

May 7, 2021

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

Happy Mother's Day! As we celebrate all of the mothers in our GSACRD family on Sunday, May 9th, we remember Mary, the Blessed Virgin. She is a perfect example of gentle and unconditional motherly love. [May, the month dedicated to the veneration of Mary](#), allows us to examine her strength in adversity and her unwavering trust in God. Mary lived a fully human experience and accepted it with grace and courage.

This week has seen a number of announcements from Premier Kenney in regards to stricter restrictions to 'stop the spike' of COVID-19. Most recently, it was announced that all kindergarten to grade 12 students in Alberta will be learning online, effective Friday, May 7, 2021. We anticipate a return to face-to-face instruction on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021.

Please note the following:

- All K-12 students will be learning from home.
- Pre-Kindergarten programs continue with face-to-face learning.
- Students with exceptional learning needs may continue to access face-to-face learning as required. This is to be done in discussion with school administration.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our school administrators, teachers, and support staff for their efforts to 'pivot' to online learning seamlessly once again this school year. On the same token, we are grateful to our students and families for their flexibility and understanding. We look forward to having all of our students back in our halls - safe and healthy! Visit the province's [expanded restrictions for hotspot regions](#) website for more information.

In addition, Premier Kenney announced that, starting Tuesday, May 4th, 2021, all those who work in schools, regardless of age, will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Further to this, on Monday, May 10, 2021, all Albertans 12 years of age and older will be able to book a COVID-19 vaccine. We pray that our staff and students who wish to be vaccinated find an added measure of safety in these vaccines, and that this marks the beginning of a return to normalcy.

We will continue to adhere to the most current public 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 final 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](#).

Catholic Education Week will be celebrated from May 10 to 14, 2021. We have a variety of activities going on in our schools, including special prayers, over the course of the week. We invite you to show your support for Catholic education by liking our social media posts next week and by wearing blue on **World Catholic Education Day** on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

I would like to wish all GSACRD mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, and foster mothers a blessed Mother's Day. Regardless of the title you wear, you are integral to our children's lives, and we thank you for everything you do. May God bless you all on Mother's Day and always.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools