



## St. Mary's School Newsletter | April 2023



### Note from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,



The Easter Triduum, known as the "source of light" for the entire liturgical year by the Catholic Church, marks the culmination of the Church year with its celebration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord. The Triduum is a continuous celebration, beginning with Holy Thursday night and concluding on Easter Sunday evening. We are Easter people, recognizing that the meaning of Christ's suffering and death is linked to his Resurrection and new life. Thank you to our team of staff planning a prayerful the Holy Thursday Retreat for the school this week.

Your prayers are requested for our Grade 7 students who will be confirmed on April 20th by Archbishop Miller. May God guide them as they embark on this new phase of their spiritual journey. Grant them strength, wisdom, and faith to navigate through the challenges that lie ahead. All families are welcome to attend at 7:00pm.

We also pray for the three grade 2 students who will be baptized this month. May His blessings be upon them as they profess their faith and become part of the Christian community. Help them to grow in their faith and to always seek God's guidance and love. Bless all the families who attend these events. May they be filled with joy, love, and a sense of community as they come together to celebrate these important milestones in their children's lives.

We value our partnership with our families to ensure a successful third term this school year. Happy Easter!

Sincerely,

*Brenda Krivuzoff,*

Principal



### Before & After School Club [April Link](#)

### Power Lunches

Thank you to the PEC, Fundraising Sub-Committee, and all the volunteers for their incredible job in providing us with such healthy and delicious Power Lunches.



“ To live Easter means to enter into the mystery of Jesus who died and rose for us.  
- Pope Francis ”

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Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



# Virtues in Practice

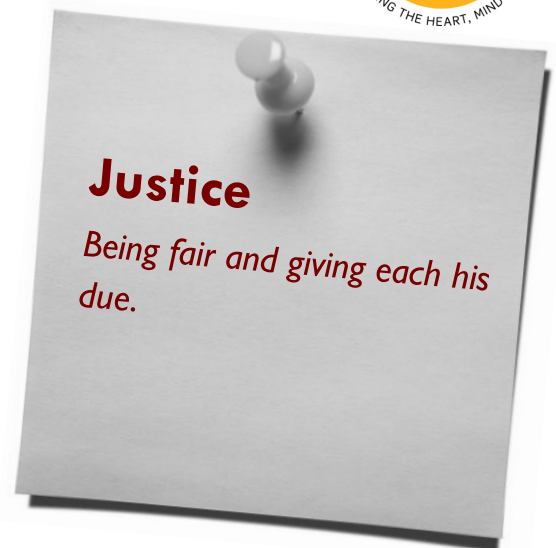
## Justice

During April, we will practice the virtue of **“Justice: being fair and giving each his due”**.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, *Justice is the moral virtue that enables us to give God and neighbor what is due to them. Justice towards people means that we respect the rights of others and establish harmonious relationships that promote the common good. Justice prompts us to pay our debts, to keep promises and commitments, to obey laws made by those in authority, to play games fairly and to respect the property of others. We act fairly and honestly toward others when we practice justice.*

There are some debts we can never repay; for example, the debt we owe to God who created us, to our parents for giving us life and raising us, or to our country. The respect, love, and loyalty that we show to them are because of the virtue of *Justice*.

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.



Gr. 5L Class leads our March School Mass



Student Network Members

## Stations of the Cross

On Wednesday March 29, Grade 6M presented the Stations of the Cross for the St. Mary's community. Students dramatized the events that Jesus experienced as he was led to his crucifixion. Other students read children's reflections on each of these events. 6M is to be congratulated for presenting such a reverent and meaningful Lenten prayer!



## Curricular Activities

**Grade 5SR** enjoyed a field trip to Microsoft Vancouver's "Garage" on Feb. 24. The students were given a tour of the facility and participated in a STEM workshop which included coding and some light art.



### A Visit from Eric Walters

On Thursday March 9th both primary and intermediate classes had the pleasure of meeting Eric Walters, a well known Canadian author. Many of the students were entertained by his own personal stories about his classes as a teacher, his life as a basketball player and coach, and his various adventures like climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. Mr. Walters has been an inspiration to many of our students. We look forward to reading not only his picture books, but also his chapter books.





# Saintly Sounds

## St. Mary's Band Program

On March 9 the **Grade 7's** participated in a special Invitational Band Concert at Notre Dame Regional Secondary School. This afternoon event included clinics with professional musicians, a rehearsal with the Notre Dame bands, pizza dinner and then an evening concert for all the families! This was a tremendous learning experience for our Grade 7's who represented St. Mary's School so well. We were honoured to be the only elementary school band participating. Congratulations Grade 7 Band!





## Saintly Sounds

### Senior Choir

The **Senior Choir** represented St. Mary's School at the Notre Dame Elementary Schools Choir Concert on February 15. Six Catholic schools participated in this exciting choral event.



## Extracurricular Activities

### St. Mary's Readers are Leaders Program

On March 30, 56 intermediate students participated in the Readers are Leaders program. There were several groups that competed and of the 8, the **Aesthetic Readers** team from Grade 6 came 1st. They will head to the Regionals on April 18. All the best to the team representing St. Mary's! Thank you to Ms. Simmons and Mrs. Bystrom for sponsoring the teams and to Mr. Mogatas for reading the questions at the competition.



St. Mary's Gr. 6 Team: (top row) Elizabeta, Ria, Leonardo, Binh  
(bottom row) Madilynn, Kyra



# Health & Athletics

April, 2023 News

It has been a terrific first week back to school with a lot to look forward to!

We are beginning our track and field units, and exploring physical literacy, physical life skills, and goal setting in running, jumping, and throwing. Developing speed and coordination will be the focus for April.

Our lunch hour Intermediate Intramural games will begin with football build-up games!

Enjoy some photos from week 1 back at school and pre-March Break!

Mrs. Kozak



Grade 5's scorekeeping a close Intramural Badminton game



Grade 2's begin the [Swim for Life](#) Program from the Lifesaving Society



Reaching strength goals with help from our friends



Grade 5's play with new partners in Intramural badminton



## Community | Faith Formation

### *An Evening with Chris Bray*

Please mark your calendars for an exciting opportunity for your family to join Chris Bray on Thursday, June 1st. Further details will follow. Your attendance at this event will earn you Parent Participation hours.



Presented by



Join us for a celebration in story and song  
St. Mary's Elementary School Thursday June 1  
7:00 pm







Learning about Lanes in track



Grade 1 Ted Harrison artwork



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 5 St. Mary's Spelling Bee 9-12 (church)
- ◆ April 6 Holy Thursday Retreat; 12pm Early Dismissal <sup>int</sup>
- ◆ April 7 Good Friday: School Closure
- ◆ April 9 Easter Sunday
- ◆ April 10 Easter Monday: School Closure
- ◆ April 11 Tribal Vision Dance Performance K-7 9:00  
Grade 6 & 7 Badminton Qualifiers
- ◆ April 15 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship 9am (gym starting with reg. at 9:00am)
- ◆ April 17 Artist in Residence 1-3
- ◆ April 18 Readers are Leaders Regionals 10:00am
- ◆ April 19 Grade 3 School Mass; Power Lunch
- ◆ April 20 Confirmation Rehearsal at 5:45; Confirmation 7:00pm
- ◆ April 21 Earth Day Prayer
- ◆ April 22 Joyce St. Cleanup Party 10am-12:00pm (for registered volunteers)
- ◆ April 25 CISVA Spelling Bee (Holy Cross Elementary) 9:15
- ◆ April 25 Gr.6 Vaccination Clinic
- ◆ April 27 St. Catherine's Track Meet
- ◆ April 28 Out-of-Uniform



Kindergartens beginning PHE class with a balance challenge

## Are you an Alum of St. Mary's? We'd like to reconnect!

If you attended St. Mary's Elementary, we'd love to reconnect! We are continuing to grow our St. Mary's Community by reaching out to members who attended our school. If you are interested in hearing from us through our newsletters, fundraising opportunities, and see what is happening on our social media, [please fill out our form!](#)

See: [Help Build Our Alumni Association by joining. It's free!](#)

# St. Mary's Elementary School #wearesaints



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