

April 16, 2021

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

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! And just like that, the third Sunday of Easter is approaching! It is during this time of the Easter season that we celebrate the Apostles' transformation from doubt and despair at the death of Christ, to faith and hope at His resurrection. The Good News began to spread widely and believers were proclaiming! This is a season of joy and renewal; let us rejoice!

We also celebrate the feast day of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha on April 17th. She is the first North American Indigenous Saint and namesake of our newest school, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy in Morinville. We invite you to participate in the Feast of St. Kateri Mass, celebrated annually in the Diocese of St. Paul. This year's mass is taking place at St. Paul Cathedral on Friday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. and may be viewed at the [Diocese of St. Paul Youtube channel](#).

On April 15th the Board of Trustees held a Special Meeting of the Board to discuss next steps as we look at the new K-6 Draft Curriculum. At that time, through much discussion with our Trustees, and after consultation with our school leaders and teachers, and considering all input from families, First Nations and Métis partners, and other stakeholders, **GSACRD has decided not to pilot the K-6 Draft Curriculum at this time.** The Division is committed to facilitating what is hopefully a return to a greater sense of normalcy for students and staff in the fall as we continue to work through the pandemic and rebound from the many challenges faced due to COVID-19. We will continue to work as partners with the Ministry in providing thorough formative feedback over the course of the 2021-2022 school year. A statement to our community was issued earlier today to that effect.

All interested in education in Alberta are invited to participate in this survey. [Have your say - Share your feedback on the draft K-6 curriculum](#).

Monday, April 12th marked the final transition date for junior high and elementary students who were changing from online learning at our Online Learning Pathways, to face-to-face learning in GSACRD schools or vice-versa. High school students wishing to change will transition on April 21, 2021. I would like to thank all families for their thoughtful consideration of both learning options during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud to offer choices in education to serve our families.

Premier Jason Kenney and Minister Adriana LaGrange announced on Sunday, April 11, 2021 that the province will be expanding the COVID 19 rapid tests program to 300 schools by mid-May. The rapid-tests will be voluntary for staff and students, and signed consent will be required for participants. According to COVID-19 guidance and health measures for K-12 schools on the Alberta Education [website](#), *"Schools will be selected based on a variety of factors, including the prevalence of COVID-19 in the school or community and whether a school has had multiple outbreaks or school-acquired cases since the start of the school year."* We look forward to the impact of this added measure of safety in Alberta schools.

We will continue to adhere to [Step 1](#) 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.

Alberta Education is extending the deadline for the completion of the *Alberta Education Assurance (AEA)* survey to **Wednesday, April 28, 2021**. Parents and legal guardians have received the survey link and code by mail. Your survey can be completed online or returned by mail. As a division, we appreciate the feedback given through this survey as it is used to inform our Education Assurance Plan. If you have any questions, concerns or require assistance, please contact System Assurance Branch at 780- 643-9193 [toll free using 310-0000] or by email at [EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca).

We are now inviting nominations for the [Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope Award](#). This award is to recognize a staff member who has demonstrated self-sacrifice through Christian service and has accepted demanding challenges for the betterment of education. Any member of the GSACRD community is eligible to submit a nomination to Iva Paulik at [ipaulik@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:ipaulik@gsacrd.ab.ca) or in person at 6 St. Vital Avenue. The submission deadline is May 14, 2021. For more information please see [Board Policy #20 and the nomination form](#).

We would like to continue to keep our sister board, St. Albert Public Schools, in our prayers, as they mourn the loss of one of their long-time staff members from their Outreach School. Additionally, we continue to pray for the repose of the soul of the Duke of Edinburgh whose funeral is on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

Thank you for your continued work with us as partners in education. May you find time to get outside and enjoy your family this weekend. Blessings!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk  
Superintendent of Schools