

June 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations on making it through the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support during these challenging past few months. This will be my last parent letter until August when we hear from the Education Minister. I will then provide an update on the CCSD re-entry plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are a few additional updates:

Last Day of Formal Lessons

As mentioned in our last parent letter, Friday, June 19 was the final day of lessons. This week, our teachers and staff are back in schools completing year-end tasks such as progress reports and learner support plans. Your child(ren)'s teacher will be passing along some internet resources for continued learning and will call all of our parents/guardians to touch base. The last day for teachers and school-based staff is Friday, June 26.

CCSD COVID-19 Handbook & FAQ

CCSD has created a COVID-19 Handbook and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to share detailed information on plans for staying healthy if and when we return to schools in September. We will be uploading it soon to the district's Internet site.

Annual Report 2019-2020

Our [2019-2020 Annual Report](#) is available online. Every June, our district distributes an Annual Report that highlights the successes of the district and summarizes the events and priorities over the past year. The report paints a picture of annual district operations from each department that contribute to the viability of Calgary Catholic and the work done that school year to further Catholic education.

Calgary Catholic Education Foundation

Our funding partner, the [Calgary Catholic Education Foundation](#) (CCEF) is once again stepping up to the plate and raising funds for our most vulnerable students who may be struggling with learning from home - our Educational Support (ES) students. The CCEF is raising \$2,500 to help equip these students with much needed sensory devices, which are in limited supply. The CCEF has taken their fundraising one step further and partnered with Skip the Depot to collect your recyclable bottles and cans. You can get a tax receipt at the end of the year for your donations of \$20 or more. To sign up, visit www.skipthedepot.com/theccef

CCSD Board Chair and Vice Chair Re-elected

During our final board meeting of the year, on Wednesday, June 17, both our Board Chair Mary Martin and our Vice-Chair Linda Wellman were re-elected to their positions for the 2020-2021 school year. We want to congratulate them and thank them both for their ongoing service and dedication. Read more [here](#).

National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism

Please be advised that flags on all Calgary Catholic Schools and district sites will be flown at half-mast from sunrise to sunset today, Tuesday, June 23, to mark the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism.

Faithfully – Roman Catholic Diocese Online Publication

Faithfully is an online publication created by the diocese and sent by email to all subscribers. It gives a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people. If you wish to subscribe, please sign up here:

<http://subscribepage.com/faithfully>

I want to wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy summer vacation. We look forward to the future and creating Calgary Catholic together with you.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Chief Superintendent
Calgary Catholic School District

June 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The end of our educational marathon and “learning from home” is fast approaching. Thank you for supporting Calgary Catholic through this unprecedented journey which has not been easy. Together, we have done it! Here are a few updates:

Winding Down “Learning From Home”

Friday, June 19 will be the last day for teachers to provide formal lessons for their students. They will provide parents and guardians with a list of favourite Internet sites to continue learning next week and over the summer break. Next week, teachers will be completing year end tasks such as progress reports and learner support plans. Staff will also be reaching out by phone to contact families as we end the year. This is great opportunity for you, our parents/guardians, to provide verbal feedback to our team.

2020-2021 School Re-Entry Plan

As you may have heard last week, Education Minister Adriana LaGrange made an announcement that the final decision on what schools will look like in September 2020 will be made by the government on August 1. The Minister did indicate that the Alberta government is looking at three possible scenarios for schooling in September. **Parents/guardians will receive communication from their schools tomorrow with detailed information about the scenarios.**

CCSD Re-Entry Survey Results

We also recently surveyed our parents to get an understanding of how our community feels about potentially returning to in-person classes in the fall. We received 7,862 responses - thank you to everyone who participated. Most parents indicated that they felt somewhat comfortable to very comfortable with their children returning to class. Parents also indicated that they felt hand sanitizer, regular handwashing, enhanced cleaning protocol and stricter protocol for responding to students and staff who are sick was very important. The majority of parents surveyed indicated that they would prefer their child(ren) to not be in school part-time with staggered attendance days. We take all of our parent input and survey results very seriously and will consider all of this information. See the full results [here](#).

Alberta - Stage 2 Relaunch

As Alberta entered Stage 2 of the Relaunch Strategy on Friday, one week ahead of time, there has been a relaxation of some public health measures. Some key points: students will not return to school before the end of June. CCSD will continue to proceed with some face-to-face programming in summer school. The new limit for indoor gatherings is 50 people with social distancing. Performers can have a cohort of up to 50 people (cast members or performers). Sports teams can play in region-only cohorts of up to 50 players (mini leagues). You can read more from the AB government on the strategy [here](#). As our province begins stage two of re-launch and we prepare to potentially return to school in September, the health and safety of our students, teachers and staff remains our top priority. We will continue to take direction from Alberta Health and Alberta Education. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

Blessings to you and your family.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas

Chief Superintendent

Calgary Catholic School District



CALGARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. There are only two and a half more weeks until the last day of “school” for the 2019-2020 year. Here are a few updates:

Racism and Discrimination - The death of George Floyd and some of the events that have followed cannot be ignored. At CCSD, we reject racism and discrimination completely and we pray for all those impacted. We are in the process of creating a committee to look at the issue further and our high school student advisory committee will be meeting to discuss this important topic. More information will follow.

Edwin Parr Teacher Award- Congratulations to Joshua Eberley, a teacher at St. Joseph School. He is the Zone 5 winner of the prestigious Edwin Parr Teacher Award. The annual award recognizes first-year teachers who display outstanding skills and performance in their initial year. We want to recognize Joshua, as well as the 14 other 2020 nominees from our district. Congratulations on your success.

Technology – Our district values technology and the use of technology to support our students’ learning. The importance of technology has become even more apparent as we learn from home and utilize our devices daily to complete our work. Since in-school classes were suspended on March 15, our Information Technology department has loaned out over 2,500 district Chromebooks to students. We are committed to ensuring that all of our students have access to technology now and in the future. Please contact your child’s school principal if you need further support with technology. Furthermore, as we gear up for the new year we are encouraging every student in our district to have access to a basic computer such as a Chromebook.

Summer School – We have received permission from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services to proceed with Summer School online and face-to-face, in person, diploma-level courses at St. Francis and Bishop O’Byrne High Schools. Students at these locations will follow all Alberta Health recommendations for social distancing and hygiene. We thank all of our students who have registered. Registration is now closed. We look forward to providing this learning opportunity for our students.

Recent ThoughtExchange Results – Thank you for your participation in our recent ThoughtExchange on improving our district website. We had over 350 participants, close to 200 thoughts and 4,844 ratings. Some of the top thoughts included: School calendars that could automatically sync with other devices/calendars, improved visibility of important items such as news and calendars and improved search functionality. We will take all of these suggestions into consideration as we move forward with revamping our district’s external and internal websites to better serve our community. This move comes as our contract with our previous website provider is expiring and we were able to find a more cost-effective solution with a different provider.

September - As soon as we have more information from Alberta Education on the 2020-2021 school re-entry plan, we will share that with you. Thank you again for your patience and support.

Blessings to you and your family.
Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Chief Superintendent
Calgary Catholic School District

June 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to June! We are in the home stretch of finishing this school year. Again, we sincerely thank students, parents, teachers and staff for their continued efforts and support of learning from home. Here are a few additional updates:

Parent School Resumption Survey - We are gearing up for the new school year in September and we need your help. We value your input. Please take a few moments to complete this short [Parent Survey](#). The survey will remain open until Tuesday, June 9. There are many uncertainties as we prepare for the new school year. The government has outlined three possibilities: 1) normal school operations, 2) learning with health restrictions like social distancing, and 3) continuing learning from home. Regardless of the scenario, parents with young, school-aged children are encouraged to have contingency plans for childcare in September as a precautionary measure.

Playgrounds Re-opening – As City of Calgary playgrounds re-open, we will be preparing our Calgary Catholic playgrounds to re-open soon. While playgrounds may be re-opening, we still advise our community to use them with caution. We recommend that children wash their hands or sanitize them before and after use. Children should continue to maintain social distancing while playing on the structures.

Mass Re-starting – The diocese has issued the first steps back to church in June under new guidelines created by the Roman Catholic Bishops of Alberta. Some parishes have made the necessary preparations to begin to offer Masses this week. Please watch the video messages from the diocese on the reintroduction of the public celebration of <https://www.catholicyc.ca/> and how to receive [Holy Communion](#).

2020-2021 Budget Approval – On Wednesday, May 27, the Board of Trustees passed the 2020-2021 CCSD budget. We are pleased that educational assistants and other support staff impacted by the May 1 temporary support staff cuts will be coming back to work at the beginning of the new school year. This was possible because efficiencies were created at many levels within the organization. Our full budget release can be viewed [here](#).

Graduations – Congratulations to the grade 12 students graduating this year. We are very proud of you. Thank you to the graduating committees who have worked hard to plan memorable experiences for the graduating students and their families.

Blessings to you and your family as we create Calgary Catholic together.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Chief Superintendent
Calgary Catholic School District