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| **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, Bonita Elliott Mar. 19th, 2025** |

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| **DATES TO REMEMBER:**  March 21 GSCS Feast & Round Dance E.D. Feehan  March 27 3 Way Conferences 3:45pm-7:45pm  March 28 3 Way Conferences 8:30am-12:30pm  April 1 Progress Reports Sent Home  April 7 CSCC Meeting 4:30pm @ McPherson  April 13 Holy Week  April 17 Holy Thursday; Last Day for Students & Staff  April 18 Good Friday  April 18-27 Easter Break  April 28 School Resumes  May 9 Professional Learning Day- No School for Students  May 16 Staff Retreat- No School for Students  May 19 Victoria Day- No School for Students & Staff  May 26 CSCC Meeting 4:30pm @ McPherson  June 21 National Indigenous Peoples’ Day  June 24 Progress Reports Sent Home  June 26 Last Day for Students |

**Principal’s Message**

Progress reports and 3 Way Conferences are quickly approaching. Conferences begin Thursday, March 27th at 3:30pm at Bateman and 3:45 at McPherson and conclude at 7:30pm for Bateman and 7:45pm for McPherson. Conferences continue on Friday, March 28th during the morning from 8:30am-12:30pm. Progress reports will be distributed on Tuesday, April 1st. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate your children’s learning growth in Term 2.

We are now in the season of Lent, an important time of year for the Catholic community. We gathered as a school community to celebrate Ash Wednesday and will celebrate Holy Thursday as a school community as well.

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.

**GSCS FEAST & ROUND DANCE- FRI., MAR.21ST**

GSCS is hosting their annual Feast and Round Dance this Friday (March 21st) at E.D Feehan Catholic High School. The Feast begins at 3:30pm and the Round Dance begins at 7:00pm.

**WINTER CELEBRATION OF LEARNING**

Students have been busy engaging in hands-on learning opportunities throughout the winter season. Classrooms have been engaging in land-based learning, cultural arts, and Indigenous STEAM. As part of the learning process, classrooms will be representing their learning during Celebration of Learning days with displays, showcases, and artifacts. Students will have the opportunity to visit other classrooms’ learning displays and learn from them. The McPherson campus will be hosting their Celebration of Learning tomorrow after noon and the Bateman campus will be hosting their Celebration of Learning next Thursday (March 27th) in the afternoon. Families are welcome to come see the learning representations the students created.

**CHOIR NEWS**

Thanks to Lynette, our amazing volunteer choir leader, and her dedicated team, students in grades two through five have the opportunity to sing together every Tuesday at noon in the library from September to June. It is great to see so many students enthusiastically participate at choir practices. There are two upcoming performances:

1. Students' families are welcome to attend our Easter liturgy at 1:00pm on Tuesday, April 29th at the Church next doorwhen the choir will sing. All choir members are welcome to participate in the Easter liturgy choir.

2. The choir is also preparing for a spring concert at a seniors' residence in May. To ensure the choir is well prepared for this performance, only students who regularly attend choir practice from now until the spring concert will perform; however, all students are welcome to attend practice. More details will be shared when they are available.

We hope your child(ren) will join the choir as they prepare to share the gift of music at both the Easter liturgy and with elders in our community this spring.

**THANKS TO HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

I would like to thank the Holy Cross High School Living in Harmony students for raising $221.11 from their Have a Heart Day Campaign. All funds raised have been donated to awâsisak kâ-nîmîhtocik – St. Francis School.

**ATTENDANCE INITIATIVE**

Regular school attendance is very important in helping students achieve academic success. In the spirit of supporting great attendance St. Frances McPherson has started a monthly attendance initiative with exciting draws each month. For the month of March, students with at least 85% attendance for the month will receive a $100 gift card and ice cream for each student. The classroom with the most improved attendance will win a classroom burger party.

**SCHOOL ZONES/PARKING**

Please be reminded of the reduced speed to 30 km/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 18 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.

**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 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.

**MICROWAVES**

Please do not send microwaveable food with your child for lunch or snacks. Microwaves are not available for student use. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns then feel free to contact the school.

**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!

**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, May 9th.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Our next meeting is on **Monday, April 7th 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