



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

I am writing this letter to formally announce that Father Beaugard School will reopen in September 2017 following its temporary closure for the 2016/17 school year.

We sincerely thank you for the feedback you provided during our consultation with students, parents and staff. We were very pleased and humbled to hear how you value the school, its staff and the critical role of Father Beaugard School to the rebuilding effort taking place in Abasand.

With this decision, we are now embarking on the detailed planning phase of getting the school ready to welcome students back. I would like to take this opportunity to share the following information with you:

### **Infrastructure**

As indicated at our public session, the restoration work at the school was completed in December 2016. The portable classrooms built in the early 80's were demolished rather than restored since they had not been used for several years and will not be necessary in the near future. Over the next few months we will be setting up the classrooms and offices to have them ready for staff returning in August and September.

### **Enrolment**

Enrolment for September 2017 is projected to be between 75 to 110 students. Several parents that were displaced indicated they are still unsure of the occupancy date of their home, if they would return at the start of the school year, later in the year, or wait until September 2018. These numbers will be firmed up as we get closer to September.

### **Class/Grade Configurations**

As we do with all schools, grade configuration and staffing will only be finalized in late August once student enrolment is confirmed. It is possible that some of the homerooms will have combined grades. These classes are common in many elementary schools in Fort McMurray and across the country. Extensive research done across the world clearly demonstrates that combined classes do not negatively impact the academic success of students.

### **Staffing**

Although it is expected that many of the staff that were at Father Beaugard in May 2016 will return to the school in September 2017, there will be changes as some employees may elect to apply for positions becoming available in other schools. The placement of staff will be done in accordance with the applicable provisions of our Collective Agreements.

Given the relative small enrolment projected for both Father Turcotte and Father Beaugard Schools and their close proximity, the two schools will operate cooperatively and share many resources to support each other when key staff are away due to illness, training or other short term leaves.

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**Transportation**

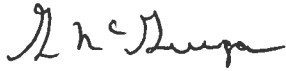
Student Transportation services will be provided within the designated area of the school (e.g. Grayling Terrace and Abasand). Unfortunately, we are not able to offer transportation services from other areas.

**Out of School Care**

It is our intent to offer an Out of School Care (OSC) program if we have sufficient demand for the service as we need a minimum of 25 children in the program to cover its cost. Registration for the next year's OSC program will start in May.

I trust this information is useful to you as we move forward together to provide a positive learning environment for your children and restore Fr. Beauregard School to its rightful place as a centrepiece for the community of Abasand. We will be in touch as we move forward.

Sincerely,



George McGuigan  
Superintendent  
Fort McMurray Catholic Schools