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|  **St. Frances Cree Bilingual School****2141 McPherson Ave** [**gscs.ca**](http://www.scs.sk.ca/fra) **6 Bateman Crescent** **306-659-7310 306-659-7940****Pre-K to Grade 5 Grades 6 to 9****Principal: Lori McAuley****Principal (Bateman): Lori McAuley****Vice Principal: Mr. Barry Kimbley****Vice Principal: Mr. Josh Klein****Office Coordinator/Secretaries: Joan Marcotte, Mrs. Sherry McEachern, Jayme Kowalchuk** **School Board Trustees (Liaisons): S. Zakreski-Werbicki March 7, 2024**  |

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| DATES TO REMEMBER: March 4th PLD-no school for studentsMarch 7th Cree class 4:00-5:30pm at McPherson CampusMarch 11th Cree class 4:00-5:30pm at McPherson CampusMarch 14th Sask. Odyssey Family Literacy Night at McPherson CampusMarch 15th Frosty FridayMarch 19th Cree class 4:00-5:30pm at McPherson CampusMarch 21st 3:30-8:00pm Three Way ConferencesMarch 22nd 8:30-12:30pm Three Way ConferencesMarch 25th Report Cards sent home.March 25th CSCC meeting March 26th Cree class 4:00-5:30pm at McPherson CampusMarch 29th Good Friday- no school March 31st Easter SundayApril 1-5th Easter breakApril 26th School AssemblyMay 10th PLD no school for studentsMay 13th Staff Retreat no school for students.May 20th Victoria Day no schoolMay 27th CSCC meeting June 3rd PLD no school for studentsJune 18th Grade 8 FarewellJune 26th AssemblyJune 27th Last day for studentsJune 28th PLD no school for students |

**Principal’s Message**

Tansi kakakeyow! We are already heading into the second reporting period! 3-way conferences are on March 21st from 3:30-8:00pm and March 22nd 8:30-12:30pm. If you haven’t had a chance to book a time with your child’s/children’s classroom teacher, please do so as soon as possible as times fill in quickly, you may do this using Edsby and/or calling the school.

We are now in the season of Lent and as a school we are coming together to reflect and pray each week together as a school community. Lent is a solemn religious observance in the [liturgical calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liturgical_calendar). In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope,” Pope Francis has designated 2024 as “The Year of Prayer”. Which is something we as nehiyewak practice every day, we invite you take up this practice and pray in our nehiyew language with your children and families. Invite your child to share his/her nehiyew prayer that we say at St. Frances.

March Tipi teaching is Wicihtowin (Helping one another, Sharing); to help one another is to be able to share our time, our love, our thoughts, and our belongings. We help the earth by keeping it clean and that helps our environment to keep us all healthy and safe.

***Cree classes***

In partnership with the Foundations Learning and Skills, we will be hosting Cree classes at St. Frances McPherson for the month of March. We have our first class starting on March 7th at 4:00-5:30pm. The other three classes will take place every Tuesday for the month of March. We will be serving soup and bannock and will have childcare in place for those families who have young children. Everyone is welcome to attend the Cree classes. You may register with Lauralee Sutherland and/or Quaneisha Muzyka at 306-659-7310 or email at lsutherland@gscs.ca or qmuzyka@gscs.ca. We will need you to register so that we can plan for supper and childcare.

***Sask Odyssey Family Literacy Night***

Please join us on March 14th for our annual Family Literacy Night from 6:00 to 7:30. There will be stations, supper, and prizes.

***Attendance Initiative***

In March St. Frances will be initiating an Attendance Incentive for students who are present 75% or more for the month of March. Attendance is important for students to receive a quality education. Missing only two school days a month can affect reading levels and struggles with math concepts, which can lead to dropping out of high school. Students with high attendance are most likely to read at grade level, the MOST important indicator of future success. When students improve their attendance rates and punctuality, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating, and developing good habits for life. Everyday counts!

***Affinity Credit Union***

We would like to recognize and thank Affinity Credit Union for their continuing support of the St. Frances Cree Bilingual School community. The support of Affinity Credit Union has contributed to the health and safety of our students and their families. Thank you!

**Nurses**

Fourth year College of Nursing students from the University of Saskatchewan will be at St. Frances Cree Bilingual School every Monday and Tuesday until April.  The nursing students will be working with St. Frances Cree Bilingual students and community in oral health, vision health, hearing health, and skills for wellness. If you prefer to not have your students work with the nursing students, please feel free to contact the school.  The nursing students will be supervised by Dr. Marcella Ogenchuk RN.

