



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Vancouver, BC January 2026



Living,
Celebrating, &
PROCLAIMING
OUR FAITH

“
*I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will
not be shaken.*

Psalms 16:8

”

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We extend our warmest New Year wishes to all our families. Thank you to everyone who generously shared Christmas wishes and gifts with our staff. We are deeply grateful for the strength, support, and spirit of our school community. Guided by the example of the Holy Family and the Saints, we strive to nurture a caring environment where students learn to look after one another, grow in faith, and respect the world around them.

The months ahead are filled with exciting opportunities for our students. Classrooms will continue to come alive with hands-on learning experiences, and students will enjoy a variety of enriching field trips that extend learning beyond the school walls. Fr. Mark will be visiting all classes. Our Grade 5-7 basketball teams have practices well underway and will be participating in several games and tournaments this month. We are thankful for the dedication of our coaches and the encouragement of our families as our athletes represent St. Mary's with pride and sportsmanship.

During the break, I was grateful to spend some time with my family in snowy Saskatchewan, then took advantage of the good weather for eagle viewing when I returned to BC.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a joyful, faith-filled, and successful second term together.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



January 2026
Month of the Holy Family
Virtue: Gratitude

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 School Re-Opens
- 6 Epiphany
- 7 Grade 7 Confirmation Retreat
- 14 School Mass 9:30
- 16 Black Excellence Day Out-of-Uniform
- 18 Choir sings 5:00 pm Mass
- 19 Grade 1-3 Author visit
- 22 ND Placement Exam (Gr. 7s) 9:30-11

Save the Date: **St. Mary's Love, Lights & Disco Nights Valentine's Gala - February 14. @ 6:00p.m. (church hall)**



VIRTUE IN PRACTICE

Gratitude: Seeing Everything as a Gift and Being Thankful

During January, we will practice the virtue of "Gratitude: Seeing everything as a gift and being thankful".

It can be easy to race through a day without giving thought to how grateful we should be, even for the beauty of a sunset or the faithfulness of a close friend. Yet we are called not only to be grateful for these things, but even for the difficulties in life, which God allows for the greater good of our salvation. So, in all things, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His love endures ... FOREVER"! (Psalm 118)

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.



Grade 5LR Advent Mass

TOGETHER WE CAN

Upcoming Fundraising & Community Initiatives

As a reminder, St. Mary's School is partially funded by the provincial government, with the remaining funding supported through tuition and school fundraising. Fundraising plays an essential role in allowing us to maintain excellent programs, update learning resources, and continue to hire and retain outstanding educators. All families acknowledge their participation in fundraising as part of their commitment to our school community during registration and re-registration. Your active participation helps ensure that St. Mary's continues to offer the rich programs and opportunities our students deserve.

We have several exciting fundraising initiatives coming up in the weeks ahead. Our popular **Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser** will be launching shortly—just in time before Lent begins to enjoy and share a sweet treat while supporting our school. We will also participate in the **February 14 Love, Lights & Disco Nights Valentine's Gala** and will provide gift baskets for the silent auction, with proceeds directed toward our School Building Fund. In addition, we are excited to introduce **new St. Mary's School merchandise** featuring new designs for both parents and students, giving families another meaningful way to show school spirit and support our community. See details for the St. Mary's Valentine's Gala and silent auction in today's office email.



VOICES OF CHANGE



At the start of December, our school started a Winter Donation Drive to assist those within our community who require additional support during the colder seasons. Over the next 2 weeks, we accepted donations of gently used clothing, warm blankets, and new toiletries. These much-needed items will be distributed to local families and shelters to support them in staying warm and healthy during the approaching winter. I think this event is a very great opportunity for the Grade Sevens to come together and make a difference within our community.

Starting at our school, Grade Seven students got involved in this effort in a big way and with a lot of kindness as well. Several families contributed and started donating items. There is a sense of urgency and happiness emanating from us all, knowing that it can make a big difference when it comes to someone's winter when a simple coat or blanket is donated. There is more to this than just cleaning out our closets.

Overall, this activity reminds us of the great impact generosity has on society. It highlights how even the smallest actions add up to create an enormous difference in our community. Whatever message this task brings, it is not just about handing out things; it is about handing out hope and kindness, and demonstrating how much we care. Let us continue with open hearts as the temperature cools.

Remember, your donation is something with more meaning than we could possibly know.

By Jasmine Zheng (7P)



ROCK BAND

At the December Christmas Caroling, the Grade 7 rock band, sponsored by Mr. Pascua, impressed the community with their musical talents. We were thrilled to welcome back former St. Mary's student **Mika Albania**, who returned as a special guest to lead the singalong. Thanks to Mrs. Collins and Ms. Lombardo for leading the caroling on our last day.



Grade 7 Rock Band: Kurtis, Mr. Pascua, Mika, Alfred and Woojin (left to right)



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES

Field Trips Galore

Field trips are an invaluable part of our students' education, offering a dynamic complement to classroom instruction. By stepping outside the school walls, students can: Connect abstract lessons to the real world, making learning tangible and memorable, spark curiosity and excitement as they explore new environments and gain hands-on experience. Furthermore, field trips practice teamwork, observation, and respect for public spaces. These experiences foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for the world around them. We look forward to many enriching field trips this year!



