



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's been an exciting first month of school! Both our Grade 4 and 7 classes had an incredible time during their outdoor education experiences, while other classes have been on enriching field trips to connect with nature and enhance the curriculum. Buddy classes have been paired, and we're setting up our multi-graded Family groups for our first assembly to honour Mary, and our school Mass on the 16th. We are now in full swing with our extracurricular fall programs, including volleyball and cross-country. I'm pleased to share that in

September, we awarded 44 recognition tickets to students for demonstrating proper and heartfelt greetings in classrooms, hallways, and the playground. Our students also took part in the "Pebbles of Kindness" activity in preparation for the stunning Truth and Reconciliation prayer service on September 27, led by our Grade 7 classes and Student Network Ambassadors.

Looking ahead, we're excited for our upcoming Walkathon, apple sales, our annual our food drive for the Collingwood Neighborhood Morning Star Breakfast program, as well as some fun fall and Halloween activities. We hope your family is feeling welcome and connected.

God Bless,
Brenda Krivuzoff,
Principal



“
*In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:6 (RSVCE)

”

MONTH AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 2024

Virtue: Charity (overall theme)

- 2 CISVA Cross Country Championships
- 4 First Friday Mass 9:10
- 7-16 Food Drive for Collingwood
- 9 Family Group Activity 9:15
- 10 Apple Sales for two weeks
- 11 Walkathon 9-12 Central Park
- 14 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 15 **School Closure (Professional Day In Lieu)**
- 16 School Mass 9:30
- 19-20 Apple Sales at Masses
- 20 School Choir sings 5:00pm Mass
- 23 Photo retakes
- 24 Lights Out Frights Out Halloween Family Dance 5:30-8:30
- 25 **School Closure: Professional Day**
- 26 Halloween in Collingwood 12-2
- 31 Halloween Out-of-Uniform \$2 donation for charity.



OUR STUDENT NETWORK

We are excited to introduce our Student Network for the 2024-2025 school year. We held our Mentor elections on September 13th and our student body voted after listening to the nominees speak. This year's Mentors are:

- Amelia Ferreira
- Keira Setiadharm
- Nyah Solla
- Mia Jose
- Milo Pascua

They will be exercising their leadership skills over the year through leading us in prayer and liturgies, school presentations, public appearances, and social media.

Our Mentors are supported by our Class Ambassadors who take part in the various school gatherings, and share information with their classes. Here are this year's Class Ambassadors:

- 7P Vincent Collins
- 7P Armaan Pooni
- 7S Victoria Gammad
- 7S Max Facultad
- 6L Carl Espiritu
- 6L Alfred Leo Javines
- 6M Annabel Chou
- 6M Rhian Butay
- 5L Mischa Castro
- 5L Nicholas Hariwongsanupap
- 5SR Victoria Atelevich
- 5SR Sophie Brine
- 4C Vanessa Tran
- 4C Zion Ehounound-Tarcisyo
- 4Q Michael Mendoza
- 4Q Anthony Ramos Morales
- 3 Hanna Li
- 3 Justin Monreal
- 2 Dani Rubiano
- 2 Samantha Mesina
- 1 Alexander Blundell
- 1 Elizabeth Buzon



CELEBRATING MARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Our Grade 6 students will install a beautiful "Mary" artwork in the stairwell as a reflection of our devotion.

On October 9th, from 9:15-10:15, we will hold the first of three assemblies dedicated to honouring Mary, with a focus on the Holy Rosary. The Student Network Mentors and Ambassadors will lead us in a prayer service, and together we will sing the hymn, *Mother Mary, Pray for Us*.

After the prayer service, students will gather in family groups to create a special rosary bead for their classrooms. Each student will also receive a blessed rosary ring, which will be central to a school-wide prayer challenge throughout October. Our goal is for the students to pray decades of the Rosary together, fostering a deeper connection to our faith during this sacred time.



DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM



October Virtue: Charity

This month in our “Virtues in Practice” program, we will focus on the virtue of “Charity” which means **loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself**. Saint Paul tells us that charity is the greatest of all the virtues. Charity enables us to give every thought, word and action to God out of love for Him, and to care for each person we meet as we would care for Jesus Himself. The way we treat people who irritate us shows us how much love is in our heart and how honest we are when we say, “I love God”.

The goal of Catholic Education is heaven, but knowledge alone will not get us there! This program, “Virtues in Practice”, is helping our students to live out their faith in their everyday lives. St. Mary, pray for us!



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On September 27, staff and students participated in Orange Shirt Day to honor the experiences of those who attended Indian Residential Schools and to show our commitment to the message that Every Child Matters. A special thank you to the Grade 7 classes, their teachers, and the Student Network ambassadors for leading a reverent and impactful prayer service at the church.



Ambassadors brought forth examples of art, writing, math and kindness to the altar.



GRADE 7 OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Grade 7 students kicked off the school year with an unforgettable four-day adventure at Camp Zajac. During their time at camp, they embraced challenges, formed new friendships, and developed valuable skills. The experience also provided them with time to reflect on personal growth and leadership, setting a positive tone for the year ahead.



Our staff getting into character for a fun round of Clue—who knew they had such a flair for mystery?



GRADE 4 CULTURAL OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE

Grade 4 students recently participated in an enriching overnight cultural experience at the Cheakamus Centre, where they learned from the elders of the Squamish Nation about traditional ways of life. They had the opportunity to make bannock, weave with cedar, and explore the practices of hunting, fishing, and gathering. The students also experienced the unique opportunity of sleeping in a longhouse, deepening their connection to Indigenous traditions and culture.





WALKATHON FUNDRAISER

We are excited to announce our upcoming Walkathon on Friday, October 11, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM! Kindergarten students will be dismissed from Central Park, while Grades 1-7 will return to the school for dismissal. The competition is heating up, with fantastic prizes up for grabs for both individuals and classes, including movie passes, gift cards, hot lunches, and even field trips! Help support your child by collecting pledges from friends, family, and co-workers. Let's make



Students who collect \$150 or more in pledges will receive a complimentary t-shirt featuring our exclusive 2024 design. All proceeds from this year's Walkathon will go towards the purchase of a new school bus. Parents can e-transfer funds instead of sending a cheque. Please include your child's first & last name and 'Walkathon' in the comments section.



Thank you for your incredible efforts and continued support in making this event a success! Parent volunteers are welcome.

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 register for October dates below. Parents are encouraged to use the link for drop-in as well.

<https://forms.gle/HFfMBQXPZpPqSjPs9>



Grade 6M Ocean Ambassadors program at Hollyburn Sailing Club

ST. MARY'S CROSS COUNTRY MEET

We celebrated another fantastic season of cross-country with our 12th Annual St. Mary's Cross Country Meet last week. Under sunny skies, athletes from nine schools came together for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie, making it a memorable event for all. Thank you to our coaches and parent volunteers!



SAVE THE DATE!

October 24, 2024 5:30-8:30 for our Lights Out Frights Out: Glow-In-The-Dark Halloween Family Dance.

See poster for details.

24th Oct 2024
5:30 PM TO 8:30 PM

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL PRESENTS

LIGHTS OUT FRIGHTS OUT

**GLOW-IN-THE-DARK HALLOWEEN
FAMILY DANCE**

**EXCITING PRIZES FOR DANCING &
THE BEST THEMED FAMILY COSTUMES**

TICKET PRICES:
\$10 INDIVIDUALS
\$5 CHILDREN (AGES 2-12)
\$20 FAMILY COMBO (MAX 4 PEOPLE)

**WEAR SOMETHING WHITE OR REFLECTIVE TO
SHINE UNDER THE BLACK LIGHTS**

Glowing party favour and a delicious chocolate treat for all kids with parents.