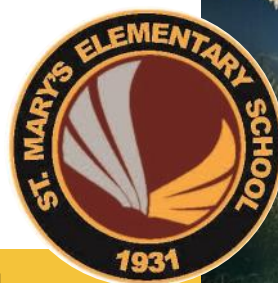


St. Mary's School Newsletter

Vancouver, BC | October 2026



Administration: Ms. Brenda Krivuzoff - Principal
Mrs. Maryann Vukasovic - Vice-Principal
Mr. Mark Mogatas - Vice-Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

By October, students are increasingly confident with the routines and expectations that foster a safe, respectful and welcoming environment. We recently marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Thank you to our Grade 7 students and teachers for leading the September 28 prayer service which invited us to listen, reflect and pray for healing. We also celebrated the enthusiasm of our student athletes at our 14th annual St. Mary's Cross Country Meet Sept. 29. With many fall field trips have already completed and more learning adventures ahead, we look forward to creating additional memories together at our Walkathon on Oct. 9.

It's been heartwarming to see new students building friendships and finding their place in our school community. Our Peer Helper program is in full swing, with students fostering positive connections during primary and intermediate lunch recesses. Through our Greetings Program, many students received recognition in September and were celebrated for demonstrating kindness and positive behaviour.

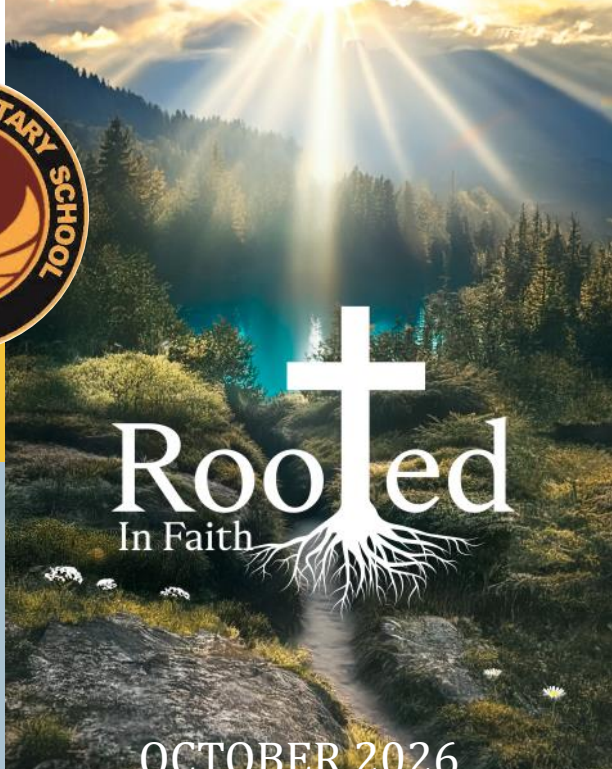
Grades 4 and 7 will soon begin to write Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) in reading, writing and numeracy. I'll be sharing a summary of a recent report from the ministry over the last five years next week. We also received a positive report of the Safer Schools Together Survey administered last May/June. A summary will be sent next week.

October is also the month of our Blessed Mother and the Holy Rosary. Our school will pray together on Oct. 7, World Rosary Day. We encourage families to pray the rosary and ask for Mary's intercession for our families and staff. May we follow her example of trust, humility and faithful love. Please read the details about our upcoming food drive in support of the Collingwood Neighborhood House Morning Star Breakfast Program.

On behalf of our staff, we wish you a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal



OCTOBER 2026

VIRTUE: STUDIOUSNESS

- 1 Individual and Class Photos 9:15
Fantuan Hot Lunch Start
- 2 First Friday Mass 9:15
SMS Kitchen Hot Lunch
- 7 CISVA Cross Country Championships
World Rosary Day
- 9 Walkathon 9-12 Central Park
(Early Dismissal at 12) No ASC
- 12 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 13 School Closure
(Professional Day)
- 18 School Choir sings 5:00 Mass
- 20 School Monitoring visit 1:00
- 21 School Mass 9:15
- 23 School Closure: Professional Day
- 27 Photo retakes
Notre Dame Open House 6:00
- 28 Notre Dame Band Concert 11:00—
gym
- 30 Halloween Out-of-Uniform \$2
- 31 Halloween in Collingwood 12:00-
2:00 Safeway Parking lot @ Tyne





VIRTUE IN PRACTICE 2026-27

Virtue: Studiosness

During October, we will practice the virtue of “*Studiosness: 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 may think is “just like” studiosness, 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.

