

April 10, 2018

# ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL



115 Nelson Road  
Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1  
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306-659-7656 (Attendance)  
306-659-2173 (Fax)  
[www.gscs.ca/joe](http://www.gscs.ca/joe)

Ms. Cheryl Thorson, Principal  
Ms. Krista Hayes, Vice Principal  
Mr. André Poisson, Vice Principal

Trustees:  
Diane Boyko  
Wayne Stus  
Sharon Zakreski-Werbicki

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We all welcome the coming of Spring, even if it seems a little late. We have had a busy second semester and are now well into our last three months of school. For our Grade 12's, Grad is just around the corner and there is still so much to do. Our grades 9 through 11 have chosen their classes for next year and finishing assignments as the report card deadline draws near. Congratulations must be extended to our cast and crew of 'Jesus Christ Superstar', which successfully completed it's run on Sunday, March 18. This production was outstanding and it was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the talent of our students on stage and behind the scenes. Our Basketball and Wrestling teams had exciting and challenging seasons. Congratulations to our Senior Boys for winning Cities and Provincials, our Senior Girls for winning silver in Cities and to the individual athletes in wrestling who won their matches at Cities and Provincials. Both sports have long seasons and we are proud of the commitment and dedication of our student athletes and coaches. A special thank you to the parents and many volunteers who gave generously of their time, to support our students in their extracurricular pursuits. I am so grateful to all of you.

The end of the Easter Break has left all of us with heavy hearts as we witnessed and continue to walk through the tragedy in the Humboldt community. Our prayers are with all who are on this profoundly difficult journey. On Monday, April 9, we shared an email with you that I now include in the Principal's message:



Dear parents and guardians:

The tragic bus accident near Humboldt this weekend affects our entire community. Within our school division, we know of some very close and personal connections to those lost and injured. Because of the many relationships and connections, we recognize there are many people deeply and personally affected that we may not be aware of.

With this in mind, I want to let you know that our school division has supports in place and available for students and families. Questions may have been raised, or teachers may have discussed events in an age-appropriate manner in class. However, not all questions and concerns will be raised at school, and we want to ensure we are also providing families with assistance. The following guidelines may help parents and guardians support children during this difficult time:

- Listen and create an environment that acknowledges all feelings. When children ask questions, use age-appropriate language and a calm and reassuring tone of voice. Choose what information is to be shared based on the child's age and an assessment of your child's need to know.
- Limit media exposure for younger children, and for older children, let them know that the media may be too upsetting for them to watch. Discuss how social media and news reports may desensitize us all to violence. As a family, talk about how to best respond to media and social media.
- Spend extra time with your children to help them feel safe and secure.
- Pray together as a family.
- Not all children are affected equally. Determine which children may be most affected. For example, children who have recently lost a loved one, are depressed and anxious, or children who have been the victim of violence may be more deeply affected and need extra support.
- Contact your family doctor or school administration if you are worried about your child and would like professional support to assist with your child's reaction. Every school has an assigned counsellor who is available.
- Parents should be aware that being more protective of their children is a normal response. Adult emotions may include: sense of helplessness, fear, anger and a heightened sense of vulnerability.
- Reassure children that with time their feelings of vulnerability will subside, but if the feelings persist, to let you know and you will get them help.

Please let us know if your child needs additional support. We will all work with you to support students and staff as we collectively mourn the loss of so many.

We ask you to keep all students and families in your thoughts and prayers, as we all keep you and your children in ours.

Ms. C. Thorson

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Alleluia, Alleluia, the Lord is Risen. Happy Easter to you all! This holiest of all liturgical seasons began on Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and continues through 50 days to May 20<sup>th</sup> when the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost. The lifecycle of a butterfly has long been a beautiful metaphor for this most important Liturgical season. As we begin our walk through the Easter's 50 Days I offer you all the following reflection that a friend once shared with me.

*For every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and it instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and it appears that the caterpillar is dead.*

*But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms. .*

*On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' grave clothes lying on the cold slab still wrapped round and round. Only now the body was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples. Later that day he appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to many many more.*

*As Christians then we celebrate Christ's trampling of death for longer than we commemorated his suffering. We sometimes forget that Easter is more than just Easter Sunday – it is rather a 50 day long feast. It is a time for us to celebrate, dance, sing and in general relish all that life offers. Like the butterflies we too should spread the beauty of the resurrection wherever we go during these days of Easter. Christ's victory is our victory.*

And so my friends, as we move through the 50 days of celebrating Easter, may we be blessed with renewal, comfort, joy and a deeper sense of the mercy of God continuing to flow through our life. The Lord is always at work in our hearts, in our lives, in our Guardian Family, and in our world. *Risen Lord, live in our hearts forever! Amen. St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen.*



The front loop of the School needs to be open for buses to drop off and pick up our special needs students. To assist us, no vehicles will be permitted in the front loop of the school between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. We are asking parents and guardians to drop off students at the back of the school or along the west side of Nelson Road.



### ATTENDANCE

If your child is absence, please call the Attendance Line at 306-659-7656. Students who will be away for three or more consecutive days, must complete a long term absence form which is available in the Attendance Office. Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

## STUDENT SERVICES

**St. Joseph Scholarship and Award** Grade 12 applications are now available in Student Services on the Scholarship bulletin board. Applications are due Monday, April 30.

