



**GREATER
SASKATOON
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**

Putting faith in education!

2 0 0 6 - 2 0 0 7 A n n u a l R e p o r t

Who We Are . . .

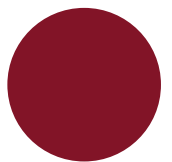
- 45 schools

Our communities:

- Saskatoon and area, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount

Established:

- 1906 in Humboldt
- 1911 in Saskatoon
- 1923 in Viscount
- 1927 in Biggar
- 2006 – Four Catholic school divisions join to become Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
- 15,258 students in 2006-2007
- 1,888 employees





Message from the Board Chair and Director of Education . . .

The 2006-2007 school year was a year of firsts for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. In September 2006, we embarked on our first full year together as an amalgamated school division. Each of our communities – Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount – feels blessed to be part of our new family.

After municipal elections in October 2006 all 10 members of the board of education were returned to office. Trustees and senior administrators then began talking with our staff and with parents and caregivers to set objectives for the board's new term in office. After this consultation trustees identified four priorities:

- *celebrating Catholic identity,*
- *improving student learning and achievement,*
- *building relationships and partnerships, and*
- *promoting stewardship.*

Within each of these priority areas are several specific goals to guide the work of our division. These are detailed in the next few pages of the report. Whether it's supporting each staff member's faith journey, striving to have each student finish high school or strengthening relationships with our partners, the ultimate goal of each task is to enhance the education of each child in our schools.

Though Catholic education has existed in Saskatchewan for more than 100 years, our division continues to adapt for the future and implement innovative programming. At the same time, we continue to offer our students a unique, faith-filled perspective that teaches them they are capable of making the world a better place. We are proud to say our division and our students are Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World.

As Saskatchewan's largest Catholic school division, we look forward to another 100 years of Catholic education in our province.



Jim Carriere, Chair, Board of Education
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools



Bev Hanson, Director of Education
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools – Board of Education



Jim Carriere, Chair



Debbie Berscheid



Ron Boechler



Diane Boyko



Tom Fortosky



Todd Hawkins



Lisa Lambert



Alice Risling



Wayne Stus



Fred Wesolowski

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is:

ROOTED IN FAITH

We see God in all things.

Gospel Values: Love and Respect

We see that God is in all things, especially our students, who are created by God and loved by God. We teach children how they can encounter God in everyday life.

A Catholic school is a community of faith, hope and love.

Gospel Value: Community

At their Catholic school, children meet and experience Jesus. They learn from caring, committed staff who strive to give students a sense of belonging. We continue the teaching, healing and guiding work of Jesus.

Our faith is living and growing.

Gospel Value: Faith

In our schools, mind, body and soul are nourished. Staff and students cultivate their faith in many ways: through prayer, scripture study, liturgical celebrations, retreats and faith instruction. Our actions and relationships with each other reflect our faith.

Growing in Knowledge

We strive to have each student attain academic excellence, based on each one's God-given talents.

Gospel Value: Hope

Catholic education helps all children as they strive to reach their full potential spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally. Academic excellence is pursued while maintaining a concern about the development of the whole child.

Students discover how their faith is part of learning and of life.

Gospel Value: Courage

We strive to see and learn about God in each part of the curriculum, not just religion class.

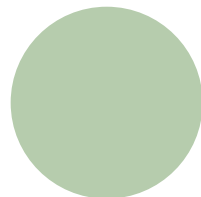
Our faith is at the heart of understanding who we are and our place in the world.

We are wiser for it.

Our young people grow in freedom and responsibility.

Gospel Value: Reconciliation

We have the freedom to choose our path in life, to choose right from wrong, to build up or tear down. We educate our students about the responsible use of this freedom. We are most free when we accept and extend God's love to the world.





Reaching Out... to Transform the World

All are welcome, especially those most in need.

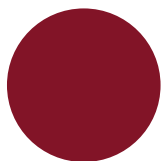
Gospel Value: Justice

We reach out to all. Catholic educators see it as their mission to welcome all of God's children, especially those who are struggling to find their way.

We reach out to transform our world.

Gospel Value: Service

Through our encouragement and example, our students become people who feel a sense of responsibility to change the world for the better. As people of faith, they ask what they can do to bring Christ's message of peace and justice to their neighbourhoods, their communities and beyond. We help them find answers to this question.





