



St. Mary's School Newsletter | December 2021



www.stmary.bc.ca



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians,
We are now in the season of Advent and our preparation for the birth of Christ. Students are participating in advent activities in class and our Grade 2 classes will be leading us in a prayer service on Dec. 10. Some of our Grade 7 students are participating in the St. Mary's Parish Living Rosary after the 7pm Mass on Dec. 8 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We celebrate and remember on this day that Mary was without sin from the first moment of her life.

Just a reminder to our parents using the Before and After School Club services, if you are e-transferring payment please indicate what the payment is for club use.

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

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal



Kindergarten bulletin board for Remembrance Day



Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope.

#wearesaints f @SMSaints i smsaints604

Before & After School Club Registration

<https://forms.gle/mfxwqYo4LJLEq1CT6>



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dec.9-10 Purdy's Chocolates pick up
- ◆ Dec. 7 Kindergarten Audiology Clinic
- ◆ Dec. 8 School Mass 9:30
- ◆ Dec. 8 Grade 3-7 Reconciliation 1pm
- ◆ Dec. 10 Advent Prayer Service led by Grade 2 classes 2:15/No ASC Club
- ◆ Dec. 14 Out of Uniform Students Christmas Concert taping (no audience)
- ◆ Dec. 15 Out of Uniform Students Christmas Concert taping (no audience)
- ◆ Dec. 15 Term 1 Reports released
- ◆ Dec. 17 Last day of school; 12:00 Early Dismissal; No ASC; School closes for Christmas Break

Virtues In Practice

Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus

Our virtue for December is "Purity" which means "Keeping your soul free of sin". We are all sinners but know we can confess our sins regularly so we can continually live in God's freedom. On December 8, students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Advent season and the celebration of Christmas. When we bring contrition, confession and satisfaction into our homes and classrooms, we will speak of God's mercy more frequently. This will keep our hearts turned away from sin and towards loving others, leading to the virtue of purity! 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.

Year of St. Joseph Competition

To celebrate the end of the Year of St. Joseph (December 2020 - December 2021), St. Mary's students were invited to enter a colouring/writing contest in honour of St. Joseph. Fr. Guy presented the winners with their statues after Mass on November 24. Congratulations to Ruoyi Yang in Gr. 2MB ("Joseph's Workshop") and Audrey Marcos in Gr. 6 ("Sleeping Saint Joseph" poem).



Virtues in Practice



Helping children grow closer to Jesus by imitating the virtues of the saints!

Available for FREE download at www.nashvilleddominican.org/

Questions? VirtuesProgram@op-tn.org

The Sleeping St. Joseph Devotion

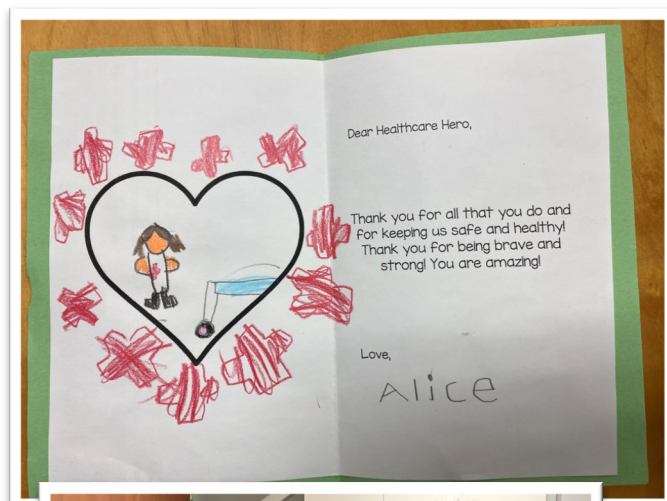
Dear St. Joseph,
 You are a silent yet strong man.
 Foster father of a god who rules over the land.
 In the night, you lay asleep
 The church in your hands is yours to keep.
 Caring, pure, everything kind.
 Providing, protecting, all good words through the mind.
 Hearing wood carving, carving, Joseph receiving great respect.
 Then the day resets. Now he goes to rest.
 Through a dream, an angel appears.
 I have great news, the Lord is here!
 Happiness brimming, His betrothed beaming with joy.
 Their son is here. A beautiful baby boy.



