

Nov. 13, 2020

Superintendent's Update: Students, Parents/Legal Guardians, and Staff

We are excited to welcome our students and staff back to school next week after a well-earned break. I hope that everyone comes back rejuvenated, enthused and ready to continue growing in faith and knowledge together.

On Nov. 12, Premier Kenney introduced [targeted public health measures](#) that, while not directed at schools, reinforce our current health measures and also introduce some additional considerations for programming:

- given current restrictions in the community regarding group fitness, classes, and team sports, we are focused on offering more outdoor and individual physical activities in Phys. Ed., and, similarly, modified academy programming in designated schools between Nov. 13 and 27; and
- we will continue to follow Alberta Health Services (AHS) [health guidelines](#) on singing, dancing, and performing arts.

Given the rising spread of the virus, both locally and provincially, we are working closely with AHS and surrounding school authorities to enact measures necessary to mitigate the risks of further transmission.

It is important that you continue to use the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist for Children Under 18](#) (available in [English](#), [French](#), and [nine other languages](#)) every day, prior to sending your child(ren) to school. If your child is ill or has any symptoms, even if they seem mild, please keep him or her at home, call 8-1-1, and follow all instructions for testing and isolating. AHS's [Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare](#) provides helpful information and answers to frequently asked questions. As you know, the situation around this pandemic continues to change rapidly. Up-to-date and credible information is available from the [Government of Alberta](#), [AHS](#), [Health Canada](#), and the [World Health Organization](#). Please also review our updated [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#), visit our [website](#), and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay in the loop. Your child(ren)'s school principal can best address your concerns as they apply to [your child\(ren\)'s school](#).

We look forward to the [Grand Re-Opening Celebration and Blessing](#) of [St. Gabriel Education Centre](#) (formerly St. Gabriel High School) on November 20. Our Board of Trustees [approved the formal name change](#), which came into effect on August 31, to reflect the growing scope with which the school serves its students and the broader community. Due to restrictions around COVID-19, this event will not be open to the public to attend on site; however, the formal program will be [livestreamed](#) to the community, and the recording will be posted online shortly after the celebration.

[Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation](#)'s [Cash Raffle Fundraiser](#) jackpot is at \$3,725 and rising. It's not too late to [purchase your tickets](#) and support the Foundation in its efforts to support our students and help meet urgent classroom needs.



Today is [World Kindness Day 2020](#), which promotes the importance of being kind to oneself, to others, and to the world. On this day, and every day, may we look for [opportunities](#) to reflect the love and kindness of Jesus Christ to others, whether that be a friend, a stranger, or someone outside of our relational or ideological comfort zones. Not only is this rewarding, it also helps alleviate some of the tensions we may be experiencing during this pandemic.

Next week (November 16-20) is [Bullying Awareness Week](#). This year's theme, *Where To Turn*, encourages everyone to learn where to turn when dealing with bullying. Students, staff, and parents/legal guardians who need help regarding bullying or abuse can call the Bullying Helpline (888.456.2323, 24/7) or [chat online](#) (noon to 8 p.m., daily) with a trained professional. Online chats and calls to the helpline are anonymous. There is no place for bullying in our schools, and we thank you for helping build welcoming, safe, and caring environments that respect diversity and support a sense of belonging.

These are challenging times, but we will get through them together as we continue to trust God. As I reflect on the many ways our community supports and prays for one another, I call to mind words from the letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to Philemon:

"When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus...I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you..." (Philemon 1:4-7).

May God bless and keep you and your families during this difficult time and always.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools