

What's Inside:



Read about how Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is getting ready for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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School board trustees kept full calendars during 2010-2011. Take a look at this summary of board activity.

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Learn more about our school division's one-of-a-kind partnership with the Friendship Inn.

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# the Trustees' Journal

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

June 2011



## Three schools welcome renovation projects

*Three major school renovations announced this spring are only the latest of several construction projects that are under way within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. The following article offers brief updates on the most significant projects in the division.*



*Holy Cross High School will receive a major renovation*

The good news travelled quickly throughout three Saskatoon school communities in late March – parents, students and staff at two elementary schools and one high school had just learned that their buildings would receive major renovations to accommodate their growing enrolments.

The announcement of the multi-million dollar projects, which will affect more than 2,000 students, was made during the provincial government's budget in March.

The three schools receiving renovations are:

- **Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School** (331 students) – Renovations and additional space will accommodate the school's fine arts program. A new gymnasium will also be constructed.
- **Holy Cross High School** (1,200 students) – Saskatoon's largest Catholic high school will receive an addition and renovations to modernize the facility for its growing student body.

## Bargaining update

Negotiators with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and the Government of Saskatchewan/Saskatchewan School Boards Association bargaining teams are currently awaiting the report of a special mediator appointed to help the two sides reach a collective agreement.

After working with both sides for more than a week, Richard Hornung, QC, is now preparing a report that will set out his findings from the mediation process and provide recommendations for the resolution of the outstanding issues.

The report is due June 30 and will be submitted to the provincial Minister of Labour Relations.

Hornung was appointed May 30 at the request of the negotiation teams. He is a well known and accomplished mediator, conciliator and arbitrator with a national practice based in Calgary.

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## Renovation: School construction continues

- **St. Matthew Elementary School** (451 students) – Enrolment at this French Immersion-only school continues to grow. The project will update and add space at the school.

“My colleagues and I on the Board of Education are pleased and excited for the students and families who will benefit from these projects,” said Diane Boyko, chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education.

Architects are in place for each project and \$2.5 million is budgeted for planning costs associated with the projects in 2011-2012.

### **Holy Family Catholic School – Willowgrove**

This two-storey school will be located in one of Saskatoon’s newest neighbourhoods. The site will feature a Catholic school and a public school – one on either side of the site, each linked to a facility with a common daycare and community meeting space.

The 4,695-square-metre Catholic school will highlight the presence of the Holy Family with a sense of welcome and embrace, thanks to use of light and natural colours and materials. A public consultation about the general design of the school was held in October 2010. Another consultation to discuss more detailed plans will be held in the future.

### **St. Mary Community School**

Provincial Minister of Education Donna Harpauer visited St. Mary Community School in November 2010 to celebrate the start of construction of the new school. Harpauer and other special guests put on workgloves and picked up hammers for a nail-driving ceremony. The new St. Mary will accommodate the school’s innovative programming, including a pediatrics clinic and optometrist’s office. Students are expected to move into the 3,035-square-metre school in March 2012.



*Special guests participated in a nail-driving ceremony at St. Mary Community School*

### **Humboldt Collegiate Institute**

The new Humboldt Collegiate Institute is taking shape. The 6,769-square-metre building, which is attached to the Humboldt Uniplex and the new regional college, is now closed in as work continues to finish the interior of the school. Students are scheduled to move into the building in February 2012.

### **Sion Catholic Middle School leased**

At their October board meeting, trustees approved an agreement to lease Sion Catholic Middle School to Saskatoon Tribal Council Urban First Nations Services for a two-year period starting October 1, 2010. The space became available when student programming at the school was moved to other locations in the school division. STC was chosen as the successful tenant from a number of inquiries. It is using the school to host various programs for its community members.

### **Child-care co-operative moving into St. Bernard, St. Philip schools**

This fall, 58 child care spaces operated by the Parents’ Child Development Cooperative (PCDC) will relocate to St. Bernard and St. Philip schools. PCDC is moving out of its current location because the property is being sold. The 58 spaces now there will be relocated in two new, smaller early learning centres at the schools. The provincial government is providing \$395,000 to help with renovation costs.

“It was a natural fit for us to provide two new homes for these early learning centres,” said Diane Boyko, chair of the Board of Education. The centres provide child care for children from 18 months to school age.

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## Bargaining: Report awaited from mediator

Both bargaining teams agreed to suspend all job action and advertising activity until Hornung submits his report.

While the STF represents teachers in the bargaining process, the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee is comprised of representatives from both the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. The committee is responsible for representing the interests of both the publicly funded school system and the employer in bargaining negotiations with the STF. The Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee has successfully negotiated provincial collective agreements for teachers in Saskatchewan for over 30 years.

# Staff and students prepare for Centennial celebration

*In September 1911, a group of students began school in the basement of Saskatoon's new St. Paul's Church. And so began Saskatoon's Catholic school division. Now, nearly 100 years later, plans are under way to celebrate the division's Centennial throughout the 2011-2012 school year.*

One of the first events will occur in September, when each school will plant a tree to commemorate the division's 100-year anniversary. Each school will use a mixture of soil drawn from the grounds of the 44 other schools in the division.

The soil was brought together on June 2 during a special ceremony on World Catholic Education Day. It will be distributed to schools in time for the tree planting on September 9.

This event is just one of those planned by a team of staff and volunteers from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) to celebrate the 100-year milestone. The slogan for the anniversary is "Celebrating a Century of Faith and Learning."

Other centennial events include:

**Friday, August 26, 2011 – School Year Opening Celebration:** This year's speakers – drawn from a variety of backgrounds - will discuss why it is important to value publicly funded Catholic education and what can occur if this privilege is taken for granted. All former staff are invited to attend. (Begins 8:30 a.m., Circle Drive Alliance Church)

**Friday, September 9, 2011 – Schools Mark Anniversary:** With Sept. 5 falling on Labour Day Monday, schools will celebrate the division's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a liturgy, tree-planting and other school-based events on Friday, Sept. 9.

