

St. Frances Cree Bilingual School

2141 McPherson Ave. Saskatoon, SK
306-659-7310

6 Bateman Crescent Saskatoon, SK
306-659-7940

www.gscs.ca

Principal: Darren Fradette

Vice Principal: Rhonda Smallchild (McPherson)

Vice Principal: Barry Kimbley (Bateman)

Vice Principal: Dustin Kasun (Bateman)

Office Coordinator/Secretaries: Joan Marcotte, Sherry McEachern, Jayme Kowalchuk

School Board Trustees (Liaisons): Kate Day Barb Elliott

Dec. 18, 2024

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 20	Last Day of School
December 21-January 5	Christmas Break
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	School Resumes
January 20	CSCC Meeting 4:30pm McPherson
January 27	Professional Learning Day- No School for Students

Principal's Message

The first few months of this school year have certainly gone by in a flash. We are now in the season of Advent, where we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Last week we celebrated an Advent Liturgy as a school community at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

For those who were not able to join us, we also celebrated our Christmas Family Night, along with the formal announcement of our school's name change for the upcoming school year. We hosted over 500 students, parents, and caregivers for a turkey meal and family engagement Christmas activities. We unveiled the new name for our school in preparation for moving into our new home for the 2025-2026 school year. The new school name will be awâsisak kâ-nîmîhtocik - St. Francis School.

We are currently accepting registrations for next year. We offer a K-9 Catholic Cree Bilingual program and bus city wide. Children who will be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2025 can register for kindergarten by contacting the school or visiting www.gscs.ca/kindergarten. If you have any questions or are looking at registering your children do not hesitate to call at (306)659-7310.

Once again, on behalf of the St. Frances Cree Bilingual School staff, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Huskies Toque and Mitt Toss

I wanted to recognize and thank the University of Saskatchewan Huskies for coordinating a new toque and mitt toss at a recent hockey game. All the new toques and mitts collected at the game were donated to St. Frances. We appreciate the Huskies helping out our students and families with toques and mitts.

Kathy and Greg Lightfoot

Kathy and Greg Lightfoot made a significant contribution to the St. Frances nutrition program. We appreciate and thank Kathy and Greg for supporting the nutritional needs of our students.

BUS/TRANSPORTATION

First Student will continue to drive students to and from school and transfer grades 6 to 9 students to St. Frances Bateman. Students provided with transportation will be expected to cooperate in a respectful and safe manner to and from school. Please call the school if you have questions regarding rules and regulations. **If you are picking up your child after school and they normally take the bus home, please have a written note to give to the teacher.** If you have a concern with bussing, please feel free to contact First Student directly at (306)343-2125 or late bus inquiry at 343-3300.

There is also an app you can download to track your child's bus. **FirstView Bus Tracking**, the new code for St Frances on **McPherson** is **39N2**, for **Bateman** it is **DVVU**.

St. Frances McPherson (Pre-K-Gr. 5) School Day Hours

8:55	School Begins
10:15	Gr. 3-5 Recess
10:30	K-2 Recess
11:45	Lunch hour
	11:45-12:05: K-Gr.3 students eating; Gr.3-5 students outside
	12:05-12:25: K-Gr.3 students outside; Gr. 3-5 students eating
12:30	Classes resume
2:00	K-2 Recess
2:15	Gr. 3-5 Recess
3:25	Dismissal

St. Frances Bateman (Gr. 6-9) School Day Hours

9:05am	School Begins
10:35am	Recess Bell (10 min)
11:30am	Lunch (30 min)
1:30pm	Recess (10 min)
3:10pm	Dismissal (Students board transfer buses back to St. Frances McPherson and then home)

Student Expectations

Our school expectation for all students and staff is *Miyo-Pimohtewin*, meaning "walking in a good way".

Definition of bullying: A student is bullied when he or she is *repeatedly* exposed to negative actions on the part of one or more students causing emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm. These negative actions are intentional and hurtful. Bullying can be verbal, physical, electronic/on-line, relational, and reactive. Bullying involves an *imbalance of power, creates fear, and is not gender specific*. As a school, we work with parents/caregivers to ensure each reported incident of bullying is addressed with appropriate consequences and accompanying teaching strategies to support the instigators of bullying.

Definition of conflict: Conflict is a disagreement or a difference of opinion or interests *between equals*. The people involved in a conflict may disagree vehemently and emotions may run high. When conflict is badly managed, it may result in aggression. In a conflict, *both parties have power* to influence the situation. That is their goal.

Please report any incidents of conflict or bullying to the school if your child reports any such incidences to you at home. It is not always seen by adults in the building, your help and cooperation is greatly appreciated to ensure the safety of all students.

NOON LUNCH

Students have the privilege of eating lunch at school when it is not possible to go home. This year we will continue to eat in our classrooms. All lunchroom expectations continue, including: remain in their classrooms during the eating portion of the lunch time, clean up after themselves, and be respectful. Supervision will be provided during the noon lunch hour. If you are dropping off lunch for your child(ren) please check in at the main office first and Joan, Sherry, or Jayme will call your child(ren) down to pick it up, or you can drop it off at their classroom.

