

St. John School

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Office Coordinator: Melanie Reeder

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NEWSLETTER 5

MARCH 2021

Mission Statement

At St. John School we believe in creating a positive, inclusive environment that focuses on faith and learning, so all children can grow spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Our theme for the year is:

“Love God, love yourself, and love your neighbour.”

ST. JOHN SCHOOL DAY

8:40 a.m.	First bell
8:45 a.m.	Class Begins
10:30-10:45	Morning recess
11:45-12:05	Lunch
12:05-12:30	Lunch recess
2:00-2:15	Recess
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal

PARENTS ENTERING THE BUILDING

At this time, we are continuing to ask parents to not enter the building. If you are needing to drop anything off for your child/children, please call the office at 306-659-7360 and someone will meet you at the door. If it is absolutely necessary to come into our building, you need to wear a mask and scan our QR code every time for contact tracing purposes. If your phone does not work to scan the code, we have a sign in set up by the office. Thank you for your continued support for keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.



MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Just a few more days until Spring, and the weather sure feels like Spring has finally arrived. As we continue to travel through our Lenten journey, we are reminded to focus on our relationship with others through making stronger connections... such an important idea and need as we still grapple with the pandemic. These are difficult times for all of us, but we are people filled with Hope. Thank you for your continued diligence with protocols and support in helping to keep our community safe.

Next week progress reports will be coming home. The past couple of weeks have been very challenging in our school as the main student information system has not been accessible. For this reason, the progress reports do look different. Teachers will be sending home either a paper copy or an email copy. Please watch for communication.

Enjoy the beautiful sunny days!

Nicole Isabelle & Jesse Baptist



NUT FREE SCHOOL

We have a number of students who are allergic to peanuts, tree nuts and any other form of nuts. Please **DO NOT** send them to school with your child. Our CHEP room serves Wow Butter which is a Peanut Free Spread. Thank you



First Student Hotline

306-343-3300

Please feel free to phone this number any-time there is severe weather to check if your child's bus is running!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



MARCH

18—Virtual 3-Way Conferences (pm)
 19—Virtual 3-Way Conference (am)
 19—No School
 26—Progress Reports go home

APRIL

2—Good Friday—No School
 5-9—Easter Break—No School

MAY

7—PLD—No School
 24—Victoria Day—No School

JUNE

7—PLD—No School
 24—Last day of school

WEATHER

The weather has started to warm up! With the warmer temperatures, there are puddles and mud.



Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing to get them through the school day. Extra socks or other items may come in handy.

THEODORE COURT CASE APPEAL DECISION

On February 25, 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed Good Spirit (Public) School Division's application for leave to appeal the Theodore case to the Supreme Court of Canada. This means that the unanimous decision of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal that overturned the April 2017 trial decision stands. Good Spirit has exhausted their legal options, and the decision of the Appeal Court remains the law in Saskatchewan—which can be considered a victory for both religious and parental rights and freedoms. An update from Board of Education Chair Diane Boyko can be found at <https://go.gscs.ca/theodore> Background information on the Theodore case can be found at www.opencatholiceducation.ca.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Catholic Education

Father, source of all good, with you, all things are possible!

We praise and thank you for the gift of Catholic education, for the gift of schools where we can share our faith in you.

Help us to be good stewards of this blessing, and lead us to an ever-deeper appreciation of the sacred task to which we have been called.

Jesus, our teacher and savior, the Good News of your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed daily in our schools.

Help us to respond to your call to make disciples with renewed energy and purpose. Let us see you in our sisters and brothers and continue to serve each other with joyful hearts.

Holy Spirit, our guide and advocate, bless us with your gifts, so that our schools may continue to be living signs of your love.

May we grow ever closer to you as we work together to build your kingdom.

Blessed Trinity, we give you thanks.

St. Paul, patron of our school division, pray for us.

Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

The St. John community would like to congratulate both Vicki Weinkauff and Melva Degagne on their upcoming retirements. As we look back on their valued contributions of time and talent, may the Lord bless them with satisfaction. And as we look ahead, may the Lord bless them with new and fulfilling joys in their retirement.



CSCC NEWS

Our next CSCC meeting for this school year will be held online through Google Meet @ 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 24th, 2020**. Please contact Kim at kimmyrm@sasktel.net if you wish to be invited to participate. You will receive a Google Meet link via email in order to join the meeting. We look forward to your input.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up-to-date on everything happening around our school!

Follow us on Instagram at [@stjohnschools](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnschools)

And [facebook.com/stjohnschools](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschools) on Facebook.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Come learn and play with us!



Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-22 school year is now open. Children who will be 5 years old on or before January 31, 2022 (birthday January 31, 2017) can register for kindergarten by contacting the school at 306-659-7360.

At this time, we are not able to give families a tour of the school or the opportunity to meet the teacher in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If we are able, we plan on having some form of information evening at the school after the Easter break. If you have questions or need more information, contact us at 306-659-7360 or st.john@gscs.ca.

DISTANCE LEARNING TRANSITION DATE

- **March 26** - By this date, we ask that families inform schools if they plan to transition back to face-to-face or to online learning for the remainder of the academic year



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At St. John School, the SafeArrival attendance system is used to report student absences. As always, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school and are accounted for. Regular attendance is necessary for both academic and social success. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance

You have three convenient ways to report absences, and you can report planned absences in advance.

