

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

And just like that... it's June! As we wrap up another school year, I want to thank all our parents and guardians. Your support and commitment to volunteering have truly made a meaningful impact on the success of our school community. Thank you for walking alongside us every step of the way.

Congratulations to our Track and Field Team on a fantastic season filled with fun, determination, and personal growth! We are proud of all our student athletes. A big thank you to our dedicated coaches and to Mr. Mogatas for organizing practices and coordinating the meets.

Happy Father's Day to all the amazing dads in our community! We appreciate your love and support. Join us for a special *Donuts and Coffee* morning on **Friday, June 13**, from **8:30-9:00 a.m.** outside the front of the school.

Class placement information was sent out by the office on Tuesday. In this newsletter, you'll find details about staff changes for the upcoming year. We are deeply grateful to the staff members who are moving on—thank you for your service, your care, and the difference you've made in the lives of our students. You will be missed.

As we head into the summer months, I wish you and your families a safe, restful, and joy-filled vacation. We look forward to welcoming families back in September for another exciting year of growth, faith, and learning. To our students who are leaving us, we hope your time at our school has been filled with meaningful friendships, memorable learning, and joyful moments. Please come back and visit—you will always be part of our St. Mary's family.

Warmly,
Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



MONTH AT A GLANCE

June 2025

- 2-6 Bike to School Week
- 4 Day 2 CISVA Track Meet
- 2-10 Student Network Campaign
- 6 First Friday Mass 9:10, Freezie Sale \$2
- 10-11 Clothing Drive
- 11 Student Network Elections (Mentors)
- 13 Donuts for Dads 8:30-9:00; yearbooks sent home
- 16 Step Up 1:30
- 17 Gr. 7 Farewell 4:30-9:30
- 18 School Mass 9:15
- 19 Primary Talent Festival 9:00
- 21 Eucharistic Procession after 5:00pm Mass
- 22 Choir sings 5:00 pm Mass
Parish Fair and Draw 11-5:00
- 23 Intermediate Talent Festival (gym)
Uniform Sale 2:30-3:30
- 26 **Last Day of School for Students**
Report Card Release 10:00 am Dismissal
- 28 St. Mary's Parish Challenge 8:30-2:45

“
*The faithful love of the Lord never
ends! His mercies never cease.*
”

Lamentations 3:22(NLT)



ARCHBISHOP RICHARD SMITH'S INSTALLATION MASS

It was an honour to attend the Installation Mass of Archbishop Richard Smith at Holy Rosary Cathedral on May 23. The ceremony was rich in symbolic tradition. One highlight included Archbishop Smith knocking on the cathedral doors with a mallet, a gesture met by Archbishop Miller opening the doors in welcome. Archbishop Smith then received his crozier from Canada's Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič. Cardinal Gérald Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec and Primate of Canada, was present in red vestments, along with many high-ranking clergy from across the country. Deacon Rennie Nahanee welcomed the new Archbishop at an Indigenous reception and presented him with a ceremonial paddle. BC Premier David Eby was also in attendance. For more information, please refer to the June 2 edition of *The B.C. Catholic*.



Archbishop Richard Smith is in the centre looking towards the door.



Congratulations to Fr. Gabriel as he celebrates the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination on June 9! Fr. Gabriel has faithfully served as Assistant Pastor at St. Mary's for 14 years. and we are grateful for his dedication to our parish and school community. In honour of this special milestone, each class contributed to a spiritual bouquet, which will be presented to him following the celebratory Mass.

CONFIRMATION

Fr. Gabriel (left) Fr. Joseph (middle) and Fr. Gilles (right) Gr. 7 representatives thanked our priests for their support and prayers.

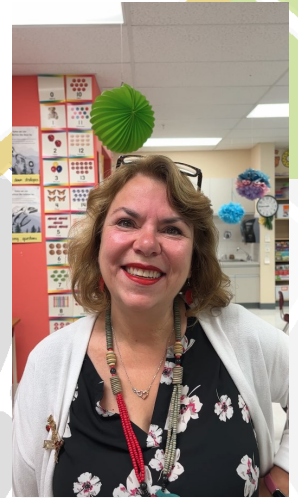


STAFFING UPDATES

Our Retiring Staff

This June, we bid a fond farewell to two dedicated members of our St. Mary's staff who are retiring after many years of faithful service.

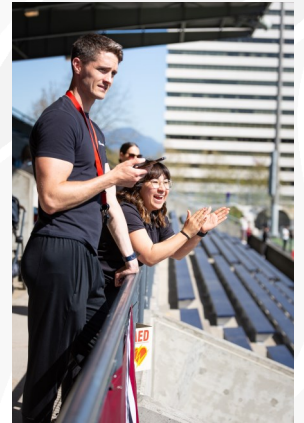
Mrs. Judy Der: Congratulations to Mrs. Judy Der, who is retiring after an incredible 38 years at St. Mary's and 40 years in education. Throughout her remarkable career, Mrs. Der has taught nearly every grade level and impacted the lives of over 1,000 students. Her passion for teaching, boundless energy, and willingness to serve in any capacity have been a true gift to our school community. We are deeply grateful for her legacy of love, learning, and leadership. As she transitions to retirement in Victoria, we wish Mrs. Der and her family every blessing in this next chapter. God bless you, Mrs. Der—you will be missed!



