

January 8, 2021

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

Happy New Year!

It has truly been joyful to welcome our students and staff back to school and work after the Christmas break! I trust everyone had a rejuvenating holiday season and that you were able to connect with loved ones, even if it meant having to do so virtually this year. The new year is now well underway, and we are excited about what 2021 holds for us as a faith and learning community.

On January 6, the Church celebrated the **Feast of the Epiphany**, which commemorates the magi's visit to the baby Jesus. May we follow the example of these wise kings and seek after Christ, our King, offering our lives as gifts of love and service to God.

Although all of our students will **be back in class on January 11**, they have been learning from home this week, as part of a number of new and stricter [public health measures](#) that Premier Jason Kenney [announced](#) on December 8 to protect the health-care system and slow the spread of COVID-19. Students enrolled in face-to-face classes are expected to [return to schools for in-person learning on January 11](#). We have updated our [Parent Guidebook for Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#), accordingly, with any relevant changes. Our [website](#) and official social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) are also reliable sources of Division news and announcements.

We have made the joint decision, in collaboration with St. Albert Public Schools, Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord, and Sturgeon Public Schools, to continue to [postpone all school-based extracurricular junior and senior high athletics](#) until further notice. This decision was not made lightly and is a result of the continuing increase in COVID-19 cases in our communities. We know how important athletics are to many of our students, and we hope to be able to provide our student-athletes with the opportunity to participate and compete later this school year. We will monitor the situation in the upcoming months to determine if it is safe to resume athletics based on health guidance from the provincial government.

Our [2021 Pre-K & Kinder Virtual EXPO](#) takes place on **January 14**. Please [register](#) for this online event to learn about our dynamic Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten English and French programming, Sports and Recreation Academies, how to register your child(ren) in one of our schools, and much more. Please share the details of this online event with any families you know who may be interested in our early learning programs or our Division.

We are thrilled to offer three [virtual information sessions](#) about the benefits of **French Immersion Kindergarten** in our Division. Please [join us](#) to hear from some of our families, who will share their personal experiences with French Immersion in our schools. Time will also be allotted in these one-hour sessions for questions and answers. Questions can either be submitted in advance, using the online [registration form](#), or asked during the live events. All sessions will start at **6:30 p.m.**

Date	Host School
Tuesday, Jan. 19	École Marie Poburan
Tuesday, Feb. 9	École Father Jan
Tuesday, Feb. 23	École Notre Dame

Please [register](#) by **Jan. 15** and **Feb. 5** for the January and February sessions, respectively. After you submit your online registration, you will receive a confirmation with details on how to access these virtual sessions.

I am amazed, but not at all surprised, by how our students and staff practically live out their faith and be Christ to others. In December, they collectively raised \$8,472.85 for [Catholic Social Services' \(CSS\) 2020 Stuff-a-Stocking Campaign](#), thereby enabling the charity to provide Christmas stockings, gift cards, and turkey dinners to more than one hundred vulnerable youth. My sincere thanks go out to everyone who supported this important cause. Our students and staff live out this spirit of generosity and expression of faith all-year-round.

It is wonderful to see our students, families, and staff arise and answer the call to service of those in need. I am excited to share the [lyric video](#) for "[Arise!](#)," the theme song of our Division [Three-Year \(2020-2023\) Faith Theme](#). The lyric video was created by Gillian Brinston-Kurschat, vice-principal of Vital Grandin Catholic Elementary School. I am grateful to Gillian for her time and dedication to this project, as I know that it will contribute significantly to the furthering of the resonance of our Faith Theme: "Arise - Get up, get going, and go with God!"

I am honoured to serve Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools as Superintendent and know that we will continue to support each other through to the end of this school year and the COVID-19 pandemic. We all look forward to a return to some sort of normalcy in our schools and in our lives with great anticipation. I wish you all health, joy, peace, and many blessings in 2021!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools