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February 3, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In the next few weeks, you will receive a School Accountability Survey in the mail from Alberta Education and a satisfaction survey from Red Deer Catholic. These questionnaires allow you to give feedback on the progress of our school and the school division in general. The Accountability survey uses a set of indicators and the data on these indicators is made up of the responses from surveys completed by our students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality and student outcomes. As a school we use the results from this survey to help guide programs in the school, address school needs and celebrate the great things we have accomplished.

Please be aware that an “I don’t know” response translates into a negative result (dissatisfied) for the school. If you are unsure of a question on the survey, please do not hesitate to call us at the school and we will do our best to answer your question so that we can help you avoid feeling like you need to select the “I don’t know” response. If you do not feel comfortable answering a question or if the question is not applicable, you may also leave the question blank or choose the “N/A” option provided. The more accurate the data we receive, the clearer our school plan will be for the 2023-2024 school year.

Attached to this letter you will find our Annual Results Report that highlights our successes as well as our future priorities. As you will see from the report, we have much to be proud of. Additionally, on page three and four of this handout, we have provided you with a list that highlights some of the amazing things that our staff and students have already done or will be doing at some point this school year. While we have not highlighted all of the activities that take place at STA on a daily basis, we have compiled this information to help you answer the survey questions. Thank-you in advance for taking the time to respond fairly so that we can celebrate our successes and continue to identify future priorities.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Stang
Principal

Mike Kelly
Vice-Principal

Kristie McCullough
Vice-Principal

We are committed to creating a Safe and Caring School and to teaching our students to be Good Citizens.

- 91% of students, parents and teachers report that our school is Safe and Caring according to 2021-2022 AEA survey results.
- 92% of students feel welcome at St. Thomas when they enter the school in the morning according to the June 2022 school-created Safe, Caring and Welcoming student survey.
- Continued school wide focus on the Circle of Courage values of Belonging, Mastery, Generosity and Independence. Student recognition awards are offered weekly and monthly to encourage student connectedness to our community and to promote positive mental health. End of term pizza lunches and celebrations are organized to honor students.
- Based on student data from the June 2022 school-created Safe, Caring and Welcoming student survey, staff have collaborated and identified possible solutions to address the areas of need gathered from the results of the survey. Solutions included: bathroom refresh with inspirational and welcoming signage, bi-monthly school wide spirit assemblies, hat Friday's, cultural heritage displays, kindness week in February, and the installation of hallway cameras to decrease the incidence of vandalism and graffiti.
- Teachers focus on permeating their daily lessons with their Catholic faith as they continue to explore Community as a key characteristic of Catholic Identity.
- School participation in National Truth and Reconciliation Day to help students develop an awareness of the impact residential schools had on Indigenous communities and on our country as a whole. Class participation in presentations focused on reconciliation were designed to promote a culture of understanding related to First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture. Indigenous option classes and Indigenous focused Mindset Monday presentations are developed and offered to students.
- Multiple class presentations offered by our counselling team and community partners focus on the appropriate use of social media, bullying awareness and the development of resiliency, positive mental health and positive relationships.
- New student lunch and our annual week of welcome was hosted in September to welcome new students to our community.
- Student and staff participation in our Giving Tree, Gifts for Grandparents, and various other social justice projects at Christmas time that were focused on helping others within our community. Students also collected and donated food to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Charity at Thanksgiving.
- School wide participation in the "Bell, Let's Talk" Hockey/Ringette fundraiser, Pink Shirt Day and Mental Health Awareness Week initiatives.
- Students in each grade level participate in a school-wide focus on completing social justice projects to benefit our community. Students are taught that "small consistent actions" can make a positive difference in our communities.
- Students raised over \$600 in support of our "Bell Let's Talk" mental health initiative.
- Staff will volunteer their time at the Red Deer Food Bank, Mustard Seed, Family Services of Central Alberta and Catholic Social Services.
- Student leadership theme days (Christmas / Term Turnaround / Canada Day) designed to promote school spirit and pride.
- STA gear designed and sold to students and staff to promote school spirit and pride.
- We recognize students in grades 6-9 for successfully achieving academic success (Honour Roll, 5% Club).
- We applied for and received a Nutrition Grant to provide quick breakfast options for students in the morning.

We are committed to delivering a high Quality Education to all students by offering diverse Programs and by preparing our students for the world of work.

- Continue to promote student success across all subject areas. We accomplish this by:
 - Aligning our instruction with our Google classroom / Schoology platforms and making regular use of engaging tech tools (Google slides, presentations, forms, meets, and the use of student Chromebooks).
 - Develop engaging lessons and high quality assessment items that support student learning.
- School wide cell phone policy was created and implemented.

- Academic assistance offered through Teacher Tutorials, Inclusive Lead Teachers and Educational Assistants.
- Expanding our staff's ability to "Know their Learners" by collaborating with their professional colleagues to complete class profiles to identify areas of focus for future teaching.
- Grade level support teachers offer intensive reading intervention to support students in grades 6 and 7 who can benefit from additional reading intervention.
- Grade level support teachers offer intensive intervention to support English Language Learners.
- Inclusive lead teachers offer Stressbusters option classes to students in grades 8 and 9 who can benefit from additional grade level academic support.
- Numeracy and Literacy teachers in grade 6-9 consistently collaborate to identify High Leverage Learning Outcomes that require their attention. Teachers are currently developing Numeracy and Literacy guides to align their instruction and to support student learning.
- Numeracy and Literacy teachers collaborate to analyze our Provincial Achievement Test results in an effort to celebrate student success and to identify future priorities aimed at improving student learning.
- Our teachers offer a variety of engaging exploratory option choices. A few of our available options include Design Studies, Digital Media, Art, Drama, Photography, Programming Technology, Woodshop, Foods, Leadership, Design Studies, Band and Ball Academy.
- We offer a successful middle school online learning program.
- We offer a full range of extra-curricular activities and are proud of our Saints Athletics programs. Junior and Senior volleyball, basketball, handball, badminton, track/field and ski club programming continue to engage our athletes.
- We offer a wide variety of physical education activities through all students participating in physical education four times per week. Unique activities include skating, broomball, dance, cross country skiing and access to Indigenous games.
- Teachers, counselors and administrators collaborate to support our students through career exploration, work preparation, and successful transition to all high school programs.

Parents, we appreciate all that you do to support us with your child's education.

- Thank you to our parent community for supporting social justice initiatives such as the Christmas GivingTree, Gifts for Grandparents, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Bell Let's Talk Hockey/Ringette Fundraiser and the Terry Fox Fundraiser.
- Thank you to the parents who have graciously stepped forward to be a part of our School Council. These parents make decisions on behalf of our parent population in an effort to support initiatives such as student field trips, staff recognition, grade 9 farewell and other student centered initiatives.
- Thank you to all parents who attended our parent teacher conferences. Advocating for your child and being actively involved in their education through communication with their teachers is one of the most important things you can do to prepare your child for the future.
- Thank you to all parents who stay digitally involved in their child's education by accessing the daily and weekly updates provided through PowerSchool / Schoology and through our schools various social media platforms as we celebrate student successes, participation and school wide events (S'more - Week at a Glance, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, School Website).
- Thank you to all parents for supporting your child with all of their extra-curricular activities and Saints athletics. Your unwavering support helps to enrich your child's middle school experience.
- Thank you to all parents for supporting your child with their academic, social, emotional and spiritual development.