



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Vancouver, BC | June 2026



Living,
Celebrating, &
PROCLAIMING
OUR FAITH

“
*For I know the plans I have for
you , says the Lord... To give you a
future & a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (RSV) ”

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE



Dear Parents and Guardians,

In June, we celebrate a year of learning, growth, and faith at St. Mary's. Guided by our Catholic values, we have provided students with meaningful classroom and off-site experiences that foster curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning.

This spring, we were blessed to celebrate our school's 95th Anniversary. The celebration brought together families, alumni, parishioners,

staff, and students, reminding us of the strong community that makes St. Mary's such a special place. Thank you to the PEC, PSG all of our volunteers whose generosity supports so many school programs and events. We truly accomplish more when we work together. A short video of the celebration will soon be available on the school website.

As the school year comes to a close, we look forward to celebrating year-end events, field trips, and the Grade 7 Farewell. We congratulate our Grade 7 students on their many accomplishments and thank them for their leadership and contributions to our school community. They will be greatly missed and will always be welcome at St. Mary's.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We wish all of our families a safe, restful, and blessed summer vacation.

Sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal

June 2026

Farewell

- 1-5 Go by Bike Week; fruit & granola bars given out on Friday
- 3 Track & Field Championships
- 5 First Friday Mass 9:10
- 6 Eucharistic Procession after 5:00pm anticipated Mass
- 7 BC Children's Hospital Run
- 8 Parent Survey Due (SST)
- 4-9 Student Network Campaign for Mentors (Grade 5 & 6 only)
- 10 Student Network Elections for Mentors (Grades 1-6)
- 14 St. Mary's Parish Fair; Choir sings at 5:00p.m. Mass
- 15 Step Up 1:30-2:30
- 16 Gr. 7 Farewell 4:30
- 17 Gr. 4 Band Demo 9:30; Primary French Play Gr. 1 and 3 at 1:30
- 18 Primary Talent Festival 9:00 (gym) Primary Out of Uniform
- 19 Donuts for Dads 8:30-9:00
- 21 Choir sings 5:00 pm Mass
- 23 Intermediate Talent Festival (gym) Intermediate Out of Uniform
- 24 School Mass 9:30
- 25 Last Day of School for Students Report Card Release 10:00 am Dismissal

VIRTUE IN PRACTICE

Our "Year of Faith" is now complete and in the past nine months both students and staff have learned more about faith, reverence, stewardship, generosity, gratitude, honesty, mercy, justice and zeal. In the Church document entitled "The Catholic School", we learn that...

It's [The Catholic school's] task is fundamentally a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life: the first is reached by integrating all the different aspects of human knowledge through the subjects taught, in the light of the Gospel; the second in the growth of the virtues characteristic of the Christian. - The Catholic School, #37

Because we as a staff realize how important teaching the virtues is in fulfilling our mission as a Catholic School, we will continue our "Virtues in Practice" program for the academic year 2026-2027, focusing our attention on "Hope"!

LEADERS IN ACTION

Mel Zajac

For the past three years, the Grade 7 classes at St. Mary's School have attended Zajac Ranch as part of their Outdoor Education Program.

Last Thursday, May 28th, Mel Zajac, founder and chairperson of Zajac Ranch, passed away at the age of 98. During our stays at the ranch, Mr. Zajac would often visit our students and speak with them about their experiences there. He genuinely enjoyed spending time with young people and always made time for them despite his many responsibilities.

Zajac Ranch is not only an outdoor education centre for schools throughout the year, but also a summer camp that serves children with special needs and youth at risk. Mr. Zajac firmly believed that every child deserved the opportunity to grow, to hope, and to lead. During our four-day visits, our students experienced many of those opportunities firsthand.

In addition to participating in activities such as wall climbing, high and low ropes, and archery, our students benefited from one of the most meaningful aspects of our time at the ranch: celebrating Mass together on Friday before beginning the journey home. Surrounded by nature, we gathered in prayer to give thanks to God for the many blessings of the week and for the strong sense of community that had been built among us.

Before we left the ranch in September 2025, Mr. Zajac joined us in the hall and promised to create an even better outdoor space for our Masses—a place deep in the forest where we could feel truly connected to nature and to our faith.

This coming September, we will once again visit Zajac Ranch for our Outdoor School experience. Sadly, we will no longer have the privilege of Mr. Zajac's visits, stories, and encouragement. His generosity, vision, and commitment to young people have left a lasting impact on our students and our school community. May he rest in peace.