Board of Education Priorities and Goals 2007-2009

The 10 trustees on the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education began a new term in office after municipal elections were held Oct. 25, 2006. Early in 2007 trustees began consultation with staff and school communities to determine the board's new goals and priorities. The result of that work, shown here, charts a strong course for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools during the next two years.

Priority: Celebrating Catholic Identity

Rationale:

Catholic education in Saskatoon, Biggar, Humboldt, Viscount and area grew from a shared desire by home and parish to teach children in a faith-filled setting. This relationship between parents and church has sustained Catholic education for more than a century. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools will continue to define and strengthen its Catholic identity to ensure Catholic education exists in our communities for another 100 years.

Goals:

- To nurture an awareness and understanding of Gospel values, ensuring they are part of the fabric of each school and each student's experience.
- To focus on faith formation for staff and students, supporting each individual's faith journey.

Priority: Improving Student Learning and Achievement

Rationale:

Catholic education helps each child develop their God-given talents as they strive to reach their full potential spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools combines academic excellence and spiritual development with support for the physical wellness of each student. A well-rounded Catholic education helps students become contributing citizens in their communities.

Goals:

- To focus on learning and academic excellence for all students.
- To improve academic achievement, with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy.
- To have each student complete high school.
- To commit to increasing physical fitness development of students.
- To support transitions for students of all ages, from those entering early learning programs to those preparing for careers after high school.



Growing

Rooted



Priority: Building Relationships and Partnerships

Rationale:

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools believes a strong relationship between parents, the church and the school is needed to educate children and youth to their full potential. We will continue to develop and enrich our relationships with the broader community and all levels of government. We are committed to working with many groups and organizations within our communities because we all share responsibility for educating our children and youth.

Goals:

- To continue to focus on relationships with parents, through Catholic school community councils; and the church, through the Diocese, Eparchy and parishes.
- To establish formal partnerships with First Nations and Métis groups, so these relationships may contribute to improved outcomes for First Nations and Métis students.
- To maintain our focus on academic success for New Canadians through a variety of shared initiatives.
- To establish formal partnerships with post-secondary institutions, to better reflect our shared role as educators in our communities.

Priority: Promoting Stewardship

Rationale:

Catholic education is a calling to take care of God's abundant gifts. As stewards the Board is entrusted with the gifts of people, finances, facilities, and the environment. We seek to receive these gifts gratefully and tend to them responsibly so that our work contributes to the greater good of the school division, our communities and our world. The Board of Education strives to govern the operations of the school division with forethought and diligence.

Goals:

- To nurture and develop God's people: our human resources.
- To responsibly allocate and use financial resources.
- To build and maintain facilities as centers of learning.
- To teach children and youth to care for God's creation.
- To define and implement practices to achieve and sustain excellent board governance.

Reaching

Transforming

Highlights & Awards 2006-2007

Building Bethlehem

Construction of Bethlehem Catholic High School, our division's newest high school, continued throughout the 2006-2007 school year, on schedule for completion in Fall 2007. As work progressed on the school building, Bethlehem principal Scott Gay and assistant principal Cheryl Thorson continued to develop a sense of community among the new school's students, staff and parents.

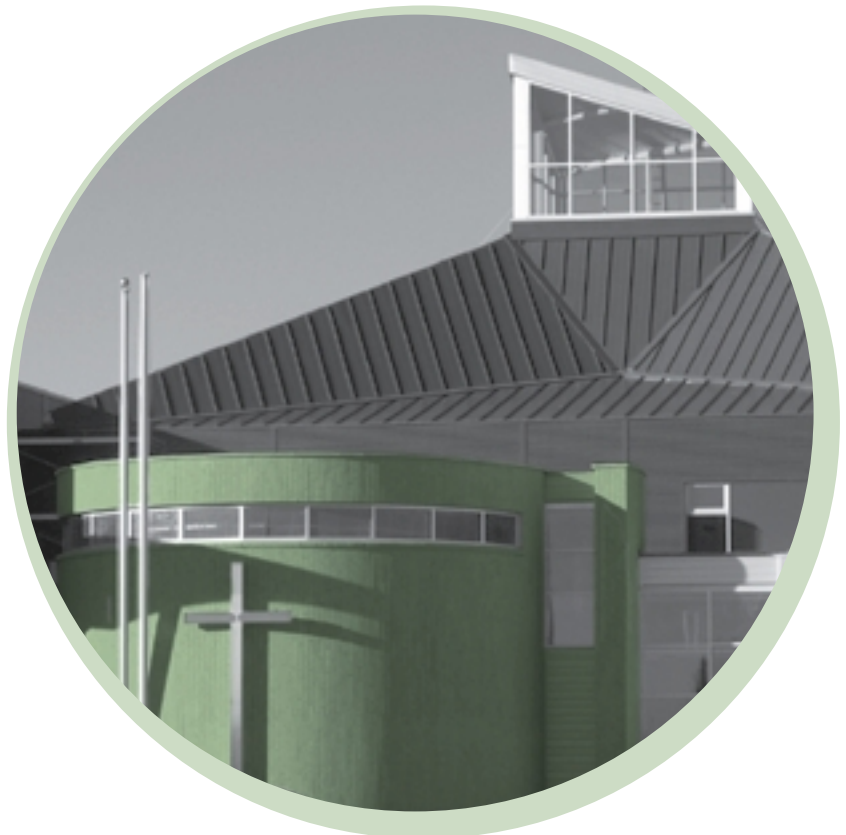
While students will receive an excellent Catholic education at Bethlehem, they will also be helped to see Christ's presence in their school, their world and in one another. The school has already developed a strong focus on social justice, seeking opportunities to make positive change in the world. For instance, Bethlehem is officially partnered with Kip Keino High School in Kenya.

Our New Partnership with Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.

Leaders from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Tribal Council Inc. (STC) and Central Urban Métis Foundation Inc. (CUMFI) entered into a partnership in June to see their organizations work together in several key areas to enhance the success of First Nations and Métis students.

The partnership is evidence of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' commitment to work more closely with organizations representing aboriginal people. This is more critical than ever because of the increasing number of First Nations and Métis students in our schools.

The creation of the nêhiyawak Cree Immersion Kindergarten program at St. Frances Elementary School is a direct result of pledging to work more closely together.





St. Mary Community School Pediatrics Clinic

Families and children living in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods can now visit a pediatrician in a brand-new, easier-to-access setting: a local school. The St. Mary Community School Pediatrics Clinic is among the first of its kind in Canada. It operates through a partnership between Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, the University of Saskatchewan Department of Pediatrics, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatoon Public Schools and the Saskatoon Health Region.

Creation of an in-school pediatrics clinic demonstrates how Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is reaching out to the community to help our children, some of whom are among the most vulnerable in our city.

The clinic is equipped much like a regular doctor's office, with an examining table and basic pediatric medical supplies. It is staffed three days a week by pediatricians from the Department of Pediatrics.

More Than Just Getting Their Kicks

Classes kicked off in 2007 at the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Soccer Academy, located at the SaskTel Sports Centre.

The academy concept has students integrate within their regular school day intensive study of a sport, skill or area of interest that is particularly engaging for them.

This is the first academy program within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. It is open to students in grades 9 to 12 from any Catholic high school in the city.

While at the Soccer Academy students are taught soccer skills and receive instruction in other areas like leadership development, goal-setting, nutrition and wellness. Students receive a credit in either physical education or wellness.

Helping Young People Shape Their Futures

The E.D. Feehan Catholic High School Career Academy was created to help students explore a variety of potential career paths while still in high school, making them better prepared after graduation to enter the workforce or pursue higher-level education.

The academy has three specialized areas or strands: Construction Technology, Bioresource Management and Communication Technology. All three programs are built on partnerships with post-secondary institutions and industry, allowing organizations to have input into course programming and participate in student mentoring. As a result young people see how their in-class work applies to the real world – giving them a glimpse of future careers.





Catholic School Community Councils

During the 2006-2007 school year Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools crafted policy to begin implementing Catholic school community councils. This initiative, part of a Saskatchewan Learning plan for the entire province, will see the school community councils replace existing parent councils or home and school associations. Although each new council will provide advice to its school and participate in school planning, its main responsibility will be to engage students' community and homes in support of the learning and well-being of students.

While some school communities in our division held elections in Spring 2007, many planned to choose their councils in the Fall.

A New Start for Ukrainian-Bilingual Education

Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan. Approximately 170 students from kindergarten to Grade 8 attend the school, which received its new name in September 2007.

The program, which began in 1979, was previously known as the St. Nicholas Ukrainian-English Bilingual Program and had shared space in other Catholic elementary schools. It moved to its current location in 2002. The goals of the program are to see students become functionally bilingual and develop an understanding and appreciation of the Byzantine Church tradition and of Ukrainian-Canadian culture. Many families from Ukraine who have recently arrived in Canada choose to send their children to the school.

100 years of Catholic Education in Humboldt

During the 2006-2007 school year, Humboldt celebrated 100 years of Catholic education in the community. One of the events held to commemorate this milestone was a barbecue in Fall 2006 for current and former students from Humboldt, as well as staff members. In Spring 2007, the anniversary was also remembered at the Celebration of Life event. There are currently two elementary schools offering Catholic education in Humboldt: St. Augustine and St. Dominic. We are fortunate that for decades there have been men and women in Saskatchewan and in Humboldt who have answered the call to become Catholic educators.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation

The foundation takes great pride in continuing to support education with a difference. In 2006-2007, 37 school-based and four division-based projects received funding from the foundation. These projects focused on spiritual development, student leadership, Byzantine Rite awareness, cross-cultural relations and Catholic leadership. Since 1993 total disbursements and donations benefiting Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools have surpassed \$2 million. This support significantly impacts the educational experiences of all students and staff.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation remains grateful to our community of believers who cherish the uniqueness of Catholic schools and who want to partner with us in providing the best educational experience for our youth in urban and rural Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount.





2007 Training for Excellence Award Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission

In June 2007 our school division's Aspiring Catholic Leadership Program received the labour market commission's Training for Excellence Award in the area of succession planning.

Forty-two employees completed this 18-month program, intended to help develop new leaders within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. Session topics included developing vision and direction as a leader, exploring leadership attributes and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as they apply to servant leadership in Catholic education.

The Training for Excellence Awards were developed in 1995 to recognize organizations that contribute to the social and economic prosperity of Saskatchewan through staff development and training.

International Student Program Wins Prestigious Industry Award

For two consecutive years, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools International Student Program (ISP) has been voted the top high school for international study by education consultants and student recruiters from around the world. The awards are presented by Language Travel Magazine, based in London, England.

The program was selected over competitors in New Zealand, the United States, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The award is a testament to the excellent reputation the International Student Program enjoys around the world among students, educators and the agents who help students select from the dozens of programs available. The ISP consistently receives strong evaluations from students who travel to Saskatoon to attend our Catholic schools.

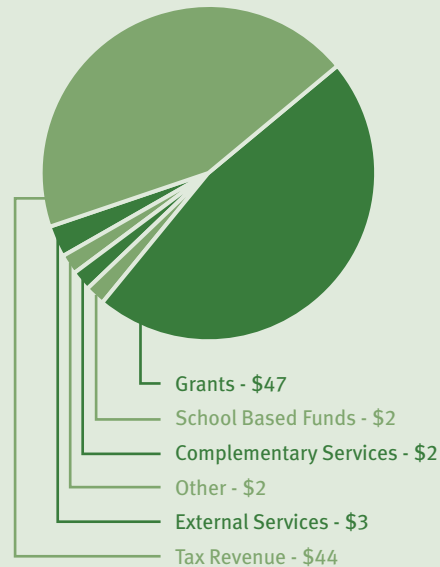


Financials – January 1 to August 31, 2006

This year marked a transition to a new budget timeline as mandated by Saskatchewan Learning. These figures cover a shortened fiscal year: January 1 to August 31, 2006. The new fiscal year began September 1, 2006 and concluded August 31, 2007. Changing the fiscal year to begin in September better reflects the operating year for school divisions. Audited financial statements for the 2006-2007 year were not complete at the time this report was printed.

