



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Vancouver, BC | December 2025



Living,
Celebrating, &
PROCLAIMING
OUR FAITH

“
*Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty
God; Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (ASV)*

”

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,



November was a very special month for our school community. Our students participated in several faith-based Remembrance Day activities, including No Stone Left Alone and a beautiful Remembrance Day assembly and Mass led by our Grade 4 students. Our Grade 7 students also took part in a meaningful pilgrimage to the cemetery and had the remarkable opportunity to listen to Fr. Tony Ricard, whose message deeply inspired them. These experiences helped all our students reflect on the importance of prayer, remembrance, and stewardship. We also

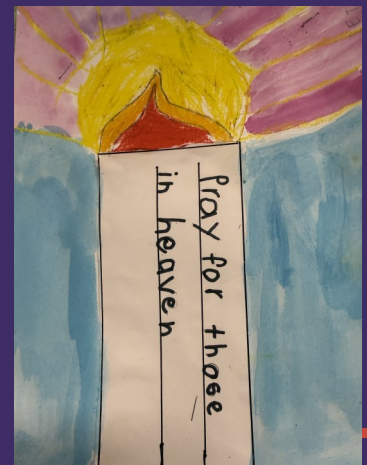
celebrated tremendous success with our volleyball teams—congratulations to all players and coaches for a fantastic season. We now look forward to new adventures in Basketball, Spelling Bee, music performances, and our St. Mary's Reads competitions. Another highlight of November was connecting with you during our parent-teacher conferences. As partners in education, your engagement and support make an incredible difference in each child's learning journey. A special thank-you as well to everyone who visited and supported our Wonderland Book Fair. Your enthusiasm helps promote a love of reading, and daily reading at home is essential to lifelong learning and success. We now enter the sacred season of Advent—a time of hopeful waiting and joyful preparation for the birth of Jesus on December 25. As a school community, we look forward to our Christmas concerts and celebrations, which will take place before the Christmas break. Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and prayers. May this Advent season bring peace, joy, and blessings to your families.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal

November 2025
Season of Advent
Virtue: Generosity

- 5 First Friday Mass 9:10
- 9 Gr. 3-7 Reconciliation 9:15
- 10 Advent Prayer Service (Gr. 5) 9:15; Gr. 7 Choir to sing at Renfrew Park Seniors' Lunch
- 13 STMC Band Christmas Concert 9:00
- 15 STMC Choir Performance 2:00
- 16 Primary Christmas Concert 7pm
- 17 Intermediate Christmas Concert 7pm
- 17 Report Card Release
- 18 'Christmas Pyjamas' Out of Uniform; ASC Early pick up at 4:30 due to Staff Christmas Event
- 19 School Mass 9:30; School closes for Christmas Vacation 12:00





CHRISTMAS CONCERTS:

St Mary's School Music Department Presents Two Christmas Concerts

All of our students from Kindergarten to Grade Seven are busily preparing for two special evening concerts. This is an exciting time for our students and their families and we are looking forward to sharing with you all of our hard work. Please see below for important details for both evenings and if you have any questions please message Mrs. Ryznar at bryznar@stmary.bc.ca. Students need only attend the primary or intermediate concert depending on their grade, but all are welcome to both evenings.

Primary Christmas Concert (K-3) – Silent Holy Night

We ask that all primary students wear their concert clothes to school on December 16 (out-of-uniform)

Tuesday, December 16 @ 7:00-7:45pm in the school gym. Doors open at 6:30.

Students please arrive by 6:45. Students gather in their respective classrooms

50/50 Draw at the end of the concert

What to Wear:

Kindergarten: wear favourite Christmas outfit

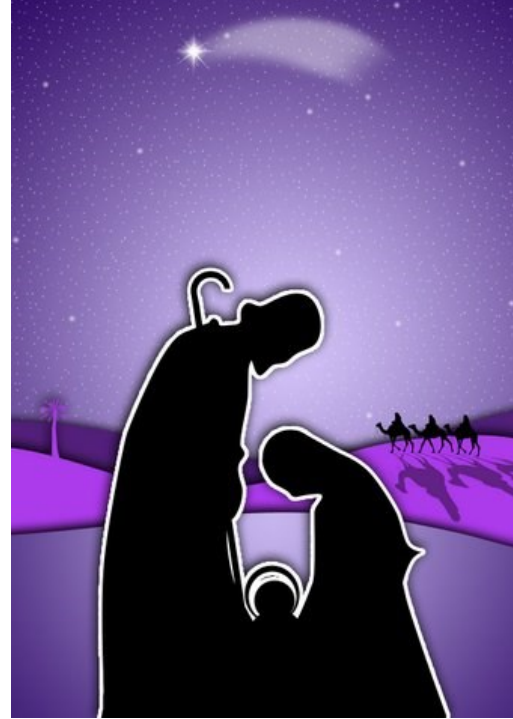
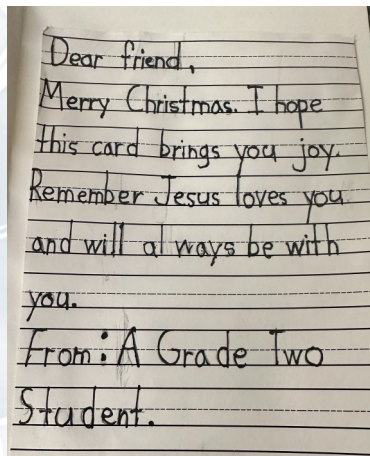
Grade 1: wear favourite Christmas outfit

Grade 2 and 3: plain green, red or white top (school polo shirt ok) and dark bottom (pants or skirts ok), black shoes.

Choir: dress according to class specifications

Program order: Primary Choir, Grade 3, Grade 1,

Primary Choir (again!), Grade 2, Kindergarten



Intermediate Christmas Concert (4-7)– First Light of Christmas

We ask that all intermediate students wear their concert clothes to school on December 17 (out-of-uniform)

Wednesday, December 17 @ 7:00-8:00 pm in the school gym. Doors open at 6:30.

Students please arrive by 6:45. Grade 4 students gather in Grade 2 classroom, Grade 5 students gather in KM classroom, Grade 6 students gather in Grade 1P classroom, Grade 7 students gather in KV classroom.

50/50 Draw at the end of the concert

What to Wear: all intermediate students please wear a plain red, green or white top (school polo shirt is ok) and a dark bottom (pants or skirts ok), black shoes.

Program Order: Senior Choir, Grade 4, Junior Choir, Combined Choir, Bands (grade 5, 6 and 7)

Christmas Cards for Outreach Ministries

Each year, one of our classes participates in the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Christmas Card Writing Program, reaching out to men and women who are incarcerated or experiencing hardship. These heartfelt cards help lift the hopes and spirits of those who may feel forgotten—especially during a season when loneliness can be deeply felt. Here, we share the cover and inside of a beautiful card created by one of our Grade 2 students. A sincere thank-you to Mrs. Marino and all our Grade 2 students for their kindness, creativity, and commitment to bringing joy to others. Their compassion truly reflects the spirit of Christmas.

VIRTUE IN PRACTICE

Generosity: Giving without counting the cost.

During December, we will practice the virtue of “**Generosity: Giving without counting the cost**”.

If someone is selfish, stingy, or gives just the socially acceptable minimum, are they a true disciple of the God who gave His very life for us? Generosity is God-like. It means throwing open the doors of one's heart and pouring out all our love on *everyone*. *It means looking out for everyone else instead of looking out for ourselves. It means giving not only because we have extra or leftovers, but giving when there is a cost to us - and expecting nothing in return. It means giving not only where we have a duty to give, but giving to the undeserving: to those we don't like, or to those we don't know at all.*

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.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Fr. Tony Ricard

Thank you to Fr. Tony Ricard who helped our Grade 7 students understand the role of angels in the Christmas story as messengers of God's love, and to inspire them to be like the angels, sharing God's message of joy, peace, and kindness with others in their homes, school, and community.





LEADERS IN ACTION

Our Student Network



Our Wonderland Book Fair launched in true storybook style, thanks to our Student Network, who introduced this year's theme with a lively skit that sparked the curiosity to explore stories. A heartfelt thank-you to all the parents who stopped by and supported the fair. Congratulations to all the students who participated in our games and challenges, as well as those who won prizes—including our Out of Uniform "Dress as Your Favourite Book Character" winners!



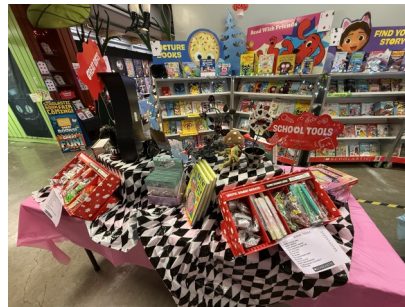
Student Network skit



Book Character costume winners



Wonderland Book Fair



STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Ms. Paccani on receiving her Bachelor of Education degree last week! We are also delighted to share that she has been awarded both the Emily Longworth Memorial Award and the Henry and Lily Kung Award in Education—a remarkable achievement. (right) We are thrilled to have her at St. Mary's, sharing her joy, passion, and love of teaching with her students. Well done, Ms. Paccani!



We also said farewell to Mme Esquivel at our November school Mass. Mme Esquivel with daughter Lily and Mrs. Anne Woo, PEC Vice-Chairperson





CBIA CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Thank you to our Senior Choir for bringing the spirit of the season to the Collingwood BIA's annual Christmas Tree Lighting last Saturday. Your carols filled the community with joy!



