



ST. PHILIP SCHOOL

1901 Haultain Avenue, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 1P4

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E-mail: st.philip@gscs.ca Website: www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/phi

Newsletter 1 – September 2026

Principal: Mr. Michael Smela

Vice-Principal: Mr. Nathan Gaudet

Office Coordinator: Mrs. Gayle Lockert

GSCS Trustees: K. Day/B. Elliott Superintendent: T. Shircliff

GOSPEL VIRTUE - FRIENDLINESS

I am friendly. Today I will smile and say hello to people. I will share myself and show an interest in others.
I like myself, and I know I can make new friends.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 23	International Day of Sign Languages – wear blue
September 24	1:10 pm – Terry Fox School Run Day Walk
September 25	11:00 am – Gr 8 Bike Trip – Saskatoon History Tour
September 26	Deadline to order Healthy Hunger (Taco Time)
September 28	6:00 pm – Meet the Teacher
September 29	Orange Shirt Day - wear orange
September 29	1:10 pm – Truth and Reconciliation Walk
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – NO SCHOOL
October 1	11:40 am – Healthy Hunger (Taco Time) for those who ordered
October 1	School Clothing online orders begin
October 1	4:00 pm Cross Country Practice – Diefenbaker Park

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! I extend a warm welcome to all our students, families, and staff, and a special greeting to those joining us for the first time—may you quickly feel at home in our St. Philip school family.

As we gather again, it's exciting to begin this next chapter of learning and growing together. Our theme this year is **“Called and Chosen,”** reminding us that we are all placed here at St Philip for a reason – all part of God's greater plan for us. Along the way we'll celebrate our faith, build friendships, serve others, and have plenty of fun as we discover the gifts God has placed in each of us.

May this year be one of hope, laughter, and joyful surprises for every member of our St. Philip School community!

*Blessings,
Michael Smela, Principal*

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for our Catholic school community where we can journey in faith together. Help us to accompany each other in our learning as we grow, living as joyful disciples of Jesus and bringing good news to the world. May your love speak to our hearts, helping us to bring hope to others and a commitment to justice in all we do. Help us to begin this new school year with hearts that welcome Jesus in everyone we meet.

MEET THE TEACHERS

We would like to welcome all parents & caregivers to “Meet the Teachers” on Monday, September 28th beginning at 6:00 pm. There is no BBQ this year. If you haven't already done so, please complete this survey to help with planning: <https://forms.gle/pZA1U7EoCzezGZnj9>

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm Classrooms will be opened for you to come and go and meet your child's teacher. Ice cream sandwiches will be handed out as you exit the building.

We know that a great school is built on great relationships. Thank you for taking the time to come out and meet your child's teacher!

DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Students should not be 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 (when the school doors open) and that they are picked up or walk home following dismissal at 3:10 pm.** 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.

FORMS, FORMS AND MORE FORMS

A number of forms will be sent home...a Student Data Verification Form, a Media Release Form, a Noon Lunch Form and an Inappropriate Language Policy Form. Please fill out these forms for the new school year and return them to your child's classroom teacher ASAP.

Does the Media Release Consent need to be signed every year?

NO. The Media Release form only needs to be signed once upon registration of a child in a particular GSCS school, **beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.** Parents/guardians may change their permissions in writing at any time. When a child moves schools, including enrolling in high school, a new form must be signed and retained by the school.

This year all students will have a Media Release form sent home to get the information updated.

STUDENT ABSENCES



Edsby will be used to [report student absences](#). Edsby can be accessed [online](#), or on mobile apps available in the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Here are some short [help videos](#) to demonstrate some of Edsby's features.

School Bundle messaging tool is a new service and will be used to inform you of unreported student absences.

No app is needed. There is no need to edit settings or set notifications. **Just make sure the school office has up-to-date contact information for you to receive voice calls, emails and/or SMS text messages.** Communication will come from the email noreply-gscs@schoolbundle.ca (listed as Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools) and the phone number 1-306-400-6811, so please make sure that information is in your contacts so it doesn't end up in your spam/junk folder.

