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Dear Parents/Guardians:

"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand."
[Isaiah 41:10](#)

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, a time to reflect and give thanks to all we have. Although times still are uncertain, we have much to be grateful for. Schools have opened and are doing well. We hear from many students they are happy to be back at school and how appreciative they are of the staff doing all they can to make school safe.

In this letter, we would like to focus on a number of items. We would like to share some questions we have received from parents and students and respond to them in a Q/A format. We would also like to share recent COVID-19 updates as they relate to risk mitigation and finally, end off with our school report card provided by Alberta Education.

Questions/Answers

Q	Will there be parent teacher interviews this semester and what will be the format?
A	Parent teacher interviews are scheduled for November 9 and 10. This year, they will be either over the phone or via Google Meet. Families will need a Google Email Address to sign up. (Note: all RDCRS students have one)The school will send out detailed information regarding how to sign up on Monday November 2.
Q	I hear some extra-curricular activities are occurring...is this correct?
A	Yes. We are excited to have some sports started (Volleyball/Golf) as well we have begun working on our annual theatrical performance as well as Yearbook Club, Grad Committee and Youth Ministry have started.
Q	I heard the November Diplomas have been cancelled...is this also true for January and June?
A	The ministry said the exams will be optional for students this November. No decision has been made yet on whether diploma exams will be mandatory or optional for the upcoming terms. We will keep you posted as we hear more.

COVID-19 Update

As we have recently seen in the news in Central Alberta, COVID-19 cases have begun to creep up. Many schools in our region are working through confirmed cases within their student body. Schools have worked hard to mitigate the risk and it is now more important than ever that we follow the advice of AHS.

Please ensure that you are sanitizing or washing your hands as you enter/exit the school and frequently throughout the day. As well, please follow the directional arrows in our hallways. We also wanted to provide information to our students about Alberta Health Services guidelines around cohort groups. A COVID-19 cohort – also known as bubbles, circles, or safe squads – are small groups of the same people who can interact regularly without staying 2 metres apart. A person in a cohort should have little to no close contact with people outside of the cohort. Keeping the same people together, rather than mixing and mingling, helps reduce the chance of getting sick, and makes it easier to track exposure if someone does get sick. You should only belong to one core cohort. It is safest to limit the number of other cohorts you belong to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading COVID-19.

Under Stage 2 of relaunch, core cohorts can include your household and up to 15 other people you spend the most time with and are physically close to. This usually includes people part of your regular routine:

- household members
- immediate family
- closest tight-knit social circle

With this in mind, cases are spiking in youth mostly as a result of car-pooling to and from school, going out at lunch time with a large number of students in a car, sharing of beverages and attending large social gatherings.

School Report Card

This time of year we receive our formal survey results back from Alberta Education. This year again has brought good news! Alberta Education examines 12 measures and reports these back to schools. The results are obtained through surveys of grade 10 students, parents and teachers. Our Report Card is below.

Measure Category	Measure	St. Joseph High School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe and Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	92.7%	92.0%	91.1%	89.4%	89.0%	89.2%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunities	Program of Studies	88.7%	84.7%	80.9%	82.4%	82.2%	82.0%	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
	Education Quality	92.5%	91.5%	89.3%	90.3%	90.2%	90.1%	Very High	Improved	Excellent
	Drop Out Rate	0.7%	n/a	n/a	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	Very High	n/a	n/a
	High School Completion Rate (3 yr)	92.4%	*	n/a	79.7%	79.1%	78.4%	Very High	n/a	n/a
Student Learning Achievement (Grades 10-12)	Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	52.9%	*	n/a	56.4%	56.3%	55.6%	Intermediate	n/a	n/a
	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	79.2%	71.2%	71.2%	66.6%	64.8%	63.5%	Very High	n/a	n/a
Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Transition Rate (6 yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.1%	59.0%	58.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Work Preparation	84.9%	80.3%	81.9%	84.1%	83.0%	82.7%	High	Maintained	Good
	Citizenship	87.3%	84.8%	83.4%	83.3%	82.9%	83.2%	Very High	Improved	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	85.9%	82.0%	80.4%	81.8%	81.3%	81.2%	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	91.4%	87.5%	83.1%	81.5%	81.0%	80.9%	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent

As you can see, St. Joseph continues to be a high performing school. A big 'thanks' to you, the parents who support your child's learning and to our very dedicated staff...your efforts make a difference!

Our school administration team would like to thank our school community for their hard work to ensure school opening has been safe. This has been a team effort and we couldn't have done it without the hard work of students, parents and our staff. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact any member of our school administration team.

Blessings,

School Administration Team

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