



Saint Charles
Catholic School

Principal's Weekly Update - April 24th, 2020

Dear God, through your wonderful works of creation, you teach us the simple truths we need to be happy if we have the ears to hear and the eyes to see. In the beauty of creation, may we see that your love for the world is ever bright. May we take time to give thanks to you, God, for the majesty of your world. Amen

How is everyone doing? This past week has flown by, and I am sure that everyone has appreciated seeing more sunshine, and less snow. I know that I am trying to get out each day for a walk, and enjoy the beautiful sunshine. That walk definitely helps to balance my work/home life, and I look forward to it at the end of each day.

I would like to start off my update today, by addressing something which I know is first and foremost in many parents' minds. We know that COVID-19 has caused a significant change for all of us. Many of you have had to shift to working at home, some of you are unable to work, and some of you are still going to work each day. Life is not normal.

You may be experiencing considerable stress from attempting to balance competing priorities at home, along with worry, concern, care and even fear, for family and friends. **Please understand that while learning should continue for your child(ren), the staff recognize that everyone's mental health and well-being are a priority. Parents can and should determine, with teacher guidance, what activities are realistic and reasonable for their family. I cannot stress this enough.**

Priority Learning and Supplemental Activities

Therefore, priority areas for learning are literacy (English Language Arts) and numeracy (Math), as these are foundational to future learning. Opportunities for Social Studies, Science, PE/Health, Art, French, Music and Religion will also be incorporated.

Teachers will continue to identify which activities they consider most important to ongoing learning, as well as in determining students understanding of concepts. Other activities will be offered as supplementary for students to complete. **It's okay not to complete everything if it doesn't work for your family.** When planning for your child's learning, please attend to the essential activities as a priority and make choices regarding the activities that are considered supplementary. Teachers will be using the essential assignments as part of their assessments leading into June report cards.

Time Commitments/Expectations

As I shared with you in my update last week, in looking at planning for remote learning, we recognize that it isn't sustainable for parents, particularly those with younger children

or still working, to maintain a school day schedule. With that in mind, the province has set minimum expectations for learning time as follows:

Grade	Academic Time
Kindergarten-Grade 4	5 hours/week
Grade 5-8	10 hours/ week

This learning time will be a combination of on-line opportunities (whole group, small group or individual conferences), independent assignments and parent supported work. This should not all be screen time.

These times are the minimum expectations. The staff still want to ensure that our students continue to receive the best standard of academic education possible, which would then extend these times. Again, please keep in mind that teachers are trying to find a balance for all families, some of whom desire more learning activities, and some who are feeling overwhelmed. It is extremely difficult to judge how long each student will take to complete assignments, as there are many factors that are different at home compared to a classroom environment. (It's okay too, to cook/bake and follow a recipe instead of doing a formal Math lesson for example, if that is what your family needs on a given day, for example). Also, your child(ren) should not have to spend the weekend doing assignments, unless they choose to. Any feedback in regard to assignments is welcomed.

In regards to due dates of assignments that are posted on teacher's websites. These due dates are **suggested** due dates only. Assignments handed in after the suggested due dates will still be accepted and assessed. Once we get closer to June, a final suggested due date will be assigned, so that students and parents will know when teachers will need to stop accepting assignments in order to write the June report card. Again, no child will be penalized on their report card for the COVID-19 pandemic. However, assignments provide assessment tools for teachers for the Term 3 report card, so that students can continue to learn and grow. Just so you are aware, every year in June, classroom teachers prepare transition forms/information for your child's teacher for the following year. This year will be no different, and more time will be allowed to share transitional information between staff for the 2020-2021 school year. This will be to ensure that teachers are aware of students needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and can put measures and supports in place if need be, to help students with their learning progress during the 2020-2021 school year.

Both Administration and staff are here to support our SCCS families. We want to work as a team, and value the home/school connection. Being in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic has definitely challenged how the home/school connection functions, but we will get through it together, one day at a time. Life is not normal for staff either, so we can totally appreciate your situations as well, and want to work together to help each other. If you are struggling in any area, and need some help, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know.

Let's take a look now at some other important information:

- Thank you to all of you for such a smooth school supplies pickup over the last few days! It went better than expected!
- **Sports Awards Applications** have been "tweaked" due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be put back up on the school website next week. These are for our Grs. 4-8 students.
- **Parent Teacher Interviews** will be scheduled for May 6th & 7th. A mass parent email will go home early next week to let you know when Signup Genius is open to book your appointments. Staff will be contacting you for your interview via phone or Zoom. They will let you know once you have signed up which platform that they will be using.

PLEASE NOTE: Since this Parent Teacher Interview time is unique, all Middle Years teachers will be doing the interviews for their homeroom classes only. Other specialist subject area teachers will be sharing information with the homeroom teacher to share with you. If you still require a 1:1 conversation after that with another of your child's teachers, please feel free to contact that subject area teacher. Specialists, (French, Music, Phys. Ed.), will also be available for Parent Teacher Interviews.

*These conferences are to allow your child's teacher to discuss academics, assessment, and social/emotional well-being.

From Finance

Learn to Skate: As you are aware, the Learn to Skate program was not realized this year. To all families with children in K to 2, you will be credited for the amount of the LTS program originally charged to your invoice. If you had paid your invoice in full, you will receive a credit on your statement which can be applied to 2020-21. If you are making monthly payments, your payments will be adjusted to reflect the credit.

Pizza/Hotdog Fundraiser Lunches: COVID-19 also affected our fundraiser lunch program. It is our usual practice to not refund the lunch as it is a fundraiser for the school. However, under these extraordinary circumstances, we have decided that we will calculate a balance for all participating families and somehow apply it to 2020-21. We do not have the details at this time. Once things are finalized, we will notify you.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate items to Winnipeg Harvest for our Easter Outreach Christian service food drive! All food items will be packed up and given to Winnipeg Harvest next week.

If you are interested, I have attached a letter from Fr. Eric at St. Paul the Apostle Church regarding another Christian service idea. *Please see the attached letter for details.

In closing, I have included one of my favourite prayers which I always find gives me a sense of peace when I need it the most.

The Footprints Prayer

One night I had a dream...

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and
Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last
scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed
that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
and saddest times in my life

This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.

“Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,

You would walk with me all the way;

But I have noticed that during the
most troublesome times in my life,

There is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why in times when I
needed you the most, you should leave me.

The Lord replied, “My precious, precious
child. I love you, and I would never,
never leave you during your times of
trial and suffering.

When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.

*Wishing you all a wonderful, peaceful weekend full of sunshine! Take a look early next
week for a **special mass parent email** which will include a very special message for all
SCCS families.*

*Thinking of you all,
Tammy*