



St. Mary's School Newsletter

September 2019

www.stmary.bc.ca

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Mary's Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year! We are excited to see all our new and returning families and are committed to providing your children with an excellent faith-based Catholic education. Taking risks is an essential part of learning, and I feel motivated with this new CISVA School Theme, "I can do all things through Christ." If we have trust in the Lord, we can set new goals, help others more, and make a difference. What are your goals for the year?

A recent article in the Aug. 25th Vancouver Sun listed the top three reasons why parents choose to send their children to an Independent School as "they offer a genuinely supportive and nurturing environment for students, are safe, and emphasize character development." "I feel our staff and programs provide this support to students. We are always available to discuss school issues with our families. By working together and respecting each other in our words and actions, our students will succeed, and we will create a positive atmosphere for learning.

Our community is growing, and we have changed some classroom spaces to create two kindergarten classes. Our music program will be in the church basement temporarily.

We launch our new website next week! Until then, you may continue to visit our current website at stmary.bc.ca and our Facebook page for the most current information regarding events at our school. We hope to see you at some upcoming important September community-building events: Meet the Teacher Night and the Back to School BBQ. On behalf of the staff, we look forward to journeying with you and your children this school year.

Sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal

Upcoming Events

- ◆ School Opening Prayer Sept. 3
9:30 church; 12:00pm Dismissal
- ◆ Supervisors Meeting Sept. 5 6:45 gym
- ◆ Library Helper Training Sept.5 7pm library
- ◆ Meet the Teacher Sept.9 7pm gym & classrooms
- ◆ Band Rentals Sept.12 3-5pm church basement
- ◆ Back to School BBQ Sept.13 5-7:30pm
- ◆ Mass Sept.18 9:30
- ◆ Professional Day - Sept. 20 (SCHOOL IS CLOSED)
- ◆ SMS Cross-country Meet Sept. 24
- ◆ Assembly Sept. 25



Morning Bell:	8:50am
Recess Kinder-Gr.3:	10:30-10:45am
Recess Gr.4-7:	10:45-11:00am
Lunch Recess Kinder-Gr.3:	12:00-12:30pm
Lunch Recess Gr.4-7:	12:15-12:45pm
Dismissal	3:00pm

Before and After School
Club registration September link..

<https://forms.gle/3B58eFDa9idqBWET6>

#wearesaints

@SMSaints

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Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



SAINTS Community

THE COMMUNITY OF LOS RIOS THANKS YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

As many of you know, I traveled to Ecuador this summer with a small group of students, as well as a few of the parents, from St. Thomas Aquinas & Little Flower Academy. For six days we worked in a small community called, Los Rios, situated close to the Napo River in the Amazon. Our group began laying the foundation for a two storey school. This community was in great need of this school. Many of the students were coming from great distances in order to complete an education & to have the opportunity to further their studies in the bigger cities of Ecuador.

The money that you contributed from our last Spirit Day in June made a huge difference to the women (Artisans) of that community. With the \$400 raised, I was able to purchase some of their beautiful crafts & bracelets. These women depend on the sale of these items in order to provide for their families.

Some of these bracelets will be available in the Birthday Prize Box. If your child chooses a bracelet, he/she will be able to follow the progress of these women just by following the link and the number on the package. Your child will feel good knowing that they have made a difference in someone else's life.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST...

I thank you from the bottom of my heart...
Ms. Dolores Simmons



All volunteer positions require a Criminal Record Check. If your family is NEW to the school community or if you wish to volunteer throughout the school year, you will need to have a Criminal Record Check (CRC) done.

Please go to the link below, type in the access code (**GYE4HTFPTS**) and fill out the form on-line.

<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>

There is no charge and the confirmation letter is sent directly to our office and is good for 5 years. The office updates your child's teacher when the CRC is received.





SAINTS Community

Back to School BBQ

Our first community fun event is **Friday, September 13th from 5:00-7:30**. There will be lots of good food, face painting, bouncy castles and fun. A BBQ pre-order sheet will be sent home soon.

This year the PEC Special Events/Fundraising Sub-Committee is hosting the 1st Annual CAKE WALK at the Back to School BBQ!

TO DONATE A CAKE or 12 CUPCAKES: If you would like to participate and provide a cake or 12 cupcakes, PLEASE SIGN UP BY E-MAILING Heather Muir at: ham.muir@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 10th. On the day of the BBQ, you will be required to drop off your cake or 12 cupcakes at the kindergarten room (closest to the gym) between 4:30-6pm. Cakes need to be at least 8"x 8", cupcakes need to be by the dozen, both need to be nicely decorated and in a pan that can be given away. For those of you who are not bakers but would like to participate and donate, baked goods can be store bought. ****To thank you for your donated baked good(s), you will received 2 hours of volunteer time per cake or 12 cupcakes!****.

If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please keep an eye on the schools volunteer website.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAKE WALK GAME:

If you would like to try your luck on winning a cake or 12 cupcakes, you will be able to purchase tickets to play the Cake Walk game during the BBQ.

Ticket prices: \$5 for 3 tickets, \$2 for ticket

Rules of the game will be explained to you when you purchase your tickets.

The Cake Walk will run until all cakes/cupcakes are won!

If you would like to try winning a scrumptious dessert at the event, make sure you buy some Cake Walk tickets and participate in this fun game! See you all at the Back to School BBQ!!

Thank you in advance.

The PEC Special Events/Fundraising Sub-Committee

Summer Uniform

Summer uniform is in effect until Tuesday, October 1st.



PEC Members 2019-2020

Ryan Raguero	PEC Chairperson
Olga Warick	Vice-Chairperson/Secretary
Christina Ferreira	Treasurer
Vinay Kavlekar	School Participation Chairperson
Ann Woo	Parent Liaison
Alma Quilatan	Special Events & Fundraising
Brenda Tsang	Special Events & Fundraising



SAINTS Community

Parent Participation

St. Mary's Parent Volunteer program is a cornerstone of our school community.

Our online software system makes it easier for parents to participate in the volunteer program. The system automates and simplifies the volunteer process.

Each family has their own unique password-protected website, aka 'portal'. From within your own portal, you can:

- Easily view and quickly sign up for available volunteer tasks.
- Automatically track the volunteer tasks and associated service hours you have signed up for, or have been assigned.
- Know your real-time service hours total, any time.
- Receive/send messages from and to the Volunteer team regarding volunteer-related matters, all from within your private portal.



You can log in to your parent portal by going to the school website and click on the Volunteer and Appointment Schedule.

Username is: **your Family E-mail Address** (The email you receive your St. Mary's newsletters from is your registered email.)

Default Password for NEW FAMILIES ONLY: **StMS#2019** (Note: Passwords are case sensitive)

The first time you log in, you will see a 'Start Guide' screen, this has 4 short videos that will familiarize you with your volunteer portal. We recommend you watch at least the 1st video, the Introduction video. This video will show you how to **personalize your password** (which we strongly recommend you do, for security purposes). The website is easy to use, you don't need any technical knowledge. Along with the Start Guide, there are other videos in the 'How-To' area, link on the upper right inside your portal.

In case you forget your username and/or password, use the 'Forgot your password' function on the login page; enter the email address you registered with the school and the system will email you your username and password.

Back to School BBQ and Walkathon volunteer positions will be posted shortly.

If you have any questions about our new volunteer process, please feel free to contact us at: **office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca**. Thank you again for your continuous support of our volunteer program.

Participation Cheque Reminder

For Families who chose not to volunteer, your \$600 cheque is being deposited this week.



SAINTS Before & After School Club

We are continuing to offer the Before and After School Club for the 2019-2020 school year. The Before School Club is open Monday-Friday 7:30-8:30 on school days. The After School Club is available Monday-Friday from 3:00-6:00pm on school days. Kindergarten students are able to join the After School Club starting September 16th, after gradual entry is over.

The Club is an academic intervention to offer your child extra support with homework, literacy, math, and incorporates enrichment activities such as nutrition, physical education and arts. As well as structured activities, there is plenty of time to have fun and play with friends. Students are asked to bring a healthy, nutritious snack provided from home.

Rates:

Before School Club \$10.00 per day

After School Club \$15 per day

Before and After School Club (same day) \$20.00

More than 1 child: less \$5.00 per day for the second child

We are finalizing electronic payment options for future months. In the meantime, please make cheques payable to St. Mary's School. We will be providing a letter for income tax purposes in February.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 604-437-1312 (during the week) or e-mail asc@stmary.bc.ca. Complete the Google Enrollment Form if you wish to enroll your child. Our Before School Club staff are: Ms. Serafina Shum (Monday-Wednesday) and Ms. Grgic (Thursday & Friday). Our After School Club staff are: Ms. Patricia Olesiak; Mrs. Sonia Rafael; Ms. Caroline Umali, Ms. Sandra Cagliuso, and Ms. Grgic.

Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

Kindergarten families may park in the front parking lot for drop off and pick up. Please park and walk your child to the school using the crosswalk.

For those parents who wish to park and walk your child to the playground, please park on Euclid Ave., or other side streets in the neighbourhood.

If you wish a quick drop off or pick up by car, please enter Austrey Ave. and drive past the cul-de-sac to the alley beside the playground and open south gate or access Clive St. from McHardy.

Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule

Dismissal at Front Door

Sept.3-4 - 8:50 - 10:30

Sept.5-6 - 8:50 - 11:30 (send a snack on these day)

Sept.9-11 8:50-12:30 (send a snack & lunch each day from now on)

Sept.12-13 - 8:50-2:00 (continue sending a snack & lunch each day)

Sept.16 onwards 8:50-3:00 (full day) **Dismissal is from the backyard with the rest of the school**



#wearesaints



St. Mary's School

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#wearesaints

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Instagram smsaints604

Please download our School App on
iTunes or Google Play Store

