



St. Mary's School Newsletter

December 2020

www.stmary.bc.ca

Vancouver, BC

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

I'm pleased to share that our school remains safe and stable in our fourth month. Thank you for your efforts to adhere to the newest restrictions by Dr. Henry.

Last Sunday marked the beginning of our 2020 Advent journey! Our focus during this time of year is preparing for our Saviour. Kindergarten-Grade 4 classes are participating in the RCAF Advent Calendar Contest. Students received an Advent Calendar and will engage in acts of charity throughout the Advent season.

Grade 1MB & 3 recently participated in the Archdiocesan Christmas Card Writing Program for those in prison and those less fortunate on our streets. After viewing two videos about the Corporal Works of Mercy, each student created a unique card with a positive image and a faith-filled message or scriptural phrase. It was a special way to show love and kindness.

Currently, students are actively engaged in preparing for our "Welcome December" Christmas Concert under the direction of Mrs. Ryznar. It is always a joy to hear the children sing and play their band instruments. Further details are provided by Mrs. Ryznar in this newsletter.

For the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's Parish will live stream the Living Rosary at 7pm. Several Grade 1, 4 and 6 St. Mary's students were involved. To join click this link at 7 [Living Rosary Online | DEC 08](#)

Grade 7 will lead our last virtual School Mass of 2020 on Dec. 16 at 10am. We will be distributing communion to those eligible at school following the Mass.

In December, we begin the admission process for Kindergarten 2021-22. If you have children born in 2016, now is the time to apply. Refer a new family to receive a Starbucks gift card.

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to extend to you and your family the love, joy, and hope that comes with this season as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

- Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



"Let us keep in mind: our own assurance will not save us; the only certainty that will save us is that of hope in God."

- Pope Francis



Upcoming Events



- ◆ Dec. 1 Grade 3-7 Reconciliation
- ◆ Dec. 4 Purdy's Chocolates pick up
- ◆ Dec. 7 Term 1 Reports distributed
- ◆ Dec. 8 Out of Uniform Students dress in Christmas Colours for Christmas Concert Rehearsal (no audience); St. Mary's Parish Living Rosary on Youtube 7pm
- ◆ Dec. 9 Out of Uniform Students dress in Christmas Colours for Christmas Concert taping (no audience)
- ◆ Dec. 10 Poinsettia pick up
- ◆ Dec. 11 Student Council members to wear Sign of the Times black t-shirts and black sweatpants for project/photo
- ◆ Dec. 14-18 Christmas Concert Youtube link to be sent out this week
- ◆ Dec. 15 Grade 2 Advent Celebration 2:20pm; live stream link to be sent by teachers
- ◆ Dec. 16 Grade 7 School Mass live stream link to be sent by teachers.
- ◆ Dec. 18 Last day of school; 12:00 Early Dismissal; No ASC

Siblings Entering Kindergarten in September 2021

Please e-mail or call the office **now** if you have a child (born in 2016) entering Kindergarten in **September 2021**. We need to confirm we have space available for siblings before accepting new students.

Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store

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Saints Athletics

As we approach the darkest days of the year, there are many bright moments in St. Mary's Athletics life.

Growing research emphasizes the positive influence of being in nature for children's mental and physical health. With our new track suits phasing in, we are gearing up and getting out in style. Children have expressed that they are warm, cozy and comfortable. Thank you for your cooperation with this new uniform mandate. It has direct positive impacts on your child's health.

November brought many good times with our intramural volleyball program and final tournament. The CISVA Athletics commission expressed their support of all creative efforts schools continue to make. It was wonderful to see more children getting out and active while having fun and developing skills and social relationships.

Our November-December phase of Intramurals has begun for students in Grades 2-7. Emphasis is on fitness, fun, and friendships while exploring the fundamentals of territorial games (e.g., basketball, soccer, lacrosse, ultimate, hockey) such as spacing, positioning, defending, and decision making. In-house basketball will begin in January, with COVID adaptations continuing to be put in place.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy Christmas break.

Mrs. Kozak



Grade 4 PE at Collingwood Park with Mrs. Samija



Darkest Days and Out to Play. Grade 7 Intramural Handball



The "new normal" COVID handshakes. Grade 5 Volleyball.



Friendship and Fun in our new tracksuits. Grade 4 PE

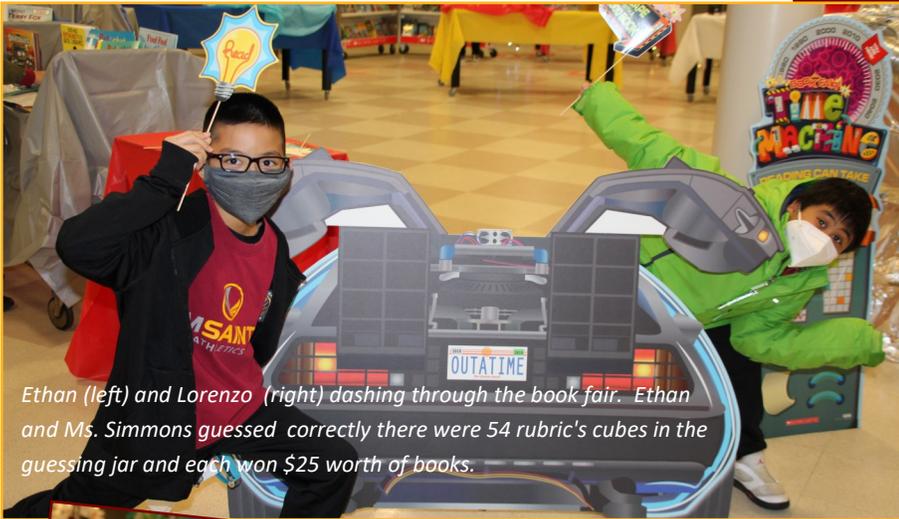


Saints Back to the Book Fair: Time Travel by Reading

Congratulations to the Student Council who did an amazing job with the play to kick off this year's book fair! This year's book Fair theme was Time Machine: Reading can Take you Anywhere! Books help us experience the past, understand our present, and imagine the future. The play was based on the (1985) Back to the Future Movie characters, Doc and Marty. Doc convinces Marty, who was bored from being on the internet, to read by traveling through time in a DeLorean with Doc's dog, Dr. Seuss. They met many popular book characters along the way, including Rayla & Callum from Dragon Prince, Pete the Cat, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and Dogman. *Anne of Green Gables* was a classic book featured at one of their stops in PEI. The last stop was far into the future when they met high school characters from the book *Rated*. The skit featured our students' fine arts skills in dancing and acting. Bravo Student Council! Thanks for inspiring a love of reading!



Saints Book Fair Snapshots



Ethan (left) and Lorenzo (right) dashing through the book fair. Ethan and Ms. Simmons guessed correctly there were 54 rubric's cubes in the guessing jar and each won \$25 worth of books.



Grade 3 students at the fair.



Good advice!



Dr. Seuss and Doc visiting the fair.



Checking out the boutique. Always popular!



Kindergarten students posing for a photo with the time machine.

Saints Book Character Out of Uniform

Many interesting book characters visited our book fair last Thursday. Each class had a student win \$15 in book fair credits to spend at the fair for best costume. Students who found the “Golden Tickets” were Kiera (3) and Jacob (6M). Our raffle winners were Ethan (K), Catalina (K), and Nick (6).

Grade 7 student Terrylle was dressed as the skeleton in Skeleton Hiccups and Grade 6P student Naila was Harry Potter. (below)



Grade 1 students Gavin and Eoin.



Grade 6M Seandre (left) with the clock tower.



Grade 4 students Tobiah and Mika with the DeLorean (right)



Follow the yellow brick road....
It's Adelizze (Dorothy) in kindergarten!



Raffle winners were Ethan (K), Catalina (K) and Nick (6).

Saints Fundraising

Purdy's Chocolatier Campaign 2020

We are pleased to announce that this year St. Mary's School has had the largest turnout in the history of the Christmas chocolates fundraiser. We raised \$20,504.93 with \$5126.23 going back to the school!

We are expecting chocolates to be delivered to the school this week and available for families to pick up at the school on or before Friday, December 4th.

More details on top class and top fundraising families to follow. Way to go St. Mary's School, way to do us proud - a warm thank you to all families and supporters for their generosity!



Growing Smiles

The PEC Fundraising Sub-Committee would like to thank all families that placed orders for poinsettias and other seasonal plants. This year was our most successful year raising \$744 for the school in flower sales. Congratulations! Please remember to give yourself extra time Thursday December 10th to pick up your flowers after school.

Out of Uniform Days: Spreading Kindness

Thank you SAINTS for your generous donations to our last two Out of Uniform Days:

October: \$412.80 to Collingwood Morning Star Breakfast Program
November: \$403.05 to Covenant House

Our December Out of Uniform Days will be on Dec. 8 & 9 in coordination with our Christmas Concert rehearsal and filming. Students are asked to wear Christmas colours on both days. Students can bring a **\$2 donation** (covering both days).

December proceeds will go towards **Backpack Buddies**. This organization serves children in 21 communities across BC. At just \$15, a bag of food contains 9 meals, plus fresh fruit and snacks so that a child has enough to eat over the weekend plus a couple of extra meals for the week ahead. Our goal is to purchase 26 backpacks filled with food.

This holiday season, we are hoping to turn hunger into hope for a child in our community.

Be a local #hungerhero!
Thank you for your support!



Book Fair Totals

Our Back to the Future: Time Travel by Reading Book Fair was a tremendous success thanks to the support from our community!

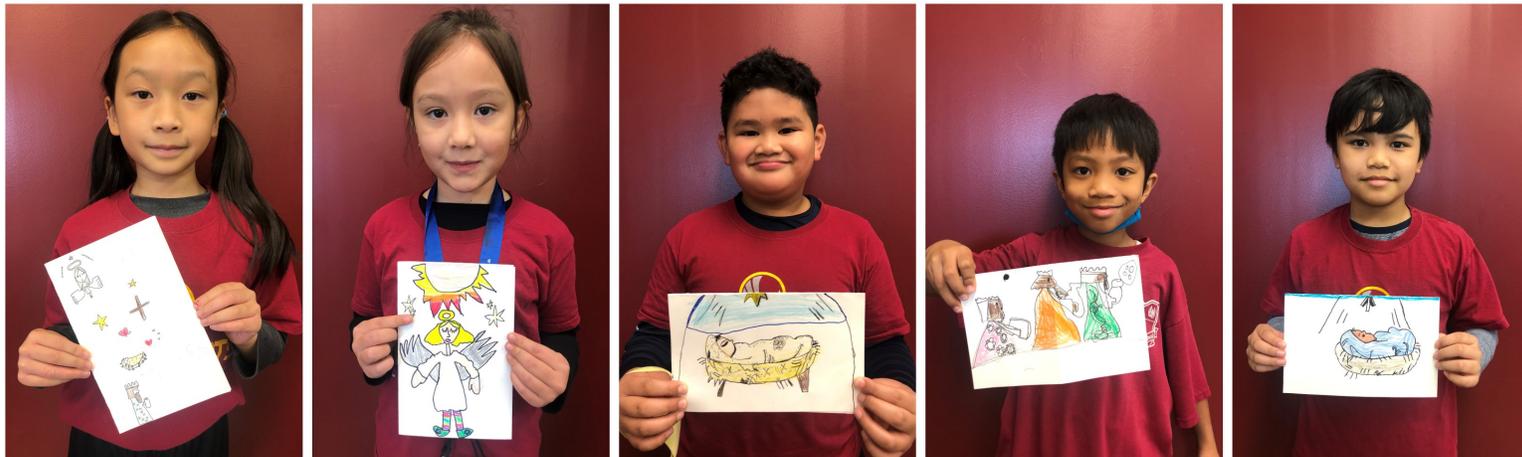
We reached record total sales of \$6136.27 and received a book fair rewards credit of \$3500, which we were able to spend on classroom libraries and books for the library.