1. On your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 844-425-7221 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

If there is an unreported absence, parents/guardians will be contacted via the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

Email communication will come from broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com. Please ensure you have this email address on your approved sender list so it won't be filed as junk or spam.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM (GUARDIANS)

GSCS Ed Tech Team have created a presentation, which guides you through the basic steps of using Google Classroom as part of your child's learning experience at school. Here is a link to this video to help parents access their Google Classroom. The class code will be provided by your child's teacher. <https://youtu.be/obf9yXoyMxw>

PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN SPOTS AVAILABLE



We still have morning pre-kindergarten spots available, as well as all day, every day Kindergarten spots. If you have any friends, family, or neighbors that may be interested, please refer them to our school (306-659-7360).

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Supervision at St. John School commences at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:15 pm.

There is no supervision outside of these hours. Before and after school supervision is indoor only.

To help provide for student safety please ensure drop off and pick up times are within these times. Should it be required, a before and after school program is provided at our school. The program can be contacted at 306-665-1450.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM (STUDENTS)

If your child is at home sick, they do have access to their Google Classroom. This will allow them to keep up with assignments that they are missing while they are away. If you can, please make sure that you are able to access their Google Classroom now from home before it is needed. In our school division, some classrooms and even entire schools, have been temporarily closed due to COVID-19 outbreaks. In these cases, the student education immediately moved to online learning. It is important that you are able to access just in case we encounter a similar scenario. If you are having difficulties, please contact your classroom teacher to work out any problems.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS (PLD)

Greater Saskatoon Catholic schools have professional learning days for elementary school staff for staff meetings, planning, collaboration and professional development. On these days there are no students at school. The PLDs for the 2020 - 2021 school year are as follows:

Friday, May 7
Monday, June 7



COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Please see the attachment from Cyndi Jeffery, GSCS School Counsellor

NEWSLETTERS

This year newsletters will be sent out electronically (unless specifically requested otherwise). Please contact the office if an electronic version is not suitable for you. Newsletters will also be placed on our website for those who would like to read it online.



Counsellor's Corner - Cyndi Jeffery, GSCS School Counsellor

Many of us have experienced or observed an increase in anxiety within the past year. The following are some strategies we can use to de-fuse tense situations. First, it is important to watch for indications of rising levels of emotion in others. We may see inappropriate behaviours, negative comments, or anxiety-ridden movements such as fidgeting, leg shaking, fist and/or jaw clenching, loud shallow breathing, or downcast, rapid eye shifting. These signals should raise immediate concern and indicate that a response may be needed. So how *do* we respond? These suggestions are from the *Crisis Prevention Institute's Top 10 de-escalation tips*.

1. **Be empathetic and non-judgemental:** Remember that the person's feelings are real, whether or not you think the feelings are justified. Keep in mind that whatever the person is going through could be the most important event in their life at the moment.
2. **Respect personal space:** Be aware of your position, posture, and proximity when interacting with a person in distress. Allowing personal space shows respect, keeps you safer and tends to decrease a person's anxiety. If you are about to enter someone's personal space, explain what you're doing so the person does not feel threatened or frightened.
3. **Use Nonthreatening Verbals:** The more a person is in distress, the less they hear your words, the more they react to nonverbal cues. Keep facial expressions neutral, movements slow and deliberate, and a soft, low tone of voice. Mindful gestures go a long way to diffusing a situation.
4. **Keep your emotional brain in check:** remain calm and rational, even if you don't feel so. While you can't control the behaviour, you can control how you respond, which has a direct effect on whether the situation escalates or diffuses. Positive thoughts such as "I can handle this" or "nice and easy" will help you maintain your own rationality and help calm the person down.
5. **Focus on feelings:** Facts are important, yes. But how a person feeling is the heart of the matter. Some people have trouble identifying how they *feel* about what's happening. Watch and listen carefully for the real message. Try saying "that must be scary (frustrating, etc)". Supportive phrases will let the person know that you understand the intensity of this experience for them.
6. **Ignore challenging questions:** Engaging with people who ask challenging questions is rarely productive. When a person challenges you, redirect their attention to the issue at hand. Ignore the challenge, but not the person. Bring back their focus on how to solve the problem together.
7. **Set limits:** As a person progresses through a crisis, give them respectful, simple and reasonable limits. Offer concise and respectful choices and consequences. A person who is upset may not be able to focus on everything you say. Be clear, speak simply, and always offer the positive choice first.
8. **Choose wisely what you insist upon:** It's important to think about which rules are negotiable and which are not. If you can offer options, you may be able to stave off an altercation.
9. **Allow silence for reflection:** Silence can be a powerful communication tool. It can give the person a chance to process what's happened, reflect, and think of how to proceed.
10. **Allow time for decisions:** When a person is upset, they often can't think clearly. Give them moments to think through what you've said. A person's stress rises when they feel rushed. Allowing time brings calm.

Until next time: Respect each other. Be a servant to one another. Keep each other safe. That's not just life, that's good living. - All the Best, *Cyndi*