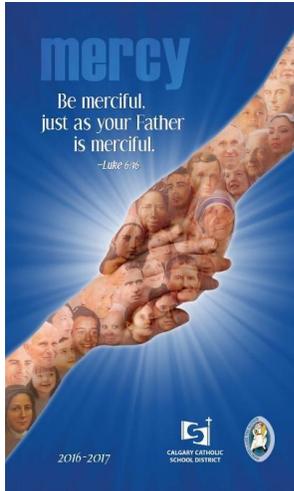


Principal/Directrice “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36



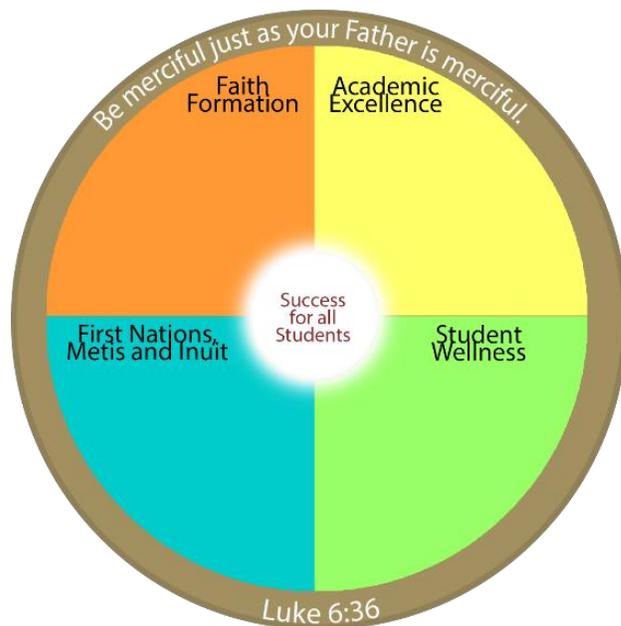
“Soyez miséricordieux comme votre Père est miséricordieux.” Luc 6:36

Welcome/Bienvenue to the 2016-17 school year! We would like to especially welcome those who may be new to our school community! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer with family and friends. We are very excited to begin a new year of teaching and learning in a faith-filled environment.

We are very pleased to introduce 12 new staff members to the St. Matthew School teaching staff: Jennifer Goral (Gr. 2/1), Laura Perry (Gr. 3), Jennifer Dudar (.5 Elementary PE), Jessalyn Lastiwka (Gr. 6/5), Sarah Borrás (Gr. 6), Elaine Weeks (ES II JH), James O’Farrell (7-1), Vivian Lee (7-4), Nathalie Mathurin (7-6), Lisa Walker (9-2), Manuela Cecchetto (.5 JH ELA teacher) and Andrea Gillier (Assistant Principal)! We also welcome back Dominique Davidson (9-4) from her maternity leave!

We welcome parental involvement at all times throughout the school year. On the first day of school, you will be receiving several forms and information to start the new school year. We appreciate you returning the forms that need to be signed, as soon as possible, to your child’s classroom teacher. Open and frequent communication between the family and classroom teacher is vital to student success. When your child receives their agenda, please review the handbook at the beginning of the agenda which includes all pertinent information about school regulations and expectations.

Our New District Faith theme for the 2016-17 is “**Be merciful, as the Father is merciful**”. A focus on staff and student faith formation is one of our top priorities this year, teaching students what mercy is and how to make it come alive at St. Matthew School. “**Success for all Students**” remains our District Academic theme with the following 4 priorities: Faith Formation, Academic Excellence, Student Wellness and addressing the federal Truth and Reconciliation initiative for First Nations, Metis and Inuit.



Who in your life models mercy? How can we be more merciful to others? These are 2 questions I will be asking all students, staff and parents to reflect on this year. Someone who is a perfect model of “Mercy” is Jesus. Jesus loves us unconditionally, forgives us, gives us not only 2nd chances but an infinity of chances, never turns his back on us, protects and guards us and will search for each “lost sheep” until He finds us and brings us back to Him. Jesus is our role model of compassion, of empathy and of mercy.

To start off the gift of this new 2016-17 school year, let’s work together as a community to be more merciful: become more selfless, put others first, offer to help, learn how to forgive, listen and serve our Lord and each other.

We hope to see all of you at our **1st Annual Welcome Back Picnic** on Thursday, September 8th from 3:00-5:00pm; a great chance to meet the new and returning staff and St. Matthew families.

We would also like you to join us for a **Parent Mini “Mercy” Retreat** on Wed. September 21st during our 1st School Council Meeting at 6:30pm (Volunteer Orientation at 6pm prior to the School Council Meeting). Our guest speaker Michael Chiasson, from All Access Ministries, will inspire you to bring more “Mercy” into your home and life. For all the endless work you do as parents, you deserve a retreat, so please join us!

On behalf of the entire school staff, it is our continued pleasure to be working together with each child and to be serving this school community. We wish each family a faith-filled, productive and successful 2016-17 school year. Let’s all inspire each other this year to put God first, be more merciful and glorify the Lord in all we do.



In Christ, Mme Kitt