



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the final term of the 2024-25 school year, we welcome the beauty of spring, with cherry blossoms and magnolias blooming around our school neighborhood. This season also brings a time of deep reflection and spiritual preparation as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the most important season of the liturgical calendar—Easter.

There is much to look forward to in this final term. We have two significant sacramental celebrations: First Holy Communion for our Grade 2 students on **April 26 at 1:00 PM** and Confirmation for our Grade 7 students on **May 7 at 7:00 PM**. Our entire community is warmly invited to join in these special occasions. Beyond these spiritual milestones, Term 3 is filled with exciting events, including field trips, our Spring Concert, the Talent Share, and end of year celebrations. Our extracurricular activities continue to enrich student life, with badminton for Grades 6 and 7, and track and field season kicking off with five to six meets planned to ensure all participants have the opportunity to train and compete. Meanwhile, the **St. Mary's Reads** competition continues to inspire young readers and budding authors.

Report cards will be released this Wednesday, and families are invited to schedule their **Student-Led conference** on **April 11** between 8:30 and 3:30. We look forward to a joyful and enriching final term together!

Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



“ The Earth is Full of the Loving
–kindness of the Lord ”

Psalm 33:5(NLV)

MONTH AT A GLANCE

*APRIL Season of Easter
Virtue: Responsibility*

- 1 Gr. 3-7 Reconciliation
9:15 Track Season begins
Spring Uniform shorts & skorts can be worn
- 2 Report Card Release/ Power Lunch - Hi-Five
- 4 First Friday Mass 9:10; K and Gr. 6
Immunization Clinic
- 7 Grade 2 Swim program start
- 9 Grade 7, staff and school Panorama Photos
9:15; Stations of the Cross (Gr. 6s leading) at
2:15; Power Lunch - Domino's Pizza
- 11 **Student Led Conferences (all day) book
an appointment (8:30-3:30)**
- 16 School Mass 9:30 / Power Lunch
- 17 Holy Thursday Retreat 9-12
Early Dismissal @12:00
- 18 **Good Friday: School Closure**
Growing Smiles order deadline
- 21 **Easter Monday Holiday: School Closure,**
Wine Survivor Deadline
- 23 Easter Assembly 9:15
- 26 Joyce Street Clean Up Party 10:00-12
followed by a BBQ; First Holy Communion
1:00; Reception 2:00-3:00 gym
- 30 Jeans Day Out-of-Uniform (\$2) for the
Children's Hospital Foundation



DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

Responsibility

This month in our “*Virtues in Practice*” program, we will focus on the virtue of “**responsibility**” which means “**being reliable in your duties**”.

“Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1731). We all want to be people who can be counted on to take care of others and the jobs entrusted to us. We’ve all been tempted to make excuses when we’re caught neglecting our duty or doing something wrong - and we tend to lose trust in people when we know they’re just making excuses. Practicing acts of responsibility makes it easier for us to follow through and to own up to our mistakes.

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



Grade 7 band students take part in workshops and a performance at Notre Dame Regional High School.



Happy Birthday Fr. Joseph!



Jersey Day



Congratulations to all our Spelling Finalists and to our 1st Place winner Leon (Gr. 7P) who will be representing St. Mary's in the CISVA Spelling Bee on April 29. Thank you Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Lewis!



ATHLETICS

As we move into a new term, there are plenty of exciting activities happening in PE here at St. Mary's!

Our Grade 2 students will be starting their swimming lessons this term, building confidence and developing important water safety skills. Meanwhile, our Grade 3 students have successfully completed their swimming program. We hope they learned a lot and enjoyed their time in the pool!

Basketball season has officially come to an end. It was fantastic to see students grow in skill, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the season. Now, we shift our focus to badminton, where students will continue to develop their hand-eye coordination, agility and strategy.

Additionally, with track season kicking off, elements of running, jumping and throwing will be incorporated into our PE lessons to help students prepare and build their fitness.

We look forward to another fun and active term ahead!



Grade 6 Girls Basketball Team at the Richmond Olympic Oval

Exploring & Learning: Hands-on Learning Trips



Grade 1 enjoying a visit on the farm at Eagle Acres



Black Dog Quartet performance



APRIL GALLERY GLIMPSES



Grade 6L drawings inspired by Maya Angelou quote "Nothing can dim the light that shines from within."



Grade 6M Geometric Art



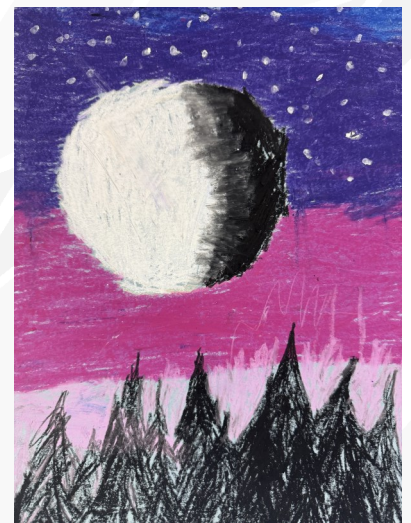
Grade 3 Sun Ray Crucifix



Grade 6M Multimediam Silhouettes



Grade 4Q Handfuls of Patterns



Grade 4Q Pastel Moon Phases



Grade 4C String Art



Grade 1 Clothes Pin crucifix



Grade 2 Watercolour & Pastel Spring Tulips

SPRING FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Raffle Tickets

Our annual St. Mary's School Parent Support raffle fundraiser is taking place April 1-June 22, 2025. All families will be receiving two booklets to sell, next **Monday**. Proceeds for this fundraiser will go towards the **school building project**. We appreciate your support to buy out the booklets or sell them to your friends and family. Tickets will also be sold at all Masses until the draw date. Thank you for all your efforts to sell them out!

Ticket prices: 1 for \$3.00/\$30 per booklet

- 1st Prize - \$5000 cash
- 2nd Prize- \$2000 cash
- 3rd Prize - \$1000 cash
- 4th Prize - \$500 cash
- 5th Prize - \$500 cash

*Prizes will be drawn
at 4:30 pm on June 22
pm at the St. Mary's
Parish*

Spring Flowers

Ready to get gardening and support St. Mary's School. Back by popular demand, here is our 2025 Spring Flowers Fundraising Program with Growing Smiles. This year, we are selling beautiful, locally grown hanging & strawberry baskets, patio planters, herbs, roses and more to help raise money for **school resources**. These planters make wonderful gifts for family, friends and neighbors, and for Mother's Day. Order online or use the form provided by email. Please see today's email from the office with all the ordering details.

Incentive:

1 volunteer hour given for every \$40 collected

ORDERS DUE:

Forms: Friday, April 18@ 3pm at the school office. No late orders please.
Online: Friday April 18 @ 11:59

PICK UP DATE:

Thursday, May 8th 2:45-3:30 at the school (Grades 4-7 pick up at the back and K-3 at the front of the school)

Join Season 3 of Wine Survivor Challenge!

Support St. Mary's School in raising funds for a **new school bus** while having fun in our exciting elimination game! Students from **Kindergarten to Grade 7** benefit from enhanced field trip experiences, and your participation helps make that possible.



How It Works:

- Entry Fee:** \$35 (includes Entry Fee of \$20 + cost of one \$15 bottle of wine)
- Extra Lives:** \$10 each (max 2) to increase your chances
- Elimination Starts:** Tuesday, April 22 – names drawn **Monday to Friday** until the last six remain
- Prizes:** Liquor store gift cards for top six winners

Playing Options:

- 1 Life:** \$35
- 2 Lives:** \$45
- 3 Lives:** \$55

The more participants, the bigger the prizes! **Invite friends & family (19+ only).**



How to Enter: (see full details in the link below)

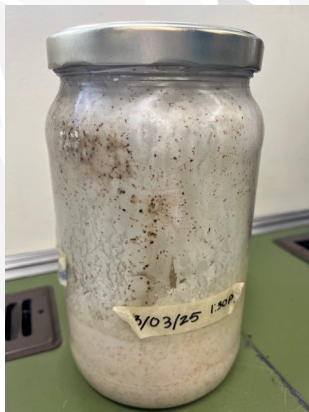
1. Complete the form: [Wine Survivor Sign-Up](#)
2. E-transfer payment to fundraising@stmary.bc.ca (include full name + "Wine Survivor" in the note)

Deadline: April 21 | Winners announced by May 15

FOOD CHEMISTRY

For the last few weeks, our Grade 7S class has been introduced to the topic of food chemistry. To explore this topic, we have been spending some time developing a sourdough starter. The process was very meticulous. Our measurements had to be precise to ensure a proper starter. The ingredients to start are quite simple. We mixed together flour and water in a jar, covered it, and let it rest. For the first two days, we simply stirred the mixture every 24 hours. For the next week or so we “fed” the starter by adding more flour and water to it. Gradually, it bubbled and it was “alive”. This meant we could make the dough. Making the dough was a lengthy process. After making the dough and letting it rise, we had to knead it every so often. We continued to do so until it wasn’t sticky. The rising process happens due to the fermentation from the starter. The starter is filled with yeast and good bacteria that produces carbon dioxide which gets trapped in the dough. At this point it is ready to bake. We baked it at 500 degrees creating yet another chemical reaction. We enjoyed the sourdough process and through this experience, we learned how food components interact, combine, and change!

Keira (7S), Victoria (7S)



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 sign up using the link before 7:00am, or 1:00pm, [April Club Link](#). Please note the early dismissals and Easter holiday dates. Club Registration Links can be found on our website under “Quick Links.”