Dear Parents/Guardians:

Another ending of a school year is approaching so quickly. I would like to take a moment to thank all those involved with the success of St. Teresa School this year!

St. Teresa school community would like to say a huge thank-you to our generous Catholic School Advisory Council members and to all of those who volunteer their time, effort, and share their gifts to help our school be the wonderful learning environment it is. We have a dedicated, generous parent community who make a big difference in the lives of our students! We hope that our volunteers will be able to return to sharing their gifts with the school in the next school year!

Special thanks to Mrs. Lavigne our Admin Assistant, who works very hard all year long, but particularly at the end of the school year when everyone’s needs and requests seem to move to “hyper-speed”. Her patience with all of us is greatly appreciated, especially from a distance right now. Thank-you to Mr. Eden and Mr. Eden (our father and son great team of custodians!) who work to make sure our school keeps clean, and for all the work they do in preparing the school over the summer, we offer our thanks.

Our staff is world-class! From the Teachers, to the Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, our CYCW, our St. David Family of Schools Social Worker, and our lunch hour supervisors, we thank-you for the extraordinary efforts you have made this school year to provide the highest levels of achievement and well-being as you possibly could for all our students! Thank-you!

At this time we say a fond farewell to the following staff who are leaving the St. Teresa School Community:

First, to Ms. Eckert, who is retiring at the end of June. Ms. Eckert has been a teacher at St. Teresa school for 14 years, and we will miss her! Ms. Eckert’s calm, gentle, and welcoming ways with every student is a demonstration of God’s grace, and we thank her for all her technology implementation (ie. Through Mindcraft for Education workshops for the students). We thank Ms. Eckert for her years and years of leadership of the PALS program at St. Teresa School, not only providing fun recess games for the younger students, but often the first leadership experiences for our students in the junior division! Thank-you! We wish you all the best in your retirement Ms. Eckert and thank-you for all your contributions over the years! Thank-you! God bless!

Second, to Mrs. Taylor-Waind, who is also retiring at the end of June; a veteran of the school for 16 years! We thank-you for pushing the students to achieve to their best every day. You have never given up, and the opportunities you have given to your students have set them up for future success. Your leadership in the Social Justice Club over the years shows your remarkable commitment to all of us as God’s children and you’ve given so many leadership opportunities for our students through our faith and action. We will never forget the “Hot Chocolate” or “Food Bank” jingles that were repeated on the announcements as reminders to the students, and, even though it will be tough to figure out, we appreciate your commitment to pickles being worth double the points every year! We thank-you Mrs. Taylor-Waind for all your contributions to St. Teresa and your other schools over the years, and we wish you all of God’s many blessings in your retirement! Thank-you!
We thank Mrs. Radojka Janic, Educational Assistant, who has been helping the students with special needs at St. Teresa School for 20 years! We thank-you for your dedication to the St. Teresa School Community, to the children and staff, and we hope you have more time to bake those delicious treats in your retirement! Congratulations and God bless you! Bog te blagoslovio!

Thank-you to Ms. Barsalou, who was our English as a Second Language teacher this year. Thank-you for working with the students, staff, and parents to help them learn English, and to help in so many ways behind the scenes to make sure all our families were so well taken care of! We wish you all the best in the future teaching! A big Tigers Thank-you!

Thank-you to Mrs. Izzo, our DECE who also ran the extended day program at the end of each day this year! We thank-you for all your care and comfort you gave to our youngest students in the Early Years classroom as well. We wish you many blessings in the future! Thank-you!

Our school’s success is also do in large part to the awesome group of amazing volunteers we have just waiting patiently to get back into the school to start helping again once the Covid protocols change and it is safe. We know you are out there, and we thank you for your patience! Hopefully early next year we will be able to have volunteers back in our school again. If you haven’t volunteered and would like to, please watch for an announcement in the fall. We have many things that involve volunteers, including Strong Start Reading, Nutrition for Learning, field trip supervisors, and many others. We thank our Catholic School Advisory Council for continuing to work on providing resources and experiences for our students all year, despite the Covid-19 restrictions, especially the Scientists in Schools presentations for almost all classes this year, a new home reading program for our primary students, Grade 8 Graduation, and many more! Thank-you and God bless!

We wish our Grade 8’s all of God’s blessings as they graduate and move on to secondary school in September. This is not the ending we had hoped for you, but we celebrated with you on Wednesday, June 23rd at your graduation, and we will never forget you!! Thank-you for your leadership this past year and for all your contributions over your time at St. Teresa School! Forever a Tiger!

The St. Teresa School Community is very special. This has been a full year like no other. We know that the pandemic has brought a lot of challenges and stresses to our families and staff as well. I want to thank the parents for not giving up while we have been teaching and learning from a distance for quite a while now, no matter how challenging this became. I also want to thank the staff for continuing to learn many new ways in connecting to and helping the students keep learning. It has been a monumental challenge to say the least! At the beginning of each year we ask God to circle our school community with love, and I thank all our partners, staff and families, for doing their best to keep this circle of love for our students strong through all of this.

We don’t yet know what the fall will bring, but we keep our fingers crossed and we pray we will be back together, laughing, learning, playing, and praying. Thank-you and God bless our entire school community! School officially ends next Tuesday, June 29th, and begins on Tuesday, September 6th for students. Two PD days will occur for staff before the Labour Day long weekend. I will provide updates as to the Board plan later in the summer as they become available. Please check the WCDSB website as well for updates throughout the summer.

Have an enjoyable and reduced-stress summer! May God bless you deeply over the summer and grant you much restoration, recreation, and refreshment.

B. Goodyear-Principal