

# Holy Spirit Academy brings bridge to students

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REPORTER

Holy Spirit Academy has brought a unique after school club to their students through the card game of bridge.

As stated in a press release from the American Contract Bridge League, Pat MacDonald, Holy Spirit Academy principal, said students, parents, and teachers are invited to visit the program in the school library on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Although, the program has ended since the school year is over but will begin again in the fall, Jane Lamont, the bridge teacher, said.

Lamont and Father James Hagel of St. Francis of Sales Catholic Church were approached by bridge aficionado Jo Mitchell about the opportunity to bring bridge to High River, as stated in the release. The two of them approached MacDonald with the idea and were excited about it.

"I'd also like to join to learn the game," MacDonald is quoted as saying in the release.

According to [rpbridge.net](http://rpbridge.net), Bridge is a game of four players with two partnerships. Each player sits on the opposite side of their partner and the game is played with a standard deck of 52 playing cards and one of the player deals all of the cards out and each player should get 13 cards, the website stated.

As explained in the press release, it is a memory-intensive and mathematics based game where the partnership predicts the number of tricks to take in either suit or notrump called a contract, then the hand is played to win the contract or be defeated by the opposing pair.

Lamont said they have three students and this was a pilot project. Participating students are playing with family members, and a few teachers and the principal come to play bridge and are very happy with the opportunity, she added.

Lamont said they are always looking for more students to play.

"We want to get more kids involved with it at the Holy Spirit Academy, but if there are other kids in the public stream then I'd be interested in starting something in the public streams at schools in High River also," Lamont said.

The teachers do see the benefit of bridge for arithmetic, mathematics, statistics and analysis but also as a social benefit as well Lamont said.

"For the kids to be not looking at their computers, and also with this particular club with the number of teachers and adults involved with it too, then they have opportunities to play cards and interact with adults," Lamont said.

There is a bridge club here in High River at the High River Seniors Friendship Centre, and eventually Lamont said she would like to get children trained up to the point where they can play there with more adults.

*This story was originally written by Ian Gustafson and published in the High River Times.*