**Saturday, October 8, 2011 – Centennial Leadership Banquet:** This special evening at TCU Place will honour past and current division leadership, such as principals, trustees and superintendents.

**Monday, October 24, 2011 – Centennial Lecture Series, Part I:** Bishop Murray Chatlain, of the Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese in the Northwest Territories and a product of Saskatoon's Catholic school system, will recount our division's journey from its humble beginnings to today. A second lecture, looking at the future of our division, will occur in Spring 2012 with another presenter. (7:30 p.m., Holy Spirit Parish)

**Tuesday, November 1, 2011 – Division Memorial Mass:** This Mass, an annual event, will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, in remembrance of staff members who have passed away.

**Thursday, February 16, 2012 – Performing Arts Showcase:** Division staff will share their gifts during this special evening at St. Joseph High School.

**February 13 - March 18, 2012 – Visual Arts Showcase:** Visual artists from our division will display their work in the gallery at the Centre at Circle and Eighth mall from February 13 to March 18.

**Saturday, June 23, 2012 – Community Centennial Banquet and Dance:** A celebration at Prairieland Park, in order to commemorate our special year with the wider community.

**Sunday, June 24, 2012 – Centennial Mass and Picnic:** Mass will be held at Holy Family Cathedral, followed by a 1911-style Sunday in the park for families at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm.

More details about these events are available on the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools website at [www.gscs.sk.ca](http://www.gscs.sk.ca) Click on the Centennial Info link.



## Year in Review

The work undertaken by the Board of Education during each school year includes a range of activities that extends far beyond monthly Board meetings.

### Governance

10 regular Board meetings • Eight planning meetings  
• Annual meeting of electors • Faith formation and planning retreat • Catholic Faith Committee meetings • Joint Operations Committee for Humboldt Collegiate Institute • Liaison with Catholic school community councils • Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association – convention, seminar, executive meetings • Saskatchewan School Boards Association – AGM, fall assembly, spring seminar, regional meetings, members' council meetings

### Liaison meetings

Saskatoon City Council • Minister of Education • Saskatchewan Party MLAs • New Democratic Party MLAs • Bishop Donald Bolen and city parishes  
• Saskatoon Health Region • Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce • Saskatoon Public Schools • Saskatoon Teachers' Association

### Support of school events

Anniversaries • School-based liturgies • Sports events • Plays, musicals, band concerts • Pancake breakfasts • Christmas dinners • Award ceremonies  
• Graduations • Christmas carol festivals • Education Week • World Catholic Education Week

### Division events

Opening Celebration • Memorial Mass • New Teacher Orientation • Aspiring Leadership employee graduation • Retirement reception • Long-term service awards

### First Nations and Métis Events

māmawohkamātowin Partnership meetings with Saskatoon Tribal Council and Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated • FSIN Powwow • SaskTel Youth Awards • Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre • Native Recognition Night • Pleasant Hill Powwow • Oskāyak Powwow • National Aboriginal Day

# Partnership putting food on the shelves

*When you serve 500 meals a day, every day of the year, keeping food in your cupboards is bound to be a challenge. That's why the Friendship Inn has formed a partnership with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to teach local school children about the needs of the less fortunate in our community – and to inspire them to help fill those needs.*

“When I speak to the children, I ask them to picture going home to get a snack and then when they open the cupboard, it is completely empty,” says Geselle Doell, who has visited each of the 14 GSCS schools participating in the project.



*A student at St. Bernard School with part of its cereal donation to the Friendship Inn*

This is the first time the Friendship Inn has created an ongoing partnership with a school division. In her visits to schools Doell tell students about the Inn and its work, and asks them to donate a specific food staple.

Schools have been challenged to fill one or more plastic swimming pools with their donations for the Inn, as the project's slogan is “Pool Your Love for the Friendship Inn.”

The extra staples, like cereal, from the schools will help stretch the Inn's annual food budget, freeing up money to buy other items. Students also learned more about local poverty, hunger and social justice through special lesson plans their teachers used during classroom time. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon helped create the project by bringing the school division and the Inn together to launch the initiative, which will grow and adapt to the Inn's needs in coming school years.



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If you have questions or comments, here's how to contact your Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Trustees.

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## Programming highlights

During 2010-2011, members of the Board of Education voted on various changes to programming for students in the division.

The **St. Frances Cree Bilingual Program** is currently available from Kindergarten to Grade 3. The program is expanding to Grade 4.

Trustees approved the Grade 6 Intensive French programs at **St. Bernard** and **St. Dominic** schools in Saskatoon. This popular program is open to all Grade 6 students regardless of their previous French education.

Thanks to additional funding from the provincial Ministry of Education, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is adding three new pre-kindergartens to its current total of 20. Trustees approved additional pre-kindergartens for **Bishop Roborecki** (now three classrooms), **St. Frances** (now 2 classes) and **St. John** (now 2 classes).

Further consultation occurred with the **École Sister O'Brien School** community in January 2011 regarding enrolment in its English program, which has declined over the past several years. Board members voted to move the English program to nearby St. Angela School starting in the 2011-2012 school year. The Board's guiding principles for program and school location are: access to Catholic education, excellence in programming, collaborative relationships with local community and responsible stewardship of resources.

Three full-day, every day kindergartens were added by the Board during the 2010-2011 school year. A full-day kindergarten program was approved for **Bishop Roborecki** in Confederation Park last August and was in place for the past school year. In June, two additional full-day kindergartens were approved at **St. Mark** in Fairhaven and **St. Michael** in Kelsey-Woodlawn.