



## St. Mary's School Newsletter | November 2023



### NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

These past two months have been a time of exploration and growth for our students, and we owe it all to the collaborative spirit that defines our school community. A wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities were planned to encourage students to explore new ideas, embrace different environments and form lasting friendships. It's been a privilege to witness their enthusiasm and growth in such a short time.

We have also hosted several community events that have gone a long way in strengthening the bonds between our school, the parent community and our parish, a school goal.

Thank you for your participation and I wish to express my appreciation to our dedicated volunteers who have supported these events.

November is a significant month in our church calendar—a time of prayer and remembrance. On All Saints Day, we remember the people who lived lives of holiness and now live in God. Saints also live among us today as they follow the path of Jesus. Their virtuous living inspires us as they pray for us. On All Souls Day, we remember and pray for our friends and family members who have died. This month, we will also honour and remember the service of our Canadian military, both current and fallen. The Vancouver No Stone Left Alone and school Remembrance Day services are important events to pay tribute to those who have served our country. Gr. 4 classes will lead our school service on Nov. 10 at 10:45 in the church. Parents are most welcome to join us.

Yours sincerely,  
*Brenda Krivuzoff*  
Principal



#wearesaints   smsaints604   smsaints60   smsaints604

Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



### Month at a Glance

- ◆ Nov. 1 All Saints Day
- ◆ Nov. 2 All Souls Day
- ◆ Nov. 5 Gr. 7 Spirit Day
- ◆ Nov. 8 School Mass 9:30
- ◆ Nov. 8 Gr. 6 classes attend the No Stone Left Alone – Mountain View Cemetery 1-2:30
- ◆ Nov. 10 Remembrance Day Prayer Service 10:45 at the church
- ◆ Nov. 13 School Closure for Remembrance Day Holiday
- ◆ Nov. 20 Book Fair Kick off Assembly 2:15
- ◆ Nov. 20 Poinsettia Order Deadline
- ◆ Nov. 20-23 Scholastic Book Fair
- ◆ Nov. 22 School Closure for Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:30-5pm
- ◆ Nov. 23 Out-of-Uniform (Favourite Book Character) \$2
- ◆ Nov. 24 School Closure for CISVA Professional Day (no Before or After School Club)
- ◆ Nov. 25 CBIA Tree Lighting (Senior Choir) 5:15
- ◆ Nov. 28 Photo Retake Day
- ◆ Nov. 28 Grade 7 Mother & Daughter Retreat 8:00-10:30 church basement



# DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

## Year of Hope: Trusting in God's Loving Plan

During November, we will practice the virtue of **"Humility: accepting your limitations and God-given talents"**. If we're truly humble, we will admit our shortcomings, but we'll also recognize our gifts and abilities. As we grow in self-knowledge and humility, we will desire to serve God and others in the ways that are best suited to our talents. Humility enables us to do good for others without attracting attention or expecting recognition from others. A realistic opinion of ourselves will help us give credit to God for our successes. *"Whoever shall humble himself as a little child will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 18:4

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.*

### BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Please use the November [link](#) to register for regular or drop in club use.

### WARM UP WEDNESDAYS

For November, the PEC will host "Warm Up Wednesday" from 2:30-3:15pm. (every Wednesday for November 2023) . Please enter the Church side door to warm up, get updated on school matters, and just be together. Note: Some light refreshments will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

### MENTORS AT SERVICE

Our mentors led by example by selecting costumes to wear on Halloween to promote school spirit. They modeled how to walk the runway by going first, and assisted all classes in showcasing their costumes.

Our mentors will be helping St. Mary's host the No Stone Left Alone service at Mountain View Cemetery on Nov. 8. Both our Grade 6 classes will be attending along with the Grade 6 classes from St. Helen's, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Joseph's School.

Year of

*Hope*

STUDY

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast."  
—Hebrews 6:19

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."  
—Hebrews 10:23

HOPE is trusting in God's loving plan. Through the theological virtue of hope our hearts are set on the goal of heaven.

THE YEAR OF HOPE offers an opportunity to focus on study skills and vocations. We know that God designed each of us with gifts and talents to suit His plan for our lives, and that He expects us to do our part to increase the talents He has given us so that we are ready to answer His call.





