

April 30, 2021

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

Rejoice! Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen! This week concludes the month of April, the month of the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist is the embodiment of Christ's love for us, the very flesh that He gave for His beloved people. It is with anticipation that we welcome the month of May - the month of Mary! Our focus turns to the Virgin Mary, beloved mother, who embodies pure and love and trust. This month-long devotion allows Catholics around the world to venerate Mary and learn to emulate her faith and goodness.

This week marked an increase in COVID cases both provincially, and also in GSACRD. Neil M. Ross Catholic Elementary School has pivoted to online learning beginning on Monday, April 26. We anticipate that students will return to face-to-face instruction on Monday, May 10, 2021. This shift was sought to address operational challenges that resulted from a large number of staff and students who are in isolation. We thank all staff at NMR for their flexibility and hard work as they keep their community learning from home. We would also like to recognize the patience and support of the NMR families. At this time, all other GSACRD schools are operating as per usual. We continue to monitor all our schools closely and keep you apprised if any changes occur.

On Monday, April 26, 2021, Health Minister Tyler Shandro, announced that all Albertans born between the years of 2006 and 2009, who have underlying health issues, are now eligible to be vaccinated. We pray that our students who qualify will now enjoy an added measure of protection through this vaccine. Individuals who fall into this category can call 811 to learn more about this.

Effective April 28, 2021, Dr. Deena Hinshaw has changed the testing protocol for those deemed close contacts. Close contacts are encouraged to have a COVID test early in their time of isolation, but will only be encouraged to get a second test if they develop symptoms prior to the lift date of their isolation.

On April 29, 2021, Premier Jason Kenney highlighted some 'hot spots' in the province of Alberta where additional health measures will be imposed - including placing grade 7-12 students online from May 3-17, 2021. **St. Albert, Morinville, and Legal were NOT impacted by this announcement at this time.** Visit the province's [expanded restrictions for hotspot regions](#) site for more information.

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.

Just a reminder that we are inviting nominations for the [Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope Award](#), which recognizes 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](#).

Although we will not be piloting the new curriculum in 2020-2021, we would like to once again remind our community members to "have your say" on the new curriculum and participate in the [Draft K-6 Curriculum - Public Feedback Survey](#).

I would like to thank all of you for your excellent work in keeping our school communities safe by adhering to provincial health protocols. With the rise in COVID-19 cases throughout the province, it is extremely important to be mindful of current health measures. Let's continue to care for ourselves and each other on this journey to the end of June and the end of the pandemic. As we approach the 5th Sunday of Easter, I leave you with words from John's Gospel: "Abide in me as I abide in you." Let us continue to develop our relationship and connection with Jesus as we look ahead to times when we can gather together in person as a community in prayer and celebration. Blessings for a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools