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www.gscs.sk.ca - click on our schools, select Holy Family

Principal: Mrs. C. Tenaski

Vice Principal: Mrs. C. Anning

Superintendent: Mrs. J. Weninger

Trustee Liaison: T. Hawkins, L. Lambert & W. Stus

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015

Greetings From Your Admin Team:

Although we are busy enjoying the last few weeks of our new school year, we are already in the midst of planning for next year. New families have decided to join our Holy Family in the fall and we are excited to welcome them. Student enrolment will determine how many teachers we are allocated for next year. At this point we are anticipating some combination classrooms for all but our Kindergarten students. Multi-age groupings, or split grades as it is commonly known as, often causes concerns with many parents. Please consider the following information.

Combination classrooms will allow us to teach children across a spectrum of ages and stages - a child's age is not usually an accurate indicator of his/her ability, and when we create dual-aged learning groups, we increase every child's appreciation and acceptance of learning differences as well as their opportunities to learn together, close gaps in learning, advance students who need greater challenges, and develop cooperation and negotiating skills. Research shows that mixing ranges of ability provides more opportunities for greater cooperative learning, student collaboration and leadership development within a learning environment. Cooperative and pro-social behaviours such as sharing, turn taking and helping are significantly more evident in mixed-age classrooms; fewer children experience social isolation than in same-age classrooms and this is particularly important to academically bright but socially immature learners who have difficulty making friends with same-age peers. Building social skills and empathy in the early years is crucial since social rejection and aggressiveness in children are the most consistent predictors of later life difficulties.

As teachers and administrators, we have observed that when children are given consistent opportunities to provide leadership with younger children, their own behavior improves, and students accept a shared responsibility for positive learning cultures in classrooms, and this is corroborated by research over many years as well. Much of this research shows multi-aged groupings appear to be especially beneficial to boys, but all children make significant gains in an accepting, multi-age environment. In fact, both younger and older students are winners in multi-age classrooms – older students are encouraged to develop leadership skills while younger students participate in more complex play than they might initiate when playing with students of the same age.

These are the primary reasons why schools - including Holy Family School – see combination classrooms as beneficial instead of detrimental to student learning. It is a positive arrangement for learning and one we feel very confident provides great learning opportunities for each and every child.

Frequently parents find the idea of multi-age classroom configurations to be similar to other configurations they have experienced in their own educational experiences. Present teaching strategies and curriculum have changed significantly over the years. No longer do we arrange classroom groupings solely on academic ability.

Using a combination classroom structure, in conjunction with extensive planning around how we use space and furnish our school, allows for an integrated collaborative environment that provides immediate feedback and interaction for all students. Our new school is designed for this since there are learning alcoves throughout the school, outside of each classroom. These considerations meet our desire for community spaces that are multi-functional and allow our children to think of the whole school as a place of learning where they can connect with each other, not just one classroom. Large project spaces invite collaboration, creativity, innovation and the opportunity to solve complex challenges.

Teaching is a complex act, requiring multiple layers of planning, assessment and preparation. It includes consideration of space and organization as much as skills, strategies, curriculum and content. And, always, at the heart of all planning are the students. As we determine student placement for next year, we will consider individual strengths and needs, as well invite them to provide us with a list of the names of students they would like to be placed with. We will certainly honor at least one of their requests. Finally, since we have a capable and talented staff that sincerely cares about our students, teacher requests will not be accepted.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this information further. What an exciting year it has been and we are so blessed to have such a wonderful school community!

C. Tenaski

Principal

C. Anning

Vice Principal

Holy Family Grand Opening

Please save the date: Wednesday, June 17th AM. We are looking forward to celebrating our grand opening. The day will begin with a formal event with Willowgrove School and Preston Early Learning Daycare followed by a celebration for Holy Family School. More details will follow.

Family Appreciation Morning

On Friday, June 19th, the Holy Family Staff would like to say a huge thank you to our families for all you have done to make our first year together such a wonderful one. The many hours of volunteering, supporting students outside the classroom, efforts in fundraising for our playground as well as so many other efforts have been appreciated more than words can say. Please stop by between 8 and 9AM so we can personally express our deepest thanks. Coffee, smiles and muffins will be served!

Thinking about Kindergarten for this fall?

We are accepting registrations for Kindergarten 2015-2016! Children who will be five years old by January 31st, 2016 are eligible to start school in September 2015. We are a safe, friendly Catholic school that helps each of our students reach their full potential. At Holy Family School we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, so they can make the world around them a better place. Learn more about our school division at www.gscs.sk.ca. We are rooted in faith, growing in knowledge, reaching out to transform the world!

Holy Family Registration for 2015-2016

We are presently accepting new registrations for all grades. Please let friends, neighbors and community members know that if they plan to join our Holy Family in the fall that they need to provide their registration information as soon as possible. This assists us in planning for the upcoming year. If you are planning on moving and will not be returning to Holy Family in the fall, please send us an email to holy.family@gscs.sk.ca

DATES TO REMEMBER...

Thursday, June 4th

- AM Gr.7 Junior Achievement
- Gr.8's going to Blackstrap
- 1:30PM Gr.2W go to Safeway
- Last day to borrow school library books.

Friday, June 5th

- Staff Professional Learning Day – No Classes for Students

Monday, June 8th

- Gr.6's go to Moose Jaw
- 3:30-4:30PM Kindergarten 2015-2016 Open House

Tuesday, June 9th

- Gr.4 – 7 Racquetball Workshop
- Gr.8's go to SIAST and Harry Bailey for Cardboard Board Races

Wednesday, June 10th

- AM M/W Kindergartners go to Chaplin Farm

Thursday, June 11th

- AM T/T Kindergartners go to Chaplin Farm
- PM Gr.1-3 go to CanAm Gymnastics

Friday, May 12th

- AM Gr.3's go to Meewasin
- Baba's Perogies Hot Lunch
- PM Gr.5 Band Instrument tryouts
- All school library books are due back today.

Monday, June 15th

- Gr.7's go to Scissons Environmental Education Centre

Tuesday, June 16th

- Gr.4's going to Batoche
- AM Gr.2W and Gr.2&3O go to Forestry Farm
- 1:30PM Year End mass at the Cathedral

Wednesday, June 17th

- AM Official Grand Opening
- Gr. 5's and 7's go to Blue Mountain
- 1PM Kindergarten Pearson Farewell

Friday, June 19th

- Family Appreciation Morning 8-9AM

Playground News...

Family Picnic: Thank you very much to everyone who came out to our Family Picnic in Willowgrove Square. It was a HUGE success and we were able to raise \$1733.00 to go towards our playground! We couldn't put on an event like this without the support of all the volunteers who helped out and community partners including: SaskEnergy, Wilson's Greenhouse, AstroJump Saskatoon, Jumpy Things Inflatable's Inc., Apollo Jump, Wet Paint Pottery, Weston Group and Sean Wilson of Remax. Also thanks to local Fire Hall No. 9 for bringing a fire truck as well!



Fathers' Day Raffle: Father's Day raffle tickets were sent home with students on Friday, May 29th. Tickets are \$3.00 each with all of the proceeds going towards the playground. Prizes include Stihl chainsaw, Stihl handheld blower, Stihl trimmer and Stihl pressure washer! Prizes for the raffle have been donated by The-Rent-It-Store. All Raffle booklets sold or unsold are due back Monday, June 15th with our draw date being Wednesday, June 17th.

Silent Auction Item Request: Our Fundraising committee is planning some big events in the future. We are currently looking for items to be used in an upcoming silent auction. If you have anything to donate please contact Laura Johnston at bgl@shaw.ca or 306-249-1474 to arrange pick up. Thank you in advance for your generosity. (Please note: we are not able to issue tax receipts for silent auction donations.)

Cookbooks: Cookbooks are available for purchase in the Holy Family School office for \$15 each.

Keeping in touch: If you would like to stay up to date with playground events over the summer, share ideas, or ask questions, please follow us on our web site at www.holyfamilyplayground.ca and/or "like" our facebook page: www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyPlayground.

	<p>CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY FAMILY <i>We are Holy Family</i></p>	<p>"Come Spend Time with Family" Sunday Mass Times 9AM, 11:30AM & 6:30PM 123 Nelson Road Office Hours: 9AM – 4:30PM Monday thru Friday Phone: 306-659-5800 www.holyfamilycathedral.ca</p>
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Community News...

Willowgrove University Heights Community Association

WUHCA is very proud to partner with O'Reilly Insurance to host our first annual Art Show on Thursday, June 18th from 7PM to 10PM at #101-407 Ludlow Street. Void Gallery has graciously arranged for 2 local emerging artists to showcase their artwork consisting of sculpture pieces and wall artwork. To complement the Art Show, additional local companies Lucky Bastard Distillers, Living Sky Winery, Riverbend Plantation Market Cafe will be serving alcohol, wine and appetizers. Lastly, to top off the evening, a live band will be playing outdoors for patrons to sit back and enjoy 'Adult' time with a glass of wine, great local food and take pride in the arts culture in our community. Funds raised from this event will be for capital projects undertaken by WUHCA (\$30/ticket/person). For ticket information contact: Cassandra Williamson; Social Co-ordinator, at cassandraawilliamson@gmail.com or 306-361-0776.



Week-long camps offered for 5 different weeks throughout the month of July and first week in August. Campers take part in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities intended to provide youth with an opportunity for growth in faith and fellowship with other young people. The camp gives youth ages 8 to 14 and opportunity to experience nature firsthand in activities that include canoeing, hiking, tenting, and campfire songs. Campers ages 8 to 14 have the opportunity for camping out on the shore of Blackstrap Lake. Blackstrap Youth Camp also has the facilities to provide campers with opportunities for indoor swimming, games and activities in an indoor gym, crafts, music, as well as opportunities for praise and worship in the camp chapel. BEGINS ON SUNDAY, JULY 5! Further information can be found on our website:

www.blackstrapyouthcamp.org