



Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Media Advisory

St. Mark School celebrates World Refugee Day in partnership with Saskatoon's Open Door Society

SASKATOON – What better place to celebrate World Refugee Day than at a school that has students hailing from all corners of the globe? The world map just inside the front doors of St. Mark Elementary School shows that students come from 17 different countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Burma and Sierra Leone.

On **Tuesday, June 20 at 10 a.m.** the students at **St. Mark (414 Pendency Road)** will commemorate World Refugee Day with their friends from Saskatoon's Open Door Society, which is marking its 25th anniversary this year. The Open Door Society is a non-profit organization that has provided services to refugees and immigrants since 1981.

The event will begin with greetings from Deputy Mayor Owen Fortosky, Saskatoon Fairview MLA Andy Iwanchuk, and Bertha Gana, executive director of the Open Door Society. Students from St. Mark will unveil the school's Peace Pole, which is inscribed with peace messages in eight different languages. The St. Mark's School African Dance Troupe will then perform.

Media are invited to attend Tuesday's events outdoors near St. Mark's front entrance. If the weather is inclement, proceedings will move indoors.

St. Mark is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 community school in the Fairhaven neighbourhood. Of the approximately 325 students at the school, nearly 80 are in the school's English as a Second Language program or are graduates of it.

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