



Saint Charles  
Catholic School

## Principal's Weekly Update - September 11, 2020

*This month shall mark for you the beginning of months. (Exodus 12:2)*

Welcome back to all of our returning families, and a very special welcome to all of our new families! We are so happy to have everyone back after a very long absence from school! It is absolutely wonderful to see all of our students, (parents too), and feel the energy in the building once again. Thank you for entrusting your child(ren) to us during these unprecedented times. We are truly in this together.

Each Friday, I will send out a **Principal's Weekly Update**. It will be full of information and is a good resource to have. I hope that you will enjoy reading them each week. Due to being in a pandemic, you may also receive other communication via email or Permission Click this year as well. The goal is to keep you as informed as possible about what is going on in the building.

Thank you for your patience with Permission Click. This is a new tracking payment system that we are implementing this school year, and we have been able to work through some of the kinks that have come up to date. We are excited to be using this new program, as it offers many opportunities for us at school, and you at home.

What a fantastic first week we've had! The energy and excitement in the building is wonderful to see. Walking around the building you can already see the classroom routines being put in place, and the learning has begun. It is so exciting to see! The students are working hard to implement the new protocols put in place from the government. Handwashing, social distancing, and masks are seen all over the building, but students are still able to enjoy reuniting with their friends and seeing their teachers.

My staff returned to school officially on Sept. 2nd. We spent 3 intense days of learning the new protocols and procedures that must be implemented this school year, along with our regular back to school agenda items. Staff also had an opportunity to participate in a Staff Mass with Fr. Eric at St. Paul the Apostle, and we did our annual Commissioning of Staff during that Mass as well. Fr. Eric shared an inspiring homily with staff regarding coming back to school during a pandemic, and spent some time discussing the difference between "worry" and "concern."

Students returned on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all students and parents who worked hard to use the assigned entrance/exit doors for this school year. It went much more smoothly than anticipated. On the first day back, we also had our annual Welcome Back Assembly. This year, we were not able to gather in our main gym as we usually do but did our assembly via Zoom. After the assembly, Mrs. Prettie and I had the opportunity to visit all the classrooms and welcome our students back to school!

Our new Kinder students began their staggered start this week. We're looking forward to Friday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, when they will all come together for the very first time as a class. **Kindergarten parents please note:** On Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, please join

me outside at the back of the school on the Southeast side for coffee once you have dropped off your child. Coffee will be from 8:30-9:30am. We'd love to see you!

In the morning, if your child(ren) arrive late, (after 8:40am), please drop them off at the main school doors so that they can access the buzzer to the main office to be let in and receive a late slip. We do not have buzzers at any of the other assigned doors, and we do not want children left unsupervised. Thank you.

If you haven't already, make sure that you check out our **St. Charles Catholic School page and SCCS page on Facebook!** There are a lot of back-to-school pictures that have been posted on this page. The link is on our website.

**IMPORTANT INFO: If your child requires an inhaler or an epi-pen and you wish to leave an extra in the Front Office should their primary inhaler or epi-pen be forgotten at home for the day, please ensure that one is submitted to the Front Office to be held safely in the Medical Cupboard.**

**Inhalers and epi-pens must be clearly labelled with the prescription label and your child's full name.**

**Extra inhalers and epi-pens may be sent into the school via your child's backpack and a note to notify their homeroom teacher that the extra can be taken down to the Front Office for safekeeping.**

## **LET'S TAKE A LOOK AHEAD AT SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **A BIG WELCOME PRIVATE MUSIC LESSON FAMILIES TO THE 2020 - 2021 ST. CHARLES P.M.L. YEAR!**

I hope you have had a great summer and a smooth start to the new school year. The Private Music Lesson program will be in full swing with all safety protocols in place starting - **Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>/20.**

We are looking forward to a fabulous first week!

### **LIFETOUCH PHOTO DAY**

**Lifetouch Photo Day** is Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am Lifetouch has advised that only individual photos will be taken this year. There will be no class group photos due to the pandemic. I did inquire into possibly offering class composites instead but was told that the department that does the class photos also does the composites, and it has been closed due to the pandemic. Therefore, individual photos are the only option.

*Hello Parents!*

*Picture Day is coming Thursday, September 24 .*

*After Picture Day, order pictures on [mylifetouch.ca](http://mylifetouch.ca) using your Portrait ID and Access Code which can be found on your Picture Day order form.*

### **TERRY FOX DAY-SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

This year, our Terry Fox assembly/walk will occur in a different way. More info. will follow regarding this event, in next week's update. Please see the link below to make a donation if you wish.

