



SACRED HEART SCHOOL

April 2020 Newsletter

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Catholic Schools - "I can do all things through Christ."

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all safe and well during these uncertain times in both our community and world. It is hard to believe how much has changed over the past few weeks. As we transition into a home learning service model, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of our families for their patience as we implement the necessary changes. Our focus as a school, is to ensure that we build our routines in this new environment, and ensure we build strong connections with our families and students.

As we work through this transition, please know that we understand that each family situation is unique, and that we are here to work with you if you are having difficulties. Please, if you are in this situation, reach out to your classroom teacher, or myself, and we can help you through this process.

We miss our families and students greatly at Sacred Heart. Our schools foundation is built on the strong community that we have and I know that the strength in our community will remain through these challenging times. I hope and pray that all of our students, and families remain safe and well, and I look forward to the day when we can all be together again.

Warmest regards,

Bryan MacLean



Material Pick Up

Our staff prepared all students' belongings for pick up on **Tuesday, April 14th, between 10am and 12 noon**. This will be a "drive thru" set up for our parents / guardians to get student materials. Further, during this time, some teachers will provide hard copies of learning packages that will be sent home for them to begin working on. All of these materials will have been handled in a safe and sanitary manner at the school, and will sit untouched from Thursday April 9th until Tuesday April 14th. When arriving at the school, please proceed to the area that is marked on the attached map. We ask that no one gets out of their vehicle during this time, so that we are able to maintain appropriate social distancing protocol during pickup. Please see attached documentation that explains this process further.



R O A R—Respect, Optimism, Acceptance, Rejoice

FreshGrade

FreshGrade is an online student portfolio that will be used in some school classrooms for both the sharing of work and communication. During these uncertain times, it is imperative to use a virtual sharing system to limit the traffic at Sacred Heart School. Please see the attached document that describes FreshGrade and the abilities it has.

Regular Student Contact (Attendance)

The Ministry of Education has mandated that all schools track regular student contact as we work in a home learning model for the foreseeable future. This means, that teachers will have the primary responsibility to communicate with students on a weekly basis. This communication will be logged by teachers. It is imperative that students are made available to communicate with their teachers, as those who teachers do not receive weekly contact from students, will be reported to the administration of the school. Upon this reporting, there will be one more attempt for contact with this student, after which the case will be reported to CISPG and the Ministry of Education.

Zoom



Some teachers have expressed their desire to use zoom to connect with students. Zoom is an online meeting platform, that requires students to accept a meeting invitation. There have been many discussions of this platform in the news over recent weeks, but please be assured that our teachers will receive the necessary professional development in order to ensure that these meetings are safe for all involved. Further, the Ministry of Education has signed on for an enterprise system, and we will procure the use of this system for our teachers use.

Internet Safety Protocols

As parents / guardians, it is important to review internet safety protocols with your children, especially during a time where there will be increased reliance on the internet as a part of their learning journey. Please ensure that you are also reviewing these protocols with them on a regular basis.

Tuition

Catholic schools in British Columbia receive 50% of the public school district per-pupil operating grant. This means that we rely heavily on tuition fees to deliver the educational program and provide continuity of learning to students. We recognize that it may be a financial hardship for some families to have April tuition fees withdrawn from their bank accounts. If you are in that situation, please contact our bookkeeper Mrs. McDermid to receive a subsidy application.

Essential Service Workers

The Ministry of Education has advised that all parents who can, should care for their children at home. If you are a tier one essential service worker not able to care for your children, please contact the principal by e-mail. We are working on developing options for families in need while still following PHO guidelines.



Social Emotional Health

We have teamed up with Linda Campbell who is a School Counsellor in Prince George. She will be providing some tips and tricks to help our students and families during these unprecedented times, please check out the links to her newsletters that will be posted on our website!

Material Pick Up Instructions

Purpose: Collecting your child's belongings (bagged by SHS Staff) and 1st Learning Pack

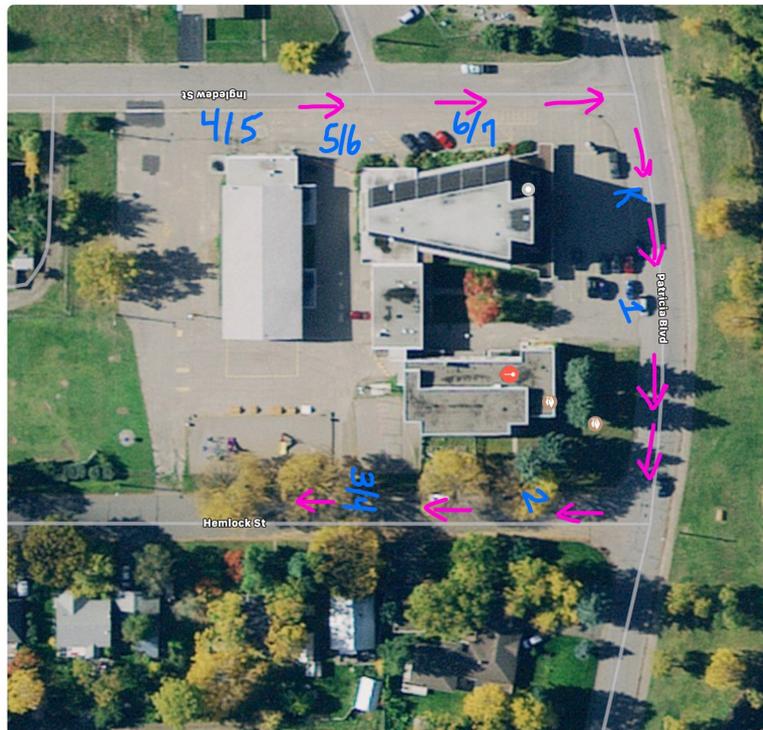
Date and Time: April 14th from 10am-12pm

Where: **OUTSIDE** the school perimeter: See picture below for specific class pickup locations

Please look for the signs, drive slowly, and you will see tables assigned to classrooms with staff waiting for you to drive 'around the block' for our version of a **DRIVE THRU pickup**. **PLEASE REMAIN IN** your vehicle. There will be signs and gloved staff members who will bring YOU the bag of belongings marked with your child's name and the 1st learning pack (if being sent by a teacher). Keeping everyone safe and practicing **SAFE** physical distancing and health protocols, we need to make sure this is done in a safe and efficient manner. **(Do bring your children if possible and wave from the vehicle as we all want to see our Panther Families!!)**



Please come everyone if you can, Staff REALLY wants to see you



What is FreshGrade?

FreshGrade is a free web and mobile based app that improves communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and students through digital portfolios. It provides teachers with a secure online space to collect data (observations, anecdotal notes, videos, or pictures) of your child's progress in various subject areas.

We use FreshGrade because it:

- ◆ Allows teachers to track progress and monitor student learning in real time
- ◆ Provides parents with consistent, real time communication about their child's progress
- ◆ Provides parents opportunities to comment on, interact with, and support their child's learning

How does FreshGrade work?

- ◆ Teachers create an online portfolio for each student, including their name and photo
- ◆ Teachers input data into individual portfolios to document evidence of learning
- ◆ Teachers invite parents to create a username and password, allowing them to access **only** their child's portfolio. **It is not searchable and it is not public.**
- ◆ Individual student portfolios may be viewed by the classroom teacher, parent, and student; they cannot be viewed by other students, teachers, or parents

Protecting Your Privacy

FreshGrade Education Inc. is a company based in Kelowna, BC. All information and data gathered on FreshGrade will be stored on their server, also located in Kelowna. Teachers of British Columbia are subject to FIPPA. We must ensure that the privacy of all students under our care is protected. As such, personal and identifiable information of a student, including student work, cannot be used without written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

FreshGrade **does not require** the use of "third party services". However, if a teacher wants to access services such as DropBox, YouTube, and other social media websites through FreshGrade - in order to share certain content selected and approved by you - **a separate consent form will be sent.**

In order for your child's teacher to create a FreshGrade portfolio for your child, you will be asked to sign a consent form. All student portfolios will be deleted at the end of the school year (July 1, 2019). You may request your child's account to be terminated at any time.

Why is a consent form necessary?

Various provinces in Canada have enacted laws to protect personal privacy. In BC, the **Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)**, covers all independent schools; it is one of the most defined privacy protection frameworks in Canada. PIPA states that "private bodies" such as independent schools, have defined legal requirements for handling your personal information when it is within their "custody and control". Private bodies must make sure that your **personal information** cannot be stored or accessed outside of Canada without your expressed permission. **PIPA states that your consent must be in writing; the consent form must state to whom your personal information will be disclosed, and how your information will be used.** Also, if you post personal information about others, their permission must also be secured.

What is Personal Information?

Personal information is defined as any information, data, or content that could be used to identify you. For example, a student's personal information could be: name, date of birth, address, telephone number, email address, educational information, and anything that identifies an individual, including photographs.

