

February 26, 2021

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

As we continue together on our Lenten journey, we are looking forward to this Sunday's Gospel reading, to learn about and reflect on the transfiguration of Jesus Christ, the feast of which is celebrated annually on August 6:

...Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses...Then a cloud overshadowed them and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (Mark 9:2-8)

The reading describing the transfiguration of Jesus Christ underscores that we are a hope-filled people. Thank you for sharing in our liturgies, masses, and virtual visits with our parish priests as we continue together in shared prayer, as well as personal and collective reflection.

To that end, we are pleased with the wonderful community response to wearing pink on [Pink Shirt Day](#) on February 24. Students and staff from across our division stood together to recognize the need to stand up against bullying. Thank you to everyone who posted. Our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Leadership Committee met virtually, wore pink, and posted to help support this cause (left). Provincially, individuals took part by posting photos of themselves wearing a pink shirt and sharing it on social media with the [#PinkShirtDay](#) and [#WhereToTurn](#), and [#GSACRDPink](#).



We also learned of a [new provincial budget](#) on Thursday, February 25, 2021, and Minister LaGrange met with educational stakeholders following the public release. She noted that the province has invested \$8.2 billion in Education for 2020-2021 and indicated that she is focused on sustaining funding this current school year without penalizing jurisdictions for fluctuating school enrollments. She also commented that her ministry is dedicated to working with school boards to adjust and address funding concerns.

While we learned last week about some changes to review health measures using a stepped approach based on Premier Kenney's announcement, which was further detailed by Dr. Deena Hinshaw and Deputy Minister Tremblay. We expect further updates on March 1, 2021 from Dr. Hinshaw. We will review those updates and continue to collaborate with surrounding school jurisdictions and the ministry to communicate impact on school programming. 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.

Thank you for taking time to complete our Division Assurance Survey (February 12-26). We look forward to continuing to seek your input as we move forward into 2021-2022.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you that Catholic schools are for everyone. They are a gift that is available for both Catholic and non-Catholic students and families. Our Catholic schools engage in the overall shaping of the human person in a variety of ways. The Congregation for Catholic Education (1977), the Church believes in the establishment of Catholic schools as a means forming the whole person: academic, physical, and spiritual.

Additionally, the Catholic Church places great importance on all schools, indicating that they have the purpose to not only develop the intellect, "but also to form the ability to judge rightly, to hand on the cultural legacy of previous generations, to foster a sense of values, to prepare for professional life," (Paul VI, 1965, para. 13) as well as to engage in the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding amongst pupils of differing backgrounds. Catholic schools are truly blessed places of joy, hope, and inclusivity.

Take care, God bless, stay warm, and have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools

Congregation for Catholic Education. (1977). *The Catholic school*. Vatican: Congregation for Catholic Education. Retrieved from http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_19770319_catholic-school_en.html

Paul VI. (1965). *Gravissimum educationis* [Declaration on Christian Education]. Retrieved from http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_gravissimum-educationis_en.html