



# ST. PHILIP SCHOOL

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## Newsletter #6 – February 2026

Principal: Mrs. Paola Kobussen

Vice-Principal: Mr. Nathan Gaudet

Office Coordinator: Mrs. Gayle Lockert

GSCS Trustees: F. Possberg/T. Jelinski

Superintendent: T. Shircliff

### GOSPEL VIRTUE - LOVE.

I am a loving person. I show my love with thoughtful acts, kind words and affection. I treat others the way I want to be treated.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1	11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Free Family Skating Party courtesy of the St. Philip Neri Church Knights of Columbus – everyone welcome!
February 2	12:30 pm – School Assembly in the gym
February 5	9:15 am – Gr 5 goes to Eagle Creek
February 5	12:30 pm – Gr 8 goes to tour Holy Cross
February 5	3:45 pm – Girls Basketball at Bishop Pocock
February 5	3:45 pm – Boys Basketball at Georges Vanier
February 9 – February 13	Staff Appreciation Week – <i>Building Relationships for a Positive School Culture</i>
February 9	12:30 pm – Gr 3, Gr 4/5 and Gr 5 go to Georges Vanier Musical “Frozen Jr”
February 9	7:00 pm – Grade 8 Parent Night – Holy Cross
February 10	1:00 pm – Will & Seeka French Concert in the gym
February 10	4:00 pm – PR Athletics Relays
February 12	11:15 am – Gr 3 and Gr 8 go skating at Lions Arena
February 12	3:35 pm – Girls Basketball at Georges Vanier
February 12	3:35 pm – Boys Basketball at St. Luke
February 13	Red and/or Pink Day – celebrate Valentine’s Day
February 13	100 Days of School
February 16	<b><u>Family Day – NO SCHOOL</u></b>
February 17 – February 20	<b><u>February Break – NO SCHOOL</u></b>
February 21	Deadline to order Healthy Hunger lunch for February – Prairie Grazer
February 24	10:00 am – Gr 8 goes to Furtrade Snow Shoe at Pike Lake
February 25	Red Cross Pink Shirt Day – wear <b>Pink!</b>
February 26	11:45 am – Healthy Hunger lunch – Prairie Grazer (for those who ordered)
February 26	3:35 pm – Girls Basketball at St. Kateri
February 26	3:35 pm – Boys Basketball in our gym
February 27	<b>9:00 am – Last day to hand in Wapiti Ski Trip forms and payment</b>

*Happy Valentines Day*

## ADMIN MESSAGE

- It's amazing how quickly time seems to pass—somehow we've already arrived at February! Our school is full of energy as students stay active and involved, with basketball and track both in full swing. These extracurricular activities not only build skills and teamwork, but also help our students grow in confidence, character, and perseverance.
- From February 9–13, we will celebrate Staff Appreciation Week. This is a special opportunity to honour the incredible educators and staff who pour their hearts into our students each day. We are truly blessed with the very best staff, and we are deeply grateful for the ongoing support and partnership of our school community—it makes all the difference.
- Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming ski trip on March 27, which promises to be a fun and memorable experience for our middle year students. As we move through the rest of the school year, we remain committed to continuing to learn, grow, and strengthen our faith together, trusting God to guide us in all that we do.

God bless you all!  
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.

## KINDERGARTEN



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](http://www.gscs.ca/kindergarten).

If you have questions or need more information, contact us at 306-659-7450 or [st.philip@gscs.ca](mailto: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 [spdirector@pcdcearlylearning.ca](mailto:spdirector@pcdcearlylearning.ca). **[Priority will be given to St. Philip families]**. Once again, a great opportunity for our young students and their families.

## TRACK TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Our school track relay team is off to a fantastic start! At the Knights of Columbus Track Meet, 7 of our teams competed, with 4 teams qualifying for the finals—an awesome showing. A huge shout-out to our Under 13 Girls team, who brought home 1st place out of 80 teams!

We have two more meets coming up on February 10 and March 4.

Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:45 a.m.

Let's keep the momentum going—go team!

*Mr. Gaudet, Mrs. Risling and Miss Rowley*

## GRADE 8 CRUSH GRAM SALE



The Gr 8 class will be having a *Crush Gram* fundraiser with proceeds going towards their year end camping. The cost is \$3 for one Crush soda can or \$5 for two cans. Purchase one for your friend, family member or even yourself. Order forms will be sent home and orders can be placed through your child's My School Bucks account. Please see attached My School Bucks instruction letter [MySchoolBucks](#). **All orders are due on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Crush Grams will be delivered to the classrooms on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss out on this sweet opportunity to spread some joy and support a great cause!

## STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

St. Philip Staff Appreciation Week is February 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. We have the best teachers and staff at St. Philip School, let's show our appreciation for all they do for our students. Last year we collected money from families and filled the staff room all week with snacks and beverages. We would like to spoil our staff again with your help. **Donations will be accepted until February 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions call or text Jaime Bolger at 306-291-5892. If you would like to send an e-transfer, please send to [casey.b@sasktel.net](mailto:casey.b@sasktel.net). Any cash donations can be put in an envelope labelled Jaime Bolger and left at the office. Thanks for your support, St. Philip families!

## VALENTINES DAY

With the turn of the calendar next week, we are into February and the opportunity for our students to celebrate Valentines Day. This day will be celebrated on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> with a spirit day at our school inviting students to wear red or pink and to share valentines with one another.

## PINK SHIRT DAY



The Red Cross in Saskatchewan has celebrated Red Cross Pink Day since 2011 to support our year-round bullying prevention program. Join us for **Red Cross Pink Day on the last Wednesday in February - February 25<sup>th</sup>** and add your voice to the thousands of others calling for a change around the culture of bullying. **Wear Pink to show your support!**

## 3-WAY CONFERENCES

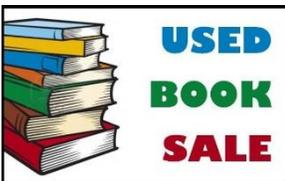


Edsby bookings begin on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and will close on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. 3-Way Conferences will be held on **Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 pm** and **Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 am – 12:45 pm**. No regular classes for students on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>; however, students are expected to attend their 15 minute 3-Way Conference.

## EDSBY 3-WAY CONFERENCE BOOKING

We will be using the EDSBY online scheduler for all parents to book their own appointments and sign up for the conferences. **Because both parents can be activated in Edsby, we ask that only one parent book the conference time (unless in different households).** Please make sure your Edsby Notifications are turned on. You will need to be using a computer during set-up to enable notifications. If you would like to receive messages to your phone, you will need to ensure that push notifications for the Edsby app are enabled. You can also download the Mobile App. App code is GSCS.

## USED BOOK SALE AND MORE



The St. Philip CSCC will be holding a Used Book sale on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in the library. Funds raised through the book sale will support school activities and student learning. During February, please consider donating (ask your family and friends to also donate) good condition used books (children's books, young adult novels, adult novels), cookbooks, video games, movies and puzzles. Donations can be dropped off in the tote by the front office.

## 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.

## **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.**

## **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](mailto:mitchspray@hotmail.com) or call him at 306-715-8457 with the dates when you are able to supervise. Thanks for your support.

## **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: **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## **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 **February 26<sup>th</sup> – Prairie Grazer; April 30<sup>th</sup> – Boston Pizza; May 28<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://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: 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: **March 24, May 5 and June 16**. If you are wishing to become involved, please email our CSCC Chair, Aubry Claypool Thompson at [cscpphic@gscs.ca](mailto:cscpphic@gscs.ca) or our Principal, Paola Kobussen at [pkobussen@gscs.ca](mailto: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 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!**

## [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](mailto:spdirector@pcdcearlylearning.ca)

## [ST. PHILIP NERI PARISH](#)

Phone: 306-343-0325; Fax: 306-343-0900;

Website: [www.stphilipneriparish.ca](http://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](http://www.adelaidechurchill.ca).



MELODIA SINGERS  
Since 1988

Catholic-based Community Choir is starting up again this term! They are inviting new members to join them - children ages 7 and up, and the senior choir is teen-adults. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 6:30 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church (Preston and Main Street). If you enjoy singing, please consider joining their choir! Their performances are held at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral. Information can be found at [melodiasingers.com](http://melodiasingers.com)

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Get ready for a wonderful

# FAMILY SKATING PARTY

ST. PHILIP'S OUTDOOR RINK

HOT CHOCOLATE AND HOT DOGS PROVIDED

**FREE OF CHARGE**

COURTESY OF ST. PHILIP'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME

## 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](http://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 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