



## **CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **St. Angela Workplace School - Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is a Workplace School?**

A workplace school is designed to support the work-life balance that parents today are seeking. Specifically, it caters to parents who want their children to be at a school that is close to their workplace, so that they can maximize time with their children and participate in school activities. For suburban parents, a workplace school option turns time spent commuting into family time. The Calgary Board of Education introduced the W.H. Cushing Workplace School in downtown Calgary in 1995. This school was the first of its kind in Canada, and its enrolment waiting lists prove the demand for schools that meet the needs of downtown working parents. We are happy to build on the proven success of W.H. Cushing in a setting that also offers all the amenities of a community school.

#### **How will this change the curriculum for my child?**

St. Angela will remain a kindergarten to grade six general program. We will continue to take advantage of our unique location to access the excellent amenities of downtown Calgary such as the Calgary Zoo, the Glenbow Museum and the new TELUS World of Science.

#### **What will be the before and after school care options for parents?**

A workplace school needs to provide seamless childcare to working parents. Currently, the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society runs a program at Langevin School, one block away from St. Angela. Our School Council has had preliminary discussions to expand this program to include St. Angela students. Over the next few weeks we will be finalizing childcare options for the 2010-2011 school year.

#### **Who is eligible to enrol at the St. Angela Workplace School?**

Students from anywhere in Calgary are welcome to enrol at our Workplace School. However, children who live in the current school boundary area will be given priority if the school reaches capacity.

#### **Will the school lose its tight-knit community feeling?**

The school will grow, but we believe the community feeling that has made this school special to the current students and parents can be maintained, thanks to the unique spirit of the surrounding neighbourhoods.



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### **How big could the school become?**

We are confident that the new St. Angela Workplace School will meet the needs of many Calgarians who work downtown but want to be closer to their children every day. We anticipate a high demand for the school and look forward to expanding programming and educational opportunities as the school grows. The full school capacity is 245 children.

### **Is there still a possibility that the school will close?**

The Calgary Catholic School District is excited about this concept and committed to making this school a success. The transition to the St. Angela Workplace School is the outcome of the consideration for closure process – closure is not being put forward to the school trustees. The administration and the school community believe that this concept will meet the needs of many downtown working families. The shared focus is to fill this historic 97-year-old school, not to close it.

### **How did this concept come forward?**

The Workplace School concept emerged from the January 12<sup>th</sup> public consultation process. After that meeting, administration worked closely with parents and school council on this concept. Moreover, polling data collected following the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting showed that the Workplace School concept is the most popular of a number of options presented, with over 90% support. The process that has created the St. Angela Workplace School is a true collaboration between administration, parents and the community.

### **What are the local traffic implications of this proposal?**

Over 149,000 vehicles travel every day on Memorial Drive, Edmonton Trail and 1 Ave. NE. Over 12,000 vehicles per day travel on 1 Ave. NE, through Bridgeland. This is one of the advantages and unique opportunities associated with the St. Angela location. The school community will work closely with the City of Calgary and the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association (BRCA) to ensure that the transition to the St. Angela Workplace School is a seamless and important contribution to the revitalization we are seeing in this community.

### **Will the school keep its uniforms for students?**

The school uniforms have proven to be a huge success. They clearly appeal to many parents and we believe this will be part of the appeal of the new St. Angela Workplace School.