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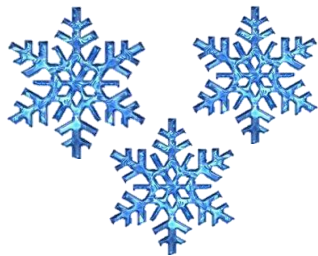
Mission Statement

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place.

We love because He first loved us.
 - 1 John 4:19

Rooted Growing Reaching Transforming

Newsletter #10 February 3, 2021



FEBRUARY BREAK

The Mid-Winter break is coming up on **February 15 to February 19** starting with **Family Day** on **Monday, February 15**. We are all less likely travelling this year and staying home, but we wish our families a safe break during this week and hope everyone returns rested and ready to learn on Monday, February 22.

VALENTINE'S DAY

This year **February 14** lands on a Sunday, so our classes will celebrate Valentine's Day on **Friday, February 12**. Our protocols and guidelines will affect this special day this year, but we can continue with **a few restrictions:**



■ Sharing and distributing food continues to be a high-risk activity, so we cannot have any food brought from home to share with other students, and the staff is unable to share any food or candy with the students.

■ Students can bring Valentine cards IF they are brought to school between Monday, February 8, and Wednesday, February 10, as we need a minimum 24 hours prior to sharing the cards with other students in the classroom.

■ Only cards to students in their own classroom are permissible.

Please do not bring any Valentine cards to school on Thursday, February 11 or Friday, February 12.

Following these restrictions from home and at school will allow our classrooms to recognize and celebrate Valentine's Day this year.

LENT 2021

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is **Wednesday, February 17**, this year.



Lent is the season of penance, reflection and fasting preparing us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is a time when each Christian focuses on his or her relationship with God and to reflect on our own strengths and weaknesses in our relationships with each other.

Ash Wednesday falls during the February break; therefore, we will not have an Ash Wednesday liturgy, and we will not be distributing ashes this year.

We will celebrate our weekly liturgies virtually with our classrooms each week of Lent starting after the February break. Unfortunately, we will not participate in our traditional food collection, but we expect to continue this Lenten project next year.



INCLEMENT WEATHER



We occasionally experience inclement weather, such as low temperatures and high wind chills.

When we experience this weather in the mornings, we will direct our students to enter the school immediately through their assigned doors upon arrival rather than waiting to enter with their teacher at the usual class meeting points to help ensure their safety.

We continue to have indoor recesses when the wind chills are -25 C or colder; otherwise, students and supervisors will be getting fresh air outside at recesses.

Please continue to have students dress for the weather.



COME LEARN AND PLAY WITH US

Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-22 school year are 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 or visiting www.gscs.ca/kindergarten.

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 you have questions or need more information, contact us at 306-659-7380 or St.Marguerite@gscs.ca.



EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX DECLARATION

To ensure the education portion of your municipal property taxes are supporting your Catholic school, please make sure your school support is shown as "Separate" on your annual property tax notice.

If you are Catholic and your school support is not shown as "Separate", please fill out a tax declaration form and submit it to the office of your municipality.

Also, if you have recently moved, you will need to complete a declaration from for your new residence; declarations from previous properties do not carry over. You must reside within the boundaries of the school division in order to designate taxes to Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Links to property tax declaration forms can be found on our website at <https://www.gscs.ca/about/budget> , or you can contact your municipality directly.

ATTENDANCE

It is very important for the safety of our students that we know if a student will be late or absent.

If your child will be absent or late, parents are expected to inform the teacher or the school by using the SafeArrival student absence reporting system.

SafeArrival has 3 convenient Steps:

1. Download and install the School Messenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play store or from the links <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>
2. Safe Arrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>
3. Call the toll-free number 1-844-425-7221 using the automated phone system.



You may also call the office at (306) 659-7380 to report your child's absence.

If a teacher indicates to the office that a child is absent with no reported reason, you will receive an automated notification from **SchoolMessenger Communicate**.

SKI TRIP

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ski trip to Wapiti Valley Regional Park for Grade 5 – Grade 8 students has been cancelled for this year.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 7-13 - Staff Appreciation Week

Feb 8-10 – Students bring Valentines

Feb 9 – Bethlehem High School registrations are due

Feb 10 – Bethlehem High School Grade 8 virtual parent meeting

Feb 12 - E.D. Feehan Registration Due

Feb 12 – School Valentine's Day

Feb 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday

Feb 15-19 – School Break



Daily COVID-19 Self-Screening Tools



Covid-19 Screening Questionnaire

Parents/guardians/students must use this questionnaire daily to decide if the student should attend school.

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

Do you, or your child, have any of the below symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
	Yes	No
• Fever	Yes	No
• Cough	Yes	No
• Shortness of breath/Difficulty Breathing	Yes	No
• Sore throat	Yes	No
• Chills	Yes	No
• Painful swallowing	Yes	No
• Runny nose/Nasal congestion	Yes	No
• Feeling unwell/Fatigued	Yes	No
• Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea	Yes	No
• Unexplained loss of appetite	Yes	No
• Loss of sense of taste or smell	Yes	No
• Muscle/joint aches	Yes	No
• Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)	Yes	No
• Headache	Yes	No
• Dizziness	Yes	No
Has the person attending the facility travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	Yes	No
Have you/your child had close contact (has spent at least 15 minutes cumulatively within 2m/6ft) with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days <u>and who is ill**?</u>	Yes	No
Have you/your child or anyone in your household been in close contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	Yes	No

** "ill" means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please **DO NOT** enter the school at this time. You should stay home and call 811 for directions.

If you have answered "No" to all the above questions, you may attend school.