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.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:35 am	Morning Bell
8:40 am	Classes Start
10:10 am	Recess
11:40 am	Lunch Break
12:02 pm	Lunch Recess
12:25 pm	Afternoon Bell
12:30 pm	Classes Resume
1:55 pm	Recess
3:10 pm	Dismissal

2026-2027 ST. PHILIP STAFF LIST

Administration:

Principal	Michael Smela
Vice-Principal	Nathan Gaudet

Office & Facility Support:

Office Coordinator	Gayle Lockert
Head Caretaker	Romie Canto
Evening Caretaker	Waqas Masih

Teachers:

Kindergarten M/W	Allison Treble
Kindergarten T/T	Allison Treble
Grade 1	Dominique Collins
Grade 1/2	Janice Schulte
Grade 2/3	Sydney Rowley
Grade 3/4	Arielle Popick-Peterson
Grade 4/5	Cathy Korte
Grade 5/6	Jillian Jaeb
Grade 6/7	Michael Clark
Grade 7	Michael Pesenti
Grade 8	Danny Jarcan
Core French	Nathan Gaudet
EAL	Leanne Gusikoski
Release	Cynthia Foster
CCT	Maria Santoro

LAT

LAT (Deaf & Hard of Hearing)	Jeff Duncan
Itinerant Teacher for DHH	Lisa Warren
	Becky Jalbert

Curriculum Support:

Band	Daniel Udchic
Counselor	Chrissy Krowchenko
Speech and Language	Rochelle Konkin
Educational Assistants:	Norma Barrick
	Angie Denis
	Danielle Herbert
	Tatiane Inomata
	Stephanie Pawluk
	Mila Pshebylo
	Jenna Thompson
	Tasha Uhryn
	Kaleigh Williment
Interpreters:	Lisa Buhler
	Jessica Gill
	Deborah Popovici

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.

ST. PHILIP SCHOOL CLOTHING



St. Philip School clothing can be ordered from October 1st until October 15th. **No late orders will be accepted!** Clothing can be ordered using the following link.

<https://www.expressitmore.ca/showrooms.htm> **Password: Falcons**

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Edge Imaging will be in our school on **Thursday, October 15th** in the morning to take pictures of all Kindergarten M/T, Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr 3, Gr 4 and Staff. Edge Imaging will be in our school on **Friday, October 16th** in the morning to take pictures of all Kindergarten T/TH, Gr 5, Gr 6, Gr 7 and Gr 8.

CROSS COUNTRY



Our St. Philip Cross Country Running Team is looking for runners aged 8 and up! Information and a permission form will be sent home with interested students.

What is Cross-Country?

Those who participate will practice running ~1.5km twice a week at lunch. Runners will meet outside the gym doors at 11:40 am, check in with their coaches, then go for their practice run. Once finished (practice usually takes about 10-15 minutes), they will be directed back to their classroom to eat their lunch.

Our Cross-Country Team attends a mandatory practice meet on Thursday, October 1st at 4:00 pm and the actual competitive meet on Monday, October 5th at 4:00 pm held at Diefenbaker Park. We will practice throughout the month of September, and our season wraps up the first week of October.

Mr. Gaudet, Mr. Clark, Mr. Pesenti

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES



All students and staff are encouraged to **WEAR BLUE** on **September 23rd** in support of the Deaf community, Deaf rights, and Deaf identity. This has special meaning for our school population, since we have Deaf students and staff members at St. Philip who use ASL.

TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN DAY WALK



The annual Terry Fox School Run Day walk will be happening here at St. Philip School on **Thursday, September 24th**. Toonies for Terry" will be collected. Help us reach our goal by donating! Let's do our part to help find a cure for Cancer. Go St. Philip School!