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.

Club registration is guaranteed.

Please click on the updated link below for more information. Thank you for keeping your account up-to-date.

[December Registration Link](#)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

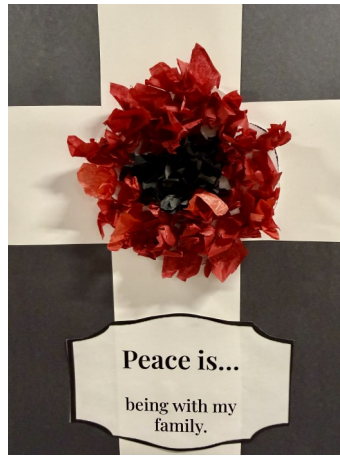
Before our Remembrance Day observance, the intermediate students were fortunate to hear a special presentation from Mr. Talukdar, a parent in our KM class. Mr. Talukdar, volunteered his time to speak to students, and serves as a part-time reservist in the Canadian Armed Forces as an Intelligence Operator with the Royal Canadian Navy. His base unit is HMCS *Discovery* in Vancouver (Stanley Park). He shared with the students the importance of Remembrance Day and a glimpse into Canada's military history.



Mrs. Collins' Grade 4 class leading a reverent and impactful Remembrance Day Service on November 10.



Items brought forward in the procession by Grade 4 students.



Grade 1 ready to attend our Remembrance Day service.



NO STONE LEFT ALONE



Canadian Armed Forces from the G3 Brigade



Students participating in NSLA ceremony



*Grade 3 field of
poppies*



Thanks to Mrs. Moffatt for organizing this year's Vancouver NSLA service and to Ms. Lombardo, Mrs. Maier and Mr. Mogatas for preparing the children.



*Our Grade 6M and 6L classes with
CAF members*



All participating schools, St. Mary's, St. Francis of Assisi and OLPH placed wreaths at the Cross of Sacrifice.



Grade 1M made cards for the CAF members



Student Network Mentors serving at NSLA.

VOICES OF CHANGE

Honouring the Past



Grade 7s participated in a couple of important events this past month. All Souls Day and Remembrance Day are significant because they honour the past throughout Canada. To understand more about these events, our Grade 7 students learned about the meaning behind them. Both events helped us to remember and honour the people from the past. To further our knowledge for All Souls' Day, we visited Ocean View Cemetery to pray for the many souls that had departed long ago. For Remembrance Day, we participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremonies with our families. Both events allowed us to pray and remember the lives of people including the soldiers who fought for peace.

A Trip to Ocean View Cemetery

All Souls' Day is celebrated by Catholics for souls that are waiting to go to heaven. It is a time to pray, attend Mass, and visit cemeteries. When our Grade 7 class arrived at the cemetery, we offered a moment of silence to pray for the deceased. We also prayed with the rosary for the souls to help them go to heaven and rest in peace. After that, we wandered around the building, we looked at the names and decorations that were described on the person's ash containers (urns). Then, we walked in small groups past different graves, offered prayers, and sprinkled holy water as a sign of blessing. This experience helped us to remember that we have to respect those who have died.

A Ceremony for Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a memorial day that is on November 11. It is a day to honour the soldiers who devoted their lives during World War I. Many of us attended ceremonies with our family members or watched the services on TV, we showed our gratitude for the courage and sacrifices of soldiers. These traditions help us to remember that the soldiers are brave because they served our country and gave their lives for the freedom we have today. They also remind us about the importance of world peace.

Remembering Together

All Souls' Day and Remembrance Day help us bring the community together to remember the past. We pray for our loved ones, bring flowers to cemeteries, honour the sacrifices of soldiers, and show respect for the deceased. Doing this teaches us generosity, appreciation, and hope. We will continue to remember the souls that have changed our lives and trust in God's plan for everyone throughout the year.

By Filippa Lee (7S)





ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Home of the



Teamwork: Photo credit Liu Family



Senior Girls 3rd Place

We finally had a chance to recognize our Cross Country top finishers. Congratulations to Eoin who finished in 8th place for the CISVA Cross Country Grade 6 Boys, and Janos who won our very first **Gold Medal** in CISVA Cross Country for Grade 2 Boys. Each of the races have up to 140 runners which means finishing in the top 10 is an impressive feat. Other noteworthy finishers for the CISVA Meet were

- Sophia in Grade 7 at 32nd
- Alexander Y in Grade 2 at 28th
- Amelia R in Grade 5 at 20th
- Eva S in Grade 4 at 14th

Once again thank you to all of the students who ran this season and their families for their commitment and support.



Superfans at Harry Jarome



Grade 5 Girls 4th Place



Senior Boys at Harry Jarome Top 8

