



# GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007

[www.gscs.sk.ca/foundation](http://www.gscs.sk.ca/foundation)

## Foundation Name Aligned with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

The Board of Directors of Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation voted unanimously to change its name to Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation. This reaffirms the Foundation's commitment to provide ongoing support for initiatives leading to spiritual growth, educational excellence and enhanced learning opportunities for the community now represented by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Total disbursements benefiting Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools since 1995 have exceeded \$2,000,000.00. This includes raffle proceeds, grants, donor directed, flow through grants and in-kind gifts to schools. The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation sincerely appreciates the generosity of all donors in helping us support the educational needs of our young people.



Guided by artist Elizabeth Yonza, Bishop Pocock students created this mural that greets all who enter the school.

## FOUNDATION GRANTS...

### support a variety of school-based initiatives

On November 23, 2006, the Board of Directors of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation reviewed 44 grant applications seeking support for a variety of student and staff initiatives. The majority of grant applications were directed towards enhancing the faith development of our young people.

Providing students with the opportunity to participate in a retreat is not only meaningful and life-giving but also challenges them to make their world a better place. Students learned about discipleship through presentations and reflecting on Jesus' life and times. Students focused on their own faith journeys through prayer, reflection and hearing personal faith stories from religious and lay speakers. Especially effective was the opportunity to interact with high school-aged students who shared their faith through songs, games, activities, dance and testimonials.

Creating a visual presence and dedicating a specific place for prayer emphasizes the importance of faith in our daily life. Wall-sized murals and prayer corners are constant and consistent reminders of our relationship with God and our responsibility to live as Jesus lived. Prayer books, prayer cards and rosaries enhance each person's involvement in their faith development.

Many students have had the opportunity to participate in activities, workshops and tours that have brought Byzantine Rite theology,

symbolism and rituals to life. Latin Rite as well as Byzantine Rite students benefit from an in depth, hands on experience to fully appreciate the diverse facets of our Catholic heritage.



Above and Below: 81 high school students from Lloydminster Catholic School Division shared their faith with and inspired the Fr. Robinson School students through their highly energetic, interactive presentation of "Ignite the Fire".



These students are proud of their icons.



Students from St. Angela School are working on their icons.

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A prayer corner at St. Maria Goretti Community School.

St. Bernard and St. Philip schools published their own prayer books. The "Communion of Saints" provides specific information about the lives of the saints honored in the "Wall of Saints" at Bishop James Mahoney High School.



## SafeSHIP - SCHOOL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SafeSHIP (School Health Improvement Project) is a strategic, committed partnership between the U of S College of Nursing, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, St. Luke and Pope John Paul II schools and their principals, teachers, staff, students and families and members of the surrounding communities. Under the direction and guidance of Patricia King, RN MN, SafeSHIP provides comprehensive, coordinated services that improve social support to families and improve student well being. These include policy development, media production, advocacy and health education. Policy development has been done on codes of conduct, peanut allergies and playground safety. Media production is used to raise students' and families' awareness in health related areas. SafeSHIP works with students individually and in groups to advocate for their health concerns to help them and their families accumulate knowledge, organize information in a meaningful way, develop new attitudes and beliefs, practice new skills and initiate new health behaviors. St Luke School has embraced SafeSHIP since 2002 with Pope John Paul II School added to the program in September 2006.

In this past year the St. Luke partnership has continued to facilitate a focus group for grades 7 & 8 girls called the "ya ya sisterhood". This group, active since 2002, has taken on a larger community development project that involves fostering social activism, leadership and stewardship skills in our young women. The young women are compiling a book of art, poems, stories, prayer or scriptures that they feel shows their personal growth and

development. This book, called "*Celebrate Changes: Girls' Voices Matter*", will be available in October 2007 through SafeSHIP

or McNally Robinson Booksellers. All proceeds will be donated to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.



Ya Ya Sisterhood are busy making book markers for sale.

## TWO BY TWO...NOAH'S ARK COMES TO LIFE

Through the Fine Arts Program at Georges Vanier Catholic School and with support from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation, the Grades 5-7 students were challenged to consider the story of Noah's Ark from a logistical standpoint and to discern the symbolism and faith message within. The logistics of collecting all the animals and all aspects of caring for them – for 6 months – resulted in lively discussion and task analysis.

Students enjoyed the application of mathematical and scientific skills and knowledge while studying art and religion. The Noah's Ark Project, prepared, taught and coordinated by Monique Martin, included the study of working with clay based on the art of Charlotte Poulsen and then creating a pair of clay animals. A highlight of this lesson was an exhibition of these clay animals at Centre Galleries at the Centre

Mall. Three pieces were also chosen for the student exhibition at the Mendel Art Gallery.

Teachers may access the lesson plans for this unit on the Georges Vanier website <http://www.scs.sk.ca/van/Art%20Lessons%20for%20Teachers.html> or go to [www.moniqueart.com](http://www.moniqueart.com).



These lions were made by Grade 7 student Mason Fehr.

# STRAW BALE HOUSE TAKES SHAPE

The Ed & May Scissons Environmental Centre was the scene of intense activity this spring as a straw bale house came into being. A grant from Saskatchewan Learning, through the Indian And Métis Education Development Program, provided integral support to this building project. The goal of this project was to engage students in the total process from collaborating on the design to the actual construction and decorating of the house. By having students participate in all phases of the project, they would develop the accompanying skills and improve their economic, social and personal lives. The resulting straw bale house would serve as a model of sustainable environmentally-friendly construction. It would also be a community resource as a classroom and as a gathering place for Elders and Native Studies and Cree language teachers.

This project has been guided by Mark Bigland-Pritchard from Low Energy Design and Johnny Marciniuk, Coordinator of Physical Education/Health/Environmental Education. Students from Mother Teresa School, St. John School, Sion Catholic Middle School, Opening Doors Program, Oskāyak High School and White Buffalo Youth Lodge have all had a hand in the construction. It will be completed in the fall.



# “ASPIRING CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP” WINS AWARD

The “Aspiring Catholic Leadership” Program was awarded the Training For Excellence Award in the Succession Planning category by the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission at their June awards ceremony. Al Boutin, Superintendent of Human Resource Services of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, developed and facilitated this program to address the importance of succession planning, of developing exemplary leadership and of providing our students with the highest quality in leadership. The “Aspiring Catholic Leadership” Program is also a testament to the school division’s emphasis on supporting and encouraging the leadership potential of current staff. The program consists of seven three-hour sessions which were offered on Saturday morning or weekday evening times. Several current leaders from the division

shared their experiences and expertise in Catholic Leadership with this group. A multi day workshop completed this interactive program. The themes focused on the Catholic leader as relating to mandate, accountability, vision, direction, balance and successful community partnering.

43 individuals participated in the program. Current in-school administrators were also invited to participate in individual sessions. Resources for the program were supported through a grant from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation.



Photo Courtesy Devine Images

Back Row: Mark Hanley, Tanya Wick (sponsor SaskPower), Sheila Hanlan-Stroh, Roy Sondershausen, Diane Boyko, Cindy Coffin, Gord Hunter  
Front Row: Diane Cote, Al Boutin, Ev Safrontez

# SUPPORTING FAMILIES, CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

The fourteen year partnership between Columbus Bosco Homes and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has focused on supporting families through two school based initiatives.

The **Farm School Program** provides an individualized approach to assist troubled adolescents to change academically, socially and behaviorally so that a return to a regular high school becomes a reality. In addition to the academics, students participate in a limited Practical Arts program, drug education, ongoing counselling and work

experience involving animal care, gardening and maintenance.

Through the **Family Support Program** parents are encouraged and supported as their child's first teacher. 'Parent Talk' aims to improve parenting skills. An emphasis on learning through family literacy, play and other activities is integral to this program for parents and children from birth to age 5. There is no cost for this program currently being offered in 13 centres in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.



*Family Support program focuses on a parent-child interactive approach.*



*Farm School provides a unique setting for experiential learning and behavior change.*

## CHECK US OUT!

**The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation website has a fresh, new, more informative look. Regular updates ensure that information is current. Browse our website for information about our programs, fundraising events, planned giving, scholarships administered by the Foundation, and photo gallery. Check us out at**

**[www.gscs.sk.ca/foundation](http://www.gscs.sk.ca/foundation)**

## Upcoming Events!

- **November 2, 2007**  
"Share The Spirit" Gala Dinner and Silent Auction  
Sheraton Cavalier
- **November 22, 2007**  
"Schools Win Twice" Raffle Draw  
St. George School
- **May 1, 2008**  
"Swing Into Spring"  
Fashion Show and Dinner  
TCU Place

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for more information

## In Appreciation . . .



It is with regret that Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation has accepted the resignation of Rachel Adams as Office Administrator. Rachel has been a valued addition to the Foundation staff for the past 18 months. We sincerely thank you, Rachel, for all your efforts in support of the Foundation and wish you well as you take on a more active role in the family business.