Mrs. Sonia Rafael: We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Sonia Rafael, who is retiring after 16 years of service as an Educational Assistant. While she transitioned to part-time in recent years to care for her grandchildren and parents, her full-time dedication before that—and her continued presence—have been a true blessing. Mrs. Rafael brought her best to each day, building strong, trusting relationships with the students in her care. She always celebrated student accomplishments with true joy. Her experience, gentle presence, and deep faith made her an invaluable part of our team. She especially loved accompanying students on outdoor education experiences and was always reliable and supportive. We will miss her greatly and wish her abundant joy and blessings in her retirement.

Farewell and Best Wishes

We also say farewell to **Mr. James Flynn**, who joined us November 2023 to teach Physical Education. Mr. Flynn will be returning to Ireland in June, and he will be greatly missed by our school community. We are so grateful for his willingness to step in with such enthusiasm and lend a helping hand wherever needed. He quickly built strong connections with both staff and students, making PE a vibrant and engaging space where students grew in strength, flexibility, and a love for sport. We wish Mr. Flynn all the best in his teaching career and thank him for the positive energy he brought to St. Mary's.

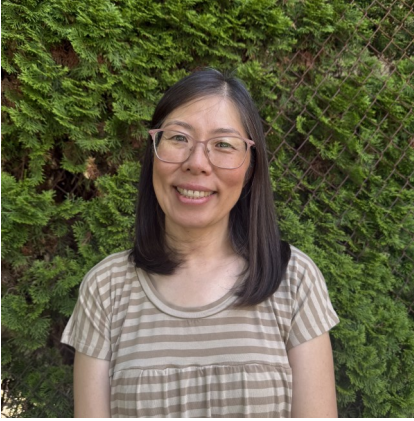


We also will be saying farewell to **Mme Nola Accili**, who joined us in March 2024 to cover Mme Esquivel's maternity leave. Mme Accili has shared her passion for the French language and culture with our students, helping to make language learning fun, engaging, and meaningful. In addition to teaching Core French from Kindergarten to Grade 7, she also worked two days a week in the Learning Resource Centre, where she provided valuable support—particularly to our ELL learners. We are grateful for Mme Accili's creativity, and dedication to all the students she worked with during her time at St. Mary's. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors in education.

We are also sad to say goodbye to **Mrs. Emily Ng**, who has been a dedicated Educational Assistant at St. Mary's for the past nine years and parent of two children. Mrs. Ng has been a passionate advocate for neurodiverse learners, offering deep expertise, care, and compassion in her work with students. Her presence and commitment have made a lasting impact on our school community. Mrs. Ng recently graduated in June as a Certified Behaviour Consultant from Arizona State University—an incredible achievement! We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as she embarks on this exciting new chapter in her life. May God bless Mrs. Ng as she follows her new calling in the field of behaviour consultant. We are blessed to continue to teach her children at St. Mary's.



STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS

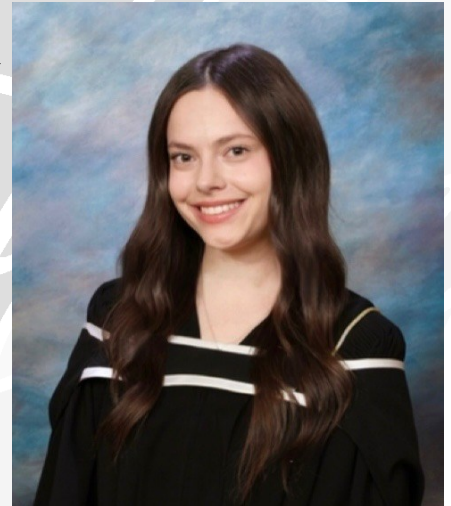


Farewell and Best Wishes

We also say farewell to **Ms. Natsuko Motegi**, who joined St. Mary's two years ago as an Educational Assistant. Mrs. Motegi will be leaving us to pursue her dream of becoming a certified teacher as she begins the PDP program at UBC this fall. We are so grateful for the expert care she provided our students, drawing on her extensive ECE background and deep understanding of early learning. As a former parent and long-time parishioner of St. Mary's Parish, Mrs. Motegi has been a valued member of our community in many ways. We hope to one day welcome her back to our school in the role of a teacher. Thank you, Mrs. Motegi, for your dedication, compassion, and service to our students. We wish you every success in your teaching journey!

Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to welcome **Ms. Vanessa Paccani** to the St. Mary's community as one of our Grade One teachers. Ms. Paccani brings experience from other CISVA schools, both as a Certified Educational Assistant and now as a teacher. She is on track to complete her Bachelor of Education from UBC this August. Ms. Paccani is passionate about creating an engaging, inclusive learning environment where all students thrive academically, socially and spiritually.

