



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The season of Advent, beginning on December 1, marks the start of the liturgical year and invites us to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord. Advent is a four-week journey of spiritual preparation, symbolized by the Advent wreath displayed in each classroom. The wreath features four candles: three purple, representing penance, almsgiving, and fasting, and one pink, symbolizing joy. Each week, a candle is lit, bringing us closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

We joyfully anticipate celebrating our faith together through our upcoming Christmas concerts, which promise to be a meaningful and festive expression of the season.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council 13072 for their generous donation of the 2023 Charity Appeal rebate, amounting to \$3,248.25. Their kindness and support greatly enrich our school community, and we are deeply thankful for their generosity.

On behalf of the staff, I wish your families the love, joy, and hope that this blessed season brings.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



MONTH AT A GLANCE

**December 2024
Season of Advent**

Virtue: Purity (Mary Feast days)

- 1 First Week of Advent
Parish Christmas Bazaar
- 4 Advent Prayer Service (Gr. 5) 9:30 at the Church
- 6 First Friday Mass 9:10
- 10 Gr. 3-7 Reconciliation 9:15
- 11 School Mass 9:30
Power Lunch
- 13 ASC early pick up by 5:15
- 15 Choir sings 5:00 pm Mass
- 17 Primary Christmas Concert 7pm
- 18 Intermediate Christmas Concert 7pm
- 19 Dress Down Day: Christmas Morning
Theme \$ 1 or \$2 to the Men's Shelter
Report Card Release for Term One
- 20 **School closes for Christmas
Vacation 12:00 Dismissal
No After School Club**

“
The angel said to them, “Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you Good News of Great Joy.”

Luke 2:10 (WEB)

”





MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT

This November we held our annual Mother-Daughter Retreat for Grade 7 girls and their mothers! Our aim was to provide an experience of promoting maturity and deepened connection as daughters evolve into leaders in our school community and beyond. We had a fruitful morning filled with prayer, reflection, games, & looking into the past, present and future. It was a pleasure hosting this event, and we all had a beautiful time together.



ST. MARY'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS TWO CHRISTMAST CONCERTS

All of our students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 are busily preparing for two special evening concerts. This is an exciting time for our students and their families and we are looking forward to sharing with you all of our hard work. Please see below for important details for both evenings and if you have any questions please message Mrs. Ryznar at bryznar@stmary.bc.ca. Students need only attend the primary or intermediate concert depending on their grade, but all are welcome to both evenings.

Primary Christmas Concert (K-3) – The Light Before Christmas

Tuesday, December 17 @ 7:00-7:45pm in the school gym. Doors open at 6:30. Students please arrive by 6:45. Students gather in their respective classrooms
50/50 Draw at the end of the concert

What to Wear:

Kindergarten: wear favourite Christmas outfit

Grade 1: wear favourite Christmas outfit

Grade 2 and 3: plain green, red or white top (school polo shirt ok) and dark bottom (pants or skirts ok), black shoes.

Choir: dress according to class specifications

Program order: Primary Choir, Grade 2, Grade 3, Primary Choir (again!), Grade 1, Kindergarten

Intermediate Christmas Concert (4-7)– Sweet Silent Night

Wednesday, December 18 @ 7:00-8:00 pm in the school gym. Doors open at 6:30.

Students please arrive by 6:45. Grade 4 students gather in Grade 2 classroom, Grade 5 students gather in KM classroom, Grade 6 students gather in Grade 1 classroom, Grade 7 students gather in KV classroom.

50/50 Draw at the end of the concert

What to Wear: all intermediate students please wear a plain red, green or white top (school polo shirt is ok) and a dark bottom (pants or skirts ok), black shoes.

Program Order: Grade 4, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Combined Choir, Bands (Grade 5, 6 and 7)



Year of
Charity
COMMUNITY

"I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you."
—John 13:34

"Beloved, let us love one another . . . The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."
—1 Jn 4:7-8

CHARITY is loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Through the theological virtue of charity we place God above all things and recognize that what we do to the least of our brothers, we do unto Him.

THE YEAR OF CHARITY offers an opportunity to commit to making God our priority and to love not only people across the globe—but the people right next to us.

DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

Purity

This December in our "Virtues in Practice" program, we are focusing on the virtue of "purity" which means "keeping your soul free of sin".

When we speak of "pure" water, we expect the water to be free from chemicals and dirt. In the same way, God calls us to have "pure" hearts - hearts that are "clean" and free from selfishness. To have pure hearts, we must set our hearts totally on God and not let them become contaminated by the impurity of sin. At times, this might mean that we go against what our culture tells us is okay in choices of music, movies or how to dress. Be confident and surround yourself with friends who seek purity: in this way, you will learn to glorify God in what you say and do!

The goal of Catholic Education is heaven, but knowledge alone will not get us there! "Virtues in Practice" is helping us to live our faith everyday. St Mary, pray for us!



Grade 4C prepared a special Remembrance Day Mass



A field of poppies by Grade 3



Grade 4C and 4Q led a touching Remembrance Day Service



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

"For it is in giving that we receive...."

"Joy to the world!" 'Tis the season of giving and embracing goodness and cheer. Kindling the spirit of generosity.

It's Christmas time!

As Christmas approaches and the snow settles in, the time to start our alms giving journey has just yet to begin. Our School's grade sevens put together care kits for "The Door is Open" organization/ Soup Kitchen to be given to those in need. Giving to others doesn't just have to be material things either. Prayer, a simple smile, a kind good morning or hello, just like how our Greetings program helps us to practice it. An act of kindness like how we practiced with our kindness pebbles. Look at how many ways there are to give, now the question still stands.

How are you going to give?

1 of 1

SPREAD HAPPINESS BY GIVING

...care kits to the homeless people in Vancouver Downtown Eastside

Care Kit Checklist

- 1 adult toothbrush
- 1 tube of toothpaste (preferably 140ml)
- 1 bottle of shampoo
- 1 comb/hairbrush
- 2 bars of soap
- 1 deodorant
- 1 pack of face wipes
- 1 pair of adult thermal gloves (preferably XL)
- 1 pair of men's adult socks
- 1 adult size tuque

"You are loved"

Add one of these positive messages on coloured paper:
 "I give you my well wishes: "You are loved!"
 "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!"
 Place the kit items in a plastic bag.
 The Giving Truck team will transfer them to eco bags.

Thank you for spreading happiness by giving to those in need!

PLEASE BRING YOUR KIT OR BAG TO THE PREP OFFICE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 10, 2021
 For more information, please call Lolita at 604-936-2525 ext. 104

Care Kits that Grade 7s will be putting together for the Door is Open.

SMS ATHLETICS— VOLLEYBALL

Yesterday we had the Volleyball Finals at Harry Jerome Sports Complex. The top eight Gr.7 boys teams were participating at the finals. St. Mary's played their first match and won in 3 sets. This win placed us in the top 4 schools. We continued to play hard and finished 4th!

This was such an accomplishment and the boys need to be commended for their efforts and for their perseverance. It is undeniable that all of the boys who joined volleyball enjoyed the season and really developed their skills. Both Mr. Facultad and myself were so proud of their efforts.

Mrs. Vukosovic



WILD ABOUT READING BOOK FAIR

It's a wrap! Thank you to all of the families who spent time at the "Wild About Reading" Book Fair. Our net sales were \$6001.97. The Book Fair helps fund our Book Nook and Classroom resources, and promotes reading to our students. The students were able to take part in several contests including guess the number of Bears in a Jar, Teacher Survival Match, Book Character Day, and the ever elusive Golden Ticket!

Congratulations to this year's winners:

Clarisse 7S as the Lorax
Chase 7P as the Ace of Spades
Annabel 6M as Sherlock
Alfred 6L as the Very Hungry Caterpillar
Makayla 5SR as Waldo
Luana 5L as "Don't Push the Button"
Adelizze 4Q as Anne of Green Gables
Aveer 4C as "I Spy"
Sophia 3C as Fern
Levanna 2 as Alice in Wonderland
Eliseo 1 Under Bear
Cormac KM The Wild Robot
Avery KV Corduroy Bear
And
Mrs. Patro as the Paper Bag Princess

Guess the number of Bears: Alice in Grade 3P

Golden Ticket Winners: Alexander and Mateus

Match Game Winners: Shayne 5L, Amelia 6L, and Christopher 7P

Honourable Mentions: Vincent and Terry from 7P

Family Door Prize Event: Gavin from 5SR

Congratulations and Thanks again to everyone for coming. See you next year!





DECEMBER DRESS DOWN DAY DEC. 19!

Our Dress Down Day theme is “Christmas Morning!” What does Christmas morning look like to you?! You might come in matching pajamas, or you might come decked out in Christmas tinsel. Maybe you are Santa’s little helper? Perhaps you imagine yourself as a giant gift! Maybe you come prepared in your Christmas finest. You decide how you want to show Christmas Morning to everyone. Bring your loonie or twoonie to share your Christmas spirit. Proceeds will go to the Mens’ Shelter.



St. Mary's Choir sings at the CBLA Tree Lighting

JOIN OUR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



We are delighted to offer the SAINTS Before & After School Club at St. Mary's School, providing convenient care with reasonable rates.

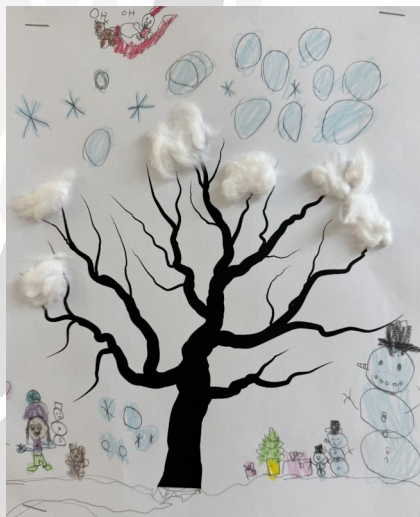
We request pick up on Dec. 13 by 5:15 due to our staff Christmas party. Thank you!



The Great Pumpkin Bake-Off: Grade 7 Serves Up Sweet Pumpkin Delights



Snowmen at night might...(KM)



Winter Trees (KV)