



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year to all our families! As we step into the new year, we embrace the opportunity to celebrate who we are as a Catholic school community. Together, we will continue to share love, kindness, and faith with one another. The year ahead looks bright, with many fun, meaningful, and engaging activities planned to enrich our students' experiences.

Pope Francis has joyfully proclaimed that 2025 will be an **Ordinary Jubilee Year**, with the theme *Pilgrims of*

Hope. He calls on us to “fan the flame of hope that has been given to us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.” This Jubilee year invites the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, repent of their sins, forgive others' sins and renew their spiritual focus. Let us join together in seeking and sharing signs of hope in all areas of our lives—within our families, neighborhoods, and especially among those experiencing challenges.

We express gratitude to our parents for your support, prayers, and for spreading the good news about St. Mary's School. Your dedication and support strengthens our community!

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



“
When you call me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
”

Jeremiah 29:12 (NRSV)

MONTH AT A GLANCE

January 2025
Month of the Holy Family
Virtue: Prudence

- 6 School Re-Opens, Basketball season begins
- 13 Grade 3 swim program begins
- 15 School Mass 9:30
- 19 Choir sings 5:00 pm Mass
- 20 Black Excellence Day Out-of-Uniform \$2 wear a black t-shirt in support of Anti-Racism
- 22 Family Group Activity (Holy Family) 9:15
- 23 Notre Dame Placement exam 9:30
- 25 Knights Free Throw Competition for 9-14yr olds, 8:30 Registration, gym
- 29 Lunar New Year





ST. NICHOLAS DAY COOKIES

On Friday December 6, to celebrate the Patron Saint of Children, some Grade 6 students baked St. Nicholas cookies and gave them away to several classes and staff members! Thank you for your kindness and great example: St. Nicholas, pray for us!



THE LIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS & SWEET SILENT NIGHT



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

Prudence

This January in our "Virtues in Practice" program, we will focus on the virtue of "prudence" which means "making good decisions in specific circumstances".

Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues because it is a key to other virtues! Often it is easy to know the difference between right and wrong ... but what happens when you need to choose between two things that are right? How do you know WHEN is the right time and way to talk to someone about a problem? How do you know HOW to approach new situations and needs? Something might sound like a good choice, but it is only virtuous if it is prudent, that is, if it is the most reasonable choice, given the circumstances.

What if you have to decide whether to donate money to a homeless shelter or the SPCA? What if your friend has planned a fun outing for you but your brother is suddenly very sick at home? Prudence guides our conscience to make good decisions in tricky situations.

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



NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Student Voice

I can't believe it; it's already 2025. Another New Year. Now most of us do the regular countdown and once that clock hits midnight everyone's excited because it's 2025! But others mostly concentrate on making ourselves better this new year. It's a new year, and it's time for a new you. The new year is like a new beginning; you get to start fresh. So you should get out there, experience new things, share your ideas, socialize, participate, and break those not-so-good habits. It doesn't matter how big or small your progress is; all that matters is that it's progress. Now is the perfect time. It's a fresh start; make it happen.

Also circling back to the "spirit of giving," our care kits took off. Thank you to all who participated! Here's a thank you note from the organizer. (written by Nyah Solla, Gr. 7)

"Hi Ms. Simmons, Mr. Pascua and Vanessa,
We served Christmas lunch at the Door is Open this morning with the group of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Coquitlam. The preparations started yesterday in the parish: baking the turkeys, potatoes and the last touch was done at the Door is Open. Since there were more than 200 people, we unpacked and redistributed the toiletries, socks, toques and gloves so that everyone could have something.
Thank you so much for contributing to this project. May the good Lord bless you with your generosity. I wish you a blessed Christmas full of hope and love. Lolita"



OUT AND ABOUT: FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

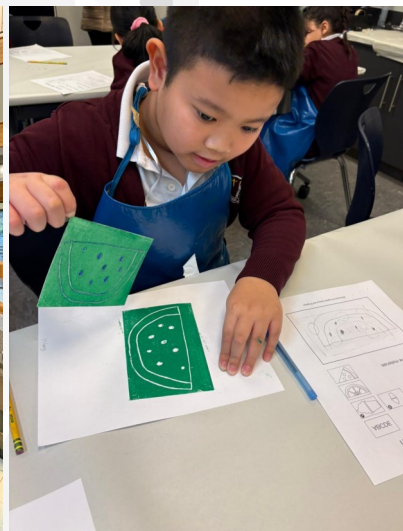


Kindergarten (left) and Grade 2 (Top) at Burnaby Village Museum

Grade 3 print making at the Richmond Art Gallery

Choir singing at the St. Mary's Parish Senior's Luncheon (bottom left corner)

Grade 5SR skating at the shipyards (bottom right corner)



STMC CONCERT TOURS

St. Thomas More Collegiate visited before Christmas, delighting our students with performances by their jazz band and chamber choir. It was a joy to see St. Mary's alumni continuing their passion for music through high school band and choir. The high school musicians were truly inspiring, filling our school with the spirit of Christmas through their exceptional talent and enthusiasm.



Amber, Joya, Javier, Glenn



Glen, Lauren, Jonathan, Jonathan

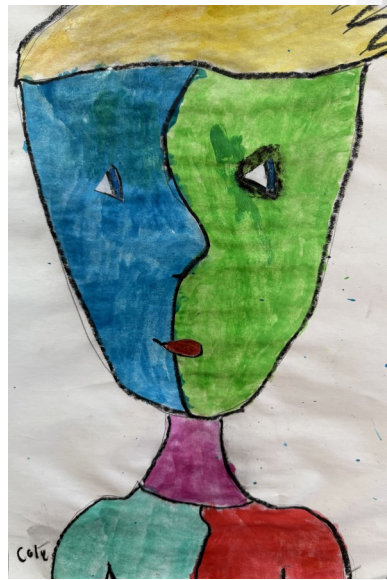


Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

EXPRESSIONS IN COLOUR



Grade 1 Winter forest



Grade 2 Picasso



Winter Wonderland Kindergarten V



Grade 2
James Rizzi
Art Project
(left)



Grade 5SR Aslan from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*



CHRISTMAS MORNING DRESS DOWN



Don't let the pigeons run the school. Picture from last month's book character theme. (Mrs. Scodeller, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Faria)

Thank you to Mrs. Collins, Mr. Pascua, Ms. Lombardo, and some of our Grade 7 students for leading a lively and enjoyable Christmas Carol Sing-along on December 20.

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. Please sign up using the link.

[January Club Link](#)



Thank you to the Blundell Family: Michelle, Alexander and Matthew, for the outstanding job they did with the Purdy's Fundraiser in December totaling \$4307 in sales..



Can you find Alexander?