STUDENT ALLERGIES

Please remember that we strive to be a nut free school. We have many students with nut allergies and want to ensure they are in a safe environment at school.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AT LUNCH

For safety reasons, all students who stay for lunch are to remain on school property during the entire lunch hour. Students are not permitted to leave to go to a friend's house or to the store during this time unless a parent/caregiver picks up their child from school to take them there. Thank you for your support and understanding. Keeping our students safe is our number one priority!

SCHOOL ZONES/PARKING

Please be reminded of the reduced speed to 30km/h in school zones every day from 7:00am to 7:00 pm. The few extra seconds can save a child from serious injury. As well, please avoid parking in the school bus or special needs (handicapped) loading zones. Vehicles in these zones will be ticketed. There are 22 busses dropping off and picking up students and arrive at the school at 8:30am and 3:00pm Monday-Friday. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

ST. FRANCES LEARNING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The staff at St. Frances have been working diligently to complete the writing of our Learning Improvement Plan goals for the 2024-2025 school year. We will continue to make literacy, Cree language acquisition, cultural arts, and land-based learning our priorities during this academic year. We thank you in advance for your support in helping your children achieve these important lifelong goals!

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools use Professional Learning Days for elementary school staff for staff meetings, planning and professional development. On these days there are no students at school. Our next Professional Learning Day is Friday, January 27th.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Our next meeting is on **Monday, January 20th at 4:30pm**. We will be meeting in person at the McPherson location. This is a great opportunity to be involved in your child's education, be involved in decision making at the school level and meet parents of other children from St. Frances. We meet once every 2 months for no more than an hour. All are welcome, even if you come for just some of the meetings. Please call the school if you want more information 306-659-7310.

CELL PHONE USAGE

As part of the Ministry of Education's new cell phone policy, all students must have their cell phones put away and out of sight for the duration of the school day, including recess, lunch, and during transitions. Please remind your children of these new directives.

TOYS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We encourage students to leave all toys and personal electronic devices at home. We want to create an environment free of distractions and we also know that when a child loses or belongings go missing, it creates unnecessary hardship for that child. The school does not replace items such as toys or electronic devices if they are lost or stolen. Please share this expectation with your child.

NUTRITION POSITIVE SCHOOL/NUTRITION PROGRAM

St. Frances prides itself in being a nutrition positive school. We provide breakfast, nutritious snacks, and offer a nutritional lunch to those students who need it (students are encouraged to bring a lunch, if possible, but lunch will always be available to those who need one). We are a pop and energy drink free school and discourage students from bringing any pop into the school. We appreciate your support in growing healthy children!

Ideas to assist parents reading with their child

Get ready to read!

- ✓ Be sure to find a quiet place to read without distractions.
- ✓ Set up a time every day to read with your child.
- ✓ Have your child pick out his/her favorite books. Make sure that your child selects books that aren't too difficult. Don't worry if the books your child chooses are a little easier than the ones he or she reads at school.
- ✓ Take turns reading.

Before reading:

- ✓ Do a "book walk" - look at the cover, title, pictures in the book.
- ✓ **Predict** what the book may be about.
- ✓ Look for difficult **vocabulary** and pre-teach.
- ✓ **Relate** what the book may be about to the child.
- ✓ Encourage your child to ask questions and to comment on the story and pictures in a book - before, during, and after reading it.

During reading:

- ✓ Give your child time to figure out tricky words, and show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes.
- ✓ **Strategies for your child to try if he or she gets stuck on a word:**
 - Think about what word would make sense in the story or sentence.
 - Sound the word out.
 - Think of a word that looks and sounds similar
 - Think about word families and patterns.
 - Look for parts of the word that are familiar.
 - Think about what word would sound right in the sentence.
 - Check the pictures and the punctuation marks for clues.
 - Go back and read again.
 - Ask for help with the word.
- ✓ **Strategies for your child to increase comprehension/understanding:**
 - Stop every little bit and ask the child what is happening to check on comprehension.
 - Relate events to the child.
 - Ask child to predict what may happen next.
 - Encourage your child to think critically about the story. Does he or she agree or disagree with the author? Why?
 - Think out loud about the story as you read, and encourage your child to do the same. For example, ask, "Does this make sense? Why or why not?"
 - Show your child how to summarize a story in a few sentences.
 - Discuss new words and difficult vocabulary meanings.

After reading:

- ✓ Talk about a story after your child has read it, to make sure that he or she understands it.
- ✓ Give your child time to think about the story, and then ask him or her about it again a few days later.

And last but not least... *HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE READING WITH YOUR CHILD!*

St. Frances....Reaching Out . . . to Transform the World!!

**VIRTUE AND TIPI TEACHING OF THE MONTH
THANKFULNESS**