Spring Festival & 95th Anniversary

Our Spring Festival and 95th Anniversary Celebration on May 12 was a wonderful success and a joyful reflection of our school community spirit. All students from Kindergarten through Grade 7 participated in this memorable event, showcasing their incredible talents through outstanding performances. The celebration began with a cake reception in the front lot, where the SMS Rock Band provided lively entertainment for families and guests.

We were honoured to welcome several special guests, including the Hon. Adrian Dix and his wife, Sandra Marshall - Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Suzanne Dinwoodie - former principal, and all of our Dominican Priests and Novices. Guests also enjoyed viewing historical photographs displayed in the church foyer, offering a meaningful look back at the rich history of our school over the past 95 years.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the families who attended, participated, and helped make this milestone celebration so special. Your support and enthusiasm continue to make our school community such a vibrant and spirit-filled place.



Holy Visions: Seeing Mary Presentation

In May, as part of our 95th Anniversary celebrations and in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, members of the Student Network and their classmates presented *Holy Visions: Seeing Mary*. Inspired by Anthony DeStefano's book *Our Lady's Wardrobe*, the presentation combined narration, drama, and music to share the story of Mary's virtues and significance. The performance featured several student narrators and musical selections, including a beautiful piano performance by Woojin and a violin accompaniment by Ruoyi. It was a meaningful celebration of faith, creativity, and community.





Our Lady of Nazareth with Elizabeth—BC



Our Lady of Mount Carmel with a Carmelite Nun—1251



Our Lady of Guadalupe with Juan Diego — 1531



Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal with Catherine Lebouré - 1830



Our Lady of Knock—1879



Our Lady of Lourdes and Bernadette — 1858



4 *Our Lady of Fatima with Lucia, Fransico and Jacinta— 1917*



Our Lady Queen of the Angels with her Angels



FUN DAY

Thanks to Mr. Gabriele and Ms. Lombardo for organizing the day and to the Grade 7s for leading the cheers and games.



Grade 7 Boys (above) and Grade 7 Girls (right) with their victory ribbons at the OLS Track Meet



Jersey Day



ACTIVE LEARNING



In Grade 6L, the students have been learning about Food Studies, specifically preservation methods. As a class they made homemade pickles which they shared with their families.

Grade 2s explored creativity and science by designing anatomically correct butterflies using paper mâché during our STEAM lesson



Grade 2s had a splashing good time building confidence and learning new swimming skills at Renfrew Park Pool!



Grade 2 Butterfly Release



Class Store: Grade 3 students created their own Class Store as part of their financial literacy unit for math. Students priced items accordingly and used their class cash to shop in their peers' stores.



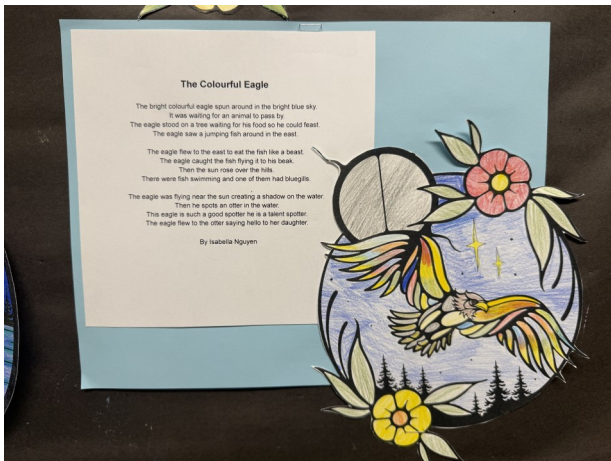
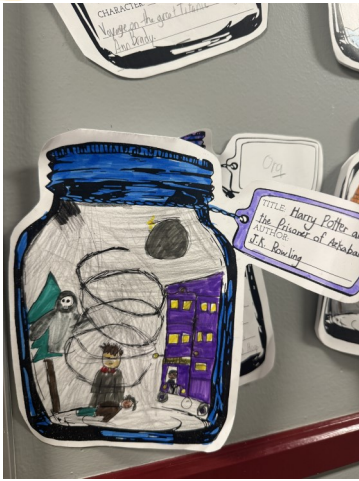
BC Hydro Presentation in Grade 3. Mrs. Mesina taught us about electricity safety and all about BC Hydro.



Grade 3 spent time observing living and non-living things in their school environment as part of their biodiversity unit for science.



CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS



JOIN BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are excited to announce the launch of a new software platform for the SAINTS Before & After School Club beginning next school year. This program will streamline daily operations and provide families with a more convenient and efficient experience.

