Dear Parents and Students:

On behalf of the staff of École St. Matthew School, we would like to wish you and your family a BLESSED and PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS. We ask that the Lord's light and love continue to shine upon you and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

THANK YOU . . .

. . . . to Mme Brunet, Mme Klein, and their students for leading last week’s Advent Liturgies.

THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS WHO VOLUNTEER AT ÉCOLE ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who have spent and continue to spend some of their precious time at École St. Matthew School to help in a variety of activities, most recently, assisting with the concert, preparing the food hampers, helping serve the hot turkey lunch meal, organizing the bake sales, etc. École St. Matthew School is blessed with strong, committed parents that freely offer their skills to enrich their children's education. Thank you so much for your continued help and support!

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21st

Please note that all students will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21st. The Before & After School Program will offer their regular childcare program beginning at 2:30 p.m.

SPIRIT DAYS

Students and Staff (as well as visitors) are invited to join in the fun and show their St. Matthew Spirit on Wednesday, December 21st by wearing their pajamas to school! They are also welcome to wear Christmas attire if they prefer.

ÉCOLE ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL REFUGEE FAMILY SPONSORSHIP UDATE

Together we did it! I am pleased to announce that we have officially reached our goal of $30,000.00 to privately sponsor a refugee family. So far we have raised $30,799.84. Special thanks goes out to our grade 8 students who hosted a birthday party, and in lieu of gifts, requested donations for our refugee family fund, and raised $945.00!!! Amazing!

Thanks also to Alisha and Gabriella who collected eggs at their grandparents farm and sold the eggs, raising $120.00 for our refugee family fund. Other St. Matthew students held a concert and played musical instruments, raising more money for our family. I continue to be touched and inspired by the many ways we have come together to support and raise money to bring our Burundian refugee family to Saskatoon. The family we are sponsoring is currently in Rwanda, awaiting approval for their application to come to Canada. Your continued prayer for their well being and safety is greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas and thank you again.

Danielle Schock and your École St. Matthew School Refugee Family Committee
**STAFFING CHANGE**
Effective December 21st, Ms. Raelee Middlebrook will no longer be teaching English Language Arts in Mme Sturgeon, Mlle Gaudet and Mme Tofin’s classrooms. Beginning Wednesday, January 4th Ms. Taygan Van de Woestyne will assume the teaching duties in this role. We wish Ms. Middlebrook the best with her future endeavors and we welcome Ms. Van de Woestyne to the École St. Matthew School community.

**GIFT OF READING**
We are once again collecting books for children who may not have the luxury of having books in their home. Please consider donating any French or English books that are in good condition. You can leave them in our Gift of Reading boxes found either at the front of the school or in the library. Deadline is Monday January 30th, 2017. Thank you.

**INDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2016/2017**
Registration for Kindergarten students will begin Wednesday, January 4th. If your child will be 5 years of age by January 31st, 2018, he or she may begin Kindergarten in September, 2017. Please contact the school to register your child or drop in for a visit. Please share this information with neighbors who have Kindergarten age children. For more information, please call 659-7410 or check our website at [www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/MAT](http://www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/MAT).

**DATES TO NOTE:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☄️ ☄️ Wednesday, December 21st</td>
<td>* Last day of classes – <strong>2:30 p.m. dismissal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>☄️ ☄️ Thursday, December 22nd – Tuesday, January 3rd</td>
<td>Christmas Break – No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>☄️ ☄️ Wednesday, January 4th</td>
<td>* 1st day back at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>☄️ ☄️ Wednesday, January 11th</td>
<td>* Celena visits K – 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>☄️ ☄️ Thursday, January 12th</td>
<td>* 1:00 p.m.  1C, 1K, 1M, 2G &amp; 2W Skate @ Lions Arena</td>
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<td>☄️ ☄️ Thursday, January 19th</td>
<td>* Chep Salad Bar lunch/Bake Sale (4/5T)</td>
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<td>☄️ ☄️ Wednesday, January 25th</td>
<td>* 9:30 a.m.  Mass @ Holy Spirit Church</td>
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<td>☄️ ☄️ Friday, January 27th</td>
<td>* PLD – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K - 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>☄️ ☄️ Monday, January 30th</td>
<td>* Staff Retreat – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K - 8</td>
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Principal  
Marc Colleaux

Vice - Principal  
Daniel Denis
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

☺☺ Holy Spirit Parish Liturgies/Events: Phone 374-1425; Fax: 374-3190 www.holyspiritsaskatoon.ca; www.facebook.com/holyspiritsask - **Sunday Mass Schedule:** Saturday -5:00 pm; Sunday -10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm

☺☺ St. Philip Neri Parish – St. Philip Neri parish (www.stphilipneriparish.ca) - Mass schedule: Saturdays/5:00 p.m.; Sundays/9:30 & 11:30 a.m.; weekday masses/8:15 a.m. except for Mondays.

* Christmas Season mass schedule - Christmas Eve @ 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. only. New Year’s Eve mass @ 5:00 p.m. and New Year’s Day @ 9:30 am. and 11:30 am., 2017. Everyone is invited!

☺☺ Brevoort Park Association - Join Us for Some Winter Fun! Sleigh rides and hot chocolate in Brevoort Park by the rink on **Sunday, January 8th, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** This is a free event sponsored by your Brevoort Park Community Association! In the event of extreme cold, the event will be rescheduled. Please check Facebook on the date to confirm!

☺☺ Volleyball Saskatoon’s Cool Moves Volley Winter Program for girls and boys will be held on **Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. from January 11th to March 8th** at the Henk Ruys Soccer Center in Lawson at 219 Primrose Drive. Mini Volley for 6–8 year olds, Atomic for 9–11 year olds, Tripleball for 12–13 year olds and Smashball for boys born in 2003, 2004 & 2005. Come Learn how to play volleyball. Cost is $125.00.
For more information contact Leo van Dam at 306-261-5994 or visit www.volleyballsaskatoon.ca.

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**Christmas Thoughts**

"It’s sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts;
It’s not wrapping presents, its being present
and wrapping your arms around the ones you love;
It’s not getting Christmas cards out on time,
It’s sending any card, anytime, at the right time;
It’s not having the biggest and best Christmas light display,
It’s displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart;
It’s not Santa coming down the chimney,
It’s Jesus coming down from heaven,
and giving us the gift of eternal life."

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**Merry Christmas**