

Dec. 18, 2020

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

It is hard to believe that today is our final day of classes before the Christmas break! As we approach the end of the middle of our learning journey together this school year, we look forward to a well-earned break and the excitement that Christmas brings! I know how hard our students and staff have worked, and I hope this break will be a time of rest, rejuvenation, and joy for everyone!

As we enter this fourth and final week of [Advent](#), we focus on our Holy Mother's open heart, as she prepares to receive the gift of Emmanuel, *God with Us*. May we follow her example and prepare our hearts to celebrate the nativity of Our Lord. Knowing that *God is with us* brings us peace and comfort, even in these challenging times.

As I mentioned in my last communication, the province-wide, mandatory [public health restrictions](#) that Premier Jason Kenney [announced](#) on December 8, to protect the health-care system and slow the spread of COVID-19, applies until at least January 12. This means that the prohibition on in-person social gatherings will remain in place over the break. We encourage you to connect with your family and friends through other means, such as video, virtual chat, and telephone calls, during this time. Not being able to get together for Christmas may be a source of stress or hardship for some within our faith and learning community. Please access the many [resources and supports](#) available if you need help.

In the week of January 4-8, all students (Kindergarten through Grade 12) and staff will be engaged in online learning from home, unless families have made specific arrangements to have support in schools. Those arrangements will need to be made through the school principal. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions. As always, you can stay up-to-date by reading the [Parent Guidebook for Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#), visiting our [website](#), and following Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (GSACRD) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Our [2021 Pre-K & Kinder EXPO](#) takes place on January 14. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will be held virtually. The EXPO is an excellent opportunity for parents/legal guardians to learn all about our dynamic Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programming. [Registration](#) for the virtual EXPO is now open.

During this season of giving, our students, families, and staff continue to demonstrate the others-centered love of Christ in practical ways. Collectively, our Division has now raised more than \$7,265 to-date for Catholic Social Services' (CSS) [2020 Stuff-a-Stocking Campaign](#). It's not too late to participate in this important initiative; the campaign runs until December 31. All funds raised will help CSS provide Christmas stockings and turkey dinners for vulnerable youth. [Watch this Advent message](#) from Gerald Ssuguya, CSS faith and community liaison, to see the impact of this giving.



In his annual [Christmas video greeting](#), Archbishop Richard Smith reflects on why Christmas is exactly what we need in this moment, after a year rife with uncertainty and anxiety.

On behalf of everyone at Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools, I wish you all the warmth of the season, and the love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ. I leave you with the encouraging thoughts of Henri Nouwen, Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian:

*"The Lord is coming, always coming.
When you have ears to hear and eyes to see,
you will recognize Him at any moment of your life.
Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."*

I look forward to seeing our students, staff, and families in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I wish you all many blessings in 2021.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools