starting to look the part we will be continuing to permeate the fine arts in your child's learning environment. In addition to weekly fine arts classes with our specialists our classroom teachers will continue to use the fine arts as a vehicle to bring the curriculum alive to their students. We will continue with our popular monthly CREATE sessions as well we will be having a Christmas Production, at RDC Mainstage, on December 19...mark your calendars. In the spring you will have the opportunity to join your child for CREATE again for our full day immersion into the fine arts. In addition, there is a special residency in the works for the spring as well. This one we are keeping under wraps for now, but we will provide more information as we finalize the details.

To keep you informed of the events in the school and classrooms all teachers will be sending home a weekly email this year to let you know what is happening. In addition, please be sure to stay connected to us on our website at: [www.stmartinschool.ca](http://www.stmartinschool.ca), Facebook, Twitter, and new this year Instagram, all @stmartinrdcrs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are looking so forward to a fantastic faith and fine arts filled year with our school community.  
"God, let them see you in me."

Cathy Cameron  
Principal

Kristie McCullough  
Assistant Principal