

Excellence in Education Under the Gospel

Good afternoon,

Thank you again for the support of our community members during this time.

It was just announced this morning by Premier Brian Pallister in a media conference that licensed childcare centres will close after Friday. To our community, this means that our Birchdale Daycare & Nursery programs along with our St. Mary's Daycare & Nursery programs will be closed as of Monday, March 23. The Before and After School program along with our Inservice care will also be closed as of Monday, March 23. Spring Break camp is cancelled.

School classes in our building has been suspended as of Monday, March 23. Online remote learning will begin. Teachers have reviewed procedures students who were in attendance this week and will also be sending information home by email. The remote learning experience will be a new, exciting opportunity. The teachers have prepared lessons, activities and projects for students to complete at home. Parents will need to supervise and work with children, but the curriculum will be covered by the material teachers are preparing students to do. Take it day by day. Teachers are available for communication and support. Do what works for you and your family.

During the suspended class time, it is suggested to try to maintain some sort of schedule. Clearly it is a different schedule, but routine can help children feel organized, stable, and comforted. Kids only need 'kid' information.

All Manitobans are encouraged to practice social distancing. Please minimize prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close (less than two metres) contact between other individuals in public.

The school and childcare programs will continue to practice healthy practices:

- regular and frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds
- coughing/sneezing into a tissue or arm
- cleaning and disinfecting frequently used surfaces
- increased spacing between children and students
- student and children who are unwell, will be sent home
- encourage parents to only touch their own children at pick up

Please continue to monitor Manitoba's Public Health website at <u>https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html</u> Recommendations are changing quickly so please check regularly.

The expected suspension of services for both the school and the childcare is currently for three weeks. Our programs would reopen on Tuesday, April 14 (After Easter Monday). We will update our BSLS families as we receive information if this were to change.

Mrs. McCrea