**The Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program** - Gain confidence and life skills needed to be a great leader. Enjoy fun filled activities and much more. This summer, invest a week in yourself by attending Co-op Camp. Camps open to students, ages 14-18. Brochures will be on red bulletin board @ Student Services.

**Youth Ambassadors Program with Canada:** 2018 applications are now open! The program brings together students, ages 15-18 who will not be graduating in June 2018, to travel to the United States with other young Canadians for three weeks with program themes which include civic education, community service, youth leadership and social inclusion. It is a fully funded program from July 16<sup>th</sup> – August 4, 2018. Stop by Student Services for an info sheet from the "Career Development" bulletin board.



**Saskatoon Police Force Event:** The Saskatoon Police Force is planning a day-long student session in May. This is an opportunity to spend the day with police staff and learn about the wide variety of careers available in police services. If this is something you would like to attend, please sign the sheet in student services and write a paragraph why you're interested in a career in policing. This event will be held only if there is sufficient interest. Lunch, drinks and snacks will be provided.

**Target Group:** Grade 11 and 12 students considering a career in police services;

**When:** May 23, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.; **Where:** Police headquarters



**Congratulations** to the Senior Boys Basketball team on a great season!

The Senior Boys won their third city championship in a row. They also captured St. Joseph High School's first provincial boys basketball championship!

Well done Guardians!

Congratulations to the Senior Girls Basketball team on a very successful season! The Senior Girls won silver in the city final and placed fifth at the Provincial Hoopla Tournament. This group was a pleasure to coach and were extremely exciting to watch. We would like to wish our lone graduating player, Caitlyn Spur best of luck in all her future endeavors. You will be greatly missed. Congratulations Guardians you should be very proud!!

### **Schools You Can Believe**

Help ensure Catholic education is available to all who choose it, no matter the reason, for future generations. Donate to support the legal appeal of the Theodore court-case ruling and keep resources in our classrooms. A permanent reversal through the appeals process (which will likely go to the Supreme Court of Canada) is needed to maintain funding for all who choose Catholic faith-based education. You can make donations online at [www.foundation.gcsc.ca](http://www.foundation.gcsc.ca) (VISA, MasterCard, American Express or PayPal), or make cheques payable to **Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation** (put "Theodore" in the memo) and drop them off at your local Catholic school, or deliver them to: **GSCS Foundation, 420 22nd St. East, Saskatoon SK S7K 1X3**

### **International Student Program Host Families Wanted**

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools International Student Program is in **need of host families**. The students come from Japan, Korea, Germany, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. They come mainly in grades 9 through 12 and usually stay for one or two semesters; some may stay longer. The students will reimburse the host family \$800 per month to cover expenses. For more information, please call the International Student Program office at 306-659-7688.



The **Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation** is pleased to invite you to the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **'Swing into Spring' Fashion Show & Dinner** on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at Prairieland Park – Hall B. Once again, plans are well under way for a fabulous evening of fun, food, fashions, camaraderie and great prizes. Support school division employees as they step out of their traditional roles to walk the runway in the latest spring fashions. Please check the posters displayed at your school or your parish bulletin boards or the Foundation website at <https://foundation.gcsc.ca>. Tickets are available through the Foundation office: Phone: 659-7003 Fax: 659-2013 Email: [catholicschoolsfoundation@gcsc.ca](mailto:catholicschoolsfoundation@gcsc.ca)

Your presence helps us put *faith in education*.



Tuesday, April 17	Pep Rally – TGG; PGG/CSCC 6:00pm
Thursday, April 19	Report Cards; Staff Meeting – <b>12:30 Dismissal</b>
*Tuesday, April 24	Jalbert Bingo
*Sunday, April 29 – Wednesday, May 2	Band Trip
Tuesday, May 1	Box Lunch Prep - TGG
Thursday, May 3	Staff Meeting – <b>12:30 Dismissal</b>
Tuesday, May 8	Box Lunch Auction TGG – Alternate Schedule
Friday, May 11	Variety Night – 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 15	Calculus AP Exam (am); French AP Exam (pm)
Thursday, May 17	Staff Meeting – <b>12:30 Dismissal</b>
Monday, May 21	Victoria Day - <b>No School</b>
Wednesday, May 23	Grade 12 Retreat / Co-Pres Speeches TGG
Tuesday, May 29	TGG Wind Up
Wednesday, May 30	Jr. Band Concert 7:00pm
Thursday, May 31	Staff Meeting <b>12:30 Dismissal</b> ; Senior Band Concert 7:00pm;
Tuesday, June 5	Year End Mass – TGG – Special Events Schedule
Thursday, June 7	Pep Rally - TGG
Friday, June 15	Spring Awards Day – Alternate Schedule
Tuesday, June 19	Last Day of Semester 2 Classes; Period 1 Exam Prep; Staff Meeting <b>12:30 Dismissal</b>
Wednesday, June 20	Period 1 Final Exam; Period 2 Prep
Thursday, June 21	Period 2 Final Exam; Period 3 Prep
Friday, June 22	Period 3 Final Exam; Period 4 Prep
Monday, June 25	Period 4 Final Exam; Period 5 Prep
Tuesday, June 26	Period 5 Final Exam / Grad Rehearsal
Wednesday, June 27	Graduation
Friday, June 29	Staff Mass; Report Cards; Last Day of School