



St. Boniface Diocesan High School Newsletter

October 2020

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Principal's Message

Dear SBDHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! Mother Nature was very good to us over the Summer in light of a pandemic. It was quite a full summer for Administrators and the folks at the Department of Education. As you are aware, we had many days of planning, then changing our plans, adjusting up to the days of the school opening; we are still undergoing changes but keeping in mind that "We are All in this Together." As we know winter is around the corner so get those parkas and toques out. As you are aware, we have had to cancel many of the events at our school to stay within the guidelines of public health and the Province of Manitoba.

In general, it has been very nice to have our students back in the building. The students seem happy to be here even though things are far from normal. Everyone has been so cooperative and are following the rules, but we still ask parents to remind their son(s)/daughter(s) to be diligent as we know a lot of us are experiencing COVID fatigue. We want to continue to stay healthy and reduce the risk of transmission in our school's community.

One thing I want to note what I have not only experienced but observed is our students and in essence the world had a chance to pause in the daily hustle of their lives and learn to embrace what some of us take for granted, family time. I know there were a lot of hardships and struggles but if we can look to the light in all of this, we can appreciate that life was getting busy and slowing down brought each other closer together; this makes me feel a little better in a time of a pandemic. During this pandemic, we are reminded to "be kind". We need to have patience and empathy for those who are struggling. We need to provide compassion and offer our support for those who need it. We are all in this together and together we will get through this.

Please continue to keep our community in your prayers as we will keep everyone in ours.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Ms. J. Siska

General Information

Board of Directors

Mr. Larry Wandowich, Board Chair
Next meeting: October 22, 2020

Notes on Safety

A portion of Dubuc (near the gym entrance) is marked as a **Wheelchair Loading Zone**. To ensure easier entry/exit for students and visitors with limited mobility, please note and respect the listed restrictions.

SBDHS Website: www.sbdhs.net

2020-21 school calendar, newsletters, photos, alumni connections, student accomplishments and more!

School and Office Hours - Please check website regularly as these times may change due to pandemic.

School Opens 7:30 am-4:00 pm

School Office 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Student pick up: no later than 4:00 pm

7:55 am – 8:10 am

Front Doors: Grade 9

Accessibility Doors: Grade 10

8:10 am – to 8:25 am

Front Doors: Grade 11

Accessibility Doors: Grade 12

3:00 pm Dismissal

Grade 11: Front Doors

Grade 12: Accessibility Doors

3:13 pm Dismissal

Grade 9: Front Doors

Grade 10: Accessibility Doors

Please remind students that they are to exit the same doors they enter through and that they are to leave the school immediately and not to remain inside the school or outside.

Retreats, Assemblies and Masses

Will be cancelled until further notice. Masses will be held virtually and in TA.

Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 2020

October 6 Staff Meeting - EARLY DISMISSAL 2:15 PM

October 7 Thanksgiving Mass - 2:00 pm (Compressed B Schedule)

October 12 Thanksgiving – NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2020

November 3 Staff Meeting - EARLY DISMISSAL 2:15 PM
November 6 Photo Re-take Day (AM)
November 11 Remembrance Day – NO SCHOOL
November 16 ADMIN DAY – NO CLASSES
November 25 Report Cards Distributed
November 30 Grad Photos

DECEMBER 2020

December 1 Grad Photos (AM); Staff Meeting – EARLY DISMISSAL 2:15 PM
December 2 Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm
December 3 Advent Mass – 2:00 pm (Compressed C Schedule)
December 8 Reconciliation
December 9 Creative Arts Showcase – 7:00 pm (TBD)
December 17 Last Day of Classes
December 18 PD Day – No School
December 21-January 1 Christmas Break

Counsellor's Corner

With September behind us, students seem to have settled into their courses and cohorts and, have established regular routines. I had the opportunity to meet with each grade 9 student one-one-one for a check-in. In our meeting, I explained my role as the Guidance Counsellor and got to know a little bit about each one. We also talked about earning credits, their course load, how they are handling remote learning, and friendship connections. They were able to share with me any concerns or questions they had about the school. I welcomed them and let them know that my door is always open for them to come see me. We want students to feel safe and comfortable here and, if they don't, to tell a trusted adult.

I am now meeting with grade 12 students one-on-one to review their credit status and find out about their future plans. I am encouraging them to view online presentations for the post-secondary institutions they are interested in attending. For most institutions, applications need to be made by March 1 to ensure timely processing. Also, my monthly "Information for Grads" is sent to grads and their parents which contains important information about upcoming events. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that they have the correct admission information and pre-requisites for their intended post-secondary programming.

Campus Ministry

Liturgical Life

School masses will look quite a bit different this year. Because our numbers are too great to celebrate together as a student body, students will be watching each mass together, either in their TA's or from home (if they have a remote learning day). Rest assured that our clergy are still celebrating these specific liturgies for us. We definitely look forward to the day when we can all gather at Holy Cross Parish together again!

Opening Mass was scheduled for Tuesday, September 23 with Cohort B, however due to unforeseen technical issues, we weren't able to view it in school. Instead we were able to watch it together on Friday, September 25 with Cohort A, while Cohort B watched from home. During this service Fr. Phil blessed our SBDHS cross pendants that will be given out to the Grade 9's, new students and new staff members. He also offered a special blessing on all of the SBDHS staff.

Our Thanksgiving Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 with Fr. Vincent Lusty, with Cohort A.

Grade Level Retreats

With a heavy heart, SBDHS has cancelled all Grade Level Retreats from September and October. Campus Ministry will be working with the Religion Department to offer some fun and engaging activities during Religion classes this year.

Campus Ministry

In a time when many things are being postponed or cancelled, it's exciting to say that Campus Ministry is still on! We made it through the lockdown this past spring and in fact, experienced many blessings! We had a prayer group that met every week. We had special guest speakers during our Campus Ministry Meetings. Our Zoom format gave us uninterrupted time to chat and share what was going on in our lives (so different from the busy and loud lunch time meetings we were used to!). We even had some online movie nights!

Many students have already joined the team for this school year and everyone is always welcome. We will officially begin meeting after our Thanksgiving Mass when the team is commissioned. Looking forward to a wonderful year with all of you!

Athletics

Our Physical Education students have been very busy spending most of their gym time outside enjoying the warm weather. We are presently using minimal equipment, but all of the students have been working very hard on long walks/runs, and doing a variety of exercises outside.

We want everyone to be active and have fun doing it, as we hope to see a return to some sporting activity when it is determined to be safe. The one sport that did happen was our Zone 12 Golf Tournament at Windsor Park on Thursday, September 17th. With over 60 student-athletes participating, it was the largest tournament in over a decade. Our team of Rayna P., Jenna T. and Myles B. showed off some great skill and had a very successful day!

If you are interested in doing some of our workouts please check out my [website](#) for some daily scary October workouts you can do easily from home!

Mr. Brad Scott
Athletic Director

Arts' Department

Cohort A students in Ms. Walker's Art 35/45 class took time on Wednesday morning to create beautiful murals outside the front and back doors of the school in commemoration of Orange Shirt Day!



Graduation Committee

Welcome back!

While this year may look very different from those in the past, the grad committee is already hard at work planning our convocation and dinner and dance for June 2021. We recently held our town hall information meeting on September 23rd. Thank you to all of the parents who attended. For those who were unable to attend, information on finances and a schedule of events for June 2021 are available on the school website. As we will be unable to do our weekly pizza sales this year, we are looking at holding up to three fundraisers during the year to help offset the cost of graduation for each student. We have received a few ideas already and would definitely welcome more. Please email Mr. Lisowski at dlisowski@sbdhs.net or Mr. Richardson at grichardson@sbdhs.net if you have any questions or fundraising ideas.

Sincerely,
SBDHS Grad Committee

Student Government

2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the **Terry Fox Run**. This year, SBDHS participated in a very different way. We asked students the question 'What's your 40?' Students were encouraged to get creative and participate by completing 40 minutes of exercise - running, biking, 40 squats, etc. We were able to have fun with the event and keep active! We also raised funds to support the Terry Fox Foundation during TA. Well done!

On September 30, 2020, the school gathered as a community to commemorate **Orange Shirt Day**, a day to recognize the lasting impact of the residential school system in Canada and its survivors. Students participated in the online presentation "Every Child Matters: Reconciliation Through Education" from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and had the opportunity to have open discussions and recognition of this part of Canadian history. We thank everyone who participated in this very important event, and we look forward to continuing our education in the reconciliation of Canada.



Parents' Guild

We hope everyone has had a restful summer, as we all embrace the “new normal” brought forth by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We held our wine draw raffle on October 1 and the lucky winners were drawn and contacted. Congratulations to all our winners!

Our Parents' Guild held the first meeting of the 2020-21 school year in the form of a Town Hall on September 14 via Zoom. This was the first of many virtual meetings we will be holding this year, and we are very thankful to everyone who joined us to get things started for the new school year. We welcome Jacquelyn K. who has stepped forward to take an Executive position on the Guild and thank Kathy R. and Terri A. for their past service.

We are very excited to announce the start of our Fundraising Campaign to replace/upgrade the computers in our school's Computer Labs and Library in three phases. We are also going to be purchasing Chrome Books with a charge cart which teachers will be able to sign out for their respective classes to help eliminate scheduling conflicts for our computer labs.

Keep an eye on your email inbox in November, we will be providing you with information for our first fundraiser with Lacoste Garden Centre.

If you were not able to join us for our previous meetings, please join us for our next meeting which will take place via Zoom on Monday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to be involved with volunteering or be an active member of our Parents' Guild, please email us at parentsguild@sbdhs.net, as we would love to have your input & helping hands this school year!

On behalf of the SBDHS Parents' Guild we wish you a safe and healthy school year.

Thank you!

St. Boniface Diocesan High School | 282 Dubuc Street | Wpg, MB | R2H
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