



NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ukrainian bilingual school marks new beginning

SASKATOON, Sept. 28, 2006 – More than 160 Kindergarten to Grade 8 students, along with staff, parents, school board trustees and alumni gathered Thursday for the grand opening and blessing of Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School.

The facility, at 125 105th Street in Sutherland, was formerly known as Holy Family School and had been home to the St. Nicholas Ukrainian-English Bilingual Program. With English language students now attending nearby St. Volodymyr School, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education responded to requests from the Ukrainian community to rename the school in honour of Bishop Basil Filvevich, former bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, who passed away on April 20th.

Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan. Principal Angela Wasylow said there is much excitement and pride surrounding the grand opening and blessing of the school. “We are especially grateful for the support of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education in helping us to fulfill this long-held dream,” Wasylow said.

Jim Carriere, chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education, said he and his board appreciate the work the entire Ukrainian community has done to build a strong program. “We have been privileged to support this program and help in the academic and spiritual education of these young people,” said Carriere.

The Ukrainian-English bilingual program was established in 1979 with an enrolment of 15 students and has grown and flourished since then. After graduating from elementary school, students may continue to study Ukrainian in high school at E. D. Feehan Catholic High School. The goals are for students to become functionally bilingual and develop an understanding and appreciation of the Byzantine Church tradition and of Ukrainian-Canadian culture.

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