

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With its ongoing commitment to provide the best opportunities for students to achieve success, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is pleased to announce that we are supporting an eye health and vision program called Eye See...Eye Learn. With support from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists is now introducing an Eye See...Eye Learn pilot program.

The goal of the program is to eliminate visual barriers to learning by raising awareness and encouraging all children to have an eye exam before they start school.

The Eye See...Eye Learn program is based on research that confirms the impact vision and eye health have on a student's success in learning. Children who cannot clearly see the board, focus on a picture, or follow words in a book may not be able to reach their full learning potential. Lazy eye, poor eye tracking, focusing or coordination, near or far-sightedness and colour blindness are a few examples of where early diagnosis can effectively prevent future or more complex vision problems from occurring. The enclosed information more fully explains why early and regular eye examinations are so important to your child's development.

Even though the Ministry of Health fully covers the cost of children's comprehensive eye health examinations, only 34% of children access this service before they begin school. Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division recognizes the important link between eye health and learning, and recommends comprehensive eye health examinations for all children entering kindergarten.

When you take your child for the eye examination, please make sure the optometrist completes the "Eye See...Eye Learn Eye Examination Form". The optometrist will keep 2 copies and give you 2 copies: 1 for you and 1 to be returned to your child's teacher.

If you don't currently have a family optometrist, search the yellow page directory, or visit www.optometrists.sk.ca. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Eye See...Eye Learn program, please contact the Program Coordinator at the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists at 306.652.2069 or 1.877.660.393 or email sao@sasktel.net.

Sincerely,



Greg Chatlain
Superintendent of Education