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 want to gain knowledge about the ultimate source of Truth, which is Jesus Christ himself.

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.

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.

Sharing space and materials

Rooted
In Faith





TRUTH BEFORE RECONCILIATION

Every Child Matters



Thank you to our Grade 7 teachers and students who led a reverent prayer service on Monday. All classes will participate in a follow up activity, What can we do to help make our school a place where everyone belongs?



This is our commitment:

Truth, Love, Listen, Learn, Action,
and Respect



FIELD TRIPS AND EXPERIMENTS

Salmon Hatchery Field Trip



Kindergarten students tried observational painting as they looked at a bouquet of flowers.



Bus Drill by Mr. Monk. The K students listened very carefully.



Grade 2 Students explored how air takes up space with the upside-down cup experiment. The tissue placed inside the cup stayed completely dry even when the cup was pushed under water!. This simple experiment showed that the air inside the cup occupied space and prevented the water from reaching the tissue.

Grade 2—How many water droplets can fit on a penny? Our Grade 2 scientists made predictions, tested their ideas, and explored the magic of surface tension as they gather as a dome on a penny. A little experiment with a big discovery.





GRADE 4 VISIT TO CHEAKAMUS



GRADE 7 OUTDOOR EDUCATION—SEPT. 8-11

Camp Zajac





Welcome Back BBQ

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Welcome Back BBQ! We are grateful to the PEC and parent volunteers who organized and supported the event. A special thank you to Irene Fong for coordinating the Cake Walk, and to all the families who generously donated cakes. Your contributions helped make the evening a wonderful community celebration!



Here's our 50/50 winner Mr. Miskimin with PEC Chairperson Richelle Tapia.



Grade 5 Math: Using Pix Brix to copy patterns, fill in T-Tables and recognize/discover patterns.

Curricular Activities

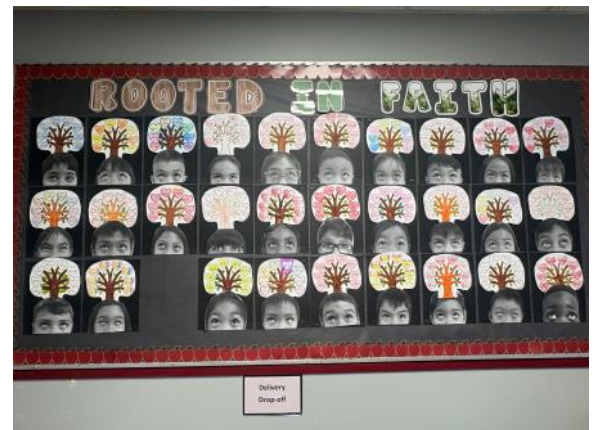


Amy and Kayla in 1M doing a leaf etching



Gr. 3 Science—Students spent time studying the Scientific Method by completing some experiments.

Rooted in Faith—Gr. 3 students brainstormed influences in their lives that keep them strong and grounded in their faith.





SMS CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Congratulations to all participants on this year's Cross Country Team! We hosted the 14th Annual Cross Country Invitational Meet at Memorial South Park, and will send runners to the CISVA Meet final next week. Thank you to all the parent volunteers and members of our school community for your support and cooperation this season. Special thanks to Mr. Mogatas, our meet organizer, and all the coaches.





STUDENT NETWORK

Our Student Network has been selected! Congratulations to our Mentors and Ambassadors who will be proudly representing our school at liturgies and masses, assemblies and public events online and in person. Stay tuned for the Student Network Wall!

Mentor Grade 7P Victoria Atelevich
 Mentor Grade 7S. Mischa Castro
 Mentor Grade 6M. Amelia Rogers
 Mentor Grade 6M Michael Mendoza
 Mentor Grade 6L Trishia Espiritu
 Ambassador Grade 7P Mayra Eskandar
 Ambassador Grade 7P Victoria Pascual
 Ambassador Grade 7S You Shan Lin
 Ambassador Grade 7S Olivia Naguiat
 Ambassador Grade 6L. Vanessa Tran
 Ambassador Grade 6L. KC Estrada
 Ambassador Grade 6M. Adelizze Ramos
 Ambassador Grade 6M. Kevin Uy
 Ambassador Grade 5 Sophie De Jesus
 Ambassador Grade 5. Jaedyn Seguit
 Ambassador Grade 4 Sean Miskiman
 Ambassador Grade 4 Sophia Katigbak
 Ambassador Grade 3 Zoe Asaua
 Ambassador Grade 3 Pierce Wright
 Ambassador Grade 2C Laura Braga de Assis
 Ambassador Grade 2C Eliisa Li
 Ambassador Grade 2M Zoe Heenan
 Ambassador Grade 2M Zachary Wang
 Ambassador Grade 1P Ryza Butay
 Ambassador Grade 1P Kian Moore
 Ambassador Grade 1B Idhant Talukdar
 Ambassador Grade 1B Lina Karadeniz

Student Network Breakfast Food Drive

Our Student Network is organizing a breakfast food drive in support of our neighbours at the Collingwood Neighbourhood House Morning Star Breakfast and Shower Program. Beginning next week, students are invited to bring non-perishable breakfast items to school through **October 16**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to put our faith into action by supporting members of our local community. The Student Network will deliver the collected donations directly across the street to Collingwood Neighbourhood House. Thank you for your donations!

Suggested Donations:

- Cereal and instant oatmeal
- Oatmeal packets and granola bars
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Peanut butter and jam
- Canned fruit and applesauce
- Canned tuna and other canned meats
- Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate
- Shelf-stable milk or milk alternatives
- Breakfast biscuits and crackers



SAINTS FUNDRAISING

Walkathon

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
• NURTURING THE HEART, MIND & SPIRIT •

SCHOOL WALKATHON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

WE'RE RAISING MONEY FOR A NEW SCHOOL BUS!

THE WALK:
We're walking to Central Park and back!

WHAT TO WEAR:
Gym strip + comfortable running shoes!

OUR GOAL:
Each student is encouraged to raise **\$150!**

OUR WHY:
We're raising money for a **NEW SCHOOL BUS!**

**EVERY STEP COUNTS.
EVERY DOLLAR HELPS.
LET'S DO THIS!
LET'S GET THAT BUS!**

Fundraising Target: \$32,000

Raise \$150+ to Win a Limited-Edition Spirit-Wear T-Shirt



The Challenge

Raise \$150 or more in total pledges by Monday, October 19!

The Reward

Win a complimentary, limited-edition St. Mary's spirit-wear T-shirt.

Exclusive Design

The shirt will be in a brand new colour, coming directly from the SAINTS' Locker, our official spirit wear store.





HALLOWEEN IN COLLINGWOOD

HALLOWEEN in COLLINGWOOD

OCTOBER 31



12:00 - 2:00 PM

KINGSWAY & TYNE SAFEWAY PARKING LOT

Come in your spooky costume and trick-or-treat in Collingwood!

Visit the Collingwood BIA tent to pick up a trick-or-treat map of participating businesses, more treats, & safety tips

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @shopcollingwood for more information



Oct 31—Kingsway & Tyne Safeway Parking Lot

SAINTS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

September invoices have now been sent to families. Please e-transfer payment to mburns@stmary.bc.ca with a note Sept. Before/After School Club Payment and your child's name. Thank you for your patience with the software. The invoice is sent out the last day of each month. Please review the invoice. We will apply your payment at the start of each month. Your payment amount will then clear the invoice. If you have questions about the club, payment etc. contact asc@stmary.bc.ca

ST. MARY'S MUSICAL PLAY

Place: Rio Theatre
Address: [1660 E. Broadway, Vancouver](#)
(Broadway & Commercial)

Date: Saturday, December 5th
Times: Matinee Show 1-4pm and Evening
Show 6-9pm
Ticket Price: \$39 – ticket sales on-line starting
September 19th
Purchase Options: Rio Theatre at riotheatre.ca OR
tky.lung@telus.net OR mikeprashant@gmail.com



11 This is the Parish's first musical play in collaboration with the school choir!