



# FATHER VACHON SCHOOL

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Principal: Mrs. J. Millar [jmillar@gscs.ca](mailto:jmillar@gscs.ca)

Vice Principal: Mrs. E. Hilbig [ehilbig@gscs.ca](mailto:ehilbig@gscs.ca)

Trustee: Mrs. D. Boyko

Trustee: Mr. H. Byblow

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Dec.11<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day: Plaid & Flannel Day  
 Wednesday, Dec.16<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day: Red & Green Day  
 Thursday, Dec.17<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day: Christmas Spirit  
 Friday, Dec.18<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day: Christmas Spirit  
 Friday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> -Last Day Before Christmas Break Begins

- Advent Liturgy
- December Virtual Assembly
- Schoolwide Christmas Bingo

Monday, Jan.4<sup>th</sup> – Classes Resume



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

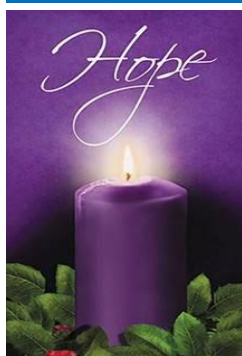
*Father Vachon is a community guided by God's light and the traditional teachings of Mother Earth. We nurture relationships and embrace diversity, while fostering a love of learning.*

### OUR VISION

As a Catholic school community, we inspire one another to follow God's light and use our unique gifts to make the world a better place.

***"Clothe yourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" Colossians 3:12***

## Principal's Message...



**Christmas is coming!** There is often much to do to get ready for the Christmas season. Yet even more important than this outward preparation is the preparation of our hearts. During the season of Advent we often hear scripture speak of people moving from darkness to light – from not fully realizing God's presence among them, to recognizing He is always with us. The Advent season is a beautiful reminder to prepare our hearts, as we prepare our homes, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

During the month of December, we are celebrating the Gospel Virtue and Tipi Teaching of **HOPE**. Last Sunday, we lit the first candle of the four candles in the Advent wreath, the candle of **HOPE**. Advent is a good time to develop the virtue of **HOPE** which gives us the confidence that God is always with us, and that we can trust in God in challenging times and in times of joy. It is with great **HOPE** that next Christmas we will return to the traditions of past years.

This Christmas will look different in our communities and homes, and unfortunately this joyous season will look very different at school. This year we are not able to join together as a school community to share in the story of Jesus' birth. However, each week we are celebrating advent through school liturgies, morning announcements, and classroom activities. Christmas spirit can be found in every corner of our school!

**We wish you a blessed Advent Season!**

**Mrs. Millar & Mrs. Hilbig**

## A Warm Welcome to Our New School Board Trustees

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs. Diane Boyko and Mr. Hudson Byblow as our new school board trustees. We are very excited to work with Mrs. Boyko and Mr. Byblow and we look forward to inviting them to our school when restrictions are lifted. May God bless them in their work and service.

## Upcoming Spirit Days & Christmas Bingo

Father Vachon students & staff have amazing school spirit. Here is a little more information about our upcoming spirit days:

- **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Wear anything plaid or flannel**
- **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – Red & Green Day**
- **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - Wear your Santa hat, Christmas socks, reindeer antlers, or a crazy Christmas sweater. Show your Christmas Spirit!!!**

On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, we are having a schoolwide Christmas Bingo. A BIG thank you for the Father Vachon CSCC for the bingo prizes.

## What Happens When There is a Positive COVID Case in a Classroom?

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for all of the support from families regarding our Covid protocols. All of the protective factors in place are to reduce transmission from occurring at school. The staff and students are continuing to work very hard to keep each other safe. We have included a document titled “What Happens If An Individual Tests Positive for Covid-19 In My Child’s School” to provide additional information to families. Please note that this protocol may change . If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Millar at any time.

## Homework When Your Child Is Away From School

Due to the policy of requiring students to be symptom free for 48 hrs. before returning to school, your child may be absent from school for several days. It is imperative that your child sign into their Google Classroom, as soon as he or she is well enough to begin completing their missed assignments. Students will be expected to complete missed assignments. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions.



Google Classroom

## Used Sleds for Sale

Four years ago, the CSCC purchased wonderful plastic sleds for the students to use. Unfortunately, due to school division policy we are no longer able to use this type of sled at school. We have about 30 used sleds to sell for \$5.00 each. Due to the limited number of sleds, families will be able to purchase a maximum of two sleds. The sleds will be sold on a first come basis. If you would like to purchase a sled, please bring your money to school and see Mrs. Millar when you arrive in the morning. **All money raised will go towards purchasing new sleds for the school.**



## Winter Clothing

It is very important that children be dressed for the weather conditions. We continually monitor the weather and our school uses the division’s guidelines of -25 degrees Celsius to determine if it will be an indoor or outdoor recess. All students are expected to go outside for recess and lunch breaks. Students should be wearing winter boots, a winter jacket, snow pants (encouraged in the younger grades), and other winter wear. We want our students to be safe,

comfortable, and properly dressed for the weather. Children who are dressed warmly have a great time outdoors. Just a reminder to label your child's outdoor clothing.

At our school, it is an expectation that all students have indoor shoes. Although sock feet are comfortable for many students, for safety reasons students are required to wear footwear, including running shoes for gym class. **Please ensure your son/daughter has a pair of indoor shoes (and yes, this includes the middle years students). Thank you!**

## Changes to Routines with Student Masks

Effective November 27<sup>th</sup>, all GSCS staff and pre-K to grade 12 students are required to wear non-medical masks when indoors in our schools. This requirement eliminates the option to remove masks when students are facing forward in their desks. The exceptions will be:

- when food or beverages are being consumed
- when a staff member is alone in their office or classroom

Please note students will be wearing masks during Physical Education classes. Teachers will continue to strategically plan lessons to include exercise of low to moderate intensity. Students are very social during recess time and we want to continue to encourage students to play and socialize with their peers, therefore students are asked to wear their masks when they are outside on the playground.

Due to the cold weather, students masks often become wet during the day. **Please consider sending an extra mask with your child in a disposable bag or small pencil case.** We have reusable and paper masks available to students at their request. However, we are going through several boxes of paper masks per week. We are also asking families to give their children a quick reminder in the morning about remembering to bring their mask to school. Thank you!

## Father Vachon CSCC News

The CSCC is an amazing group of parents! Please consider joining the council and attending the next meeting on **January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** For further information, please email [fvparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fvparentcouncil@gmail.com).

## OUR "SCHOOL CORNER"





**Father Vachon School...Reaching Out...to Transform the World!!**