

April 23, 2021

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

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! As the days get longer, and the promise of spring is upon us, we see hints of green in pastures and fields! The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. On this day we reflect on how Christ is our shepherd, leading and protecting us:

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me..." (John 10:14)

As Christians, we are called to be shepherds for one another, sacrificing ourselves for the safety and salvation of our brothers and sisters. April 25th is also the feast day of St. Mark the Evangelist, author of the Second Gospel. St. Mark is the patron saint of notaries, barristers and the city of Venice.

GSACRD high school students began Quarter 4 on Wednesday, April 21st. This day also marked the final transition for students who transitioned from online to face-to-face learning or vice-versa. We thank our staff and students for their flexibility throughout the year.

Alberta Education is extending the deadline for the completion of the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey to Wednesday, April 28, 2021. Eligible 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.

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, Secretary-Treasurer, at 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 are hopeful that as the vaccine roll out continues to include younger age brackets, we will begin to see COVID-19 numbers across the province decline. At this time, some of our neighboring jurisdictions have applied for and been granted permission from the Ministry to transition their grade 7-12 students to online learning for the next two weeks. We are pleased to report that at this time GSACRD schools do not meet the threshold of numbers required to be considered for a switch to online learning. We will continue to monitor our own COVID-19 numbers and the provincial situation to ensure that we are making the best possible decisions for our students' learning and their safety.

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.

Although the Division will not be piloting the draft curriculum at this time, we seek to work collaboratively with Alberta Education to provide feedback on the new curriculum. We invite interested staff and families to "have your say" by participating in the [Draft K-6 Curriculum - Public Feedback Survey](#).

I would like to thank all of our staff and families for their support as we continue to navigate this time of pandemic, tending to student learning needs, while working to protect the health and well-being of our school communities. We consistently pray for the wellness of our staff, students, and families, and I would like to leave you with words from the Third Letter of the Holy Apostle John:

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul." (3 John 2)

Blessings for a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools