



NEWS ARCHIVE:

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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# One hundred years of Catholic education will be celebrated throughout 2011-2012

BY DONELLA HOFFMAN, GSCS

On Sept. 5, 1911, three teachers and 69 students began the school year together in the basement of St. Paul's Church. This marked the beginning of the newly formed Catholic school division in Saskatoon.

Now – nearly a century later – a team of staff and volunteers from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) is preparing a series of events to celebrate the school division's 100th anniversary during the 2011-2012 school year. The slogan for the anniversary is "*Celebrating a Century of Faith and Learning.*"



"We are so proud to mark this wonderful milestone," says Diane Boyko, chair of the GSCS Board of Education. "Not only do we want to remember our past and the dedicated individuals who helped build and maintain Catholic education in Saskatoon and area, we want to look forward to our future – because we know families need and appreciate their right to choose to send their children to a Catholic school."

Robin Mitchell, a former teacher and principal in the school division and current director of the GSCS Foundation, is chairing the Centennial Committee. This group is planning a variety of centennial events so that as many people as possible will be able to experience the event.

**Friday, Aug. 26, 2011 – School Year Opening Celebration:** More than 1,500 division staff members will attend this gathering, which occurs annually. This year's speakers – drawn from a variety of backgrounds – will discuss why it is important to value publicly-funded Catholic education and what can occur if this privilege is taken for granted. All former staff are invited to attend the opening celebration, which begins 9 a.m. Aug. 26 at Circle Drive Alliance Church in Saskatoon0.

**Friday, Sept. 9, 2011 – Schools Mark Anniversary:** With Sept. 5 falling on Labour Day Monday, schools will celebrate the division's 100th anniversary with a liturgy, tree-planting and other school-based events on Friday, Sept. 9. Staff are also preparing a history of each school. Former staff and students with memories or photos to share are invited to contact info@gscs.sk.ca or call Donella Hoffman at the school board office: (306) 659-7077.

**Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 – Centennial Leadership Banquet:** This evening

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at TCU Place will honour past and current division leadership, such as principals, trustees and superintendents.

**Monday, Oct. 24, 2011 – Centennial Lecture Series, Part I:** Bishop Murray Chatlain of the Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese in the Northwest Territories, a graduate from Saskatoon’s Catholic school system, will recount the Catholic school division’s journey from its humble beginnings in the basement of St. Paul’s Church to where it stands today. A second lecture, looking at the future of the division, is planned for the spring of 2012 with another presenter.

**Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011 – Division Memorial Mass:** This Memorial Mass, an annual event, will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, in remembrance of deceased staff members. To commemorate the division’s centennial year, a supper and social will be held after the Mass for former staff.

**Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 – Division-wide Christmas Celebration for Staff:** This social evening, at Prairieland Park, is being organized by the GSCS Principals’ Association.

**Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 – Performing Arts Showcase:** Division staff will share their gifts during this special evening at St. Joseph high school.

**February/March 2012 – Visual Arts Showcase:** Visual artists from our division will display their work in the gallery at the Centre at Circle and Eighth mall from Feb. 13 to March 18.

**Saturday, June 23, 2012 – Community Centennial Banquet and Dance:** A celebration will be held at Prairieland Park in order to commemorate the division’s special year with the wider community.

**Sunday, June 24, 2012 – Centennial Mass and Picnic:** Mass will be held at the new Holy Family Cathedral, followed by a 1911-style “Sunday in the Park” for families held at the nearby Saskatoon Forestry Farm.

**More details about these events are available on the Saskatoon Catholic division website at [www.gscs.sk.ca](http://www.gscs.sk.ca) by clicking on the “Centennial Info” link.**