

WELCOME BACK!

September 6, 2022

Dear RCDK Clergy, Staff, Parents and Students of CISKD,

Welcome back to yet another school year. I am humbled and honoured to be your Superintendent of Schools for this upcoming school year and wish you all every success this year has to offer.

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." ~Romans 15:4~



This year's theme for all of our Catholic Independent Schools in the province is, "Seeking Truth, Healing and Reconciliation." The artist who created our logo is Stuart Pagaduan, a Coast Salish artist and culture and language teacher. Allow me to unpack the symbolism and meaning behind our new theme:

- **The Dove:** a symbol of peace representing the Holy Spirit. It can also serve as a reminder of the dove from Noah's ark that was sent to seek safety, refuge and a place for a new beginning.
- **The Cedar Branch:** a symbol of healing for Indigenous Peoples.
- **The Red Circle:** represents God, our Father, who has no beginning and no end.
- **The colours used:** can represent feelings and emotions.
 - **White:** often considered a symbol of purity or joy.
 - **Red:** used at Pentecost and for the Holy Spirit which symbolizes love.
 - **Green:** symbolizes new life and growth within each one of us.
 - **Pink:** another colour representing joy and associated with the third candle of the Advent wreath.

It is my hope that we will continue to learn, support and journey forward with our historical past and seek a path that is inviting, inclusive and integral for all of our schools. We are united in One body, One spirit in Christ and I will continue to pray for each of you in your own local communities for strength, courage and compassion in the educational successes of our students.

I am excited for the upcoming school year ahead and have many initiatives on the go that will serve our system of schools well. Special thanks to our Diocesan Parish Priests who support Catholic Education; we are all grateful for your unwavering love and support of our students and families. To my CISKD Principals for their leadership and compassion in their own communities; you are a beacon of hope for our schools. Finally, to our parents who have chosen a Catholic Education for their child/ren, thank you for your commitment and faith. Education is a selfless profession and we all take great pride in instilling values in our future generation in the hopes of one day bearing witness to the contributions they will make on society. We are honoured to be on this journey with you and cannot wait to see you make your mark.

In His care,

Christopher Yuen
Superintendent of Schools, CISKD

cc. Bishop Joseph Nguyen, President CISKD Board of Directors