# UNLOCK THE SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN FAMILY NIGHT

We trust that all those who joined us for our Halloween Family Night had a fantastic time. Congratulations to Gia Jassal from 6L, who guessed the precise weight of the Great Pumpkin, an impressive 150 lbs. Additionally, it's worth celebrating the tie between two Kindergarten families for the best costume theme prize, and our congratulations go out to both the Dsa and Hughes families. I'd like to express my gratitude to Michelle Eisner, Mr. Mogatas and Mr. Simpao for their help with the inflatables display. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Woo, Mrs. Raguero, Mr. Liu and countless volunteers for making this event a memorable experience for all.



*Dsa Family wearing their Superhero theme.*



*GhostBUSTers display*



*The Great Pumpkin was an impressive 150lbs*



*Hughes Family in the Mario Bros theme.*

## HALLOWEEN RUNWAY Costume Contest Group Shots



*Dynamic Duo Costumes*



*Funniest Costumes*



*Best Character Costumes*



*Most Original Costumes*



## **Costume Awards (Students):**

### **Kindergarten:**

Funniest – Alexander B.  
Most Original – Nichelle K.  
Dynamic Duo – Santiago Z. & Adrian G.  
Best Character – Serenity B.

### **Grade 1:**

Funniest – Sean M.  
Most Original – Kameli D.  
Dynamic Duo – Dani R. & Leo A.  
Best Character – Harper R.

### **Grade 2M:**

Funniest – Pavao P.  
Most Original – Lina D.  
Dynamic Duo – Maisie C. & Eva S.  
Best Character – Alice H.

### **Grade 3M:**

Funniest – Mateo M.  
Most Original – Angus C.  
Dynamic Duo – Amelia R. & Cat L.  
Best Character – Aubrey D.

### **Grade 3P:**

Funniest – Alexander F.  
Most Original – Vanessa T.  
Dynamic Duo – Leonard E. & Jacob W.  
Best Character – Payton A.

### **Grade 4C:**

Funniest – Perzel P.  
Most Original – Juliette L.  
Dynamic Duo – Gaby S. & Terrel L.  
Best Character – Gavin M.

### **Grade 4Q:**

Funniest – Greg L.  
Most Original – Shayne R.  
Dynamic Duo – Mischa C. & Olivia N.  
Best Character – Abigail M.

### **Grade 5L:**

Funniest – Marcus Z.  
Most Original – Rhian B.  
Dynamic Duo – Sophia C. & Carmen E.  
Best Character – Brenan S.

### **Grade 5SR:**

Funniest – Tyler T.  
Most Original – Rian F.  
Dynamic Duo – Carl E. & Alfred J.  
Best Character – Lili D.

### **Grade 6L:**

Funniest – Tennyson T.  
Most Original – Christopher T.  
Dynamic Duo – Chase L. & Terry Y.  
Best Character – Milo P.

### **Grade 6M:**

Funniest – Nyah S.  
Most Original – Zoe C.  
Dynamic Duo – Victoria G. & Garie C.  
Best Character – Jayden N.

### **Grade 7P:**

Funniest – Mirela S.  
Most Original – Caleb S.  
Dynamic Duo – Caelan R. & Efryn G.  
Best Character – Chimuanya E.

### **Grade 7S:**

Funniest – Kyra R.  
Most Original – Isabella A.  
Dynamic Duo – Caylee P. & Diane P.  
Best Character – Tobiah C.

## **Costume Awards (Staff):**

**Dynamic Duo:** Ms. Vukasovic & Mrs. Samija

**Most Original:** Mrs. Marino

**Funniest:** Mr. Pascua

**Best Character:** Mrs. Rossander

**Best Family Costume Theme on Halloween Night:**

*Tie: Hughes Family & the Dsa Family*

**How Heavy is that Great Pumpkin?** Gia Jassal (6L) correctly guessed 150lbs

**Students Voted for their Favourite Pumpkins:**

**1st Prize Smurf Cat** – Mr. Pascua, Mrs. Maier, Mrs. Kozak & Mrs. Scodeller

**2nd Prize Pokemon Charizar** – Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Merrill, Miss Vukasovic & Miss Lam

**3rd Prize Grimace** – Miss Miiller, Mrs. Marino, Mrs. Roed & Mrs. Carvallo-Salas



## Costume Contest Staff:



*Dynamic Duo: Mrs. Samija & Ms. Vukasovic*

*Funniest: Mr. Pascua*

*Most Original: Mrs. Marino*

*Best Character: Mrs. Rossander*

## Favourite Pumpkin Contest:

"Brushes in hand, staff painted; students cast their votes. Behold the results, a testament to our talented community!" Thank you to our staff for sharing their creativity and skills.



