



ST. PHILIP SCHOOL

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Newsletter #2 - October 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: **RESPECT**

I am respectful. I treat others and myself as we deserve to be treated.

I show courtesy to everyone. I learn from the wisdom of my elders.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1	School Clothing Online Orders Begin
October 1	4:00 pm Cross Country Practice at Diefenbaker Park
October 5	4:00 pm – Cross Country City Championships at Diefenbaker Park
October 9	1:10 pm – Thanksgiving Liturgy in the gym led by Gr 5/6
October 12	Thanksgiving Day – No School
October 13	10:30 am – Full Lockdown Practice
October 14	8:40 am – Gr 5/6 goes to the Remai Art Gallery
October 15	School Clothing Online Orders Due – no late orders
October 15	9:00 am – School Photo Day – KTT, Gr 1, Gr 1/2, Gr 2/3, Gr 3/4 and Staff
October 16	9:00 am – School Photo Day – KMW, Gr 4/5, Gr 5/6, Gr 6/7, Gr 7 and Gr 8
October 19-23	Education Week in Sask – Big Skies, Bright Futures: Learning in Saskatchewan
October 22	10:30 am – School Wide Living Rosary in the gym - led by Gr 1/2
October 22	2:30 pm – Gr 8 Student Leadership Conference at Cathedral of the Holy Family
October 23	8:30 am – Gr 8 Student Leadership Conference at St. Kateri School
October 24	Deadline to order Healthy Hunger lunch for October – Family Pizza
October 26	PLD – No School for Students
October 27	9:00 am – Gr 1 goes to the Forestry Farm
October 29	11:45 am – Healthy Hunger lunch – Family Pizza (for those who ordered)

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

As we transition and settle into October, we have lots to look forward to. Today, our cross country runners are lacing up for their practice meet. Soon, our volleyball season will be in full swing. We look forward to our teams practicing hard and demonstrating great sportsmanship. A special thank you goes out to all the coaches, players, and families who support them. A quick snapshot for this month: soon enough, students will be smiling for school photos, taking part in our school wide living Rosary and celebrating Education Week! Vanessa Gardiner, our GSCS First Nation, Metis and Inuit consultant will be in the building supporting classrooms for a variety of activities this month too (and throughout the year!) - stay tuned!

As we look back at September, we are appreciative of the close proximity and partnership with St. Philip Neri Parish. We celebrated our first Mass of the school year with Father Ed. It was a beautiful way to gather in faith and start our year together. This year, once again, Fr. Ed is dedicating times for "Fr. Ed Friday's." He will be able to visit 2 classrooms each Friday throughout the year. We look forward to this! We also want to send a special thank you to everyone who joined us for the Meet the Staff night—what a joy it was to connect with so many of our families and enjoy some ice cream sandwiches together!

Our school community continues to shine because of the warmth, generosity, and involvement of our families. Thank you for all you do to make St. Philip such a welcoming place for every student. Wishing everyone a blessed and vibrant October!

*Blessings,
Michael Smela, Principal*

FULL LOCKDOWN PRACTICE

As required by our Division safety protocol, a Full Lockdown practice will be held on Tuesday, October 13th. This practice will be held with the Saskatoon Police Services. During this time, entrances and exits to the building will only be through the main doors of the school.

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.

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.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Edsby Attendance

All student absences must be sent in through Edsby.



Please enter the absence in Edsby as soon as you know your child will be absent.

If you receive a message that your child is absent, please enter in Edsby or call the school to clear this absence.

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.

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 attached clickable pdf.



Hand St. Philip FALL
2026.pdf

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

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

TERRY FOX WALK

Thank you to all families who donated to "Toonies for Terry". A donation in the amount of **\$218.05** will be made in the name of St. Philip School to the Terry Fox Foundation.

SOCKTOBER



Did you know that in Saskatchewan 275,000 children are living in poverty and unable to afford essentials such as socks? At St. Philip School, we are working to help those in need by hosting a "Socktober" event. During the month of October, we are asking students to purchase new socks for students in need. Sock donations are to be put in the blue tote across from the office by Friday, October 30th. Thank you in advance for your donations.

CROSS COUNTRY



Our Cross-Country Team attends a 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.

Mr. Gaudet, Mr. Clark, Mr. Pesenti

EDUCATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

October 19th – October 23rd is Education Week in Saskatchewan. This year's Education Week theme – "Big Skys, Bright Futures – Learning in Saskatchewan" celebrates student success and the hard work and dedication of education professionals across the province. We encourage citizens to take some time during this special week to recognize the importance education has on our students and communities. We will have activities planned this week to celebrate working and learning together at St Philip School.

HALLOWEEN

Halloween on October 31st was formerly called All Hallow's Eve, meaning "all holy eve", the night before All Saints Day. Long ago, the Celts in England and Ireland celebrated New Year's Day on November 1st, so October 31st was an end-of-the-year celebration. On that day, they remembered all those who died during the past year, and they believed that on that night the dead came back to be with the living. The villagers wore masks and costumes to disguise themselves as ghosts and lead the real ghosts out of town with a parade. It became linked to Christianity when "Christians spread the idea that, thanks to Jesus' resurrection, we no longer had to fear death or any kind of evil – so we could even dress up and make fun of death and the things that represent it." Since the time of Pope Gregory III, the Catholic Church has celebrated **All Saints Day** on **November 1st**. This feast honors all the saints of the Church. **All Souls Day** is observed on **November 2nd**. It is a day of solemn prayer commemorating all the faithful departed.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

St. Philip School will celebrate Halloween this year on **Friday, October 30th in the afternoon**. We will begin with a Halloween costume parade in the gym at 12:45 pm for all grades followed by an InMotion Dance. From 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Kindergarten to Gr 2 will participate in a dance in the gym; from 1:30 pm – 1:55 pm Gr 3 to Gr 5 will participate in a dance in the gym; from 1:55 pm – 2:55 pm Gr 6 to Gr 8 will participate in a dance in the gym and then clean up the gym until 3:10 pm. **The Grade 8 class will also be having a concession with various goodies to purchase.** The money raised from the concession will be put towards their year end activities. The concession will be available for all grades.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

Students are invited to wear their costumes in the afternoon OR dress in black and orange. Please make sure that your child will be comfortable in their costume (in their desk and outside for recess). Please do not send a costume that your child can overheat in. **Students are asked to please keep their costumes school appropriate – suitable, modest and in good taste – with no blood, gore or weapons.**

HALLOWEEN ALLERGY REMINDER

With Halloween comes lots of treats, often with sesame seeds, peanuts and/or nut products. In order to reduce the risk for allergic students, we kindly remind parents to please keep any candy with peanut/nut products at home. **Please do not send Halloween treats to school if they may contain nut products.** The success of an "allergy aware" school and the safety of our students depends upon the support of all staff, students and parents to limit the risk of exposure.

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 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: **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 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 date is **October 6th**. If you are wishing to become involved, please email our CSCC Chair, Aubry Claypool Thompson at csccephic@gscs.ca or our Principal, Michael Smela at msmela@gscs.ca. All are welcome!

GSCS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The GSCS Foundation newsletter 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



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

For more information, please contact Courtney 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

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. High school students and adults may join the senior choir. All information can be found at melodiasingers.com



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.qscs.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