



## 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

Wednesday, Feb.22 – Pink Shirt Day (Wear Pink)

Friday, Feb. 26 – Celebrating 100 Days

– Spirit Day: Dress like you're 100 Yrs. Old

Thursday, Mar.4 – 3 Way Conference Scheduler Goes Live

Monday, Mar. 8 – PLD: No School

Tuesday, Mar. 16 – Student Portfolios shared/sent home

Thursday, Mar.18 – 3 Way Conferences (3:30-8pm)

Friday, Mar.19 – 3 Way Conferences (9:00-1pm)

**NO SCHOOL**



#### 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...

During Lent, we are called to look inward and to use our conscience as our guide in order to live our Gospel values. We are called to love others as ourselves and to use all of our God given gifts to make the world a better place. At this time more than ever, we are all striving to find ways to better the world around us. As community members, we continue to make daily sacrifices so that we can keep each other healthy and reduce the impact of the global pandemic.

Our actions and our words have meaning, and their impact often has a ripple effect over time. As part of our anti-bullying focus, we will continue to reinforce with our students to strive to follow Jesus' example and be a positive influence on others, to build them up, to encourage, to support and to celebrate successes. We can continue to be inspired by St. Mother Teresa's words:

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.  
Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face,  
kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile,  
kindness in your warm greeting."

God Bless

Mrs. Millar & Mrs. Hilbig

## Invitation to Join us on Edsby

As you may know, we are piloting a new program called Edsby to support communication and student attendance. We are excited to inform you that we will soon be inviting our parents and guardians to a new way to communicate and stay connected with their child's progress at school. **At this time, we are piloting the attendance, report cards, and three-way conference scheduler aspects of the program;** however, there are many amazing features that we look forward to exploring further and using as we move forward.



**The teachers started using Edsby after Christmas break. This week, you will receive an invitation to join Edsby through your email account.** Because your username will be your email address, now is the time to ensure the school office coordinator has your current and correct email address. Edsby provides each parent/guardian with their own account, so we encourage you to ensure we have addresses for each parent/guardian.

This week, you will be sent information to set up your account. The auto generated password may be customized when you sign up.

If you have more than one child attending our school, you can use the same information to log in and see information for all of your children. If you have children attending another school or high school, please know that we are piloting in select schools; therefore, only the teachers from our school will be using the program.

Please see the attachment *Invitation to Parents/Guardians to Edsby*. Mrs. Gabruch and I hope to have all families connected to Edsby by next Monday. **On March 4, the 3-Way Conference Scheduler will go "live" and you will receive a notification through your Edsby account.**

We know change is never easy, but this program will improve many aspects of communication between home and school. **For right now, all you need to do is set-up an Edsby account.** If you have any difficulties, please call us at (306)659-7210.

## Gr.6-8 Father Vachon Speech Competition

During the week of February 8-12<sup>th</sup>, our middle years classrooms held speech competitions. Each classroom selected two representatives to compete in the school speech competition. We were very proud of the efforts of all our students. They did an amazing job! Thank you to Mrs. Kimberley, Miss Thompson, and Miss Buye for being our judges this year. Congratulations to the following students:

Grade 6: 1<sup>st</sup> - Austin G. / 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gabriel C.

Grade 7: 1<sup>st</sup> - Francheska R. / 2<sup>nd</sup> -Issa G.

Grade 8: 1<sup>st</sup> - Jedidiah D. / 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tony N.

## Upcoming Spirit Days

On **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**, we are encouraging students to wear something pink to recognize "Day of Pink."

On **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, we are celebrating 100 days of school. Normally this is usually celebrated in our primary classrooms but with all the challenges of the pandemic this year we are all celebrating! Students and staff are encouraged to dress like they are 100 years old, we have mementos for the students, an assembly and we will wrap-up the day with school-wide Bingo.

## Student Masks

Due to the cold weather, students' masks often become wet during the day. **Please consider sending extra masks 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!

## Wednesday is Pink Shirt Day – Lift Each Other Up: Stand with Us Against Bullying

Pink Day started in 2007, when a grade nine student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied by classmates for wearing a pink shirt to school. Taking notice, two students rallied their peers to send a message to the bullies. The next day, the halls were filled with students in pink T-shirts.

Pink Day started because two boys chose to do something about bullying rather than stand by and watch it happen. Now the movement is worldwide, educating and inspiring others to stand together and take action against violence and bullying.

On **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**, we will join schools from across the province by asking students and staff to wear something pink to symbolize that as a school community we do not tolerate bullying. As a community, we work every day to make Father Vachon School a safe, positive and caring school and this anti-bullying focus will strengthen our efforts.



## It's Time to Register for Kindergarten!

**Children who will be five years old by January 31, 2022** are eligible to start school next fall. Our school is friendly, safe, welcoming, and ready to help each of our students reach their full potential. We nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, so they can make the world around them a better place. **Call us at (306) 659-7210 if you have any questions.** *We are rooted in faith, growing in knowledge, reaching out to transform the world!*

## Student Cell Phones at School

We recognize that cell phones are a great way to stay connected with family, along with the multitude of other uses. The rationale that has guided our decision, specifically having students store their phones in their backpacks, is to provide an environment that is optimal for learning. As many of us can agree, cellphones can be a distraction at any age and we feel that having the cell phones stored in their backpacks will reduce the distraction. **We are asking parents/guardians to refrain from calling or texting their children during class time.** During the lunch hour, students are permitted to check their phones with permission from their classroom teacher. If you have an urgent message you need to get to your son or daughter, please call the main office and Mrs. Gabruch will be happy to help you.

## Used Sleds for Sale

We still have a few sleds left. Sleds are priced at \$5.00 each. 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.** **Currently, we have raised \$110.00.**



## Father Vachon CSCC News

We're almost there! The halfway mark of learning in a pandemic is quickly approaching and while this year has been challenging on many levels we are looking forward with cautious optimism and hope.

You haven't heard much from us this year so we're reaching out to give families an update on what your CSCC has been up too!

Here's a few of the things we've purchased so far!

New Classroom Books



New iPads

Christmas Bingo Prizes



Indoor Recess Games

Outdoor Sidewalk Games (stencils & paint)



The CSCC was able to make this happen with extra funds from our previous fundraising efforts in the school as well as the cancellation of many larger expenses that the CSCC contributes to; like, class field trips and busing. We are very grateful to our families who've helped make these purchases possible with their past support!

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions have made organizing fundraisers difficult and at the risk of adding extra pressure on families we've chosen to not plan any fundraisers for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Although we've decided not to fundraise this year, we are hopeful that we will be back at it, starting September 2021 and will kick it all off with a fall bottle drive!

The CSCC has continued to meet through video conferences and welcome anyone who wishes to join our virtual meeting! The CSCC is an amazing group of parents! Please consider joining the council and attending the next meeting on **March 3 at 6:30pm**. If you would like to attend just send us email at [fvparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fvparentcouncil@gmail.com). Thank you!

## OUR "SCHOOL CORNER"





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