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION (ORANGE SHIRT DAY)



On **Tuesday, September 29th**, all are invited to wear an **orange** shirt for Truth and Reconciliation Day. At 1:10 pm we will do a community walk. **Orange Shirt Day**: communities coming together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope because every child matters. For more information www.orangeshirtday.org. On Wednesday, September 30th, there will be NO SCHOOL in lieu of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

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.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The Criminal Record Check (CRC) Policy has recently been updated. We know that many of you will accompany students on field trips and have provided the appropriate documentation. Here is what you can anticipate as a result of the updates:

- The majority of field trips will require a basic CRC. To acquire one, please Edsby message or call Mrs. Lockert at the office 306-659-7450. She will give you a letter to take to the Police. Police services will require you to stand in line with picture ID and pick up your CRC. Please bring it in to Mrs. Lockert and she will file it accordingly. Only Mrs. Lockert and Administration will see it, and it will be shredded once it is expired. There is no cost to parents for a CRC with the accompanying letter from the school.
- For parents accompanying a field trip that is over night, such as Grade 8 camping, you will require a vulnerable sector check. The process is the same as above, but the timeline is different- it will most likely take more than a week to procure.
- For parents wanting to coach at the school, you will also need a vulnerable sector check.

At the beginning of the school year as we renew all documents, you may want to submit a basic CRC as they are typically good for two years (basic CRC) and a year (vulnerable CRC) so that you aren't juggling last minute.

Please know that we truly appreciate all of the volunteering and engaging that you do at our school. We've said many times that this is a community that truly shows up and cares about everyone's wellbeing.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS (PLD)

GSCS have professional learning days for elementary school staff for staff meetings, planning, collaboration and professional development. On these days there are no students at school: **Wednesday, September 30th, Monday, October 26th, Friday, January 22nd, Monday, March 8th, Monday, April 19th, Friday, May 14th, Friday, May 21st and Wednesday, June 30th.**

HEALTHY HUNGER LUNCHES – last Thursday of the month



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 **October 1st – Taco Time; October 29th – Family Pizza; November 26th – Wok Box; January 28th – Taco Time; February 25th – Family Pizza; March 25th – Prairie Grazer; April 29th – Boston Pizza; May 27th – McDonalds.**

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.

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, receive notifications of delays and get answers to some frequently asked questions. Please see these links for setup. [App Installation Guide - FirstView](#), [FAQ - FirstView](#), [Mail - What is FirstView](#) **Our school code is: U6Z9B** Please advise your children to return home if the bus has not arrived at their stop after 10 minutes and check the FirstView App. We do not want any students walking to school without parent permission.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CSCC meetings will be held in the library at 6:00 pm. **The next CSCC meeting is on November 3rd at 6:30 pm.** If you are wishing to become involved, please email our Principal, Mike Smela at msmela@gscs.ca. All are welcome!

GSCS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Here's their latest newsletter (it 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 Fridays. Also, our staff will wear jeans to support the United Way on Wednesdays in October and May.

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!**

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Before School and After School care is handled through PCDC.



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

For more information, please contact Jasmine at 306-659-7106 or spdirector@pcdcearlylearning.ca

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 ~ **10:00 am**

Livestream Masses: Sunday ~ **10:00 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 8:45 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.

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.

ALLERGY ALERT



We have a number of students and staff 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.

SCENT ALERT



We kindly remind everyone that our school is a **scent-sensitive environment**. Many students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to perfumes, colognes, and scented products, which can cause serious health reactions. To ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all, we ask that students and visitors **refrain from wearing scented products to school**. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school safe and welcoming for everyone.

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

Melodia Singers, a Catholic Community Choir for all ages, is seeking children for the junior choir. Children ages 6-13 are invited to rehearsals on Tuesdays starting September 22. High school students and adults may join the senior choir. All information can be found at melodiasingers.com



JOIN THE
SASKATOON POLICE ASSOCIATION
AND
SASKATOON FIREFIGHTERS
FOR THE
2ND ANNUAL
BRIDGE CITY
Charity Cup

SEPTEMBER 27 | 1:00 P.M. | MERLIS BELSHER PLACE

THIS EXCITING HOCKEY GAME RAISES FUNDS FOR
AWARENESS FOR **BREAST CANCER RESEARCH**
AND **PATIENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS** THROUGH THE
CANCER FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WELCOME!
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT
www.eventbrite.com