



FATHER VACHON SCHOOL

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Website: www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/vac

Principal: Mrs. J. Millar jmillar@gscs.ca

Vice Principal: Mrs. E. Hilbig ehilbig@gscs.ca

Trustee: Mrs. D. Boyko

Trustee: Mr. H. Byblow

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, January 22nd - **Spirit Day "July in January"**

Monday, January 25th - **PLD: No School**

Tuesday, January 26th - **Bethlehem Gr.8 Classroom Visits**

Friday, February 12th - **Spirit Day "Wear Red"**

Gr.6-8 Speech Competition

February Break: February 15th-19th - **No School**

Wednesday, February 24 - **Celebrating 100 Day**

- **Spirit Day "100 Years Old"**



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...

Happy New Year to our Father Vachon families! I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break. On behalf of the staff, thank you for the beautiful Christmas cards and gifts we received during the Christmas season. We are so blessed to work in a school with such an amazing parent/family community.

A new year offers the opportunity to refocus on current goals or set new goals. As a school, we will continue our focus on our literacy and math goals, as well as our goal of supporting strong mental wellness. We have attached information for families to support our literacy focus. As always, please contact us at any time if you have questions regarding your child's progress. Even though our doors are closed, we still want to connect with families as much as possible. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to the coming months filled with much learning involving spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth for our students.

On behalf of the Father Vachon Staff, we wish you a blessed 2021! May this new year bring new light and new hope to all.

Have a wonderful rest of the month.

Mrs. Millar & Mrs. Hilbig

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.

Band Program

The Saskatchewan Band Association is offering an online After School Band Program in an effort to provide band students with an opportunity to play this year. Please see the attached information sheet.

If your child does not currently have their instrument, please contact your child's teacher. They will connect you with Board Office personnel who can ensure that your child will have access to an instrument for the duration of this program.



Online After School Band Program

Are you missing Band? Do you want to play new music and join others in small ensembles?

The Saskatchewan Band Association, thanks to the generous support of the Betty and Edna Fisher Foundation Fund, is offering a unique opportunity for Band students from Grades 7 to 10.

This special Online After School Band Program has limited space and is ONLY being offered from January 25 – March 19, 2021.

Grade 7 to 10 Band students, who have at least 1 year of experience in band are welcome – even if your school band program is not up and running this year!

All student registrations must be completed by parents. To register, parents must log in via their SBA Parent Family Account.

Don't have an SBA account? Sign up for a FREE! Parent Family Membership: www.saskband.org/ffm

The total cost to register is ONLY \$65 for the 7-week program!

\$125
\$65

This SBA Online After School Band Program includes:

- 7 weeks of lessons starting January 25 until March 19 with a week off during the February break.
- Grade 7/8 woodwind and brass sessions on Wednesdays 4:45-5:45pm
- Grade 9/10 woodwind and brass sessions on Thursdays 4:00-5:00pm
- Grade 7/8/9/10 percussion sessions on Thursdays 4:45-5:45pm
- Expert group & some private instruction from SBA Clinician/Drama members
- Access to online resources including a SmartMusic account with extensive music and method books.

Click [HERE](#) to Register!
Deadline to register is **Thursday, January 21, 2021!**

Gr.6-8 Father Vachon Speech Competition

Our middle years classes will be participating in a school persuasive speech competition this month. Every year, our school has participated in the Kiwanis Speech competition and we will keep the tradition running, even though this event has been postponed. Students will learn how to research topics, create questions to form their stance, and plan a persuasive essay. This is also a great opportunity for students to work on their public speaking skills. Each classroom will host a mini-competition in their classroom and select two representatives from each class to showcase their speech at the school-wide competition. The school-wide competition will happen virtually the week of February 8-12th, where a panel of guest judges will assess the students' presentation skills. The winners will be announced on Friday, February 12th. We are excited to hear the students' speeches in the upcoming competition!

Upcoming Spirit Days

On Friday, we are having **"July in January."** Students are welcome to bring their summer flipflops or slides, a sun hat, or shorts to change into. We are all about Summer Fun on Friday!

In the spirit of **Valentine's Day**, we will be having **"Dress in Red"** on Friday, February 12th. More information regarding exchanging Valentine's cards will be coming next week.

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

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.**



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 (this includes the windchill) 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!**

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!

Father Vachon CSCC News

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

OUR "SCHOOL CORNER"





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