**ÉCOLE ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL**
Tel: 659-7410  Fax: 659-2128  www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/MAT
Principal: Marc Colleaux
Vice-Principal: Daniel Denis
Office Coordinator: Claire Denis (cdenis@gscs.ca)
Secretary: Hayley Clouthier (hclouthier@gscs.ca)
Trustees: Diane Boyko, Sharon Zakreski-Werbicki, Wayne Stus, Todd Hawkins

**NEWSLETTER #17**  January 10th, 2017

**Food for Thought:**

“Jesus won’t tap you on the shoulder, but the people around you will - It is, however, the same thing!”

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Dear Parents and Students:

We hope your holiday was restful and peaceful. The staff at École St. Matthew School would like to extend to you our best wishes for the year 2017. Let it be filled with moments of faith, hope and love. Welcome back everyone!

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**CHRISTMAS IN THE UKRAINIAN WAY**

Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar is celebrated on January 6th. Ukrainians are among the group who for the Liturgical year may follow the Julian calendar. On this day the followers fast until they see the first star in the evening sky. The star is the sign for the family to gather and sit at the table, pray and carol together. The Christmas Eve meal consists of 12 traditional dishes which are without meat and milk products. The 12 dishes commemorate the 12 apostles. The Christmas celebration continues for the next three days, January 7th as Christmas Day, January 8th (Synaxis of the Blessed Virgin Mary) a feast day which reminds of the role Mary plays as Christ’s mother and of Joseph, Jesus’ guardian on earth and January 9th is the Feast of St. Stephen who was one of the first seven deacons of the church. St. Stephen was the first martyr of the Christian faith. The final day of the Christmas season is Theophany or Yordan (January 19). It commemorates the baptism of Christ in the river Jordan by St. John the Baptist. On this day, it is custom to bless water in a great ceremony. During the ceremony, three special candles are immersed in water; this is to remind us that through Christ’s baptism our sins are destroyed and forgiven. Христос раждається! Славімо Його! Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him!

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**CHRISTMAS HAMPER PACKING**

Thank you to all of the parents that came out to volunteer for the Christmas hamper packing. It was a great day and we helped 20 families. Also a very big thank you to First on Site for the donation of the boxes and packing tape. Thank you to Dennis’s Independent Grocer for waiving the limit on the turkeys. Last but not least thank you to Broadway Roastery on 8th for the donation of coffee for all of our volunteers. Melissa and I could not pull this off without all of our École St. Matthew families so thank you for all of your donations.

Thank you from Melisa Tremblay-Pierrard and Kristie Ans 2016 Hamper Coordinators

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**INDOOR TRACK**

Indoor track season starts this week. Practices are **Tuesday (gr.6-8)** and **Thursday (gr.4-5)** mornings (8:00 – 8:30 a.m.).

- First Meet: January 14th (5:00 -9:00 p.m. approx.)
- Second Meet: January 19th (5:00 – 9:00 p.m. approx.)
- Third Meet: January 26th (5:00 – 9:00 p.m. approx.) & January 27th (4:00 – 8:00 p.m. approx.)

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**HOT LUNCH – CHEP**

Our next hot lunch will be held next **Thursday, January 19th**. It will be a salad bar. An order form was sent home today. N.B. We cannot order this hot lunch online. The Bake Sale will be provided by 4/5T & 8D.
SPIRIT DAY
The SRC is planning a spirit day for **Friday, January 20th**. It will be twin day! Find a partner or two and plan to dress up like twins!

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.

ÉCOLE ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION EVENING
Choosing French Immersion education for your child is an important decision - one which requires a great deal of information. To that end, we will be hosting an information evening on **Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** in the mini gym. The school principal, Marc Colleaux, and the Kindergarten teacher, Chantal Gauthier, will discuss the Kindergarten to Grade 12 French Immersion Program. Please note that a Kindergarten Orientation (Information evening) will also be held in June at École St. Matthew School.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2016/2017
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.