The new system will include a user-friendly mobile app that allows families to manage registrations and request services including drop-in. Staff will use digital check-in and check-out procedures, and families will benefit from real-time, attendance-based billing.

Digital registration packages and setup instructions will be distributed in August when the school office reopens. Families wishing to access before- and after-school care services will be required to complete their registration online and select their regular and/or drop-in care days through the new system.

Please use the dedicated ASC phone line: **604-428-0357** to contact club staff **between 3:00–6:00 pm on school days** if you will be late or if someone else will be picking up your child.

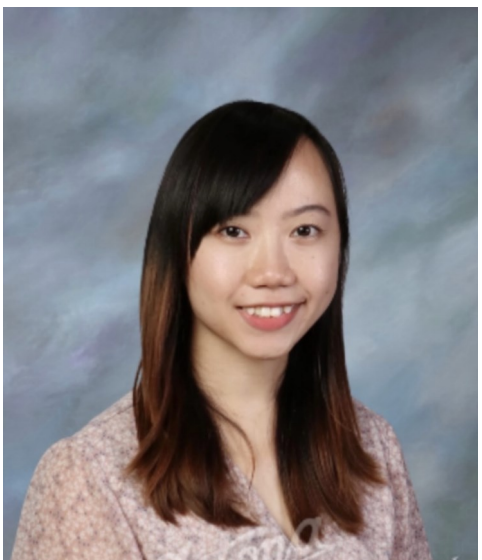
Please click on the link to register in June and settle your fees by June 25. Thank you from club staff!

[June Registration Link](#)

STAFF UPDATES



Ms. Natsuko Motegi: We are delighted to welcome back Ms. Motegi to St. Mary's School as one of our Kindergarten teachers for the 2026–2027 school year. A former Educational Assistant at St. Mary's and a parishioner of St. Mary's Parish, Ms. Motegi brings a wealth of experience in early childhood education, including her work as a preschool teacher. She holds a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and will complete her Bachelor of Education at UBC in July 2026. We are excited to have Ms. Motegi join our teaching team next year and look forward to the gifts, experience, and dedication she will bring to our youngest learners.



Ms. Charlotte Lam: Ms. Lam has consistently demonstrated dedication and commitment to supporting students with diverse learning needs and abilities at St. Mary's School since September 2023. She has shown genuine care, patience, and understanding while effectively assisting with student learning and classroom management. Through her support, students have developed academic, social, and coping skills, empowering them to advocate for their learning needs and build positive relationships with others. Her work with English Language Learners across multiple grade levels has contributed to student success, confidence, and inclusion within our school community.

Throughout her time at St. Mary's, Charlotte collaborated meaningfully with teachers, Educational Assistants, and other school staff to create a supportive and positive learning environment. She also generously volunteered her time to coach badminton, providing students with valuable opportunities for growth, teamwork, and skill development.

Charlotte will be greatly missed as she moves on from our school community to return to a career in Early Childhood Education. We are grateful for her contributions and dedication, and we wish her every blessing and success in her future endeavours.

PEC MEMBERS LEAVING

This year, we offer special thanks and recognition to our dedicated PEC members who will be concluding their service: Mr. Daniel Chou (4 yrs. Chairperson and Treasurer), Mrs. Anne Woo (7 yrs. Vice-Chair & CISVA Delegate), Mrs. Katrina Asaua (2 yrs. Parent Participation), and Mr. Ryan Raguero (8+ yrs. Ad Hoc member and former Chairperson). Through years of volunteer service, they work tirelessly to strengthen and enrich the life of our school, always keeping the best interests of St. Mary's at heart. Their exceptional leadership, generosity, and commitment have made a lasting impact on our school community.

On behalf of the students, staff, and families of St. Mary's, thank you to these individuals and to all PEC members and volunteers for your dedication and service. Your contributions help make St. Mary's the outstanding school it is today.

VOICES OF CHANGE

When I was younger, I thought growing up would feel different. I imagined there would be a moment when I suddenly felt older, wiser, or completely ready for whatever came next. But now, as I near the end of Grade 7, I've realized that growing up doesn't happen all at once. It happens through a lot of small moments that slowly shape who we become.

It's the conversations with friends that seemed normal at the time but turned into memories we'll never forget. It's the teachers who encouraged us when we didn't believe in ourselves. It's the mistakes we made, the challenges we faced, and the lessons we learned along the way.

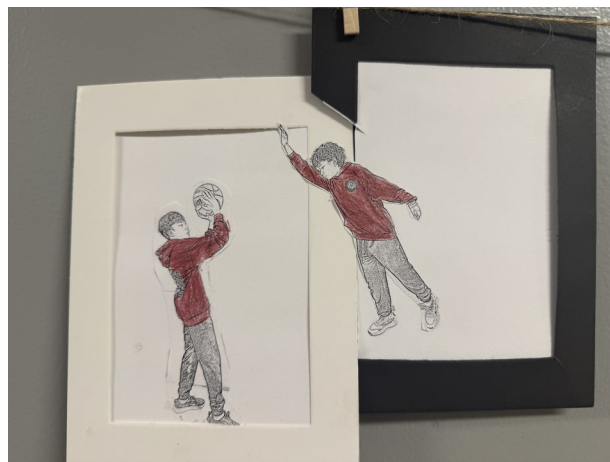
This year has shown me how much people can change without even realizing it. The person I was when I first started elementary school isn't the same person I am today. I've become more confident, more independent, and more aware of the people around me. But I've also learned that no one grows alone. Every friend, teacher, and family member I've met has played a part in helping me become who I am.

As this chapter comes to an end, I've started to appreciate the little things more than the big ones. The daily routines, the familiar faces, and the moments that once felt ordinary now feel special because I know they won't last forever.

To the younger students, enjoy where you are right now. Don't rush to grow up or move on to the next grade. Enjoy recess, enjoy learning new things, and spend time with your friends. Be kind to others, even in small ways, because those moments matter more than you think. The years go by faster than you expect, and one day you'll look back and realize that those ordinary moments were some of the most important ones.

As I move forward, I'm grateful for everything this school has given me, the lessons, the memories, and the people who have helped me grow. I'll carry those experiences with me wherever I go next.
"Don't count the days; make the days count."

- Aradhya, 7S



The Dangerous Night

The blazing breeze blow boldly by,
 While giant clouds consumed the sky,
 The thunder shouted, BOOM! with pride,
 As roaring rivers rushed beside.

The silver sea sang splash! all night,
 Reflecting shards of glowing light.
 The mountains stretched a million high,
 Their icy peaks could scrape the sky.

Bright birds burst through branches bare,
 Beating blue-black wings through air.
 The crackling campfire snapped and hissed,
 Sending sparks into the mist.

A tiger tore through tangled trees,
 Swift as storms across the seas.
 The wild wind whistled, sharp and free,
 And shook the ancient cedar tree.

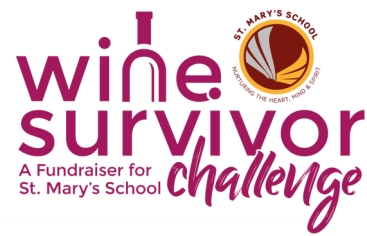
Through darkness danced in dreadful streams,
 The sunrise spilled its golden beams.
 The world awoke with flashing light,
 A fearless flame against the night.

- Filippa Lee (7S)





SAINTS FUNDRAISING



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 4th season of our Wine Survivor Challenge! Thanks to your enthusiasm and support, we raised **\$1,380** toward the purchase of a new school bus.

We are especially grateful to those who referred family and friends to join the challenge. A special thank you also goes to **Mr. Mogatas** for his creative movie-themed postings throughout the competition, particularly during an exceptionally busy track and field season.

Congratulations to our final 6 prize winners:

- **1st Prize:** Shawn Miskimin
- **2nd Prize:** Harriet Fancott
- **3rd Prize:** Michelle Burns
- **4th Prize:** Tony Dutt
- **5th Prize:** Tony Dutt
- **6th Prize:** Harriet Fancott

Congratulations as well to all of our **Wine Wednesday** winners throughout the season!

Thank you again for your support. We look forward to seeing everyone back for another exciting Wine Survivor Challenge next May!



BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RUN INFO

For those who are joining the SMS Team for the BC Children's Hospital run next Sunday, we will meet as a team by the Playground on Ontario Street, not the Riley Park Playground.

The race starts at 9:00, we will meet at 8:15 to take a photo together. The schedule for the day is as follows:

Event Schedule:

We suggest you arrive onsite at least 30 minutes before your warm up time below to get ready to run.

- 8:40 am—Race warm up begins at start line for 5k runners
- 9:00 am—5k run start time
- 9:20 am—Race warm up begins at start line for 2k runners
- 9:30 am—2k run start time
- 9:30-12pm Festival celebration at Riley Park