



St. Mary's School Newsletter | October 2023



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we find ourselves deeply appreciative of the unwavering generosity and support demonstrated by our remarkable community members. Your willingness to come together to assist with the variety of volunteer programs, field trips, and fundraisers is truly heartwarming. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Cristina Ferreira, who has made a difficult decision to step down from her role as secretary on the PEC. Cristina has been an integral part of our PEC for many years as past treasurer and more recently as secretary, and she will be missed.

Thank you for continuing to support our Walkathon initiative for a new school bus. We have been saving over the years, and we hope that this year will be our best result yet to be able to place an order. Continue to reach out to family and friends until Oct. 17th.

Many families attended the 5pm Mass that our choir sang at last month. Please continue to make Sunday Mass a weekly tradition in your family. Our choir will sing next at the 5pm Mass on Oct. 22nd.

As we move forward into wetter and darker days, it's essential to address a pressing concern regarding parking safety. An increasing number of families are utilizing the front parking lot, which poses potential safety hazards, especially when stopping in fire lanes. To ensure the well-being of all, we kindly request that you allocate additional time to park offsite and walk to the school. Our school parking lot cannot accommodate the growing number of cars. Your cooperation in this matter will help us maintain a safe and orderly environment for everyone.

Together, we can make this Thanksgiving season a time of giving, reflection, and unity.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal



Hope: Our call is to transmit the hope of God, that which we live communally in the midst of our world, which is a little bit of the exercise the synod wants us to do... Learn to walk together to listen to what God wants at this moment. That is the message. And I believe our world needs a lot of hope, good news, to give meaning and soul to the things we do.

Cardinal Jose Cobo Cano



OUR PEC

Back row: Danny Chou, Anne Woo, Richelle Tapia

Front row: Alfred Liu, Ryan Raguro, Brett Hughes, and Fr. Joseph



#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

October, we will practice the virtue of "**Studiousness: seeking knowledge to grow closer to truth**". As all students know, the study necessary to gain true knowledge requires real effort. Because the entire universe comes from the hand of God, our efforts to seek knowledge should always lead us closer to the truth, which is God Himself.

Curiosity is a vice that we like to pretend is "just like" studiousness, but in fact it is the opposite. While curiosity is not always a bad thing, when we spend endless hours surfing the internet or flipping through TV channels, we're giving in to the vice of curiosity and acquiring only superficial knowledge about people, places, things or ideas (that either isn't necessary or may be actually evil).

Jesus said, "If you remain in my word ...you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). We should seek to gain knowledge with the ultimate source of Truth as the goal, for "*this is eternal life: that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent*" (John 17:3).

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.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



Left: Thank you to our community for raising over \$700 for the Residential School Survivors' Society on Orange Shirt Day.

Right: Elements found on the Survivors Flag—The Family, The Children, The Seeds below the Ground, The Tree of Peace, cedar branch, Cosmic Symbolism, the Metis Sash, The Eagle Feather & the Inuksuit

The Survivors' Flag is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour the residential school survivors.



Our Grade 7 students paid tribute to the resilience and strength of residential school survivors. Through a powerful narrative, music, and symbolic artifacts, they honored lives deeply affected by this chapter of history. The church was filled with emotion as the circle of candles illuminated the space, symbolizing unity and remembrance. Our students' compassion and maturity shone through as they helped us remember, acknowledge, and work towards a more inclusive society. Thank you to Ms. Simmons, Mr. Pascua, Ms. Umali and Mrs. Hodut for working with the Grade 7 classes in creating such a heartfelt tribute.



GRADE 7 OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Our Grade 7 students kicked off the school year with a memorable four-day adventure at Camp Zajac Ranch in BC's stunning outdoors. They not only bonded with old friends and made new ones but also tackled high ropes and climbing walls, fostering teamwork and resilience. Students came together in prayer, connecting with the wonders of God's creation. This experience set the tone for a year filled with personal growth and leadership development. We're excited to witness our Grade 7 students embrace the new challenges in the upcoming school year.



Suspects in our game of Clue!

BEYOND CLASSROOM BOUNDS

Grade 2 students explored ecosystems inside the temperate rainforest at Lynn Canyon Park. Crossing the suspension bridge was definitely a highlight for everyone.





CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

This year's Cross Country team was a blast, with 100 students from Grades 2-7 diving into the thrill of running and enjoying the fall outdoors. We want to extend our appreciation to parents and students. Your support, dedication, and hard work made this season possible. The coaches are so proud of you for showing sportsmanship during meets and exhibiting the joy of running during practices. In the spring, we're gearing up for our Track and Field program, where we hope you will develop your running skills even further. As we wrap up this season, we're excited for what's ahead. Let's keep the momentum going! Go Saints!



Grade 6 boys



Grade 7 boys



Grade 7 girls



Grade 4 boys ready to run at the CISVA Championship Cross-Country race Oct. 4th.

JOYCE ST. BANNERS

A group of our Grade 6 & 7 students contributed in this community art project aimed to share stories of the neighborhood. These art making sessions took place at our school, Collingwood Neighbourhood House and via a community platform called Curiko. Artists, Aaniya Asrani and Annie Canto, helped the participants find materials in their local environment, such as leaves, rocks, grass, flowers, or to make drawings on acetate sheets to lay over top cyanotype paper and fabric to leave a negative image in the form that was laid down. Then Aaniya Asrani used the cyanotypes as a base to illustrate the history of the neighbourhood, which would then be turned into the street banners lining Joyce street. The neighbourhood used to be full of fields, apple orchards, and even a lake! As time went on land was segregated and businesses and homes popped up. As we look ahead, it is heartening to know that these banners will continue to grace our streets for years to come, serving as a reminder of our neighborhood's rich history and the collaborative spirit that brought this project to life.



Cyanotype cloth created by our students



Appreciating the completed banners along Joyce Street



GIVE FOR GROWTH

St. Mary's School Walkathon—Oct. 6, 2023

We're thrilled to introduce our vibrant hot pink walkathon t-shirts! We invite you to sponsor our event and be part of the pink-tastic movement for a cleaner, greener future if we are able to purchase a new electric school bus! If students get at least \$150 in pledges, those students will be the recipients of our pinktastic-walkathon-tees! Limited quantities. While supplies last. Get them while they're hot!



2023 pink-tastic Walkathon tees

Collingwood Morning Star Breakfast Program Food Drive—Oct. 5-17

Traditionally, each year, we collect breakfast essentials for the Collingwood Neighborhood House Morning Star Breakfast and Shower program. This initiative allows us to make a positive impact on our community. Starting now and continuing until after the 17th, we kindly request that you contribute non-perishable breakfast items. Suggested items are: coffee, tea, pancake mix, cereal, jam, peanut butter, oatmeal, etc. Students can drop off your donations in designated collection bins within your classrooms. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity.



ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



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



Congratulations to Fr. Joseph and the St. Mary's Centennial Committee for a spectacular celebration on Sept. 22. Thank you to our volunteers and Grade 5-7 (and alum) Choir members who sang beautifully at the Mass with Archbishop Michael Miller.





LIFE @ ST. MARY'S

What a fantastic turnout at this year's Back to School BBQ! We were thrilled to see so many familiar faces, including students from the past and their families, coming together for a day of delicious fun. Tacosaurus ruled the menu with dino-mite flavours! Our 50/50 draw added an extra layer of excitement, and congratulations to the lucky winner! And let's not forget the bouncy toys! It was heartwarming to witness the community reunited each fall. Thanks to all of you for another unforgettable Back to School BBQ. We're already looking forward to the next one, and we hope to see even more smiling faces. Thank you to our PEC members for coordinating the event!



Raania's first day of Kindergarten!

LIVING OUR FAITH

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Please sign up for Before and After School Club services using the [link](#). We request you also use the link for drop-in as well. The email is checked at 7:00am and 1:00pm.



Achieving something new at camp!



3P learning on our iPads

Month at a Glance

- ◆ Oct. 2 No School—Observance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- ◆ Oct. 3 Winter Uniforms
- ◆ Oct. 4 CISVA Cross Country championships
- ◆ Oct. 5-20 Collingwood Food Drive (donate breakfast items)
- ◆ Oct. 6 Walkathon 9-12:00, Early Dismissal
- ◆ Oct. 9 No School—Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Oct. 11 School Mass 9:30
- ◆ Oct. 17 Walkathon Pledges due
- ◆ Oct. 20 No School—Pro-D Day
- ◆ Oct. 22 Choir sings at 5:00pm Mass
- ◆ Oct. 24 Walkathon Prize Draws
- ◆ Oct. 27 Halloween Family Night
- ◆ Oct. 31 Halloween Out-of-Uniform \$2 to dress in costume