<http://www.terryfox.ca/StCharlesCatholicSchoolWinnipeg>

## MINISTER OF EDUCATION WELCOME

The honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Education, extends his warmest welcome through a video message to all students who are starting on their first day of school this week. It is a big week for students, parents, guardians, teachers and staff across the province and the Minister would like to take this opportunity to send a personal message to returning and new students, remind them of the public health measures in place, and wish everyone a positive learning experience and a great school year. To view the message go to [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html).

## PARENT WARNING (FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG)

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg office received multiple warnings about a TIK TOK video that was apparently uploaded this past week, (versions also exist on Facebook) of a male committing suicide with a gun. According to the internet, Tic Tok is trying to remove the video and prevent downloads but, as of right now it is still visible. The other issue is that it is apparently “ the most disturbing part of the video being hidden inside [more innocuous looking TikToks](#)”. As TIK TOK is a very popular app among the younger generation, the Archdiocese felt it was worth a warning from schools to their parent communities.

## MASKS

**The Manitoba government** released a made-in-Manitoba video to help students understand the importance of face masks and how to use them. The **Wear It Well** child-friendly video explains masks in a clear and easily understood way in both English <https://youtu.be/eGhLwmFRyZY> and French <https://youtu.be/zqHi6qCW6at>. The animated video presents the basic health messages to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The video is one of several items available on the Education COVID-19 Parent site at <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html>

*It is recommended that students have at least 2 masks per day so that they can change to a new mask after lunch recess.*

## PARKING

Back to school means back to safety and parking issues. Please do not stop or park in the bus loop. As we did last year, Kindergarten to Gr. 3 parents, please use the parking lot for drop off and pick up. Grs. 4-8 parents, please drop your children off on Augier. We have a teacher on supervision, along with our patrols at the corner of Augier and St. Charles. They will be happy to make sure that your son/daughter crosses the street safely. Also, please do not park in any neighbouring driveways, block driveways, or block any lane access. Let's start the year off right! Thank you for your consideration with this matter, and remember, it's all about keeping your children safe.

## EXCITING NEWS!

Beginning Monday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a city road crew working out front of our school on St. Charles Street. I'm very excited to share with all of you that we have been approved for a new loading bay in front of the school! Attached to my update is a drawing showing the design for the loading bay. This is something that I have been working on for many months and did not expect it to happen just yet. However, I was

thrilled to learn that not only is this happening next week, the city is covering the entire cost of the project! A special thank you to Councillor Kevin Klein.

I have been told that the project should be completed by the end of next week.

Therefore, starting Monday, and until the project is completed, please note: **Access to the church parking lot will be maintained. The northbound lane will be closed adjacent to the work site. Northbound traffic will see a sign that says "Yield to Oncoming Traffic", which allows them to enter the southbound lane to go around the work site when it is safe to do so.**

The South crosswalk will not be able to be used safely during this time, therefore, patrols will be moved to the North crosswalk area, and set up on both sides of St. Charles and Augier Streets. If you do use the parking lot, parents will have to cross their child(ren) themselves during the construction period.

Extra staff will be outside on St. Charles and Augier to help with drop-off and pick up. **For drop-off:** Please feel free to drop your child(ren) off safely instead of having to park your vehicle. Staff will make sure that students are crossed safely, if parents **"drop and go." (you will see the signs)** Kindergarten, Gr. 1, and Gr. 2 parents, your child(ren) will still have to use their assigned doors to enter/exit the school, so please walk them along the front grass area if the sidewalk is not able to be accessed in front of the school. The duty teacher will still be by the main front doors to supervise students.

The end of the day will present some challenges with pick-up, so please be patient during this process. Parking will be difficult, but again, the parking lot is able to be accessed, so please allow extra patience and time when picking up at the end of the day. Thank you all in advance for your understanding and support. Once this project is complete, we will be able to initiate a drop and go system each morning to help with drop off each day.

### **BASC News**

- Cheer & POM start on Tuesday
- Golf starts on Tuesday.
- BLINE starts on Wednesday for the older group.  
We are not changing clothes but will be physical distancing.
- There are a few spots left in the craft and POM, grade 2 golf and BLINE.

BASC drop off in the mornings and pick up after school is always at the front door.

Just text 204-880-8245 when you are at the front door.

Please make sure your BASC form is submitted if attending BASC.

If you have any questions or concerns please do contact me at 204-880-8245.

*Thanks Ms. Furutani*

*Again, thank you all for such a wonderful first week back, and all your support and understanding. My hope for all of you is that you have a restful, peaceful weekend, and spend some family time. As always, my door is always open.*

*With prayers,*

*Tammy*

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