*Smurf cat— 1st Place*

*Pokemon Charizar— 2nd Place*



*Grimace— 3rd Place*

## GIVE FOR GROWTH

### ***Poinsettia and Winter Greenery Fundraiser***

Add some holiday cheer with poinsettias and holiday greenery. Please click on attachment for details. We encouraged each family to purchase a plant to help meet our fundraising goals.

**Order deadline is November 20 at 11:59pm.**

Delivery expected on December 05.



<https://stmaryelem.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>

### ***Purdy's Chocolates***

The popular Purdy's Christmas Chocolates are back. This is a great way to check off many of your Christmas Holiday gifts.

All orders from family, friends, colleagues and businesses are welcome.

**All students will be sent home with a catalogue, with a special link for each class. All orders are GST taxable (5%).**

Online orders are preferred. Please include your child's name with teacher.

Paper orders must be accompanied with cheque for total amount (including the tax 5% GST).

Cheques are to be issued to "St. Mary's School".

**Order deadline is December 03 at 3pm.**

Delivery expected December 15.

*St. Mary's School Fundraising*



**ST. MARY'S PARISH  
VANCOUVER**

IN CHRIST WITH MARY  
TOGETHER IN HOPE

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

### THE MENDOZA FAMILY



*Thank you for your service at events: Back to School event, Centennial Celebrations, Walkathon, Cross-Country Meets and Apple sales. It is great for our children to see your smiling faces and supportive spirit.*

*Thank you again from the PEC - Parent Participation Program*



Mr. & Mrs. Mendoza (Vilma/Marlon) with their eldest son, Jhoren (St. Mary's School Alumni) and their youngest boy, Michael (Grade 3)





# SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR 23-24

Exciting News! Our School's Scholastic Book Fair is Returning!

Mark your calendars for an enchanting literary experience from November 20th to 23rd. The Enchanted Forest Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to our school, and it's going to be a magical event filled with new and bestselling titles, all right here on our campus. But that's not all – every purchase at the fair supports our school and encourages the joy of reading in our students. Bring on the Bookjoy!



Here's what you can expect:

- 1. Flyer and Wish List:** Your child will bring home a captivating promotional flyer to share with you, along with the opportunity to create their very own wish list during their initial visit to the fair.
- 2. Student Visits:** Students will have two scheduled opportunities during the school day to explore the fair and make their book selections. They can bring money to purchase books and other fantastic items available for sale at the fair. Send money in a sealed Ziploc with your child's name and grade on it. Students are not allowed to buy items for other students or loan money.
- 3. Contests and Games:** We've got a host of fun contests and engaging games for students to participate in, adding an extra layer of excitement to their book fair experience.
- 4. Grant a Wish:** You can also make a difference by granting a wish for a classroom. Purchase a book for a teacher from their wish list, and help enrich classroom libraries.
- 5. Location:** Our fair will be enchantingly set up near the Book Nook, just like last time. You can enter the school from the front or rear doors.
- 6. Parent Shopping Times:** We're also excited to invite parents to join the magic! You can shop at the fair on the following dates and times:  
Nov. 20 3:00-4:30  
Nov. 21 3:00-4:30  
Nov. 22 8:30-4:30 pm Parent/Teacher Conference Day (No regular school day)  
Nov. 23 3:00-4:30 pm Nov. 24 3:30-4:30 pm
- 7. Volunteer Opportunities:** Look for opportunities to volunteer on the Fair in the coming weeks. Positions include helping parents find books, straightening displays and cashier.

Don't miss out on this captivating opportunity to ignite the love of reading in our students while supporting our school. We can't wait to see you at the Enchanted Forest Scholastic Book Fair – Let your imagination grow!

## ESTABLISHING SAFE & CARING DIGITAL COMMUNITIES

Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities – On either Nov. 28 or 30, students in Grades 5-7 will be viewing an online workshop from Safer School Together with their teachers, that covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sharing inappropriate images. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding students' use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed. An updated parent resource will be sent to parents prior to the workshop to assist with conversations with your child.



# LIFE @ ST. MARY'S: COMMUNITY CANVAS

All smiles and joy @St. Mary's this week as students share their costumes. Thank you parents for helping your children prepare their amazing costumes. Wonderful school spirit SAINTS!



*Spiderman, Spiderman....*



*Hanging out with friends in our fun costumes*



*Wearing the gear*



*Detached at the hip*



*Mario Bros*



*Hip Hop Barbie*



*Love the stashes*



*Scissors, rock, paper? Wrong order!*