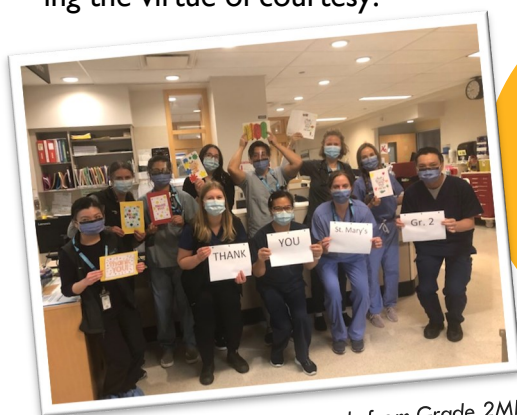
Community Connections

Cards for Health Care Workers

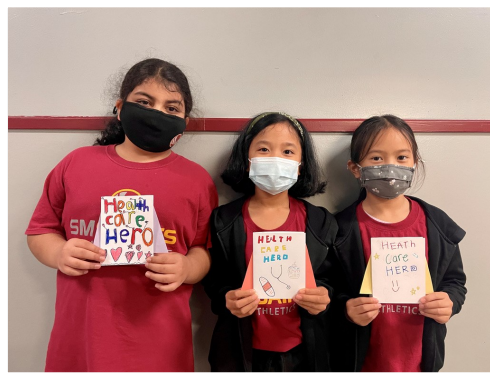
Students in all classes spent time making “Thank you” cards for our health care workers and they are now being delivered. We are sending them out with our parents who work in long term care homes and hospitals to share with their colleagues. We’ve received some messages and photos showing their appreciation. Several classes were also making Christmas cards in support of the Archdiocesan Prison Ministry. Thank you, Saints for practicing the virtue of courtesy!



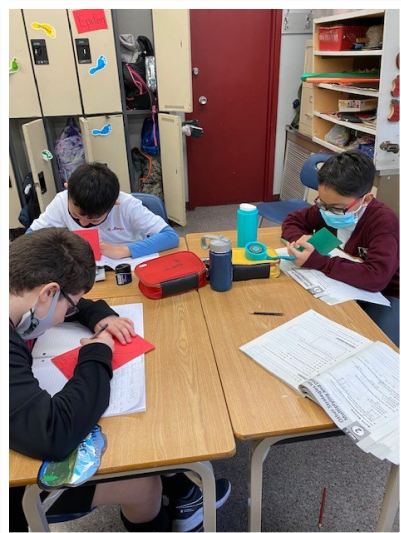
Kindergarten cards for health care workers.



Health Care Workers receiving cards from Grade 2MB



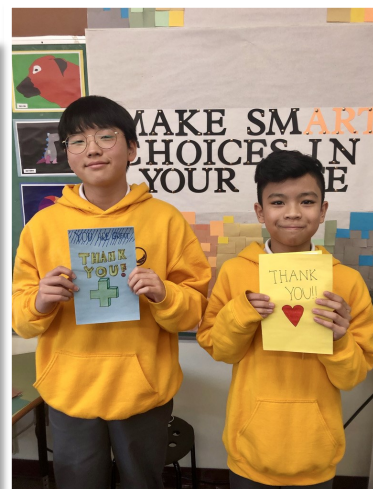
Grade 3s thank our heroes.



Grade 5SR working on thank you cards for our Health care workers!
Thank you to all our Health Care Workers!



Grade 2M Class with their colourful cards.



Grade 7P say thank you for keeping us safe.



Community Connections

We Remember

Our Grade 4 class led a stunning school-wide Remembrance Day Assembly on Nov. 10. There was a procession of artifacts from loved ones who served in the military and students learned about when and where they served our country. It was a time for reverence and reflection and an opportunity for students to understand the importance of Remembrance Day.



On November 5, Grade 2 and 6 students from St. Mary's and Grade 6 students from St. Helen's gathered to celebrate a No Stone Left Alone (NSLA) ceremony with soldiers from the Canadian Armed Forces. Please see the [link](#) to the BC Catholic story.



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur.



Harry Potter Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for your support of the gift of reading by purchasing books at this year's book fair. We hit our best net sales this year of \$6283 which gives us \$2500 in credit to use for books and resources. The Class Ambassadors were amazing in the skit to promote the fair and it was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all our volunteers, especially Mrs. Booker who helped with set the scene.



Book Character Costume Prize Winners:

- Kindergarten:** Mateo; Harry Potter
- Grade 1:** Adelize; Rapunzel
- Grade 2 Marino:** Kabir; Dog Man
- Grade 2 Moffatt/Bevacqua:** Tanisha; Pete the Cat
- Grade 3:** Amelia; Charlotte's Web
- Grade 4:** Nyah; Red the Tree from "The Wish Book"
- Grade 5 Lewis:** Jibril; Dog Man
- Grade 5 Stokovac/Ryznar:** Mikaela; Anna from the book "From Anna"
- Grade 6:** Samantha; One Fish, Two Fish
- Grade 7 Quick:** Enzo S. Ravenclaw student from "Harry Potter"
- Grade 7 Pascua:** Shannicah; Kiki from "Kiki Del'y Service"
- Staff:** Ms. Doyle; Paper Bag Princess

- Hogwarts Fluffy Encounter Winner:** Hannah (5L)
- Golden Snitch Finder:** Zola (5SR)

- Best Berties Botts Every Flavour Beans Guess:** Daine (6)
- Family Event Draw Winner:** Ruoyi (2MB)



ARREST THESE MERRY GENTLEMEN

Christmas Musical 2021

St. Mary's School Fine Arts Department Presents
"Arrest These Merry Gentlemen" a Musical Christmas Caper!

