



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 #5 – January 2026

Principal: Mrs. Paola Kobussen

Vice-Principal: Mr. Nathan Gaudet

Office Coordinator: Mrs. Gayle Lockert

GSCS Trustees: L. Possberg/J. Jelinski

Superintendent: T. Shircliff

GOSPEL VIRTUE - **OBEDIENCE**

I am obedient. I listen respectfully to my elders. I have the courage to face my mistakes and make a new start.
I listen to my inner truth and do what is right.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 4	Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Day
January 6	12:45 pm – Gr 2 goes to JS Wood Library
January 6	6:00 pm – CSCC Meeting in the library
January 13	10:00 am – Gr 8 goes skating at Lions Arena
January 19	10:30 am – Gr 8 Holy Cross Class Presentation
January 21	6:00 pm – CSCC Winter Family Dance in the gym
January 22	4:00 pm – Knights of Columbus Relays at Saskatoon Field House
January 24	Deadline to order Healthy Hunger lunch for January – Family Pizza
January 26	<u>PLD – NO SCHOOL for Students</u>
January 27	3:45 pm – Gr 8 Student Leadership Conference Day 2
January 28	4:00 pm until 6:00 pm – Kindergarten Come and Go Open House in the library
January 29	11:40 am – Healthy Hunger lunch – Family Pizza (for those who ordered)
January 30	11:00 am – School Epiphany Blessing in the gym

ADMIN MESSAGE

- As we begin a new calendar year, January serves as a reminder of how quickly time moves. The Christmas season feels like it has just passed, yet we are already settling back into routines and looking ahead to the many activities and opportunities before us.
- In the coming weeks, students will begin preparing for a new track season, learning the value of commitment, goal setting, and teamwork. We are also enjoying winter weather and lunch skating on the rink, making the most of this season and the experiences it offers.
- January is also an important time as Kindergarten registration begins. We are excited to welcome our newest learners and their families and look forward to partnering with them as they begin their journey with our school.
- As we move forward into the new year, we are reminded to be grateful for each day and the time we share together. Though time moves quickly, every moment provides an opportunity to learn, grow, and support one another.
- Wishing you a positive and meaningful January.

*God bless you all,
Mrs. Paola Kobussen, Principal*

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

We have noticed a number of students being 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 and that they are picked up or walk home following dismissal at 3:10 pm.** The exception to this is when they are under teacher supervision to receive extra help with work. 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.

2026-2027 KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION MEETING



Come learn and play with us. Families are invited to attend our Come and Go Open House on **Wednesday, January 28th from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm** in the school library. Come see the school and meet the Kindergarten teacher and Administration!

Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-27 school year will open in January. Children who will be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2026, can register for Kindergarten by contacting the school or visiting www.gscs.ca/kindergarten.

If you have questions or need more information, contact us at 306-659-7450 or st.philip@gscs.ca.

KINDERCARE

Our partner PCDC (Parent's Child Development Co-Operative) continues to offer a "KinderCare" program. This program offers care on alternate days of our St. Philip Kindergarten Program. If you are interested in accessing this support, please confirm your spot for the fall by connecting with Jasmine Entwistle, Centre Director, St. Philip Location at 306-659-7106 or spdiretor@pcdcearlylearning.ca. **[Priority will be given to St. Philip families]**. Once again, a great opportunity for our young students and their families.

TRACK RELAY TEAMS

St. Philip is excited to offer Track Relay Teams for students ages **10 and up!** Practices will be held **twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school**. Practices begin at **7:45 a.m.**, with the **gym doors opening at 7:40 a.m.** Our **first practice is Tuesday, January 13th**. Students who normally ride the bus will need to arrange early transportation on practice days. Additional details, including specific race times for each category, will be shared at a later date. **Meet dates:** January 22–23, February 10, and March 4.

Mr. Gaudet, Miss Rowley and Mrs. Risling

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 a year 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, January 26th, Friday, March 13th, Friday, May 8th and Monday, June 8th.**

RINK NEWS

The rink is a great asset to our school and community. **We need your help so we can keep the rink. Please consider volunteering a few hours this winter season.** *We need adults to supervise, open and close the rink shack during supervised hours.* **The scheduled hours are Saturday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.** Please email Mitch Spray at mitchspray@hotmail.com or call him at 306-715-8457 with the dates when you are able to supervise. Thanks for your support.

RINK RULES & SKATING/HOCKEY SCHEDULE

"No Helmet = No Ice." The Rink will be opened during lunch hours and during classroom scheduled physed periods. Students are advised that the rink is not to be used before school.

Skating (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday): Students are asked to bring a **CSA approved hockey helmet** if they wish to skate on the rink.

Hockey ONLY: (Friday) A **CSA approved hockey helmet with face mask** is required to play hockey. Please no pucks – shinny or plastic ball is acceptable.

No skates to be worn at the first recess or the last recess only at lunch recess.

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 **January 29th – Family Pizza; February 26th – Prairie Grazer; April 30th – Boston Pizza; May 28th – 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 communication tool for all bus riders 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: T2V3K** 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 CSCC meeting dates are: **January 6, March 24, May 5 and June 16.** If you are wishing to become involved, please email our CSCC Chair, Aubry Claypool Thompson at csccp hic@gscs.ca or our Principal, Paola Kobussen at pkobussen@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. As well, our staff will wear jeans to support the United Way on Wednesdays in October.

POP CAN TAB COLLECTION



Silver for Gold is a fundraiser run by **Small But Mighty SK**, to collect pop can tabs to raise money for Childhood Cancer Canada. **Please donate your pop can tabs! It's as simple as removing the tabs from your cans, collecting them in a ziplock bag and dropping them off at the office!**

PCDC 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 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



Indoor Programming for the Fall session can be viewed at [Newsletter \(adelaidechurchill.ca\)](#)



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.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 9:00 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

CSCC WINTER FAMILY DANCE

JAN 21ST . 6PM-9PM

ST. PHILIP GYM

CASH ONLY



**\$5 PER PERSON
OR \$20 PER FAMILY
KIDS 5 & UNDER FREE**

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

**CHIPS . HOT DOGS
WATER . POP
CHOCOLATE BARS**

CASH ONLY



**St. Philip School
Kindergarten**

2026

OPEN HOUSE



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28



From 4:00 – 6:00 PM



1905 Haultain Avenue

Drop In Open House



Meet our nurturing,
experienced teacher



Learn about PCDC's
Kindercare program



Play-based and outdoor
learning



School tours with
administrators



www.gcos.ca/kindergarten



906-659-7450



st.philip@gcos.ca