



St. Paul's Catholic Schools

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Media Advisory

St. Matthew students get “The Edge” in learning to skate

SASKATOON – Thursday, March 23, 2006

Not all of the students in Mr. Douville’s Grade 4/5 class at St. Matthew School used to be thrilled with the idea of heading to the rink for ice skating during gym class. The prospect of slipping, sliding and falling just didn’t seem like that much fun.

That has changed now that the class has completed eight learn-to-skate lessons developed by Speed Skating Canada. That program, called “The Edge,” uses a speed-skating approach to teach kids how to be comfortable on the ice, an important life-long skill that will help them remain physically active for years to come.

St. Matthew is the only elementary school in Saskatoon using this program, with approximately 100 students from grades two to five participating. Coaches from the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club have helped teach the program, with assistance from classroom teachers and parent volunteers. Students have progressed from learning to stand on their skates to gliding to learning some of the basics of speed skating.

Principal Marc Emard said students have been thrilled with the results and have newfound confidence on the ice. “A lot of students are keen about skating because now they know how,” he said.

Media are invited to see the students take their final lesson on **Friday, March 24 at 10:45 a.m. at the Lions Arena (2205 McEown Avenue)**. During the 45-minute session students will have some fun by participating in races and games on the ice.

St. Matthew is a French Immersion school in Saskatoon’s Brevoort Park neighbourhood. It has 390 students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. It is part of the St. Paul’s Catholic Schools division, which has 44 schools and approximately 15,500 students in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. The mission of our school division is to assist parents and the local Church community in the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit.

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For more information, please contact:

Donella Hoffman
Communications Consultant
St. Paul's Catholic Schools
Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar, Viscount
Telephone: 306-659-7077
Cell: 229-3743