This year, for our Christmas Concert, we are preparing a full-scale musical, which involves **every student in our school from K to Grade 7!** Unfortunately, in compliance with CISVA COVID-19 guidelines, we will not be able to have a live audience again this year. However, we will record the entire performance and compile a video for you to enjoy. Regardless, the students are very excited and have been working hard in preparation. The recording of our musical will take place over 3 school days: **December 10** (recording of all drama scenes - select Grade 7 students only), **December 14** (recording of all bands Grades. 5-7), and **December 15** (recording of all classes K-4 as well as our 3 school choirs).

Here are the "costume" recommendations for each grade. The Grade 7 actors will be advised individually about their costumes for the drama portion of the musical.


Please Note: Students should not wear the colour royal blue as we will be using a blue-screen background and anything that is blue in front of it will "disappear".

- K – Magi- wear any favourite Christmas outfit with crowns made at school
- 1 – Shepherds – wear any favourite Christmas outfit with shepherd-type headpieces (send in a plain-coloured towel that can be put on your child's head to mimic shepherd headdress)
- 2 – Townspeople of Bethlehem - wear any favourite Christmas outfit with biblical style headpieces (send in a plain-coloured towel that can be put on your child's head)
- 3 – Detectives – all dark tops and bottoms, "suits" if they own one, detective hats provided by the school
- 4 - 7 Plain white top, dark bottoms – jeans are ok as long as they have no holes or rips, tops may be short-sleeved but please no words or graphics (school polo shirt is ok)



Saints Fundraising

A MESSAGE FROM THE PEC SUB-COMMITTEE

Time to get your holiday shopping on!  This year SMS is partnering with @flipgive again! When you do your online shopping (gift cards included!) with FlipGive partners, including Indigo, Nike, The Children's Place + more, a percentage of your purchase will be credited to St. Mary's School's flipgive fundraising account.

What a great way to get your Christmas shopping done AND support the school at the same time! 

Join our FlipGive team now + receive a \$5 credit for the first time you purchase.

https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser_name=St+mary+&joincode=X6BBDB

Or enter this code: X6BBDB

Happy shopping and thank you for your continued support!

Science & Technology



Kindergarten class exploring patterns and balance with Keva blocks.



Grade 7s coding their bots.



Saints Athletics

December, 2021

November has been an eventful month for Saints Athletics. We continue to transition activities outdoors to remain in line with the research that emphasizes the importance of nature in mental and physical health. With the extreme fluctuations in climate, we appreciate our time outside even more.

Our 2021 volleyball season wrapped up with children in Grades 1-7 proclaiming their love for the game. Enjoying a sport, developing skills, and maturing in accepting oneself and others are key objectives of a quality program (<https://sportforlife.ca/parents/>)

We will introduce our basketball season with clinics for Grades 5-7 in December, and new opportunities to practice, learn, and play in January.

Wishing you good health and many joyful moments throughout December and the new year.

Mrs. Kozak



Grade 6's taking leadership roles in season-end celebrations.



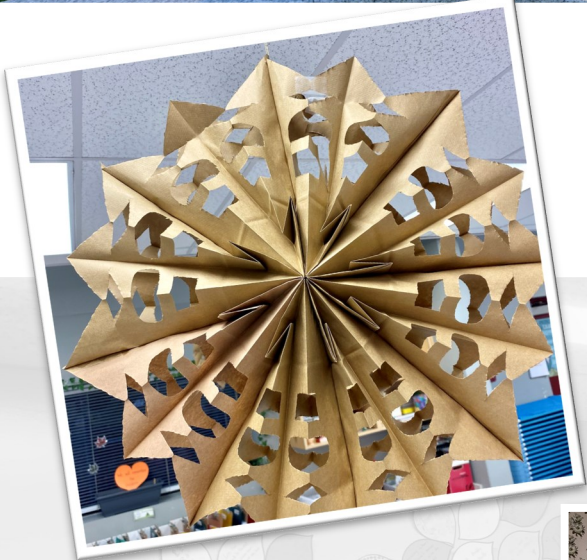
Grade 2 warm ups.

Grade 7 boys with Coach Vukasovic off to tournament at St. Patrick's.

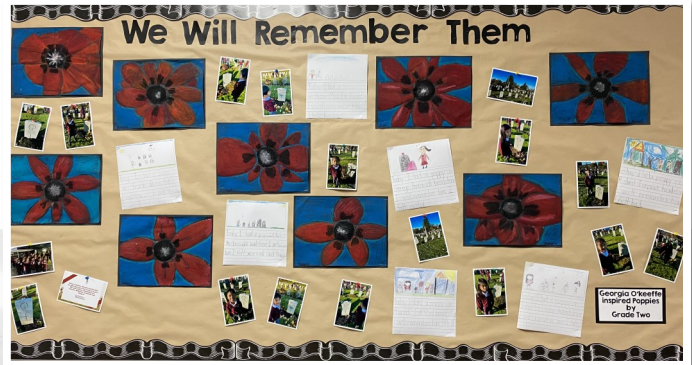


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Kindergarten snowflakes



Grade 2M bulletin board for Remembrance Day



Harry Potter Owl Invitations

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