



IMPORTANT DATES:

- **September 10**
Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- **September 30**
No School

Message from the Director of Education

Dear Parents, Families, and Staff,

As we open the 2025-26 school year, I extend warm greetings to each of you. A new year in our Catholic schools is always filled with promise - promises for learning ... growth ... community ... and faith.

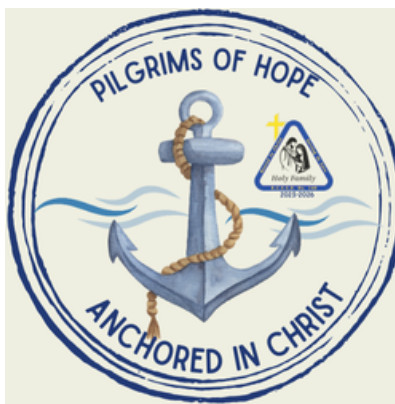
Our theme for this year, "Pilgrims of Hope, Anchored in Christ," calls us to recognize that we are all on this path together. As pilgrims, we walk side by side, supporting and encouraging one another. As people of hope, we trust in God's spiritual power, knowing that He brings light even in times of uncertainty. Anchored in Christ, we understand that all good things come from Him (strength, courage, unity and love to name a few). Jesus is the foundation of our faith.

In our schools, this hope shines when your child discovers a new gift or talent, when staff inspire learning rooted in Gospel values, and when families partner with us to nurture children in both faith and knowledge. Together, we are forming not only strong minds, but also compassionate hearts to be productive members of society.

As we begin this school year, may Christ be our anchor, holding us steady in love, guiding us in truth, and inspiring us with hope. I look forward to all that God has in store for our Holy Family Catholic Schools community in the year ahead.

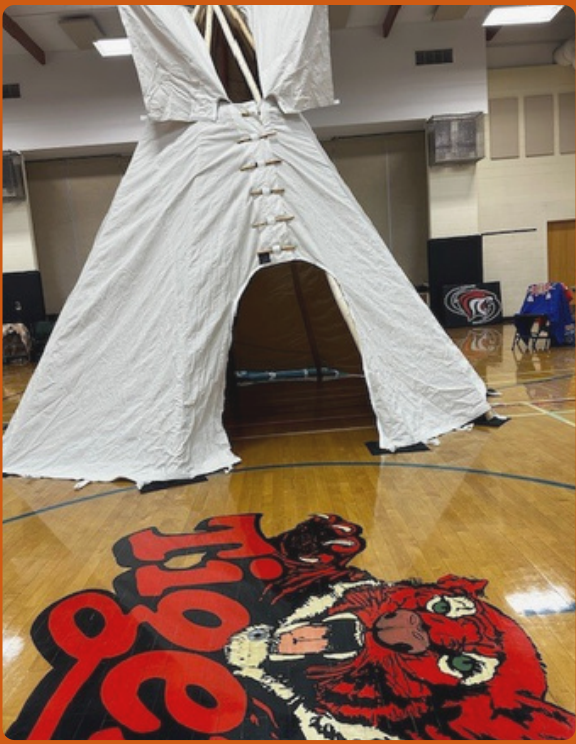
Blessings for a faith-filled and productive year,

Ken Sampson



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY &
ORANGE SHIRT DAY
SEPTEMBER 30

On September 30, we honour survivors of residential schools, remember the children who never came home, and walk humbly on the path of Truth and Reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day reminds us that Every Child Matters and calls us to see the dignity of every child as a beloved child of God. As a Catholic school community, we pray for healing and reconciliation. Last year, staff were blessed to learn from Elders how to put up a teepee, a reminder that reconciliation begins with listening, learning, and walking together.



Helping our *Students Shine*

Exciting changes are happening in Saskatchewan to support early literacy! The Ministry of Education is rolling out new resources, strategies, and professional learning opportunities to help teachers set every student up for reading success.

Alongside this, a new provincial assessment program will give teachers more insight into student progress and help guide timely support where it's needed. Check out the attached memos for all the details on these initiatives.



New provincial assessment program for Saskatchewan students

Parents and Caregivers:

The Ministry of Education is working with education partners on a new provincial assessment program for Saskatchewan students. This program is part of Saskatchewan's Provincial Education Plan, developed in collaboration with education partners.

Students, parents, teachers and the public have told us they want Saskatchewan students to:

- be **prepared** for success with the skills and knowledge they need for the future;
- be **supported** in their learning; and,
- have an education that is **globally recognized and valued**.

Saskatchewan Student Assessment will help us work together toward these goals.

Saskatchewan Student Assessment

What is it?

Saskatchewan Student Assessment is a provincial assessment program that will assess student learning in core subject areas.

Which subject areas will be assessed?

- Grades 5 and 9 mathematics
- Grades 4, 7 and 10 English language arts

Why is this being implemented?

Consistent, fair and objective measures of student achievement benefit everyone in the education system.

