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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): Tim Jelinski, Sharon Zakreski-Werbicki Oct. 21st, 2024** |

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| **DATES TO REMEMBER:**  October 25 School Lockdown Practice with Saskatoon Police Service  October 25 Hot Lunch (McPherson)  October 28 CSCC Meeting 4:45pm McPherson  October 29 School Picture Day- Bateman  October 30 School Picture Day- McPherson  October 31 Halloween- Costumes and Dance  November 8 Professional Learning Day (PLD) No School for Students  November 11 Remembrance Day- No School for Staff & Students  November 21 3 Way Conferences- 3:45-7:45pm  November 22 3 Way Conferences 8:30am-12:30pm  November 26 Progress Reports Sent Home  December 1 Advent Begins  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 |

**Principal’s Message**

Wow! It’s hard to believe that we are almost 2 months into the school year already. It’s great to see the students settled into the school year and doing quite well.

Our new school facility is coming along nicely as we anxiously anticipate moving into our new home for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have not driven by the new school, I would encourage you to see the progress on this beautiful new facility. It’s located on the corner of Grosvenor Avenue and 7th Street.

As parents and guardians, you are the primary caregivers of your children. We encourage communication and value the relationship we have with you so that we can work together to create a positive learning experience for your child. Don’t hesitate at any time to reach out to us for any reason.

**School Lockdown Practice**

On Friday, October 25th, we will be holding a School Lockdown practice in partnership with the Saskatoon Police Service. Much like Fire Drills, this is just a practice so that staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. Each year, we conduct 2 School Lockdown practices and 2 Perimeter Lockdown practices. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

**Halloween**

We will be celebrating Halloween on October 31st with costumes and a dance. Students are welcome to bring treats on this day, but please be sure they are nut free as we have a number of students with fatal nut allergies. Below are some of the guidelines for celebrating Halloween at school this year:

* Costumes with accompanying weapons or accessories must be left at home.
* Costumes must be appropriate and in alignment with our Tipi Teachings/Gospel Virtues and as such should not include things like fake blood.

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

School pictures will be Tuesday, October 29th in the morning at Bateman and Wednesday, October 30th in the morning at McPherson.

**MAHIHKANAK DANCE TROUPE**

MAHIHKANAK DANCE TROUPE is a celebration of Indigenous youth and powwow dance culture. Students at St. Frances Cree Bilingual school bring their form of expression and style of dance to the troupe. We have junior and teen boys and girls in various categories: fancy, jingle, traditional, chicken and grass.

Led by the Indigenous Student Achievement Coordinator (ISAC), **mahihkanak Dance Troupe** makes various excursions and trips throughout the year including powwows, special events, schools & organizations.

Members of the dance troupe must maintain good attendance and grades. Members must have regalia and need minimal assistance to dress for dance presentation and/or grand entry. Transportation and lunch are provided.

**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.

**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)

**Thank you**

Thank you to Debbie Ironbow and family for the Thanksgiving hampers.

**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 first Professional Learning Day is Friday, November 8th.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Our first meeting is on **Monday, October 28th at 4:45pm**. 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