

REGULAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, October 26, 2020

Held virtually, via ZOOM, and livestreamed to the community via YouTube.

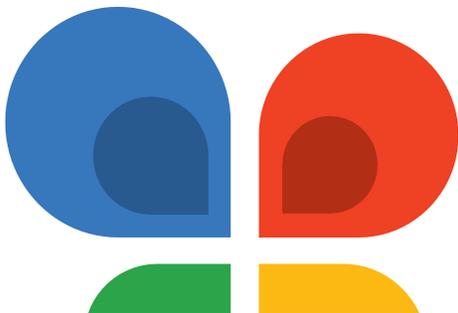
GOOD NEWS

School News

What a joy it was to host the official [Grand Opening Celebration and Blessing](#) of our newest school, [St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy](#), on October 8. While restrictions around COVID-19 prevented us from hosting a public gathering on-site, that did not stifle the community's enthusiasm nor our excitement. The formal program was livestreamed to the community, with more than 100 people tuning in, and many more watching the recording afterward. We thank God for the blessing of this new school, which will surely benefit the community for many years to come.

Students and staff have been practically demonstrating what it means to 'be Christ' to others. Schools have collected donations for the St. Albert Food Bank over the past several weeks, and, not surprisingly, the generosity of our faith and learning community has been outstanding. While some schools have wrapped up their donation drive, others are continuing to collect non-perishable food items and cash. Many of the initiatives have been creative, such as inter-class competitions (in several schools) for the most items collected; a Tiny Tower Competition (at SACHS); and the upcoming Scare Away Hunger Campaign for Hallowe'en (at Vital Grandin). To date, more than 2,000 pounds (and counting!) of food have been collected.

More than 475 grade 4 students in our Division received copies of their own new Catholic Youth Bibles this week. Local parish priests distributed the Bibles to eager and excited students in the classrooms. What an honour it is to provide our students, at a young age, with their own copy of the scriptures, which will surely guide them and provide a solid foundation for their lives.





Division News

On Oct. 7, the Board of Trustees hosted its annual Long Service Awards celebration. Due to precautions around COVID-19, this year's ceremony could not take place in-person; however, the program was made available virtually to all staff and their families. Together, we celebrated 103 staff who have reached 5-, 10-, 15-, 20, 25-, 30-, and 35- milestone years with our Division. Congratulations to all of these staff on their many successes and accomplishments. Thank you for your service and commitment to our students, families, staff, community, Division, and God.

On Oct 5, we joined millions of people across the globe in celebrating [World Teachers' Day](#). Held annually, this is a day to formally commemorate teachers and to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide. This year's theme was *Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future*. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers have made incredible accomplishments relative to providing remote learning, supporting vulnerable students, school re-entry, and identifying and closing learning gaps. We thank all of our teachers for living the heart of Jesus and embodying Christ to our students, families, and communities.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is pleased to [announce](#) the appointment of Mr. Joseph Dumont as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services. He will commence his new role on Nov. 9. Welcome to the GSACRD family, Mr. Dumont!

On Sept. 30, students, families, and staff went to school or work wearing orange to show support for #OrangeShirtDay. Each year, Orange Shirt Day provides opportunities to learn about, and promote awareness of, the history of Canada's residential school system and its legacy of harm. On this day, as every day, we declare that #EveryChildMatters; this truth aligns with the Catholic teaching that every human life is lovingly created in the image of God, with a goodness and inherent dignity that must be respected and protected. Let us continue to walk with our Indigenous brothers and sisters on a path toward truth and reconciliation.

The Division's Sports and Recreation Academies started up again on Oct. 1, on a modified basis, following an extensive review by Alberta Health Services. The programming includes select activities in approved venues and follows specific public health guidelines.



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is proud to release [Journey in Education for Reconciliation](#). Developed in partnership with our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory and Leadership Committees, the booklet was created with consultation with – and direction from – Edna Arcand and Ella Arcand, our elders, who provide us with advice, guidance, and teachings. This picture booklet aims to capture – in words, pictures, and student art – the lessons we have learned from our elders. The first issue of this booklet is part of an ongoing journey to strengthen relationships, partnerships, and actions that bring us to new understandings of what it means to enact Truth and Reconciliation within our Division.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' Board of Trustees has nominated the Town of Morinville for the 2020 Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Friends of Education Award. This award "recognizes individuals or organizations who are demonstrably committed to improving education for Alberta students and who have made a significant contribution to education in Alberta." Trustee Noreen Radford, Board Chair, announced the nomination, and the reasons for the nomination, to Town Council on Oct. 15.

PRESENTATION DELEGATIONS

The following video presentations were shared with the Board:

- Celebrating Staff – [Master of Religious Education \(M.R.E.\)](#)
- Celebrating Staff – [Excellence in Catholic Education Award](#)
- Celebrating Staff – [Message from the Board Chair on behalf of the Board of Trustees](#)
- Celebrating Students – [Honouring Spirit: 2019-2020 Indigenous Student Award Nominee](#)

ACTION & CONSENT ITEMS

- The Board reviewed and approved the following Consent Items, as amended:
 - Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee
 - Board Policy 4: Trustee Code of Conduct
 - Board Policy 5: Role of the Board Chair
 - Board Policy 6: Role of the Vice-chair
- The Board reviewed and approved the following Action items:
 - 2020 – 2021 School Council Liaison Appointments
 - 2020 – 2021 Board Committee Representatives Revision (ATA Liaison)
 - Formal Name Change for St. Albert Catholic High School (new name: École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School)
 - Scheduling a Meeting with Member of Parliament: Commemorative Project for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy
 - Superintendent's Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee
 - Insurance Coverage Options

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Updates and/or reports were provided on the following:

- October 2020 Accountability Pillar Report
- Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams
- Enrolment Report
- Staffing Report
- Federal Funding for Safe Return to Class
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Report
- Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards

UPCOMING BOARD INITIATIVES/EVENTS

- *Remembrance Day*: November 11, 2020 – trustees may choose to attend virtual ceremonies.
- *Alberta School Trustees' Association (ASTA) AGM and Convention*: November 14, 2020 (virtually).
- *Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) FGM*: November 16, 2020 (virtually).
- *Committee of the Whole Meeting*: November 18, 2020 – 4 p.m.
- *Grand Re-opening Celebration & Blessing – St. Gabriel Education Centre*: November 20, 2020 – 2:30 p.m. – In addition to a formal name change to reflect its growing identity and the services offered, the school relocated to the lower-level of the Division Office building this year. Extensive renovations were conducted over the summer and completed in time for the start of the new school year this fall. Due to restrictions around COVID-19, this event is not open to the public; however, the formal program will be livestreamed to the community.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Monday, November 30, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held virtually and will be [livestreamed](#) to the public. All Regular Board Meetings are open to the public.