Details of Revenue - 2006

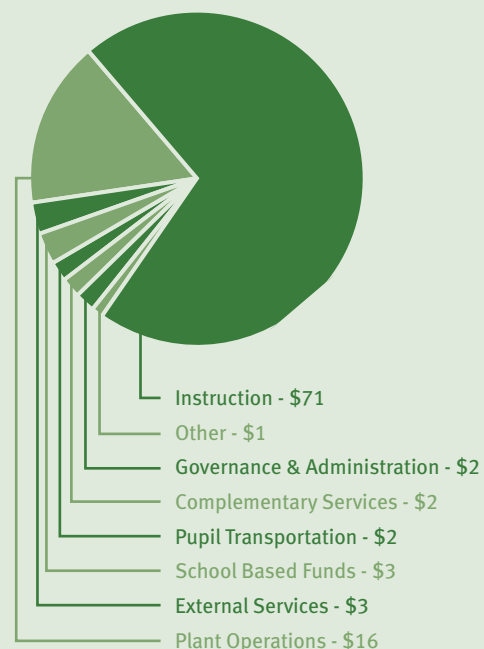
Tax Revenue	\$32,336,722
Grants	\$34,709,067
External Services	\$2,392,218
School Based Funds	\$1,654,375
Complementary Services	\$1,389,803
Other	\$1,152,144
Total Revenue	\$73,634,329



For Every \$100 Spent

Details of Expenditure - 2006

Governance & Administration	\$1,142,352
Instruction	\$52,127,299
Plant Operations	\$11,867,420
Pupil Transportation	\$1,869,551
Complementary Services	\$1,485,246
External Services	\$2,363,653
School Based Funds	\$1,998,332
Other	\$1,048,689
Total Expenditures	\$73,902,542





Five-year Capital and School Facility Plan

<i>Location</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
<i>Bishop Klein Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>Facility Review</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>St. Frances Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>Facility Review</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>St. Michael Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>Facility Review</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Saskatoon French School</i>	<i>Addition/Renovation</i>	<i>\$3,000,000</i>
<i>Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>Addition/Renovation</i>	<i>\$3,160,000</i>
<i>St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>Addition/Renovation</i>	<i>\$5,100,000</i>
<i>St. Mary Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>New Construction</i>	<i>\$5,600,000</i>
<i>Arbor Creek Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>New Construction</i>	<i>\$6,450,000</i>
<i>Hampton Village Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>New Construction</i>	<i>\$6,450,000</i>
<i>Stonebridge Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>New Construction</i>	<i>\$6,450,000</i>
<i>Willowgrove Catholic Elementary School</i>	<i>New Construction</i>	<i>\$6,450,000</i>
<i>E. D. Feehan Catholic High School</i>	<i>Addition/Renovation</i>	<i>\$10,250,000</i>
<i>Holy Cross Catholic High School</i>	<i>Addition/Renovation</i>	<i>\$11,890,000</i>
<i>Humboldt Catholic High School</i>	<i>New Construction</i>	<i>\$14,261,000</i>

June 2007

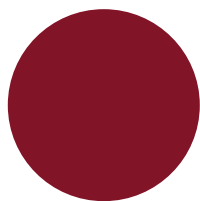
Student Achievement Monitoring

Monitoring student achievement is not new to Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. One long-standing way our division has done this is by having students in grade 4 and 7 complete the Canadian Achievement Test 3rd Edition, also known as CAT III. This is a national test that measures student achievement in academic skills contained in Canadian curricula. The information gained through the CAT III provides the division with a look at how our students perform on a predetermined set of skills compared to other students across Canada.

A brief summary of some of our results can be found in Figures 1 and 2. As a division, we continue to see positive trends and are committed to working towards even better outcomes. For the 2007-2008 school year we have developed new division learning goals. Specifically, the division has set a course for targeted growth in the areas of Math and Reading. We have established a multi-year commitment of money and human resources to teacher training and renewal of student and teacher materials.

A key tool in helping our division reach these goals is the new process we've created for planning each year's work and monitoring the results of our efforts. A fresh approach to planning became necessary with the increasing complexity of education today and the growing number of new partnerships and initiatives we've established.

Our new process aligns the planning of the many groups that work together to accomplish our mission and recognizes that monitoring student achievement is a critical part of this work. We look forward to the synergy that comes from communicating and working together for a common purpose: excellence in Catholic education.



Percentage of Grade 4 Students Performing at or Above Average

<i>Year</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Computation & Numerical Est.</i>
<i>2003</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>2004</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>67</i>

Figure 1

Figure 2

Percentage of Grade 7 Students Performing at or Above Average

<i>Year</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Computation & Numerical Est.</i>
<i>2003</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>2004</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>76</i>

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of electors of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is on
Monday, November 5, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem Catholic High School, 110 Bowlt Crescent.



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