Grade 3 at the Richmond Museum and Art Gallery



Grade 2 at the Bloedel Conservatory

Grade 2 Learning through food, culture and tradition. Italian pizzelles at Christmas

GRADE 7 HOODIE DESIGN UNVEILED



As part of a long-standing tradition, Grade 7 students are granted the privilege of wearing an additional uniform piece in their final year at St. Mary's. This special hoodie marks an important milestone, celebrating their last year of elementary school and in most cases, the many years they have journeyed together. As part of an art project, students designed the back of the Grade 7 hoodie, with classroom voting followed by a grade-wide vote. This year's design is especially meaningful, as it reflects our patron St. Mary - serving as a reminder of faith, leadership, and the values that guide our school community. The selected design will be worn with pride throughout the year and cherished as a keepsake. Congratulations to **Jasmine Zheng**, whose design was chosen as the final version. Receiving the Grade 7 hoodie is a true rite of passage and a symbol of leadership. We are grateful for the thoughtful engagement of all our Grade 7 students in this special tradition.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Thank you to Mrs. Ryznar, Mrs. Collins, and all the dedicated staff for organizing and leading the choirs. Taking our students out into the community to share the spirit of the season with local seniors was a truly meaningful experience for everyone involved.



Grade 5 Choir performing at the Burnaby Village Museum



Grade 7 Choir performing at the Renfrew Seniors' Lunch



Choir performing at St. Mary's Parish Seniors' Lunch



SILENT HOLY NIGHT—PRIMARY



Primary Choir directed by Mrs. Collins



Kindergarten V



Grade 1

Kindergarten M

The Christmas concert was a great success, with the Grade 7 cast doing an excellent job stepping into the spotlight to bring the Nativity scene and the story of the birth of Jesus to life.



Grade 2

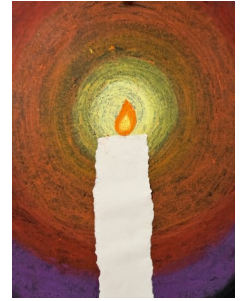


Grade 3





FIRST LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS





CHRISTMAS DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



*Best Student Involvement: Sprinkles the Elf 1M
Santa: 6L*



Thanks to Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Samija and the Grade 4 class for sponsoring the Christmas Door Decorating Contest. The 4 categories were:

1. Best Student Involvement
2. Best Artistic Design
3. Funniest Christmas Scene
4. Best Christmas/Advent Message

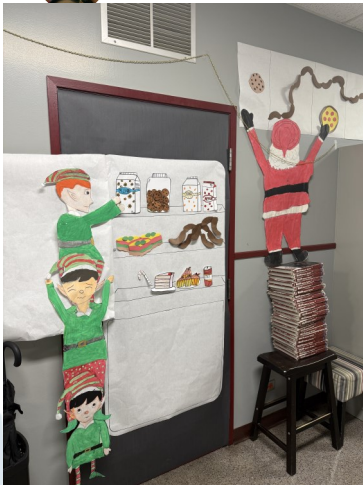
Thanks to all the participants!



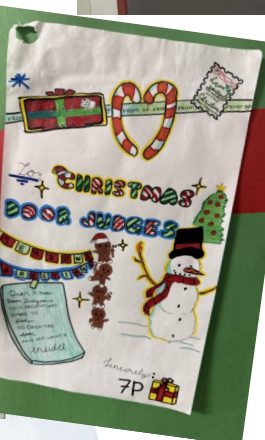
*Best Artistic Design:
Olaf & Grinch: 5Q
Gingerbread People &
House: KV*



*Funniest Christmas Scene:
7S Conveyor Belt Garfield &
Grade 3 (message says it all)*



*Best Christmas/Advent Mes-
sage: 1P & 7P*





SHINING BRIGHTLY BEYOND ST. MARY'S

What a wonderful way to spread Christmas cheer at St. Mary's! A huge thank you to Notre Dame Regional Secondary Choir and St. Thomas More Collegiate Band and Choir for their special visits. We were truly fortunate to experience the joy of music shared by their talented high school students. It fills us with immense pride to see our St. Mary's alumni among those who continue to shine so brightly!



STMC Choir featuring solos by Alumni Lauren and Jonathan



STMC Choir performance Dec. 15.



Notre Dame Choir Alum—Effron, Angelo, Antonio and Jayden



St. Thomas More Band

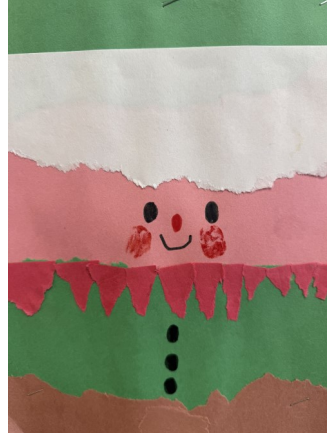


Amber, Joya and Kyle

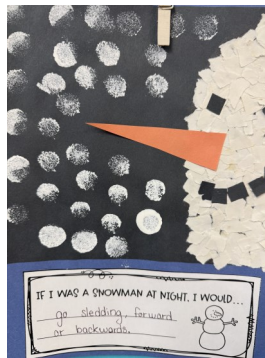




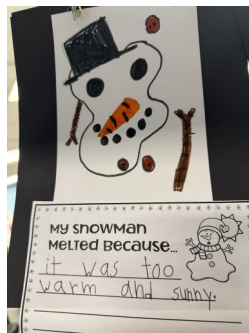
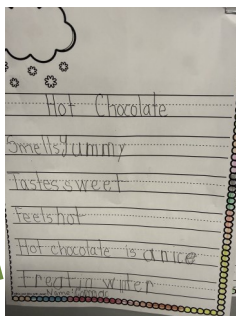
ARTISTS AT WORK



Perspective 6M; Rudolph KM, Torn Paper Elves Grade 2; Jesse Tree Mobile Grade 4



Winter Trees 6L; Northern Lights 5Q; If I was a snowman...KM; Cold Hands, Warm Hearts 1P, Winter Wonderland KV; Stay Cozy 1M; My snowman melted because... Grade 3, Aslan 5LR



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.

Club registration is guaranteed.

Please click on the updated link below for more information. Thank you for keeping your account up to date.

[January Registration Link](#)