PRESCHOOL EARLY REGISTRATION FOR 2017/2018
Mes Amis Preschool will begin early registration for St. Matthew families starting January 9th. Please also join us for the Open House on **February 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Preschool Room**. Registration forms are available at the École St. Matthew School office or online at http://saskatoonmesamis.ca/. Questions regarding registration or the Open House may be emailed to lisa_drouin@hotmail.com.

HELP PROTECT LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION
The Government of Saskatchewan is conducting a governance review for kindergarten to Grade 12 education—part of the “transformational change” to education we have been hearing about since June’s provincial budget. Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Don Morgan has stated that amalgamating school divisions and eliminating elected boards of education, and replacing them with government appointed boards, are possibilities. A recently released report is available at [http://bit.ly/PerrinsReport](http://bit.ly/PerrinsReport)

Locally elected boards are accountable to the electorate and help hold the provincial government to account. They are important advocates for ensuring excellence in education. Who better to serve the needs of students—which are unique to each division, and even each school within divisions—than those elected by our community to represent our community?

Greater Saskatoon Catholic School’s Board of Education asks for your support. Here are some possible ways that you can express your support for education and stand up for locally elected boards of education:

- Join the “Add your voice! Education belongs to the community” online and social media campaign.

Information, a short video and tools are available at [http://saskschoolboards.ca/education-belongs-to-community/](http://saskschoolboards.ca/education-belongs-to-community/)

Contact your local Member of Legislative Assembly.

A list can be found at [http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas/](http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas/)

DATES TO NOTE:

😊😊 Wednesday, January 11th
  * Celena visits K – 8

😊😊 Thursday, January 12th
  * 1:00 p.m. 1C, 1K, 1M, 2G & 2W Skate @ Lions Arena
Monday, January 16th
* 9:00 a.m. Junior Achievement – 6/7C

Thursday, January 19th
* Salad Bar lunch/Bake Sale (4/5T & 8D)
* 1:00 p.m. 3B & 3S Skate @ Lions Arena

Friday, January 20th
* Twin Day

Wednesday, January 25th
* 9:30 a.m. Mass @ Holy Spirit Church

Friday, January 27th
* PLD – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K - 8

Monday, January 30th
* Staff Retreat – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K - 8

Wednesday, February 1st
* 4/5T goes to Beaver Creek

Thursday, February 2nd
* 5N goes to Beaver Creek
* 7:00 p.m. French Immersion Information Night in mini-gym

Wednesday, February 8th
* Celena visits K – 8
* 12:30 p.m. 5N visits Loraas

Thursday, February 9th
* 1:00 p.m. 4G, 4/5T & 5N Skate @ Lions Arena

Wednesday, February 15th
* Hot Lunch/Bake Sale (1K & 5N) (order online – Dairy Queen)

Thursday, February 16th
* 1:00 p.m. 3B, 3S & 6K Skate @ Lions Arena

Monday, February 20th
* Family Day – NO SCHOOL

February 20th – 24th
* Mid-Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

Principal
Marc Colleaux
Vice-Principal
Daniel Denis
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

😊😊 Holy Spirit Parish Liturgies/Events: Phone 374-1425; Fax: 374-3190 [website]
- 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 (website) - Mass schedule: Saturdays/5:00 p.m.; Sundays/9:30 & 11:30 a.m.; weekday masses/8:15 a.m. except for Mondays.

😊😊 Brevoort Park Association - Event postponement
The sleigh ride scheduled for this Sunday, January 8th, has been postponed due to the cold weather. Stay tuned to [Facebook] - www.facebook.com/brevoortpark/ - and the community webpage - [website] - for information on when it will be re-scheduled!

😊😊 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 [website].

😊😊 Saskatoon Hustlers Fastball Registration
For children born 2007 and younger, Learn-to-Play Program registration will open February 1st through our website and also at various dates through local Community Associations.