June 25, 2020

Dear parents and caregivers;

This school year seemed to fade to an end instead of the typical year-end celebrations and the final bell releasing excited children and youth into the adventures of summer.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance over the last few months. We found new ways to foster home-school partnerships for your children. Each of your challenges and triumphs are unique to your family, and we hope you have had the opportunity to learn and grow together through this exceptionally unique situation.

On June 18, the Government of Saskatchewan released initial health guidelines that will guide and direct our operations as we plan to welcome students back into our schools in the fall. These were developed by the education sector Response Planning Team in conjunction with the Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO). These guidelines allow us to focus our division planning for the fall. We have established numerous broad-based teams to develop detailed guidelines for students and staff. We will also continue to develop contingencies in the event other restrictions are put in place that could impact our ability to return fully to physical classes.

We wish we were able to share more definitive plans for the fall. However, we have all seen how quick and unpredictable the path of COVID-19 can be, therefore we must add layers of flexibility in all areas of our planning. We will continue to take our direction from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the CMHO and the Ministry of Education.

In August, we will be able to share more details about what the return to school looks like. At the very least, expect a number of things to be different, such as cleaning protocols, personal hygiene practices, recess procedures, building entry and exit, and movement throughout the building. At this time, there are no changes to student supply lists, so please prepare for next year as you normally would. Any additional aspects will be communicated in August.

Expect some communication from your school (or the school division if schools are not open yet) through email and the SchoolMessenger app (available in the App Store and Google Play Store).

Key dates:

- August 17: Elementary school office staff return to work.
- High school offices are open summer hours; check school websites for details.
- September 1: classes begin for all students.

In the meantime, we hope you are able to enjoy all that a Saskatchewan summer has to offer. Continue to keep your mind and body active: read, play, relax, pray.

Keep safe, and keep your eyes on your email inbox in August.

God bless you all!

Diane Boyko, Board of Education Chair
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Greg Chatlain, Director of Education
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