CSM Update for Families - September 28–October 2

A Message from Mrs. Clamp

Each week, it feels a little more like our CSM community is building itself around us.

Students are finding their routines, friendships are growing, classrooms are becoming communities, and we are creating more opportunities for children of different ages to learn, play and belong together.

Last Friday was a wonderful example. Students gathered in their **Colour Teams for the first time this year**, and the participation in wearing team colours was incredible! Teams had a great time creating names and chants for the year ahead.

We treasure these opportunities for students to spend time in cross-grade groupings. They allow our younger students to be known and supported by older students, give our older students opportunities to lead, and remind all of us that we belong to something bigger than our own classroom.

We were also incredibly fortunate to welcome **Jessie Acquah** to our opening assembly. Jessie shared a beautiful message about the possibility of finding common ground across cultures, across countries, and across all of the lines that can sometimes seem to divide us. Those same differences can also become the very things that help us learn about one another, connect, and come together. Jessie is an author who wrote the book 'What Day Were You Born?', and her two children attend CSM - you can learn more about her and her organization Drohmor Inc. at https://www.drohmorinc.ca/about.

That message feels especially meaningful as we continue building our community this year. We want our students to know that belonging does not require us all to be the same. In fact, our differences, stories, cultures, gifts and experiences can make our community richer when we approach one another with curiosity, respect and love.

It feels wonderful to watch our community continue to take shape each day, and I am excited for everything still ahead.

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

There could hardly be a better scripture for the community we are trying to build at CSM.

Every child brings different gifts, experiences, strengths, cultures, ideas and ways of seeing the world. None of us is exactly the same — and our community is stronger because of it.

Jessie Acquah’s message at our opening assembly gave us another beautiful way to think about this. The things that make us different do not have to divide us. When we listen, learn and look for common ground, those same differences can help us understand one another and bring us closer together.

This week, that message will be especially important as we learn together through Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It will also be visible as students gather in teams, begin new learning through STEAM & DREAM, and continue discovering the gifts they bring to our school.

Our hope is that every child comes to understand: **I matter. You matter. We all have something to contribute. I Am We.**

Growing in Our Catholic Faith

What is the Tabernacle?

The **tabernacle** is the special place in a Catholic church where the consecrated Eucharist is reserved after Mass.

Because Catholics believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, the tabernacle is treated with great reverence. You will usually see a special lamp burning nearby as a sign that the Blessed Sacrament is present.

As our students become more familiar with St. Martha's Parish, we will continue helping them recognize the sacred spaces and objects they see when we gather for Mass.

Celebration & Gratitude

This week, we are especially grateful for the learning and relationships that continue to grow through our journey of **Truth and Reconciliation**.

We are blessed to live, learn and gather on the traditional territory of the **Blackfoot Nations**, and we are grateful for the many Indigenous community members, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, families and partners who continue to influence the life and learning of our school.

Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation give us an important opportunity to honour survivors of residential schools, remember the children who never returned home, and continue learning about the lasting impacts of the residential school system.

We are also grateful for voices like Jessie Acquah's, which remind us that culture, identity and difference can become opportunities for connection rather than division. These messages help our students see that learning about one another is part of how we build a community where everyone can belong.

We are grateful for all those who share their knowledge, stories and culture with us and help our students understand that reconciliation is something we continue to learn about and live together.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, September 28

🏐 Volleyball begins for Grade 5 and 6 students who signed up

Tuesday, September 29

🧡 Orange Shirt Day

Wednesday, September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation — **No School**

Thursday, October 1

🏃 Run Club

Friday, October 2

💡 First STEAM & DREAM — **Inventors & Innovators**

Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser orders due

School Updates

Orange Shirt Day — Tuesday

On Tuesday, students and staff are invited to **wear orange** as we honour survivors of residential schools, remember the children who never returned home, and recognize the ongoing impact residential schools have had on Indigenous families and communities.

Throughout the school, students will participate in age-appropriate learning connected to Truth and Reconciliation.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation — Wednesday

There is **no school on Wednesday, September 30** as Canada observes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

This day provides an opportunity to honour the past, listen and learn, and reflect on the ongoing work of reconciliation.

STEAM & DREAM Begins Friday!

On Friday, we kick off our first STEAM & DREAM learning theme of the year:

Inventors & Innovators

Students will have opportunities to imagine, create, problem-solve, experiment, improve ideas and learn in new ways.

We are excited to see what our students **design, discover and create** in the weeks ahead!

Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser

All Old Dutch chip orders are due through **School Cash Online by Friday, October 2** in order for orders to arrive before Halloween.

Funds raised will support **equipment or other needs connected to physical education, recess, and outdoor learning**.

Thank you for supporting our school.

Need to Know

Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found continues to fill quickly, especially with **hoodies, sweaters and jackets**.

Please encourage your child to keep track of layers they remove at recess. Tying a hoodie or sweater around their waist is a great alternative to leaving it on the playground.

If your child is missing an item, please have them check the **Lost & Found at the front of the school**. Families are also welcome to stop in and have a look.

If something has come home that you do not recognize, is the wrong size, or has another child's name on it, please return it to your child's classroom teacher so we can help get it back to its owner.

Toys & Fidgets

Please continue to keep **toys from home at home** unless a teacher has specifically requested an item for a classroom activity.

We have already had several situations this year involving toys that have been lost, misplaced or reported missing. Toys can also become distracting, traded between students or accidentally damaged. The school cannot take responsibility for personal toys brought from home.

If your child requires a **fidget as a learning tool**, it should be approved by the classroom teacher.

An appropriate fidget should help a child focus without distracting themselves or others, should be quiet and unobtrusive, and should support learning rather than become something to play with.

Looking Ahead

Piitawaani Traditional Powwow — Thursday, October 8

Next week, CSM will have the honour of hosting the **Piitawaani Traditional Powwow**.

This is a special division-wide gathering that will be hosted by a different school each year, and we are honoured to welcome it to CSM this year.

The evening will bring together students, families, staff, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members in celebration, learning and relationship.

A **separate email with full details** about the Powwow will be sent to families.