

April 9, 2021

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

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen! I hope you all had a blessed and joyful Easter. Now that we have re-entered school for a great first week back after Spring Break, we are looking forward to Divine Mercy Sunday on April 11, 2021. On this feast day, we remember Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament who shared her devotions on each day of the Novena to the Divine Mercy, which began on Good Friday. Let us continue to pray for Divine Mercy in our lives as we learn and work together this Easter season.

This is also a wonderful time to be looking back and celebrating our community's outpouring of generosity in our recent division Lenten project (baskets for new beginnings for vulnerable youth) as supported by Catholic Social Services. We raised \$29,572.20, which well surpassed our goal of \$15,000.00, and we thank you for your continued support of our youth.

As you are likely aware, the draft of the new Kindergarten – Grade 6 curriculum was released by Alberta Education last week and they are seeking feedback from all Albertans. At this time, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools has not committed to piloting the new curriculum. In the coming weeks, we will be engaging our teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders as we unpack the new curriculum and prepare to provide feedback to the government. Division and school administrators will be reviewing the new draft curriculum and engaging teachers as part of the process. Prior to a final decision being made regarding the piloting of portions of the draft curriculum, GSACRD is committed to a comprehensive review. We invite you to provide your feedback to Alberta Education: [Have your say - Share your feedback on the draft K-6 curriculum](#).

Following Spring Break, on April 6, 2021, Premier Kenney announced, "Alberta is reverting back to [Step 1](#) of its public health restriction framework in order to curb the growing spread of COVID-19 and its variants. We will adhere to these health measures and update our [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#) as well as our [website](#) and official social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)), which are also reliable sources of Division news.

On Wednesday, April 14, 2021 the Division will transition its website to a modern design that better aligns with the GSACRD brand. There will be more features to highlight Catholic education and showcase the Division's story through news posts, statistics and video. With our current COVID-19 situation, the ability to communicate online is important in engaging our families, our partners in education, and our staff, who are ambassadors for our division. A new feature has been added to allow visitors to the site the option to share feedback on the content. Following the transition there will be continuous updates to the website to ensure we have current information posted. This transition involves the division site and does not impact any of our school websites.

Our hearts go out to the royal family as we learned this morning of the passing of Prince Philip, husband to Queen Elizabeth II, at the age of 99. May God bless and keep the Queen, and her family, as they mourn.

We also keep in our thoughts and prayers the family, friends, staff, and students in both Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and St. Albert Public Schools, as we mourn the loss of a Division Learning Services staff member, and as our sister jurisdiction mourns the recent loss of two students, one of whom, Luke Dubé, was concurrently registered in GSACRD at St. Gabriel Learning Centre earlier this year. May God welcome those who have passed into His loving embrace and provide strength and comfort to all of those family and friends left to mourn.

Thank you for continuing to work with us as partners to adhere to provincial health guidance as we look forward to better days as vaccinations become a reality. Many blessings to you and your family in this Easter season. May you find time for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools