



January 22, 2008

Many Attend Successful Visioning Weekend to Plan for the New Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy in Canmore's Three Sisters Mountain Village

Canmore, Alberta - On Friday January 18th and Saturday January 19th, a visioning weekend was held at Canmore's Silver Tip Golf Resort to plan for the future of the new Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy. Approximately 60 people attended the event including many parents, parishioners, teachers and senior staff from Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools. The goal for the event was to include all stakeholders in discussions aimed at defining program and course offerings when the doors open later this year.

Michael O'Brien, the Chief Deputy Superintendent and Hans Woehleke, the Associate Superintendent responsible for Teaching and Learning, organized and led the discussions and presentations. Also contributing were Division Principals Scott Morrison and Gary Chiste. Other notable attendees were Vijay Domingo - Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, Joanne Tarabula, Principal and Remo Targa, Vice Principal and Jill Harrison, Chairperson of the school council at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy, and Deacon Brian West.

Friday evening began with a school construction update presented by Michael O'Brien and Scott Morrison. After touring the new school earlier that day, Mr. Morrison indicated that "it will easily be the finest school in our Division and certainly one of the most beautiful schools in Alberta". Mr. O'Brien indicated that construction is scheduled to be completed by December 2008. He also acknowledged the excellent support received from MLA, Janis Tarchuk and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Vijay Domingo. Mr. O'Brien further added that "this incredible education facility could not have been achieved without the community's patience, perseverance and overall support".

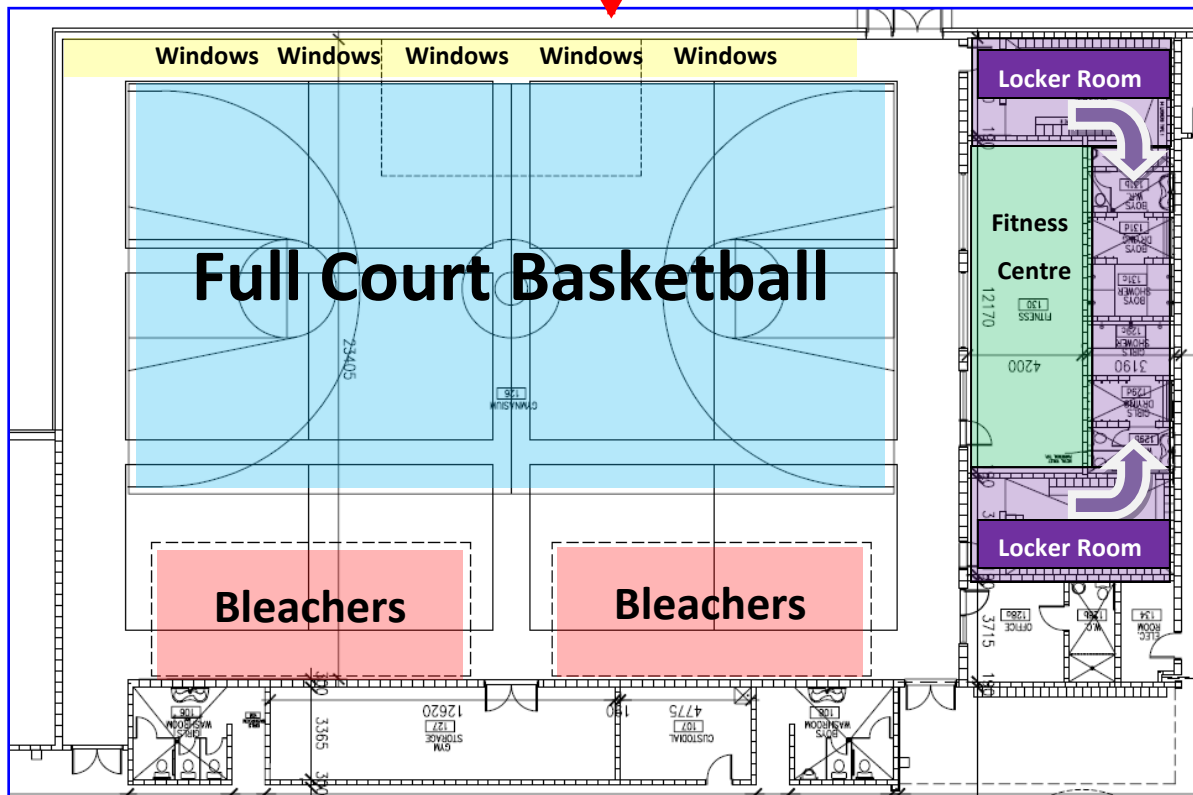
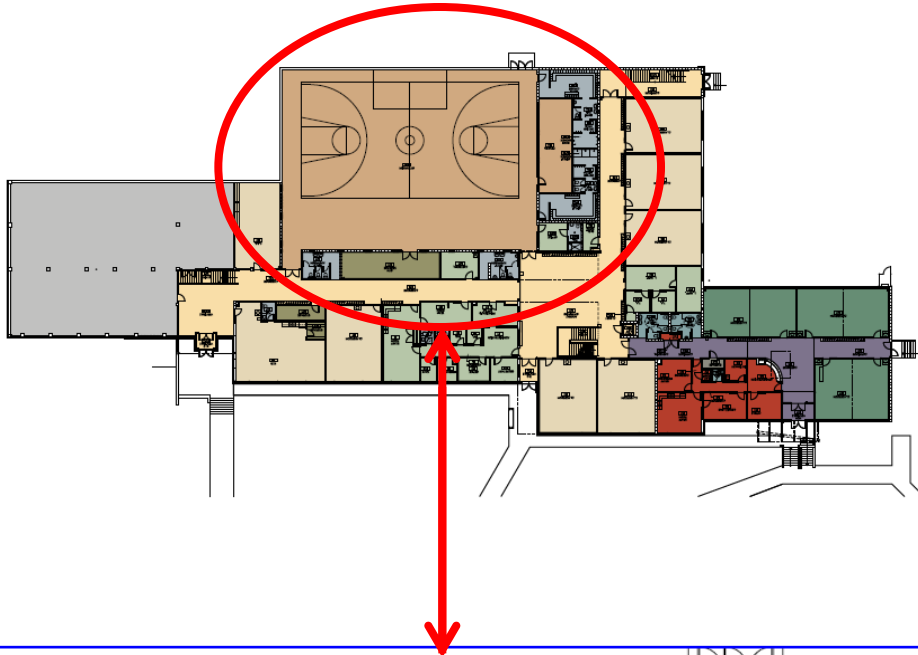
Saturday's discussions focused on three areas. The themes of Faith, Safe and Caring, and Learning, were extensively discussed in small groups with summary presentations then being made by each group.

Hans Woehleke indicated that all group submissions will be used in developing a detailed planning document that will be used as the roadmap for achieving the educational goals for the new Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy. He further commented, "Of the ten or more visioning weekends I have facilitated for Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, this was by far the most successful. Not only did significantly more parents and staff attend, the quality of the small group deliberations and large group sharing was beyond any of my expectations. It was apparent that parents, staff, administration and the parish community are working collaboratively to ensure that Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy becomes a hallmark school and that the fundamental beliefs of Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools are incorporated within the school's four pillars. These pillars involve creating a community of faith, with a commitment to academic excellence and to the creation of safe and caring environments for all students and staff, and a promise to be prudent stewards of the resources made available to us. Our affiliations with our parish and the Diocese of Calgary, our connections with the families who entrust their children to our care, and our belief in the infinite value of each person in God's eyes are all manifestations of these fundamental beliefs."

The final presentation on Learning was made by Scott Morrison and Gary Chiste. It outlined the Division's overall success in the area of Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examination results. The presentation also illustrated how the Division's best practices will be applied and used in the new Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy.

The aspect of "learning in an appropriate environment" brought the discussion back to the many fine features of the new school. It was noted how the new facility will provide for significantly increased learning opportunities and eventual program expansion. To better illustrate this point, further details regarding the school's gymnasium were presented. Details are shown on the following page.

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy
Features Update January 2008
The Gymnasium



Gymnasium Features:

- This is a double station gym, which means it is large enough to comfortably accommodate two classes of students simultaneously.
- A regulation basketball court is marked on the diagram with light blue shading. The gym is almost large enough to accommodate two regulation basketball courts. For example, when shared by two classes, there is ample room for meaningful physical education.
- The gym contains six badminton courts that can be used simultaneously providing the bleachers are closed. Most schools of this size have a gym that can accommodate only four courts.
- The bleachers along the north wall, shaded in light pink, will accommodate 350 spectators. This will give the school the capacity to host zone and provincial tournaments. One of the elements that makes this a 21st century gym is the fact that is illuminated by a string of windows, stretching across entire south wall as noted on the diagram with light yellow shading. The windows are mounted near ceiling height. Thus, they allow for natural light without creating a glare that could interfere with athletics.
- The Fitness Centre, shaded in light green, features an extensive use of glass. This allows for those inside the Fitness Centre to view activities occurring inside the gym and vice versa. This will enhance the athletic experience for both junior and senior high students who want to use the fitness centre during and after school.

The following are recent photos of the construction site:



Important updates on the status of the project include:

- Construction is on schedule for a December 2008 substantial completion date.
- The project is working towards a LEED silver designation, which means that it could be nationally recognized as an environmentally friendly building.
- The roofing contractor is expected to have the roof deck water tight by the end of January.
- Stuart Olson is working to have the building fully enclosed (by building systems and hoarding) sometime during the month of February, reducing the impact that inclement weather will have on the project.
- Although cold, January has brought reasonable weather and good progress has been made on site.
- All pre-cast concrete is in place and final grouting should take place in the third week of January.
- The underground service work remains at 95% complete.
- The exterior wall framing is 85% complete.
- The roof structure is 98% complete.
- The interior slab preparation is approximately 65% complete.
- The building shell is 75% complete.
- Mechanical and Electrical rough-in continue at a rapid pace and major equipment items are being delivered to site on a weekly basis.
- The color boards have been completed and distributed to the school authorities.

The following pictures were taken during the very successful visioning weekend:

