



**Saint Charles  
Catholic School**

## **Principal's Weekly Update - March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*God our strength, with you on our side, we can do anything. With you at our side, we can go anywhere. With you in our midst, we can be free. Thank you, God, for giving us the courage to deal with the unknowns in life. Amen.*

Dear SCCS Families,

How is everyone doing? I have been thinking about all of our families, and keeping you in my daily prayers. As we come to the end of the first week of our “new norm,” I am wondering how all of you are managing? This has certainly been a week of change, new learning, and balance.

Here at school, the teachers are working hard to prepare daily lessons to share with your children. I have asked classroom teachers to reach out to all of their families this week to see how you are doing, and to see if you need anything. Please know, that I am here too, and if you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask. Each morning I come to school, and the parking lot is empty, and the school is so quiet. It makes me sad, but it has also forced me to settle into a new routine, and learn to cope with my “new norm.”

Each day I start the day by answering emails in my office, followed by a morning Staff Meeting/Check-in with my staff via Zoom. The day unfolds from there, and seems to go by quickly. Each afternoon, I join all Manitoba Superintendents/Principals in a teleconference with the Dept. of Education, as we receive updates from the province. These teleconferences are helpful, and they often lead to other teleconferences during the day.

This past Wednesday, Pope Francis asked everyone everywhere to join together in praying the Our Father in hopes of getting rid of the coronavirus pandemic. “Pope Francis has called on the leaders of all the Christian churches, communities and confessions worldwide, as well Christians everywhere, to join together in praying the *Our Father* on March 25 to implore God to rid the world of the coronavirus pandemic that is wreaking havoc everywhere.” I asked my staff, whether they were at home or at school, to pray. For those of us that were in the building, we stopped at noon and offered our prayers to God.

This is a very difficult time for all of us, and since I am a “the glass is always half full” type of person, I am trying to focus on the positive aspects of what the COVID-19 pandemic has caused. Here are some of my thoughts:

- It’s given many families permission to “slow down” and spend more quality time together.
- Teachers have had to become more creative using on-line/distance teaching.
- It’s shown us how important it is to work together and support each other during times like this.
- It’s given me a new appreciation of the things that I take for granted each and every day.
- I definitely have a new appreciation for all of those people who work in the front lines. I can’t imagine what they are going through, and how they must be feeling. I am extremely grateful for them.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Basketball playoffs have now been cancelled. More details will follow.
- Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our Learn to Skate program has been cancelled. More information will be coming regarding refunds/cheques issued at a later time.
- Our School Musical scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.
- Our Golf Tournament scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> has been cancelled.
- Badminton season scheduled for April has been cancelled.
- Camp Arnes for our Grs. 5 & 6 classes has now been cancelled.
- All WSO concerts/performances have been cancelled.
- Track and Field Meets at the U of M in June have been cancelled.

*Even though we are all in unusual times right now, I would like to wish all of you a very happy, restful, and peaceful Spring Break. Please know that I continue to keep all of you in my daily prayers. During the next week, **all staff will be on Spring Break**, therefore, no new work/assignments will be posted. School work postings will begin again for Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*In regards to completing your child’s school work, please know that we all understand that everyone is coping with this situation in their own way. Teachers have been providing work for your children, with the understanding that not everyone is able to “do it all.” My advice to my staff has been to provide the work, be supportive, help when needed, and to let parents know that it is okay to just do your best. We will get through this together.*

*The Department of Education is taking their lead from Public Health, and therefore, when I receive any new information regarding school suspensions, I will share this information with our SCCS families. I am awaiting specific information regarding Dr. Roussin's comment about remote learning continuing past April 13<sup>th</sup>, and have been told that an announcement will follow next week. As soon as I get that information, I will be sharing that with the SCCS community.*

*Stay tuned for more information.*

*Happy Spring Break!*

*With understanding and prayers,  
Tammy*

Tammy Narynski  
Principal  
St. Charles Catholic School  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3K 1T6  
204-837-1520 Ext. 222