The data will be used to identify strengths and areas of opportunity for students, teachers, schools and the province as a whole.

Will my child have to do any extra preparation for the test?

The assessments will be developed with Saskatchewan teachers and based on the Saskatchewan curriculum students are already learning in class. Sample assessments will be available online for students and families to become familiar with the assessment platform and format.

A Leger poll from 2022 found that 92 per cent of parents in Saskatchewan and Manitoba support fair and objective student assessment.

Will this affect students' grades?

Teachers may choose to use the assessments as part of students' grades as they are aligned with Saskatchewan curriculum.

Do other provinces have assessment programs?

Every province in Canada currently has a student assessment program. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada that does not have a provincial approach to measuring student achievement.

Why is this being implemented?

Consistent, fair and objective measures of student achievement benefit everyone in the education system.

The data will be used to identify strengths and areas of opportunity for students, teachers, schools and the province as a whole.

Who will write the Saskatchewan Student Assessment?

All students following the regular curriculum in publicly funded schools in Grades 5 and 9 will participate in a mathematics assessment and students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 will participate in an English language arts assessment.

Students will receive the same accommodations and support on the assessment as they are accustomed to in the classroom.

When will this be implemented?

Assessments will be implemented in stages, beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Will I receive the results from this assessment?

Results from the assessments will be made available to the student, parent/caregiver, classroom teacher, the school and the school division.

Do other provinces have assessment programs?

Every province in Canada currently has a student assessment program. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada that does not have a provincial approach to measuring student achievement.

Sask Student Assessment will:

- Be based on curriculum
- Help with understanding of grade-level expectations
- Be developed and validated by teachers

Sask Student Assessment will NOT:

- Require additional teaching and learning
- Replace classroom assessment

Where can I get more information?

Please visit our website:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/assessment>.

What is next?

As the program develops, we look forward to sharing more information with you about this exciting program that will benefit your child's learning experience.

More information will be shared as we get closer to spring 2026 when students will write the first assessments.

Actions to Improve Early Literacy in Saskatchewan

Parents and Caregivers:

As part of the Provincial Education Plan, the Ministry of Education is working with teachers and education partners to develop a common approach to reading instruction.

This approach includes:

- implementing provincially approved reading screeners;
- renewing the Grades 1 to 3 English language arts and Kindergarten curricula;
- reviewing the French Immersion and Fransaskois curricula; and,
- building teacher expertise in structured literacy.

Why is this being implemented?

One in three Grade 3 students in Saskatchewan are reading below grade level.

Focusing on Kindergarten to Grade 3 reading was a priority in the 2024 Throne Speech, noting a “child’s ability to read at grade level by Grade 3 is the single greatest predictor of future academic success, because this is when students transition from learning to read to reading to learn.”

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission released a report that emphasized the need for screening students to identify reading difficulties and building teacher expertise in reading instruction.

How often will my child be screened?

All students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 in publicly funded schools will be screened.

What does this mean for my child?

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, schools will transition to using a reading screener to assess all students’ reading skills in Kindergarten to Grade 3. A screener is a quick assessment that helps teachers identify whether students are experiencing reading difficulties. Teachers are then better positioned to provide students with the help they need to become confident and skilled readers.

2024 Throne Speech

A child’s ability to read at grade level by Grade 3 is the single greatest predictor of future academic success, because this is when students transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Do other provinces use reading screeners?

Several other provinces are moving toward using screeners as part of a structured approach to reading instruction.

Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia all use reading screeners.

Will I get the results from my child’s reading assessment?

Schools will share students’ reading screener results with parents in a timely manner.

Holy Family is part of the Weyburn Community Safety and Wellbeing advisory committee. As part of this initiative, we invite you to complete the following survey. Your voice matters!

Thank you.

Your Voice Matters!!

Complete this short survey

If you'd like to make an impact on Community Safety and Wellbeing in Weyburn

Share your experiences, concerns and ideas with us!



Scan to answer the survey.

The City of Weyburn has established an Advisory Committee that is engaging with our community and regional stakeholders to enhance community safety and well-being for those our community serves.



BACK TO SCHOOL SUCCESS TIPS



Get Plenty of Rest

Aim for 8-10 hours of sleep each night. Power down screens 1 hour before bed.



Eat a Healthy Breakfast

Choose protein + whole grains + fruit. Bring a water bottle.



Bring Required Materials

Backpack, notebooks/binders, pens/pencils, other classroom supplies, indoor shoes.



Arrive on Time

Know bell times. Plan your route. Be 5-10 minutes early.



Super Positive Attitude

Be kind, respectful, ready to learn. Try your best!

REGULAR ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attending school regularly provides a range of benefits:

ACADEMIC GROWTH



Better knowledge and skills

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



Improved relationships

BETTER OUTCOMES



More opportunities for success

LIFE SKILLS



Responsibility and resilience



Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school divisions, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.





SEPTEMBER 30
NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION
EVERY CHILD MATTERS

