CSM Update for Families - October 12–16

A Message from Mrs. Clamp

Thanksgiving feels like a fitting time to pause and recognize just how much we have to be grateful for at CSM.

Last week was another beautiful example of what happens when a community comes together. We celebrated our Thanksgiving Liturgy, ran our annual Turkey Trot, continued volleyball and Run Club, and welcomed hundreds of guests to our school for the **Piitawaani Traditional Powwow**.

During the day, we welcomed approximately **800 students and staff from 16 schools across Holy Spirit Catholic School Division**. It was a powerful day of learning, culture, relationship and community. Thank you to all of the families who supported the event and joined us in the evening. We are proud to have hosted this gathering and look forward to visiting **St. Paul School** when they take on the honour of hosting next year.

We are also incredibly grateful to the families who have stepped forward to form our new **CSM School Council**. Strong schools are built in partnership with families, and we are thankful for the time, ideas and support you are willing to share.

Most of all, I remain grateful for the people who make CSM what it is — our students, families, teachers and school staff. Our community is stronger because there are people here who care deeply, notice the small things, and work every day to make children feel known and supported.

I hope your Thanksgiving weekend brings time to rest, connect and recognize the many blessings around you.

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

Thanksgiving gives us a beautiful opportunity to notice how many people and gifts come together to create a community.

Last week, we saw that in a powerful way during the Piitawaani Traditional Powwow. Students, families, staff, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members each brought something different to the day. No one person created the experience — it was the contributions of many that made it meaningful.

That is true of our school as well.

Each child brings something important. Each family brings something important. Each staff member brings something important.

This Thanksgiving, perhaps we can take a moment to ask:

Who are the people whose gifts make my life better — and have I told them I am grateful for them?

Growing in Our Catholic Faith

Why Do Catholic Churches Have a Crucifix?

A **crucifix** is a cross that includes an image of Jesus.

While the cross reminds Christians of Jesus' death and resurrection, the crucifix also helps us remember the depth of Christ's sacrifice and love for us.

You will see a crucifix prominently displayed in Catholic churches and in many Catholic classrooms and schools. It reminds us that our faith is centred on Jesus and calls us to live with love, sacrifice, compassion and hope.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, October 12

🦃 Thanksgiving Day — **No School**

Tuesday, October 13

📚 **No School for Students — Professional Development Day**

Wednesday, October 14

📚 **No School for Students — Professional Development Day**

Thursday, October 15

🏃 Run Club
Students return to school

Friday, October 16

💡 STEAM & DREAM — **Inventors & Innovators: Week 2**

School Updates

Thank You for Supporting the Piitawaani Traditional Powwow

We are incredibly grateful for the support our families showed as CSM hosted the **Piitawaani Traditional Powwow**.

During the school day, approximately **800 students and staff from 16 schools** gathered at CSM to learn together.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, welcomed guests, supported students, and helped make the event such a meaningful experience.

We are proud to have been the first school to host this new division-wide tradition and look forward to watching it continue at St. Paul School next year.

STEAM & DREAM Continues

On Friday, students return to **Inventors & Innovators** for Week 2 of STEAM & DREAM.

The first session was full of creativity, collaboration and problem-solving, and we are excited to see how student ideas continue to grow over the next few weeks.

Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser.

Orders have now been submitted, and we will share the **pick-up/delivery date** as soon as it is confirmed.

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

Catholic Education Sunday

Next weekend is **Catholic Education Sunday**.

Catholic education is a gift made possible through the partnership of families, parishes, educators, students and communities.

On **Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16**, the school office will accept donations that will be contributed toward the Catholic Education Sunday collection.

At Sunday Masses on **October 17 and 18**, there will also be a special second collection supporting Catholic education across the Diocese, including Catholic public schools, St. Mary's University and St. Joseph Seminary.

This year, the Diocese of Calgary will match up to **$250,000** of the Catholic Education Sunday funds distributed among the five Catholic school districts.

Thank you for supporting Catholic education and the opportunities it provides for students to learn, grow and live their faith.

Looking Ahead

Next week we will celebrate **Catholic Education Week**.

We will also continue:

Monday
🏐 Grade 5/6 Volleyball

Wednesday
🏐 Grade 5/6 Volleyball

Thursday
🏃 Run Club

Friday
🏐 **First Volleyball Jamboree** — details to come

We look forward to another full week of learning, faith and community.