



St. Mary's School Newsletter | March 2022



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Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We begin the Liturgical season of Lent March 2 with Ash Wednesday. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting, which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We can give up behaviors that conflict with what it means to be a follower of Jesus and then replace what we give up with Christ-like behaviors.

Pope Francis has declared Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in the Ukraine in order to be near to the suffering Ukrainian people, to be aware that we are all brothers and sisters, and to implore God for an end to the war. Our Out-of-Uniform Day will also be March 2. Students are encouraged to wear the colours of the Ukrainian Flag: - blue and yellow, and bring a donation to the Canadian Red Cross who is supporting those impacted by the crisis in the Ukraine. Mr. and Mrs. Kozak will be singing a Ukraine hymn at our 9:30 School Mass which is quite special.

I wish to thank my staff for their work providing outstanding curricular and extracurricular opportunities for our students throughout this pandemic. Their dedication is truly valued! May this Lent be a time to focus more on what God wants for our lives.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal

“

Loving God means serving our neighbour without reserve, and trying to forgive without limits.

- Pope Francis

”



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smsaints604

Before & After School Club March Link

Please settle February accounts.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ March 1 Pancake Breakfast: Mardi Gras Parade & virtual assembly
- ◆ March 2 Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30am, Parents are welcome. Out-of-Uniform Wear Blue and Yellow; Donations to support the crisis in the Ukraine
- ◆ March 5 Grade 7 Spirit Day 11:45am-7:00pm
- ◆ March 9 Verbal School Spelling Bee 9:15 Church; parents of the students involved are invited.
- ◆ March 12-27 Spring Break
- ◆ March 28 School Opens
- ◆ March 29 Gr. 2 Swimming Day 1
- ◆ March 30 Gr. 6 Stations of the Cross; Term 2 Reports Released



Virtues In Practice

Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus

This month in our "Virtues in Practice" program, we will focus on the virtue of **"respect"** which means **"recognizing the dignity of all people"**.

Our society often bases a person's value on their appearance or abilities. But that is not how God sees us. In reality, what we are is much more important than what we can do. Each one of us is created in the image and likeness of God, and we are unique and unrepeatable gifts of His love. God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us, that we might live forever with Him in heaven. When we look at people from this perspective, we can't help but respect them! The Gospel calls us to have deep respect for all people including people of different ages, cultures, ideas, and abilities.

"Lord Jesus, please continue to lead us through this time of pandemic. Increase in us the virtue of **respect**: help us to treat others the way we want to be treated and to recognize you in everyone we meet."

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

Grade 2 Reconciliation

On Tuesday, February 22 and Thursday, February 24th, the Grade 2MB and 2M class, respectively, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each of us grew closer to Jesus. Here's what a few children had to say about how they felt after making their first confession.

"I felt like doing it again because it made me feel so warm." - Abigail

"I felt amazing!" Olivia

"I felt free!" Mateus



Virtues in Practice



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

Respect
Recognizing the
dignity of all people





STEAM Education



Kindergarten students working on Plus Plus Block coding skills to create letters they are learning.
(above)

Grade 1 building a pond habitat for a fish. (right)



Grade 2M is making a cloud in a cup to understand the water cycle. When the cloud gets too heavy, the drops fall through as rain! When water droplets grow heavy in the sky, gravity pulls them down from the clouds as rain, just like in this experiment.



Our Grade 7Q students while filming the Mardi Gras explanation video. #lightscameraaction



Grade 6 Birdhouses (ADST Woodworking)





Outdoor Classrooms

Kindergarten participated in a Nature Detectives program at Stanley Park. We explored nature using our senses: sight, hearing, smell and touch.



Kindergarten celebrated our 100th day of school last Friday. We had a day full of 100 themed activities and dressed up like we were 100 years old!





Pink Shirt Day



Grade 5L is learning how to drive their mouse trap carts. #STEAMprogram
#pinkshirtday

Grade 4 striking a pose with Calvin Tiu after listening to his lived experience.



Tobiah in 5SR provides a recital for his class in honour of Pink Shirt Day

Our Superhero mentors remind us that Compassion is a Superpower!





Saints Athletics

March, 2021

February has been another busy and wonderful month in Athletics and PHE!

The Hip Hop unit built upon the routines and skills students acquired in previous years and continued to increase the levels of complexity. It was great to see the students quickly pick back up on the class routines, learn the skills, and participate so comfortably. Videos will be posted as soon as they are issued from One Vibe. Thank you for your patience!

The chilly weather brought great snow to the mountains where Grade 3 had a beautiful snowshoe in nature. Meanwhile the Grade 5's worked on their balancing skills as they took to the ice at the North Vancouver Shipyards. We live in a beautiful part of the country, and how fortunate we are to be outdoors!

Our basketball program adapted prudently to the changing COVID restrictions regarding inter-school sports. While a couple of teams played against other schools, we were able to launch a highly-participatory Intramural league. It has been fantastic to have our Grade 7's step into leadership and develop their skills in officiating, scorekeeping and coaching. This will certainly broaden their perspectives on the different points of view and responsibilities in the game, and our Grades 4-6 students and coaching staff have benefitted. It's exciting to have Grade 6 students eager to begin serving the community in these roles now too!

Coming up next: badminton! We are in the process of setting up practices and looking at participating in inter-school play. Registration will be sent to eligible grades shortly.

We have not heard any specifics from the Track and Field Commission for the season. We anticipate beginning practices for Grades 3-7 towards mid April. Please be on the lookout for registration the first week back from March Break.

So many good experiences to come, and thanks to God for all we have been given in the past month.



Grade 5 getting comfortable on the ice at the beautiful outdoor Shipyards ice rink!

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Saints Athletics



Grade 3's hit the snowshoe trails



Grade 6 Saints breakaway!



Grade 1 Hip Hop Rehearsal



Grade 5 Intramurals with Grade 7 officials, coaches, and scorekeepers!





Thank you to our parent volunteers!

Check out our social media pages for more footage of our pancake breakfast!
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The grade 5 classes held a mini "Festival du Voyageur" to celebrate French Canadian culture. Sugar pie and Red River jigging were enjoyed by all. Vive le festival! (above)

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