We are appreciative of our parent volunteers who assisted with set up and tear down.

Thank you for your support of the gift of literacy!



Saints Community



A few samples of the Grade 3 Christmas cards sent to prisoners and those less fortunate through the RCAF Christmas Card Writing Program. (left to right) Kiera, Chelsea, Brendon, Reo and Jaydon. Great job SAINTS!



Grade 5 Advent Wreath

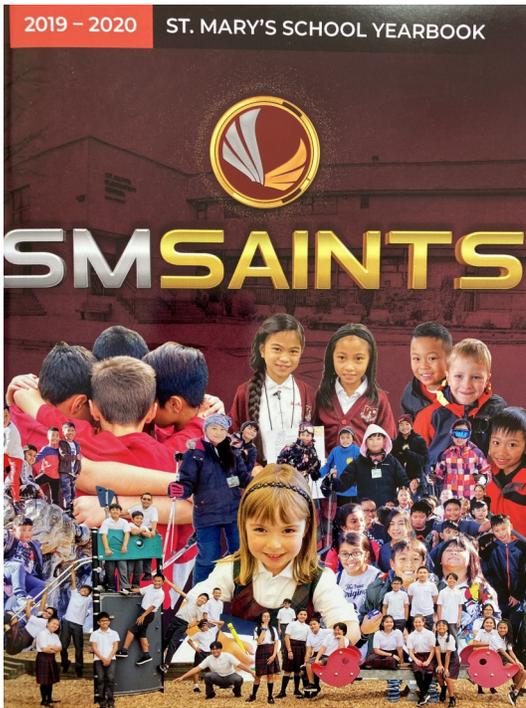
Parking Reminder

A reminder to all parents to please obey all parking signs and allow yourself a little more time to park and walk to your designated drop off/pick up gates. Thank you for cooperation.



Grade 6P Readers for our November School Mass.

Saints Community



2019-2020 Yearbook Edition

There are still lots of 2019-2020 Yearbooks available! Cost for each is \$12. If you'd like to purchase one, please give your child exact change or a cheque (made out to St. Mary's) and put it in an envelope labelled with your child's name/grade.

Thank you to Mr. Facultad who did an exceptional layout. It would be a special keepsake for any student.

Kindergarten has the spirit....O Come Let us Adore Him!

“Welcome December” Virtual Christmas Concert 2020

All of our students have been working hard to prepare for our “Welcome December” Virtual Christmas Concert this year. We are pleased that we will be able to present our music as a video that will be available for you to view on our own YouTube link.

Our concert video will be professionally recorded during school hours next week and then edited and sent to you before the Christmas Holidays.

We hope you will enjoy watching it with your children and even sharing with family members both near and far.

Here are some details you will need to know. The students are asked to come to school on Tuesday, Dec. 8 and Wednesday, Dec. 9 dressed in "Christmas Colours" or their favourite Christmas outfit. This could be a Christmas sweater or a dress, or pants and a shirt. The options are many! We will treat Tuesday as a Dress Rehearsal and then the filming will take place on Wednesday. The band classes will be filmed in the church basement where they have been rehearsing all year and the K-4 classes and intermediate choir will be filmed in the school gym. There will be no audience present.

Now you can look forward to watching our Christmas Concert from the comfort of your own home possibly with some special snacks!

Thank you for all your support! Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Ryznar





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Saints Before & After Club

Just a reminder that it's a new month! Here is the December Before & After School Link <https://forms.gle/JHB3irjoDhVWrQR77>
Please keep your accounts up-to-date and give sufficient notice for cancellation or drop in. Thank you for your cooperation!

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