



Nurturing the Heart, Mind and Spirit



Vancouver, BC

St. Mary's School Newsletter | January 2020

www.stmary.bc.ca

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

I would like to wish all our families a Happy and Blessed New Year! I hope your holiday was filled with wonderful memories of family, friends, and good health. This year, I spent time in Red Deer, Alberta with my family and enjoyed the snow and some colder weather and sunshine.

It was wonderful to see so many of our families at our annual Christmas Concert before the break. Thank you for the support you have shown the students and teachers for their efforts in performing for you.



As we move into the New Year, we look forward to exciting activities such as Catholic Schools Week, Hip Hop Week and Swimming Lessons for Gr.'s 2-4 to name a few. The first two weeks in February we will be hosting a multi-graded group of students from China. This will provide an opportunity to learn about another culture, exchange ideas and make new friends.

I would like to encourage all families to take time to review our new website. It is an excellent resource for information about our school. Many answers to questions are in the Q & A section and quick links are available for the Before and After School Club registration links.

We are all saddened with the destruction that the fires are causing in Australia. The Student Council will dedicate the proceeds from the January 31 Out of Uniform Day to the Australian Red Cross. (www.redcross.org.au) Students can wear colours of the Australian flag (red, blue, white) instead of their uniform for a \$2 donation. We will continue to pray for the victims of the fires and provide students with greater understanding of the effects of global warming and environmental issues.

May your family be blessed in the New Year as we grow closer to God in our knowledge and love of Him.

Sincerely, Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



Applications are still being accepted for the 2020-2021 school year. If you know a family looking for a dynamic Catholic School please refer them and you will receive A Starbucks Gift Card as a sign of our appreciation. Interested applicants should contact the office as soon as possible as we are completing Phase 2 Interviews this in January.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Gr.4 & 6 Human Growth & Development & Your Child Parent Meeting Thursday, January 9 6:45-7:45pm
- ◆ First Reconciliation Parent Meeting Tuesday, January 14 6:45-7:45pm (gym)
- ◆ Notre Dame Applications due Wednesday, January 15.
- ◆ Notre Dame Open House Thursday, January 16 at 6pm
- ◆ Notre Dame Gr.8 Placement Exam Monday, January 20
- ◆ School Mass Wednesday, January 22 at 9:30am
- ◆ Vancouver Opera performance January 30 9am (gym)
- ◆ Out of Uniform Friday, January 31 (Red, Blue, White - Australian Flag)
- ◆ Knights of Columbus Free Throw Tournament Saturday, January 25 8-10am (gym)

Here is the link to the January After School Club:

<https://forms.gle/kjb2vLb7jqEwELfk6>

The After School Club link is ALWAYS available on the front of our webpage under the QUICKLINKS. section



#wearesaints

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Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



I Can Build Community Spirit

St. Mary's School Concert "Praise Him With Cymbals"

Praise Him With Cymbals, our Christmas concert, was such a wonderful sharing of our students' talents and love of music. Thank you to all who attended our two performances in December. St. Mary's School is so blessed to be such a vibrant musical community. Now we look forward to more music-making and performances in the new year.





I Can Build Community Spirit

St. Mary's School Concert "Praise Him With Cymbals"





I Can Be Active

Grade 7 Outdoor Education

The Grade 7s spent December 16th-19th at the Cheakamus Outdoor School. During their 4 day 3 night adventure, the students bonded with each other and students from Holy Trinity and St. Pius by collaborating in events like archery, butter churning, eco-art, sap tasting, and bird/eagle watching. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time at outdoor school and made not only new friends, but lasting memories.





I Can Be Active

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW

The Knights of Columbus of St. Mary's Parish is inviting all 9-14 yr. old girls and boys to participate in the annual Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw on **Saturday, January 25 from 8:00am-10:00am.**

A consent/score sheet was provided to interested students and they will need to bring it to the school gym the day of the free throw. No need to return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the office.



Happy New Year to all!

The Saints are already back in action for 2020 with basketball practices, lunch-hour intramural play, and tournaments and league games beginning next Monday!

We look forward to the experiences the next 2 months will bring, as we work to develop physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and in good character.

Thanks in advance to coaches and assistant coaches, officials, scorekeepers, and our ever-supportive family of fans who make these opportunities possible.

Have a great season, everyone!



Hair Accessory Policy **REMINDER**

We are asking all parents to help support our uniform policy to ensure our students are dressed in a way that promotes community, belonging, a feeling of equity, and a sense of growth and school spirit.

Hair accessories need to be modest and in keeping with school colour tones: black, navy, burgundy, dark green. They should not draw attention. Please keep those for special occasions outside of school.

If girls are seen wearing other colored headband or hair accessories, they will be asked to take them off.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.



I Can Build Community

Nezel Balaga Gr.4 wanted to do something for the kids at Children's Hospital. She asked her peers to help by contributing a new toy and making a Christmas card. The students brought in toys, stuffies, and made beautiful cards. The Friday before Christmas, Mrs. Simmons took Tyler Cahill and Nezel down to Children's Hospital and Mrs. Cahill helped plan their tour. Below are some of the pictures that were taken of their special visit!



VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Looking for free fun kids' programs for out-of-school hours? Check out Vancouver Public Library programs! From coding videogames to book clubs and creative writing, VPL has a wide range of literacy-based programs for kids in Grades K-7. Local branch programs include:

Renfrew Branch Library – 2969 East 22nd Ave.

Acting Up: Readers' Theatre for Kids for Grades 3-6: Thursday, March 12 @ 3:30

Have fun making theatre while you read.

Reading Buddies for Grades 2-4: Mondays Feb 10-March 9 @ 4pm

Practise reading with a Big Buddy teen volunteer.

Dog Man Party for Grades K-7: Friday Feb 14 @ 1:30pm

Crafts and activities inspired by the Dog Man series.

Contact www.vpl.ca or visit your nearest branch for more details.



Vancouver
Public Library



I Can Lead

STMC Chancellor Music Festival for Pianists & Vocalists

Every spring our Intermediate Choir performs at the TMC Chancellor Music Festival, but did you know that individual students are also eligible to participate? If you are a pianist or a vocalist there are categories for you to join as well. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Ryznar (bryznar@stmary.bc.ca) for more details. The entry deadline is February 20 and entry fees range from \$45-\$55 depending on your level.

Winter Weather

Please be sure to send your children to school with warm jackets, boots, gloves and hats. Students will be going out for recess breaks. In the event of a school closure due to snow, we will post an update on our school webpage and contact CKNW AM 980 New Talk Radio to broadcast the announcement.

Volunteers needed!

There are 2 Morning positions available for Supervision on Thursday and Fridays and 4 After School Supervision positions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

If you are available, please email Vinay Kavlekar at vikav1187@gmail.com.

*School Gate Closure is
at 3:20 everyday.
Please ensure your
children are picked up
by that time.*



#wearesaints



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