

Nov. 20, 2020

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

Our students and staff are excited to be back in class this week! Staff are thrilled to see their students and colleagues again, and, likewise, students are happy to see their classmates and teachers. Whether in an online or face-to-face environment, everyone is settling back into his or her learning routines.

As we continue to navigate these challenging times together, may the words of St. Bonaventure encourage us: God is *"within all things but not enclosed; outside all things, but not excluded; above all things, but not aloof; below all things, but not debased."* Bonaventure spoke of God as One *"whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere."* It is reassuring to know that God is always with us, even in difficult circumstances.

Families are required to continue using the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist for Children Under 18](#) (available in [English](#), [French](#), and [nine other languages](#)) **daily, before** sending their 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. The [Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare](#), from Alberta Health Services (AHS), provides helpful information and answers to frequently asked questions. Given the rising spread of the coronavirus, both locally and provincially, we continue to work closely with AHS and surrounding school authorities to enact measures necessary to mitigate the risks of further transmission.

As the situation around this pandemic continues to change rapidly, we encourage you to regularly visit the [Government of Alberta](#), [AHS](#), [Health Canada](#), and the [World Health Organization](#) websites, where you can find up-to-date and credible information about COVID-19. 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](#).

Today, we hosted the official [Re-Opening Celebration and Blessing](#) of [St. Gabriel Education Centre](#) (formerly St. Gabriel High School). What a joy it was to celebrate this beautifully renovated space that will certainly serve our students and community for years to come. In keeping with public health guidelines, this event took place virtually. The recording will be posted on our website soon, but in the meantime, please watch this short [video](#) that was part of today's celebration. Also, we have now launched the [GSACRD Online Pathway K-9 micro-website](#), which will surely be a valuable resource for our online students, their families, and our staff.

There's still time to [purchase your tickets](#) for the [Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation's 50/50 Cash Raffle Fundraiser](#). The jackpot is over \$5,900 and rising, so you don't want to miss out! Your generous support will enable the Foundation to purchase classroom equipment that will help meet urgent needs. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause and, in turn, our students (please note: you must be 18+ to participate).

I am excited to share with you [the new theme song](#) of our [three-year faith theme](#) (2020-2023): *"Arise! Get up, get going, and go with God."* I wrote and produced this song, entitled "Arise!", in my spare time, and it was truly a labour of love. I humbly offer it to our community as a source of joy, energy, and inspiration. As we celebrate our faith theme over the next three years, I hope this song calls each of us to "Arise!" and to answer the call to Christ. In December or January, we will share a video, set to this song, that will feature photos, videos, and art that demonstrate how students and staff are animating and living out our faith theme. You can [download the song](#), the [lyrics](#), and [The Story Behind "Arise!"](#), which explains how the song was created, from [our website](#).

Let us continue to look to Christ as our example as we work together through these days, showing kindness, patience, and love to others. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support and for doing your part to help keep everyone safe and healthy.

I leave you with the words of the Apostle Peter, as recorded in Holy Scripture:

"May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."
(2 Peter 1:3)

Blessings!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools