



A division-wide nutrition policy gives direction for students and staff striving to make healthy food choices at school.

**PAGE 2**



The 2009-2010 school year was a busy one for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools trustees. Check out their Year in Review.

**PAGE 3**



Learn why Trustee Alice Risling won the 2009 Saskatchewan School Boards Association Award of Distinction.

**PAGE 4**

# the Trustees' Journal

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

June 2010



## Greater Saskatoon Catholic welcomes amalgamation with new Martensville division

*A Catholic school board was created in Martensville this spring. A five-member board of education was elected by acclamation at the end of April. On May 27 these trustees voted to amalgamate with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS).*



A few days later, on May 31, trustees from GSCS voted for amalgamation as well. With this move, the Martensville board dissolved. Martensville is now represented on the GSCS board by trustee Wayne Stus, who already represents ratepayers living in rural areas southeast of Saskatoon.

"We look forward to working with you for a smooth transition," GSCS Board Chair Diane Boyko told the Martensville trustees on hand for the GSCS amalgamation vote.

The Martensville representatives have indicated that their ultimate goal is to have a Catholic school in the city of Martensville. Greater Saskatoon Catholic supports this position.

An immediate effect of the merger will see Greater Saskatoon Catholic now responsible for transporting students in the Martensville attendance area who wish to access Catholic education.

An open house on Tuesday, June 15 at Sister O'Brien elementary school allowed Martensville parents to learn more about school programs and transportation.

## Board sets new priorities and goals

This spring, school board trustees attended their annual faith formation and planning retreat at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. Trustees reviewed their priorities and goals to determine the Board's direction for its new term in office, in light of the 2009 municipal election in which all board members were re-elected. After discernment and discussion, trustees decided to readopt the current priorities, creating new goals where necessary. The 2009-2012 goals follow, with new goals noted.

### Rooted in Faith

**Priority:** Celebrating Catholic Identity  
**Goals:**

- To nurture an awareness and understanding of Gospel values, with a focus on faith formation for staff and students while supporting each individual's faith journey.
- *To advocate for Catholic Education. (new)*

*continued on page 2*

## Growing in Knowledge

**Priority:** Improving Student Learning and Achievement

**Goals:**

- To support transitions for all students, from early learning through to high school graduation.
- To commit to increasing health and wellness of all students.
- To improve academic achievement, with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy.
- *To ensure First Nations and Métis students are successful in their program of studies. (new)*

## Reaching Out to Transform the World

**Priority:** Building Relationships and Partnerships

**Goals:**

- To continue to develop relationships with parents, through Catholic School Community Councils; and the church, through the Diocese, Eparchy and parishes.
  - To nurture formal partnerships with First Nations and Métis groups, so these relationships may contribute to improved outcomes for First Nations and Métis students.
  - To maintain our focus on academic success for New Canadians through a variety of shared initiatives.
  - *To continue to develop and enrich relationships with the broader community and all levels of government. (new)*
- Priority:** Promoting Stewardship
- Goals:**
- To nurture and develop God's people: our human resources.
  - To responsibly allocate and use financial resources and build and maintain facilities as centers of learning.
  - To teach children and youth to care for God's creation.



# “Nurture, encourage, inspire”

## Division adopts new mission statement

*“Why does Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools exist? What makes our school division unique and outstanding? How does our community transform the world?” These were the questions school board trustees asked as they set out to renew the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools mission statement.*

The previous mission statement, which had served the division well, was 17 years old. A new one was necessary to align with the school system's new vision: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World.

An advisory committee including principals, vice-principals, union representatives, teachers, board office staff and trustees began the task of asking a wide array of people what they felt was Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' reason for existence.

The board received feedback from students, staff, clergy, the Catholic Women's League,

Knights of Columbus, members of the Catholic community and the general public. Trustees spoke to local politicians, the aboriginal community and many representatives from partner organizations.

The responses were heartening and thought-provoking. “I cannot overstate the Board's sincere appreciation for everyone's thoughtful participation in the consultation,” Board Chair Diane Boyko told staff during the division's Opening Day Celebration at the start of this school year.

It was during her remarks to the nearly 2000 staff members

gathered that Boyko unveiled the new mission statement:

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place.

We love because He first loved us.

- 1 John 4:19

The verse from John is an integral part of the mission statement. Trustees felt strongly that as a Catholic school division, the statement should include scripture.

## Food for thought: Nutrition policy encourages healthy choices

*Children in our schools are taught how to eat healthy, but do our schools support those lessons once class is over? Knowing that good nutrition affects a child's growth and development and how well they do in school, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools moved to develop a nutrition policy.*

The division-wide policy, approved by trustees earlier this year, encompasses all foods and beverages served or sold to students every day at school and at all school-sponsored events.

The policy describes foods that should be “served most often” including vegetables and fruit, whole grain products, and foods low in salt, sugar and caffeine. Foods that are less

healthy fall into the “serve least often” category.

Vending machines are not allowed to sell regular or diet soft drinks, milks and water with flavours or sweeteners, sweetened juices, fruit drinks with less than 100 per cent juice or sports drinks.

Schools are asked to allow

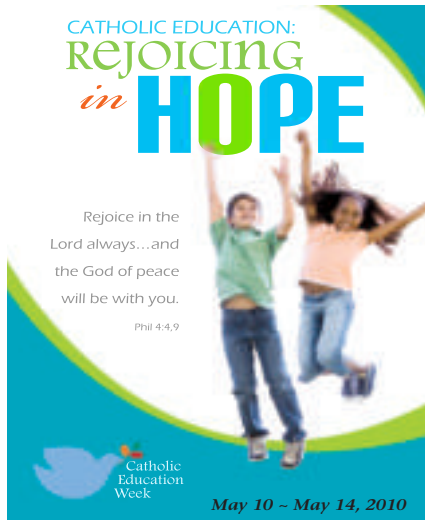


students to bring water into classrooms, to encourage water consumption.

Because energy drinks are high in caffeine, sugar and additives they raise concerns about their effect on students' behaviour and health. As a result, these drinks are not allowed on school property.

# Rejoicing in Hope!

*World Catholic Education Week was celebrated in our schools from May 10 to May 14. Our theme was Rejoicing in Hope – hope in our hearts, homes, parishes and the world.*



On Thursday, May 15 at 9:15 a.m. each school and workplace in the division was encouraged to celebrate a special World Catholic Education Day liturgy. During the festivities, we gave thanks for the gift of Catholic education and the difference it makes in our communities and province. New for this year were special World Catholic Education Day radio commercials and interviews on the C95, Rock 102, Hot 93, CJWW and Magic 98 stations to let the wider community know about our celebration!

## School construction update

There are three significant building projects under way within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.



### Humboldt Collegiate

**Institute (HCI)** – Construction crews began work on this project in January. It will be attached to the Humboldt Uniplex, which has an ice arena, swimming pool and curling rink. A project kickoff in March at the Uniplex included all HCI students, Board Chair Diane Boyko, Horizon School Division Chair Eldon Van Den Bossche, Mayor Malcolm Eaton and Minister of Education Ken Krawetz. Wet spring weather has not caused a significant delay in the project; the school is scheduled to open in fall 2011.

**St. Mary Community School** – Trustees recently approved the final

design for the new St. Mary Community School. These plans have been sent to the Ministry of Education for final approval. After that occurs, the division will call for tenders on construction

of the school. Plans presented to the Board show a school that's organized around a large, central gymnasium and supporting community spaces "which become the heart of the school, and the gathering place for the community for physical, social and spiritual growth."

### E.D. Feehan Catholic High School

– Renovations are continuing at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School. At this time, this includes a new 50-space daycare and renovation to accommodate programming for students who previously attended Sion Catholic Middle School.

**To learn more about our division's work please see our 2008-2009 Continuous Improvement Framework Report available online at [www.gscs.sk.ca](http://www.gscs.sk.ca) It includes our students' results in provincewide assessments in mathematics, reading and writing.**



## Year in Review

The work undertaken by the Board of Education during each school year includes a range of activities that extends far beyond monthly Board meetings.

### Public consultations/meetings

- Humboldt Collegiate Institute (October 2009)
- Sister O'Brien (January and March 2010)
  - St. Matthew (April 2010) • Willowgrove (November 2009 & May 2010) • Georges Vanier (November 2010)
  - Sion Catholic Middle School (March 2010)

### Liaison meetings

- Saskatoon City Council • Minister of Education
- Saskatchewan Party MLAs • New Democratic Party MLAs • Saskatoon Public Schools • Saskatoon Teachers' Association • Bishop Don Bolen and Bishop Bryan Bayda

### Governance

- 14 Regular Board meetings • Eight planning meetings • Faith formation and planning retreat
- Liaison with Catholic school community councils
- Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association – convention, seminar and executive meetings
- Saskatchewan School Boards Association – AGM, fall assembly, spring seminar, regional meetings, members' council, President's Academy

### Support of school events

- School-based liturgies • Award ceremonies
- Graduations • World Catholic Education Week
  - Plays, musicals, band concerts • Anniversaries
  - Pancake breakfasts • Christmas dinners • Sports events • Pow wows • Carol festivals • High school Evening of Song • Education Week

### Division events

- Memorial Mass • New teacher orientation
- Retirement reception • Opening Celebration
  - Long-service awards

# Enhancing success for all

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has signed separate partnership agreements with Saskatoon Tribal Council Inc. (STC) and Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI), making official two existing partnerships that have seen the school division work with both groups to enhance the success of First Nations and Métis students.

The official name of the partnerships is māmawohkamātowin, a Cree word meaning co-operation. It was selected by Elders from the school division, STC and CUMFI.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has worked with STC and with CUMFI since spring 2007. Goals include enhancing achievement of First Nations and Métis students and raising awareness of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture within the division.



## Trustee honoured with Award of Distinction

Alice Risling, a Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools trustee for 15 years, was presented with the Saskatchewan School Board's Association Award of Distinction. The award recognizes a trustee who has demonstrated outstanding service and made a significant contribution to enhance education locally and or provincially. Trustee Risling serves on the Board's Catholic Faith Committee and has also been a member of the Aboriginal Partnerships Committee. She is also a nine-year member of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation board. An effective trustee, Alice attends a broad range of school-based events including many academic award ceremonies, graduations, farewells, school assemblies, liturgical celebrations, student leadership conferences, pow wows, feasts and school anniversaries to name but a few. In doing so she affirms both students and staff.



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If you have questions or comments, here's how to contact your Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Trustees.

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## Programming Highlights

The Board of Education votes on various changes to programming for students in the school division. Here are the 2009-2010 highlights.

The **St. Frances Cree Bilingual Program** is currently available in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2. Trustees voted to add Grade 3 for Fall 2010 and to make the school's English and Cree kindergartens full-day, every day programs.

School division administration has examined the programming at **Sion Catholic Middle School** and determined programming for Sion students can now be provided at three new sites. Trustees passed a motion to close Sion Catholic Middle School as of June 30, 2010. Staff will be redeployed.

**EcoJustice** is comprised of a Grade 8 classroom at St. Edward School. It immerses students in a learning experience that explores issues of social justice through an environmental lens. Trustees voted to continue the program for 2010-2011.

After consulting with the **Sister O'Brien** school community and administration, trustees voted to maintain the English program at Sister O'Brien, giving the school and its parent community an opportunity to build its enrolment. It is also home to a French Immersion program.

Trustees approved Grade 6 Intensive French programs at **St. Dominic** elementary school (Humboldt), **St. Augustine** elementary school (Humboldt) and **Father Robinson** elementary school in Saskatoon.