**Eczema Care**

**Helpful tips**:

* Baths with lukewarm water only, allow for air drying
* Moisturize regularly
* Clip fingernails
* Bandage open cuts/blisters
* Avoid tight and/or scratchy clothing
* Avoid scented soaps and lotions

**Here is a short list of approved creams/lotions:**

***Look for “eczema” on the packaging and some examples***

* Eucerin
* Cetaphil
* Aveeno

**When to go to the doctor**:

* Blistered, more frequent flare-ups, spreading to other parts of the body,

**Helpful tip:**

* Local pharmacists can assess and prescribe your child a medicated cream for free with a status card

**PIMIPAHTAN**

The Pimipahta group will be going to the field house on March 14th to train for the afternoon. PIMIPAHTAN is the long-distance running group at St. Frances (Bateman), we have 12 committed athletes who are part of the group. Students in grades 6 – 9 are immersed in clinics, workshops and training all related to long-distance running. All programming culminates in students running the 5K Youth Run at the Saskatchewan Marathon May 26, 2024. All participant registrations and fees will be covered by the school.

PIMIPAHTAN participants will make various excursions and trips throughout the year including the Saskatoon Track & Field House, schools and along the Meewasin trail by the river. Photo and video will be taken for archival, social media and reporting purposes.

Members of the program must maintain good attendance and grades and be ready for training until May 26. Transportation and snacks are provided.

**Navera Family Connections**

Great news families! Navera Family Connections is now offering Rapid Access Counselling (RAC) at St. Frances School. Zack Wall is the counsellor supporting our school on Wednesdays. They offer quick access to brief mental health services for individuals, couples, and families. RAC can help with concerns such as anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, stress, relationship conflict, separation and divorce, domestic violence, and parenting. Rapid Access Counselling provides no fee counselling when you need it. If you would like to know more or schedule an appointment, please contact our school counsellor Mrs. Scott at nscott@gscs.ca or by calling the school at 306-659-7310. We look forward to supporting your child/children!

**Swim to Survive**

We are happy to announce we are continuing the Swim to Survive program. The following classrooms will be taking part in the programming:

March 14, 21, 28: Ms. Moccasin and Ms. J Sutherland

April 11, 18, 25: Ms. Peekeekoot and Ms. Aisaican

**STC Health Bus**

The STC Health bus will be at St. Frances Bateman March 11 to the 14th. They provide the following:

***Resiliency Facilitator and Wellness Educator***

-community mental health support, community health education, school supports, and community event support.

***Dental Services***

-exams, X-Rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, sealants, stainless steel crowns.

***Community Paramedicine***

-connected care model, assessments and diagnostics, vital sign monitoring, wellness checks (Home and Clinic), Nasopharyngeal swabs.

**Washroom Usage**

Tansi kahkiyaw. We would like to communicate some new guidelines regarding student bathroom usage during class time. We are having some issues in our bathrooms regarding students meeting up with other students during class time, vaping, and vandalism. Our goal is to ensure there is a safe and positive environment in our school and we want to ensure students feel safe in our bathrooms. Starting immediately only one student per class will be allowed to leave the classroom at a time. Students will sign out on a sheet in the classroom and sign back in upon their return. This will allow teachers to be aware of student bathroom use and time away from class. We encourage students to use the bathroom during the bathroom breaks and the noon hour so leaving during class time is limited. If there are any medical concerns that might affect your child and their need to use the bathroom, please connect with the classroom teacher so they are aware. We will have monitors outside the door so that students do not stay longer than they should in the washroom. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We appreciate your help in discussing these concerns and new guidelines with your child at home to support our efforts. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact one of the administrators at the school.

**Student Privacy at School Events**

We’re happy that you want to take the time to attend school events and capture those precious moments with photographs or videos for personal use. When your images capture other students, care must be taken to respect their privacy.

**Please do not share photographs and videos on social media that include other students unless you have permission to do so from their parents/caregivers.**

Many free tools or apps are available to help you crop or edit images to blur or obscure others. Pause before you post and get permission or edit images to respect others’ privacy.

**Choir**

If you are in grades 2-5 and would like to try choir out, we meet every Tuesday in the library during lunch. We will be starting up on Tuesday, January 15th.

**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 (306) 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 KC5F, for Bateman it is PRGA**.

**REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE Using Edsby**

We are using Edsby for submitting absences, booking three-way/SPT conferences and accessing your child’s progress report.

Parents/guardians can easily submit an absence for their child using their smartphone and the Edsby app.

If you did not receive your invitation to Edsby please call the school.

**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 or Sherry 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 700 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 20 busses dropping off and picking up students and arrive at the school at 8:35am and 3:00pm Monday-Friday. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS**

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools use Professional Learning Days for elementary school staffs for staff meetings, planning, and professional development. On these days there are no students at school. Our next Professional Learning Day is Monday, May 10th.

**CELL PHONE USAGE**

Many students carry cell phones for safety reasons and to have communication with family while away from their care. It is school policy that all cell phones will be powered down during school hours so as not to distract from the learning atmosphere. Student will have the opportunity to use the classroom phone if needed and/or parents can leave messages for the student through the main office. If a student is not following policy, they will be asked to bring their phone to the office for the day and then pick it up before they go home. Please review this expectation with your child.

**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 health