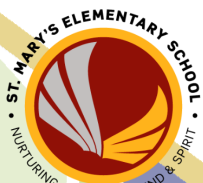


We are also pleased to welcome **Mme Su Linn Yin**

to our St. Mary's community. Mme Yin will be joining us in a part-time role as a French teacher and part-time Educational Assistant. She brings with her a wealth of experience teaching Core French to K-7 students, both in Yangon, Myanmar and here in Vancouver. Mme Yin is passionate about creating interactive and engaging lessons that help build students' confidence and love for language learning. She is eager to contribute, grow, and collaborate as part of our vibrant school community. We look forward to the gifts Mme Yin will bring to St. Mary's!



We are pleased to welcome **Mrs. Juliana Mustapic** to our St. Mary's community. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and training in working with neuro-diverse learners and staff both in our CISVA schools and in the Coquitlam School District. Some of her roles have included work as an Educational Assistant/Learning Support Worker Leadhand and Child and Youth Care Worker. She has a Bachelors of Arts in Child and Youth Care Counselling Degree, Diploma in Classroom and Community Support and a Special Education Teacher Assistant Certificate. Mrs. Mustapic will have a dual role of Education Assistant and supporting inclusive student engagement with a focus on social skills and mental health. She is excited about joining our school community and using her talents and experience to support student learning and wellness.



UNIFORM SALE: STUDENT PROJECT

UNIFORM SALE – A GRADE 7 STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

A school **Uniform Sale** is coming up—a great chance to purchase gently used uniform items at affordable prices and donate any clean, outgrown pieces your child no longer needs.

Donations can be dropped off at the school office Tuesday, June 10: 8:30-9:30, 2:30-3:30, and on Wednesday, June 11th: 8:30-9:30 am. Please ensure all items are washed and have no stains or holes.

Date: June 23

Time: 2:30-3:30

Location: front of school

This sale is organized by a group of **Grade 7 students** as part of their mission to **make a positive difference for the environment** by promoting reusing and reducing waste in our school community. Proceeds will go towards students activities. Thank you for supporting both our school and the planet!

THE PARISH CHALLENGE 2025 IS BACK!

The Parish Challenge Day 2025 is Back June 28! The school is excited to participate in the **Parish Challenge Day**—a lively celebration of faith, fellowship, and fun! First launched during our parish's Centennial Celebration two years ago, this exciting event brings together six parish groups—including **St. Mary's School**—in a friendly day-long competition.

We're proud to say the **school team won the trophy** last time, and we're ready to **defend our title** in 2025!

We're looking for enthusiastic team members from our school community—**Gr. 7 youth, young adults, and adults** are all welcome!

•**T-shirt Fee:** \$10 per participant; cash to Ms. Cagliuso (St. Mary's Team Captain) or etransfer Michelle Burns at mburns@stmary.bc.ca

Note: Challenge 2025

Add: T-shirt size

•**Lunch:** Subway lunch provided by the school

If you're interested in joining the St. Mary's team, please contact **Sandra Cagliuso** at scagliuso@stmary.bc.ca for more information or to sign up.

Event Schedule – Saturday, June 28:

8:30 a.m. – Mass

9:30 a.m. – Gather in the school gym

10:00 a.m. – Worship, prayer, and introductions

10:30 a.m. – Parade of Teams

11:00 a.m.–1:45 p.m. – Games, with Subway lunch and team photos

1:45 p.m. – Dance Competitions

2:30 p.m. – Awards Ceremony

2:45 p.m. – Closing

ACTIVE LEARNING

These highlights offer just a glimpse of the engaging field trips and events experienced by our students throughout May and June.

Bike to School Week and Biker's Breakfast



Track & Field Meets



Grade 5 in Victoria



Kindergarten at the Vancouver Aquarium





THANK YOU



We're excited to share that our **Wine Survivor Fundraiser** raised \$1,390 this year towards the purchase of a new school bus. Thank you to everyone who participated and referred other families—your support helps us move one step closer to this important goal! A special thank you to Mr. Mogatas for his fun and creative daily postings and for keeping our love of 90s music alive throughout the game. Cheers to everyone who made this fundraiser a success!

Peer Helpers

Thank you to the 60 Peer Helpers from Grades 5–7 who generously volunteered their time to assist students and staff on the playground during recess this year. Your leadership and kindness made a meaningful difference in our school community.



Our **Mother's Day Mass and Tea** was a beautiful celebration of the special women in our lives. Thirty student volunteers helped serve our guests, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Thank you to the **Student Network** for leading our Mother's Day Mass and to the mothers who participated in the liturgy with their children—it was a truly touching celebration.

Photography & Yearbook

A special thank you to Hartley Facultad for capturing incredible moments from our Confirmation Mass and Track & Field events. We are deeply grateful for his dedication to producing our school yearbook—his final one as his son is moving on to high school from Grade 7. The yearbook is a treasured keepsake that beautifully reflects the memories and spirit of our school community. Students will receive their yearbook on June 13th.



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 click on the link below for more information.

June Registration