



St. Mary's School Newsletter | January 2024



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year, and a warm welcome back to all our school families! We trust that the time spent with your loved ones over the holiday season was filled with joy and shared moments.

This past Sunday marked the celebration of the Epiphany in our church calendar. The Magi, three wise kings, embarked on a journey to find the newborn king, and their joy knew no bounds when they discovered baby Jesus. Their homage was expressed through the presentation of gifts - gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As we continue into the second term of the school year, we have an exciting array of fun and engaging activities planned for all students. Given the winter season, we kindly remind you to ensure your children are dressed warmly. In the event of any school closures, please refer to our website www.stmary.bc.ca for up-to-date information. In our commitment to supporting our school community, we have applied for a grant from the Ministry of Education and Child Care to address food security challenges faced by some families. If your family is in need of assistance, please reach out to me with a brief note at bkrivuzoff@cisva.bc.ca by January 17, 2024. I will ensure that the funds are directed appropriately by the end of January. Wishing you a wonderful start to the new term, filled with learning, growth, and the warmth of our school community.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal

“ God has given each of you a gift...
Use them well to serve one another.
1 Peter 4:10



Grade 1 New Year crowns



MONTH AT A GLANCE

- ♦ January 15 Grade 3 swimming lessons
- ♦ January 17 School Mass 9:30 with 5L leading
- ♦ January 19 Black Excellence Day—Out-of-Uniform (Wear black t-shirts \$2)
- ♦ January 21 School Choir (intermediate) sings at 5:00pm Mass
- ♦ January 22 Gr. 3 swimming lessons
- ♦ January 23 Uzume Taiko Drum Group Presentation K-7 9:00am
- ♦ January 25 Notre Dame Gr. 7 Placement Exam
- ♦ January 26 School Closure—Day in Lieu for August Professional Day
- ♦ January 29 Grade 3 swimming



#wearesaints smsaints604 smsaints60 smsaints604

Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

Year of Hope: Trusting in God's Loving Plan

This month in our Virtues program, we will concentrate on ***"Fidelity: being faithful to promises and commitments."***

Another word for fidelity is "faithfulness". Because God is faithful to His promises, we can and must be faithful to ours. In baptism, God promises us that as His adopted children, we will be able to live our lives on earth in such a way that we can be united with Him forever. We, in turn, promise to accept the graces He gives us to live as His witnesses in the world. We all know what it's like to make and keep a promise, and to have promises made and kept to us. But we also know the pain caused by broken promises. This month may we focus on God's incredible faithfulness to us so that we, in turn, can practice fidelity with one another.

The goal of Catholic Education is heaven, but knowledge alone will not get us there! *"Virtues in Practice" will help our students to live out their faith in their everyday lives.*

*Virtues
in Practice*



*Helping children grow closer to Jesus
by imitating the virtues of the saints!*

STUDENT NETWORK

A heartfelt thank you to every student who actively contributed to our Out-of-Uniform Days in October and November. Your generosity and participation have made a significant impact. In October, we successfully raised \$350 for the Morning Star Breakfast Program, supporting a crucial cause. Following that, in November, we directed another \$350 towards the Door is Open, a Catholic Charity within the Vancouver Archdiocese. Let's continue to work together to make a meaningful impact on those in need. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to making a positive change in our community.

Outreach Opportunity

Grade 7S is organizing a clothing drive for children in Tanzania. They are accepting gently used children's clothing. If parents have any clothes they wish donate, they will accept those as well. They are accepting: t-shirts, tank-tops, hoodies, pants, shorts, socks, shoes, dresses, jackets, hats, gloves, and toques, (in suitable condition). They are NOT accepting: underwear, old uniforms, any clothes with holes. Please drop off all clothing items in a bag to the Grade 7S classroom. Last day to hand in your donations is Wednesday, January 31st. Thank you for your support.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Please use the January [link](#) to sign up for regular days or drop-in. Thank you for keeping your account up-to-date.



**ST. MARY'S PARISH
VANCOUVER**
IN CHRIST WITH MARY
TOGETHER IN HOPE

LIVING OUR FAITH

LEARNING PATHWAYS

Grade 1 learning about winter celebrations at the Richmond Museum.



ST. MARY'S CHOIR PROGRAM

Choir Announcements

Our Junior and Senior choirs continue to practice at 8:00 am on Tuesdays (Senior) and Thursdays (Junior) and our Primary Choir will resume practices on February 6 (11:45-12:15). We are excited to begin preparing for upcoming events in the new year starting with the Notre Dame Elementary Schools Choir Festival (Senior Choir) on February 22. Please continue to check the calendar for our monthly 5 pm Sunday Masses. The next 5 pm Mass for Junior and Senior Choir is January 21.



Junior and Senior Choir: Gloria in Excelsis Deo

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023

Congratulations to all St. Mary's School students for their superb performances at our two Christmas Concerts; Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem and Gloria in Excelsis Deo, which took place in the last week of December. We are so appreciative of all the students' hard work and also the never-ending support of our parents and staff. We are truly blessed to be able to celebrate our talents together as a community and to offer it all back to God.



Grade 7S A Joyous Christmas



Kindergarten: Hoo, Hoo. Hoo, Can it Be?



Grade 7P Band Candy Cane Lane



Grade 1 A Musical Manger Mystery



Grade 3: Baby's Lullaby



Grade 2 What Shall We Bring?



Finale. Gloria in Excelsis Deo



PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (PHE) 23-24

PHE classes are now moving into term two and continuing with basketball until February. It has been lovely to witness all students learning new basketball skills throughout term one. Even students who have not played the sport before, have come away with new knowledge to help them feel confident and more aware of the rules of basketball. As we move past basketball season, we plan to have more sports implemented into the students daily routine in PE. I have seen huge enjoyment and a willingness to discover other sports in all grade levels and look forward to watching students learn new skills. I would like to finish off by wishing all of you a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2024.

I hope to see all our students thrive and learn loads from our upcoming PE lessons in 2024.

Mr. Flynn

Gr. 6 boys at the volleyball finals at Harry Jarome (right)



Gr. 7 boys win the Holy Trinity Basketball Tournament.



Gr. 7 Girls place first in the Holy Trinity Basketball Tournament

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

We would like to acknowledge 3 families/parents from our regular Parent Participation Program.

They all have helped since the first week of the 2023-2024 school year getting us off to a strong start. These parents have covered extra shifts, as well as helped new volunteers learn the ropes while creating a positive and comfortable space.

Jason Mesina - Walkway Safety

Mary Brine - Groundskeeping

Darren Degraaf - Book Nook

A big St. Mary's thank you for showing up, week after week, and your commitment and care to the safety, environment and educational support in the lives of our children.



LIVING OUR FAITH