

February 3, 2021
Superintendent’s Update: Students, Parents/Legal Guardians, and Staff

On Tuesday, February 2, we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, the liturgical colour of which is white (which is fitting since it snowed all day yesterday). This is the feast day on which we mark that forty days after His birth, in accordance with Jewish custom and the biblical significance of the number forty, Jesus was presented by His parents, Mary and Joseph, in the temple in Jerusalem. There is something very special about this simple act of Mary and Joseph. They did not take their infant son to a sacred spring or holy mountain, but rather a temple dedicated to God, where He is most present. This resonates in the practice of Catholic families today as children are brought up in the Church via local parishes through participation in the Sacraments, beginning with Baptism. The prophet Malachi foretold the event that the Church marks annually on February 2: *“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts”* (Malachi 3:1).

Thank you for taking part in our survey about online education to see what interest there may be in sustaining an online education component to our programming for 2021-2022. Out of 279 responses, 80% of parents prefer face-to-face education and 10% indicated an interest in having a choice to take part in online classes. Respondents reported that the number of COVID cases will impact their decision for whether to send their children to face-to-face classes as well as their child’s(ren’s) progress academically and mentally/emotionally. I appreciate your feedback and we will send another survey closer to the time when information about the state of the pandemic is clear in terms of its implications for school entry in 2021-2022. In addition to community engagement about online education, I want to, once again, thank all stakeholders for your feedback on our 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Division Calendars, which have been posted to the [Division Calendar](#) page of our website.

On Thursday, January 28, 2021, Premier Kenney announced relaxed restrictions for school authorities to start as of February 8, assuming that hospitalization numbers are at 600 or lower. Additionally, Minister Shandro reported, “We need to stick to a stepped approach so we don’t risk the steady improvements we’ve made. Although restrictions will remain in place, the path forward gives us all more options in our daily lives.” We have updated applicable changes in this guidebook. Please continue to check the [Alberta Health website](#) for updates from the Minister of Education about changes to such measures as they relate to school jurisdictions. We continue to update our [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#) accordingly, with any relevant changes. Our [website](#) and official social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) are also reliable sources of Division news and announcements.

Our [2021 Pre-K & Kinder Virtual EXPO](#) was held on January 14. If you did not have an opportunity to participate in this online event, please contact your designated school to learn about our dynamic Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten English and French programming, Sports and Recreation Academies, and how to register your child(ren) in one of our schools.

Consider taking part in the remaining [virtual information sessions](#) regarding the benefits of French Immersion Kindergarten in Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. Please [join us](#) to hear from some of our families, who will share their personal experiences with French Immersion in our schools. Time will also be allotted in these one-hour sessions for questions and answers. Questions can either be submitted in advance, using the online [registration form](#), or asked during the live events. All sessions will start at 6:30 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host School</u>
Tuesday, Feb. 9	École Father Jan
Tuesday, Feb. 23	École Notre Dame

Please [register](#) by February 5 for the upcoming sessions, respectively. After you submit your online registration, you will receive a confirmation with details on how to access these virtual sessions.

I wish all of our teaching staff a wonderful Teacher’s Convention full of excellent professional learning over the next couple of days. Ongoing reflection and continuous professional learning are critical to teachers refining their practice over the course of their careers. We are blessed by both the teachers and support staff that we have in our Division schools, and know that our students reap the benefits of their knowledge, wisdom, and faith:

*“Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.”*
(Proverbs 9:9)

While our teachers engage in professional learning, it is my sincere hope that students, families, and support staff are able to enjoy some quality time, in spite of the continued chilly weather. Take care and God bless.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools