



ST. PHILIP SCHOOL

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Newsletter #4 – December 2023

Principal: Mr. Darcy Todos

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Maria Sander

Office Coordinator: Mrs. Gayle Lockert

GSCS Trustees: R. Boechler/D. Case

Superintendent: T. Shircliff

GOSPEL VIRTUE - Humility

I am humble. I learn from my mistakes. I do not judge others or myself. I value my ability to keep growing.

God our Father, we thank-you for this time of joyful waiting.
May the hope and joy of this season fill our hearts and make us signs of your love.
May this Christmas bring joy and peace. Amen.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 4 – Dec 8

December 5

December 5

December 7

Dec 11 – Dec 15

December 12

December 13

December 14

December 14

December 15

December 15

Dec 19 – Dec 22

December 18

December 18

December 19

December 19

December 20

December 20

December 20

December 21

December 22

December 22

Dec 25 – Jan 5

January 8

Bring new mittens to donate

9:00 am – Advent Liturgy Week 1 led by Gr 1/2 in the gym

9:00 am – Deadline to order Treats – Christmas Cookies

9:00 am – Deadline to order Baba's Perogies

Bring new socks to donate

Treat Day (for those who ordered)

6:30 pm – Advent Celebration Week 2 at St. Philip Neri Church

12:30 pm – Gr 3 goes to the WDM Christmas 1910

1:00 pm – Gr 8 goes skating at Lions Arena

Candy Cane Sale

9:30 am – Gr 3 and Gr 8 go bowling at Hunters Eastview

Bring new mittens and toques to donate

10:30 am – Gr 5/6 Wax Museum in the gym

2:10 pm – Band Concert in the gym

12:45 pm – Gr 5/6 and Gr 6/7 go curling at Nutana Curling Club

1:00 pm – Gr 1/2 goes skating at Lions Arena

9:00 am – Advent Liturgy Week 3 led by Gr 1 in the gym

9:30 am – Penitential Service after Liturgy for Gr 3 – Gr 8

11:30 am – Gr 5/6 goes to Clip n Climb

11:45 am – Christmas Lunch - Baba's Perogies

10:30 am – School Assembly in the gym

3:10 pm – Student Dismissal

Christmas Break – NO SCHOOL

8:40 am – Classes Resume

12 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

Wed, December 13th - Mad About Plaid and Flannel Day! Wear your best plaid or flannel shirts or outfits!

Thurs, December 14th - "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care..." Wear your Christmas socks!

Fri, December 15th - Cozy Christmas Day! Dress in your PJs and slippers or cozy sweatsuit!

Mon, December 18th - Christmas Hair - Don't Care! Wear a Christmas hat or your best Christmas hair-do!

Tues, December 19th - Christmas Carepartner Day!

Wed, December 20th - Christmas Carol Day! Wear a scarf and earmuffs! Be prepared to sing all day long!

Thurs, December 21st - St. Philip Jeans and Jingle Day! Wear your St. Philip clothing or blue and grey/white along with some jingle to let Santa know you are in the holiday spirit!

Fri, December 22nd - Christmas Sweater or Shirt Day!

ADMIN MESSAGE

- ✓ This week we begin December – an exciting month for our entire school community as we prepare for the advent season and the many events that accompany this time of year.
- ✓ In the next few weeks our students will be practicing a special songs they have selected for our Advent – Week 2 celebration to be held at St. Philip Neri church on Dec 13th. This evening will be special – don't miss the opportunity to hear the Christmas Story and the voices of your children reminding us about the real reason for this season. A big thank you to our entire staff!
- ✓ Our first band concert of the year will be on Dec. 18th. The grade 6 – 8 students have done an amazing job learning new songs with their instructor Mr. Udchic that they would like to play for you – please stop by and have a listen to their selections.
- ✓ As winter weather has set in please remind your children that they need to dress appropriately for the weather. Our indoor recess policy is that students will stay indoors if the weather and/or windchill is -25° or colder. As the weather fluctuates throughout the day, please ensure students are dressed appropriately in the event temperatures are warm enough for students to go outside.
- ✓ Friday, December 22nd is the last day of school before Christmas. Please note there is no early dismissal. Students will be dismissed at 3:10 pm. **Classes will resume on Monday, January 8, 2023.**
- ✓ As always, our entire staff wishes you a very Blessed Merry Christmas and may God continue to Bless you in the new year!

Mr. Todos

OUR NEW DISCOVERY SPACE – NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The students and staff at St. Philip are asking for your help in donating **Mega blocks, Regular Lego and Play Food(sandwich, pizza, bbq sets etc.)** for our program that helps students discover new skills and competencies through movement, play and communication with others. If you have these items and would like to donate - please email pictures to Mr. Unrau: punrau@gscs.ca and we will make arrangements for drop off! In addition to the above items, we are looking to purchase a circle rug and foam building blocks. If you would like to make a cash/cheque donation and receive a tax receipt, please contact the GSCS Foundation by calling 306-659-7003 and indicating you would like your monetary gift tagged for the Discovery Space at St. Philip. Thank you.

FAMILY ADVENT EVENING

On Wednesday, December 13th, we will be holding our Advent Celebration at St. Philip Neri Parish. **Please note that doors open at 6:00 pm with the choir performing at 6:15 pm.** The Celebration will start following this. Students are asked to sit in the designated seats with their class. Grades Kindergarten to Grade 7 will be participating through song. Students in Grade 8 will be helping with narration and other tasks.

CSCC CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

At our Family Advent Evening the CSCC will be having a raffle instead of a bake sale. Each student is asked to bring items for a classroom basket. Nine raffle baskets will be displayed with many great prizes. Tickets are 3 for \$5.00 or an arm's length for \$20.00. **CASH only!** Thank you for supporting the many school initiatives sponsored by the CSCC.

PLASTIC CUTLERY



We do not have spoons or forks in the staffroom for students. Please pack a spoon or fork with your child's lunch if they are having yogurt, fruit cups, soup, etc. Also, please remember that the microwave in the staffroom is not available for students. Please use a thermos to keep your child's lunch warm.

SCHOOLS WIN TWICE WINNER



Congratulations to Simon S. His name was drawn as the winner of the \$100 Walmart Gift Card. Thank you to all students who sold tickets to support St. Philip School.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Edsby Attendance All student absences must be sent in through Edsby.



Please enter the absence in Edsby as soon as you know your child will be absent.

If you receive a message that your child is absent, please enter in Edsby or call the school to clear this absence.

As a reminder: all students who arrive late need to check in at the office for a late slip. Also, if your child is leaving early, they need to let the office know before leaving the school.

2024-2025 KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION MEETING



Come learn and play with us. Families are invited to attend our Open House on Tuesday, January 30th at 6:00 pm in the school library.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-25 school year will open in January. Children who will be 5 years old on or before January 31, 2025 (birthday January 31, 2020) can register for Kindergarten by contacting the school or visiting www.gscs.ca/kindergarten.

If you have questions or need more information, contact us at 306-659-7450 or st.philip@gscs.ca.

KINDERCARE

Our partner PCDC (Parent's Child Development Co-Operative) continues to offer a "KinderCare" program. This program offers care on alternate days of our St. Philip Kindergarten Program. If you are interested in accessing this support, please confirm your spot for the fall by connecting with Shelley Farkas, Centre Manager, St. Philip Location at 306-659-7106 or sfarkas.pcdc@sasktel.net. **[Priority will be given to St. Philip families]**. Once again, a great opportunity for our young students and their families.

CHRISTMAS GIVING



This year we are asking families to **donate new mittens, socks and toques**. We will collect all the donated gifts in a box across from the office by the Christmas Tree and provide them to children and adults in need. Thank you for your anticipated support and generosity.

- December 4th – December 8th – mittens
- December 11th – December 15th – socks
- December 18th – December 22nd – mittens and toques

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE DRIVE



St. Philip School is partnering again with St. Mary's Parish for its annual Christmas Puzzle Drive to support our local communities during the Christmas season. If you would like to give to this year's Puzzle Drive and put smiles on older adult's faces when they need it most, simply send a new puzzle to school with your child. Donation tote will be at the front by the office. **Donations are being accepted from December 1st until December 15th.**

GRADE 1 CANDY CANE SALE



The Gr 1 class will be having a candy cane sale with proceeds going towards a class field trip. They will have three types of candy canes to choose from: mini for \$0.25, large for \$1.00 and flavored for \$2.00. Candy canes will be sold on Friday, December 15th.

CHRISTMAS BAND CONCERT



The Grade 6, 7, and 8 Bands are inviting you to attend their Christmas band concert at St. Philip School. The concert will be held in the gym on Monday, December 18th at 2:10 pm. Guests are asked not to arrive before 2:00 pm. Band students will need to be dressed in black and white and will need both their instrument and music at school for this day. We look forward to seeing you there!

Daniel Udchic, Band Teacher

CHRISTMAS MEAL

One of the past Christmas traditions at St. Philip was to gather as an entire school community and join in a Christmas lunch often consisting of perogies and sausage. We would like to continue this tradition.

Paper order forms have been sent out with the students and need to be returned by **Thursday, December 7th**. Please use one order form for each child.

SKI TRIP



Students in Grade 5 – Grade 8 are invited to participate in our upcoming ski trip to Wapiti Valley Regional Park on Friday, February 9th. Individual forms will be sent home with your son/daughter. **Colored Consent/Health Forms and Payment must be handed in to the classroom teacher and are due no later than Friday, January 12th.** Please call the office should you have any questions.

GRADE 8 RECYCLING FOR CAMPING TRIP



The Gr 8 class is collecting pop bottles, juice boxes, etc for their year end camping trip. If you would like to donate, you can drop off at the Sarcan South (Jasper Avenue) location. Please make sure that you let them know it is for St. Philip School and the school phone number is 306.659.7450. Thank you for supporting our school.

RINK NEWS

A **BIG thank you to Mitch Spray and his helpers** for flooding the rink. They have put in many hours flooding and taking care of the rink so the kids can have fun and exercise. The rink is a great asset to our school and community. **We need your help so we can keep the rink. Please consider volunteering a few hours this winter season.** *We need adults to supervise, open and close the rink shack during supervised hours.* **The scheduled hours are Saturday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.** Please email Mitch at mitchspray@hotmail.com or call 306-715-8457 with the dates when you are able to supervise. Thanks for your support.

RINK RULES & SKATING/HOCKEY SCHEDULE

“No Helmet = No Ice.” The Rink will be opened during lunch hours and during classroom scheduled physed periods. Students are advised that the rink is not to be used before school.

Skating (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday): Students are asked to bring a **CSA approved hockey helmet** if they wish to skate on the rink.

Hockey ONLY: (Monday and Friday) A **CSA approved hockey helmet with face mask** is required to play hockey. Please no pucks – shinny or plastic ball is acceptable. **No skates to be worn at the first recess or the last recess only at lunch recess.**

RAPID TEST KITS



We still have rapid test kits for families. Please stop by the office to pick up your test kit.

POLAR BEAR CLUB



Our School Division procedures state that -25° be used as a guideline temperature for an indoor recess for students. However, many students ask to go outside to play, even when temperatures dip below -25°. For those students staying inside, we will provide quiet activities for them to do within their classrooms. For the students wanting to go outside, they must have a Polar Bear Club form filled out and sent in by their parent.

HEALTHY HUNGER LUNCHES



St. Philip School will continue to use Healthy Hunger as a means to order and pay for school lunches online. At the end of each year, Healthy Hunger deletes all data from their website so all parents will have to register their children on the website. Please see attached [Healthy Hunger Parent Letter](#), before you can place an order. Once you register your children, then you can select the lunch your children would like and pay for it online with a credit card or interact card. Parents can make changes and cancellations to lunch orders anytime up to 5 days before the school lunch date. Your payments can also be refunded online. If you do not register your child in advance, the order will not be processed. Healthy Hunger lunches will be **December 21st – Baba’s Perogies; January 25th – Panago Pizza; February**

29th – Family Pizza; March 27th – Taco Time; April 25th Boston Pizza; May 30th – Subway; June 27th – BBQ

TUESDAY TREATS – 2nd Tuesday of the month

This year St. Philip School will continue to have Tuesday Treat Day fundraisers. Orders will be placed through your child's **My School Bucks** account. Please see attached My School Bucks instruction letter [MySchoolBucks](#). Treat Day will be **December 12th; January 16th; February 13th; March 12th; April 16th; May 14th; June 11th**.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CSCC meetings will be held in the library at 6:00 pm. The CSCC meeting dates are: **January 16th, March 5th, April 16th and June 4th**. If you are wishing to become involved, please email our CSCC Chair, Ian Stavness at cscpphic@gscs.ca or our Principal, Darcy Todos at datodos@gscs.ca. All are welcome!

GSCS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The GSCS Foundation newsletter can be found online at <https://foundation.gscs.ca/newsletters>.

BE SEEN IN JEANS

Our school staff will be supporting the Greater Saskatoon Schools Foundation by paying to wear jeans on the following dates: **December 8, January 19, February 9, March 15, April 19, May 24 and June 14**.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

We have noticed a number of students being dropped off early in the mornings and picked up late after school. It is expected that **students should not arrive any earlier than 8:25 am and that they are picked up or walk home following dismissal at 3:10 pm**. The exception to this is when they are under teacher supervision to receive extra help with work. Arrangements with the Before and After School Program need to be made for students arriving before this time or needing to be picked up later. The telephone number for the Before and After School Program is 306-659-7106. This is to ensure students safety as there is no supervision during these times.

FIRST VIEW

First Student bus company has a new communication tool for all bus riders. First you must register, then you will be able to track the bus, receiving notifications of delays and get answers to some frequently asked questions. Please advise your children to return home if the bus has not arrived at their stop after 10 minutes and check the First View App. We do not want any students walking to school without parent permission. Please see the First View App Installation Guide that was sent home via email. **Our school code is: GGLK**

BUSSING TO ST. PHILIP SCHOOL



Bussing is provided to students living further than 1.2 km from the school in Broadway, Exhibition, Grosvenor Park, South Corman Park and Varsity View areas. To see if your child qualifies for bussing, check out the First Student website at saskatoon.firststudentinc.com or call the school at 306-659-7450.

POP CAN TAB COLLECTION



Silver for Gold is a fundraiser run by the online community, **Small But Mighty SK**, to collect aluminum can tabs to raise money for Childhood Cancer Canada. **Please donate your pop can tabs to this worthy cause! It's as simple as removing the tabs from your cans, collecting them in a ziplock bag and dropping them off at the office!**

PCDC BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE



- Quality care for school age children before and after school.
- Care for full days on PLDs, school breaks and summer.
- Open Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

For more information, please contact Shelley at 306-659-7106 or sfarkas.pcdc@sasktel.net

ST. PHILIP NERI PARISH

Phone: 306-343-0325; Fax: 306-343-0900;

Website: www.stphilipneriparish.ca; Facebook: Saint Philip Neri Parish

Weekday Masses: Tuesdays ~ Fridays at **8:30 am**

Weekend Masses: Saturday ~ **5:00 pm**; Sunday ~ **9:30 am** and **11:30 am**

Livestream Masses: **Saturday ~ 5:00 pm** and **Sunday ~ 9:30 am**

APC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



For information on activities happening in our community, please check out their website at www.adelaidechurchill.ca.



NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters will be emailed home the **last week of each month** (except for September and January) and will be posted on our website: www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/phi.

EXTERIOR DOORS

Due to safety, all exterior doors will be locked, except for the main front door, during the school day from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Students and visitors are reminded that entrance to the school throughout the day will be through the main entrance only. **All visitors should report to the office.**

UPDATING STUDENT INFORMATION

Please call the school and let us know if you have changed your telephone number or have moved. In case of an emergency, we need accurate, updated information to contact you.

STAFF MEETINGS

Teaching staff gathers Tuesday mornings for prayer and a brief meeting at 8:00 am; therefore, teachers will not get to their classrooms until shortly before 8:30 am. If you need to call and leave a message, please feel free to do so and your call will be returned.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES

Our telephone system has changed. Our telephones are now on automated answering. Please listen carefully to the prompts. To leave a message for teachers "press 9". To leave a message for Mrs. Lockert "press 0". All calls will be directed to voicemail and messages will be returned as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

OUTSIDE FOOTWEAR

Parents, students and staff are reminded to remove any wet outside footwear when entering the school. This will ensure the floors will be kept dry and clean for those who do remove their footwear. Thank you for keeping our school safe and clean.

MEDICATION POLICY

The School Division policies outline appropriate procedures dealing with a variety of emergency situations, which includes administration of emergency medical assistance or medication. Prior to administering medication (prescription or non prescription). It is stated that a letter from the child's parent/ guardian and a letter from the physician is to be received at the school. If this applies to your child, please contact the school for more information.

ALLERGY ALERT



We have a number of students at our school that are **highly allergic to peanuts and nut products**. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Because of the seriousness of this danger, we ask that you are careful to avoid sending these foods or foods containing them to school. A reminder that if you have a child that needs medical treatment that is life threatening, please contact the principal at the school. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

For the safety of our students, please do not use the staff parking lots as a drop off or pick up zone. When dropping off your children, please use Haultain Avenue and drop them off by the gym doors.

SCHOOL ZONES

- The speed limit in school zones is 30 kms/hr
- U-turns are prohibited
- Parking is allowed in designated areas only
- Stopping or parking is not allowed in a school bus loading zone
- Jaywalking is prohibited; pedestrians must cross at intersections or marked crosswalks

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord God, open our hearts to the joyful hope of this Advent Season. Give us hearts like Mary's – hearts of patient expectation, hearts full of faith and wonder, hearts made glad with joy and hope. As we journey through Advent help us turn our expectant waiting into readiness to welcome Him in all we meet.

ADVENT WREATH



The Advent wreath is rich in Christian symbolism. It is made of evergreen boughs formed in a circle. The Advent wreath holds four candles: three purple and one pink; some wreaths also have a white candle in the centre. The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent. The first candle is purple and represents HOPE; the second candle is purple and represents PEACE; the third candle is pink and represents JOY (Gaudete Sunday); the fourth candle is purple and represents LOVE.

An Ancient Tradition

The Advent wreath has its roots in traditions practiced by the early Germanic peoples. As winter's short and dark days began growing brighter, they would celebrate the coming light by making wreaths of green and lighting fires. When these people became Christian, they began using wreaths in their churches, to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus, Light of the World.

The Circle: No Beginning or End



The wreath is formed in a circle, which has no beginning or end. This reminds us of our God, who is eternal -without beginning or end. The shape of the Advent wreath also represents the gift of eternal life won for us by Jesus' dying and rising to new life.

Green: The Colour of Life and Hope

The wreath is made of evergreen boughs. Green is the colour of *life*. It reminds us of the newborn life of Jesus our Saviour. It also reminds us of the gift of new and eternal life we received at baptism. The colour green is also the colour of *hope*. Christian hope tells us that we can build a better world by living the Good News of Jesus' Gospel. Christian hope also tells us that nothing can overcome God's love for us in Christ.

Candles: Light of the World, Faith



The candles represent *light*. Jesus, the Light of the world, who shines in our darkness, and shows us the way to the Father. The candle also symbolizes God's gift of *faith*. By faith, we say "I trust you" to God; by faith, we know we are God's beloved children; by faith, we walk with Jesus as members of his body, the Church.

Purple: Royalty and Penance

There are three purple candles: one for the first, the second and fourth weeks of Advent. Purple is the symbol of *royalty* and *penance*. Purple reminds us of Jesus' coming as Prince of Peace, and King. Our Advent prayer, acts of kindness and self-denial help make our hearts ready to welcome Jesus our Lord, as he comes to us on Christmas Day.

Pink: Joy



Pink is the colour of *joy*. The pink candle is used in third Sunday of Advent, called *Joyful* Sunday (*Gaudete* Sunday in Latin). On this day, people traditionally relax their penances and joyfully sing the Gloria at mass as a foretaste of the coming joy of the Christmas season.

White: Jesus

The white candle at the centre of the Advent wreath is lit on Christmas day. The white candle represents Jesus, the pure and spotless Lamb of God, born of Mary to lead us to the house of the Father. He is the fullness of our Christmas joy!



COMMUNITY TOY SWAP

2nd and 3rd December | 1-5pm

at J.S.Wood Library, Saskatoon



DECEMBER 2nd

Bring in pre-loved working toys that your children have grown out of. For each toy or ziploc bag of small toys you will receive a ticket

DECEMBER 3rd

Come back with your tickets to "shop" for toys that are new to you

SPONSORED by



**Toy
Donations
Accepted**

***this is a non-profit, volunteer run event**

Back By Popular Demand!

Friday, February 2, 2024



Dueling Pianos Cabaret

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Dueling Pianos Cabaret in support of Catholic Education is back by popular demand.

Ticket Sales on Now!

Cathedral of the Holy Family Hall

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Entertainment starts at 7:30 pm

Tables of 8 - \$750

Individual tickets - \$100

Charitable receipt given for portion of ticket sale

Contact:

308-858-7003 or

oscsfoundation@oscs.ca

to purchase tickets

18+ event – Cash Bar

Casual Attire

Appetizers served at 11:00 pm

Come Early – Stay Late – Sing Loud – Have Fun



Greater Saskatoon Catholic
Schools Foundation Inc.