CSM Update for Families - October 5–9

A Message from Mrs. Clamp

One of the things I am most grateful for at CSM is how many opportunities we have to **do things together**.

Last week brought the beginning of Grade 5/6 Volleyball and Run Club, along with our first STEAM & DREAM of the year. The energy around STEAM & DREAM was incredible! It is quickly becoming a favourite CSM experience.

Our first learning theme is **Inventors & Innovators**, and on Friday students from across grades worked together to solve problems, create marble runs, build the Eiffel Tower from spaghetti and marshmallows, invent, design, test ideas, and so much more. We cannot wait to see where their creativity takes them over the next four weeks.

This week gives us even more opportunities to gather — through volleyball, Run Club, our Thanksgiving Liturgy, School Council, our Turkey Trot, and, of course, the Piitawaani Traditional Powwow.

As we move toward the Thanksgiving long weekend, I hope each of us has an opportunity to recognize just how much we have to be grateful for: our children, our families, our staff, our community, and the opportunity to learn and grow together.

As always, thank you for trusting our school with your children.

Mrs. Clamp

Faith in Our Week

October Scripture
“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
— 1 Corinthians 12:27

Over the past few weeks, we have seen this scripture come alive in so many different ways.

We see it when an older student helps a younger one, when children from different grades create something together during STEAM & DREAM, when families gather at school, and when people share their gifts, cultures and traditions with our community.

This week, as we gather for our Thanksgiving Liturgy and welcome our division and broader community to the Piitawaani Traditional Powwow, we are reminded again that community is not created by everyone being the same. It grows when each person brings who they are and what they have to offer.

As families, perhaps this Thanksgiving weekend gives us a simple question to consider together:

What gifts do each of us bring to our family and community — and what are we especially grateful for?

Growing in Our Catholic Faith

What is the Sanctuary Lamp?

You may have noticed a special candle or lamp burning near the tabernacle when you enter a Catholic church.

This is called the **sanctuary lamp**.

When the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle, the lamp remains lit as a visible reminder that **Jesus is present in the Eucharist**.

It is one of the quiet signs in a Catholic church that reminds us we are entering a sacred space.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, October 5
🙏 Thanksgiving Liturgy
🍎 World Teachers' Day
🏐 Grade 5/6 Volleyball

Tuesday, October 6
⛪ Church Tours — selected classes
📸 School Photo Retake Day

Wednesday, October 7
🏐 Grade 5/6 Volleyball
💛 Wellness Break
🤝 CSM School Council Meeting — **6:15 PM in the Library**

Thursday, October 8
🏃 Run Club
🪶 **Piitawaani Traditional Powwow — 5:00–7:00 PM at CSM**

Friday, October 9
🦃 **CSM Turkey Trot at Nicholas Sheran Lake**
Turkey costumes are optional — but certainly welcome!

School Updates

Thank You, CSM Teachers!

Monday is **World Teachers' Day**.

We are incredibly fortunate to have educators at CSM who bring tremendous care, creativity, patience and commitment to their work each day.

Teaching is about so much more than lessons and curriculum. Teachers build relationships, notice needs, encourage children, create belonging, celebrate growth, solve problems and help children discover who they can become.

We are grateful for our CSM teachers and the many ways they help our students **Belong. Grow. Shine.**

STEAM & DREAM — Inventors & Innovators

What a start!

Last Friday, students launched our first STEAM & DREAM theme: **Inventors & Innovators**.

Across the school, students were designing, building, experimenting, collaborating and problem-solving. From marble runs to spaghetti towers and all kinds of inventions in between, the building was full of creativity.

STEAM & DREAM will continue over the next four weeks, and we cannot wait to see what our students imagine next.

Piitawaani Traditional Powwow — Thursday

We are honoured to host the **Piitawaani Traditional Powwow** at CSM this Thursday.

Families are warmly invited to join us from 5:00–7:00 PM.

This is a special opportunity for our school to welcome students, staff, families and community members from across Holy Spirit Catholic School Division for an evening of culture, learning, relationship and celebration.

A **separate email with more detailed information** about the Powwow will be sent to families.

Turkey Trot — Friday

On Friday, students and staff will head to **Nicholas Sheran Lake** for our annual Turkey Trot.

Turkey costumes are completely optional, but we always enjoy seeing the creative ones that make an appearance!

Need to Know

Parking Lot & Student Safety

Our parking lot has become increasingly busy at drop-off and dismissal, and we need everyone’s help keeping students safe.

There are **two designated areas for student drop-off and pick-up**:

1. The School Parking Lot

If you use the parking lot:

- You **must park in a marked parking stall** before your child enters or exits your vehicle.
- Please do not stop or idle in the driving lane while students run to or from vehicles.
- Please do not park alongside the cement curbs. This narrows the driving area and makes it difficult for vehicles to back safely out of stalls.
- Please travel **very slowly — a maximum of approximately 10 km/h**. This is a school parking lot, not a roadway.

We understand that it can be frustrating to circle the lot or leave and return when stalls are full, but **student safety must come first**.

Families are also welcome to park at **St. Martha's Parish** and walk over for drop-off or pick-up.

2. The Bus Loop

The bus loop can also be used for quick drop-off and pick-up.

Please:

- Watch carefully for students crossing as you enter and exit.
- Enter the loop and pull over to the **right-hand side**.
- Bring your vehicle to a complete stop before students enter or exit.
- Keep stops to approximately **five minutes or less**.

If you need to park and come into the school, please use the school parking lot rather than the bus loop.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

School Council — Vice Chair Needed

Thank you to the families who have stepped forward to serve on our CSM School Council.

We are still looking for someone willing to serve as **Vice Chair**.

The Vice Chair supports the Chair with council responsibilities, fills in when the Chair is unavailable, and helps School Council continue supporting the many activities and opportunities that make CSM such a special place.

If you are interested — or simply want to learn more — please join us at our **School Council Meeting on Wednesday at 6:15 PM in the school library**.

Looking Ahead

Monday, October 12

🦃 Thanksgiving Day — **No School**

Tuesday, October 13
No School for Students — Professional Development Day

Teachers will spend much of the day working on Individual Student Plans and collaborative planning.

If your child has an **Individual Student Plan (ISP)**, you may have received an invitation to participate in a meeting that day.

Wednesday, October 14
No School for Students — Professional Development Day

Classes resume **Thursday, October 15**.