



St. Mary's School Newsletter | February 2022



www.stmary.bc.ca



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians,

February is for Love and we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week this month from the 13-18th. We are excited to share the activities planned for our community for CSW in this newsletter.

Registration packages for the 2022/23 school year will be sent home to all current families February 8. All parents must register their children by February 16. I had the privilege of speaking at all Masses last weekend sharing information about the new and amazing programs available at St. Mary's. We are accepting new applications for all grade levels, so if you know a family that is not currently enrolled, please share our website information and if they enroll you will be eligible for a referral gift.

If you are interested in learning more about our Catholic faith the parish runs a 12-week Alpha program and they could start a group for our parents. Let the office know if you are interested.

Happy Lunar New Year to all our families! Wishing you an abundance of love, good health and prosperity in 2022!

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal

Kindergarten Lunar New Year Lanterns



We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.



Before & After School Club February Link

Please settle January accounts.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Feb.1 Lunar New Year
- ◆ Feb. 1-7 Hip Hop Week
- ◆ Feb. 8-15 Re-Registration
- ◆ Feb. 7-18 Grade 4-7 LoveEd; Human Growth & Development Program.
- ◆ Feb. 13-18 Catholic Schools Week
- ◆ Feb. 16 Virtual School Mass prepared by the Student Network
- ◆ Feb. 17 & 18 CEC Conference; School Closure
- ◆ Feb. 21 Family Day Holiday; School Closure
- ◆ Feb. 23 Out-of-Uniform Pink Shirt Day; guest speaker Calvin Tiu

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Prudence

Making good decisions in specific circumstances

Virtues in Practice

Virtues In Practice

Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus

This month in our “Virtues in Practice” program, we will focus on the virtue of “**prudence**” which means “**making good decisions in specific circumstances**”.

Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues because it is a key to other virtues! Often it is easy to know the difference between right and wrong ... but what happens when you need to choose between two things that are right? How do you know when is the right time and way to talk to someone about a problem? How do you know how to approach new situations and needs? Something might sound like a good choice, but it is only virtuous if it is prudent, that is, if it is the most reasonable choice, given the circumstances. Prudence guides our conscience.

“Lord Jesus, please continue to lead us through this time of pandemic. Increase in us the virtue of **prudence**: help us to make good decisions in the many different situations we find ourselves in.”

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



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

Available for FREE download at www.nashvilledominican.org!

Questions? VirtuesProgram@op-tn.org

Catholic Schools Week

From February 13-18, St. Mary's School will be celebrating our annual Catholic Schools Week. This is an opportunity to pause and be grateful to practice our Faith on a daily basis at school. This year we will focus on St. Dominic and learn more about how our Dominican friars, Fr. Guy and Fr. Gabriel, follow in the path of this great saint.

On Monday, students will be given a chance to express their gratitude to those who make their Catholic education possible, including parents and staff. On Tuesday, classes will watch a video and participate in a trivia contest to test their growing knowledge of St. Dominic and our Church – with prizes for the primary and intermediate class winners! On Wednesday during our monthly school Mass, we will focus on St. Dominic and the Dominican friars who serve St. Mary's. Each priest will be presented with a “spiritual bouquet” which every class will help to create. Thursday and Friday, staff members will attend the Catholic Educator's Conference so students will have an extra long weekend to enjoy!



Kindergarten Love Bugs



STEAM Education

Can Technology Survive in Nature? Meet EarthPal. He was designed by a group of Grade 4 students to help freshwater biomes like our very own Fraser River. EarthPal is made of metal and rubber and is designed to look like a fish in water. It can blend in with nature by changing colours.

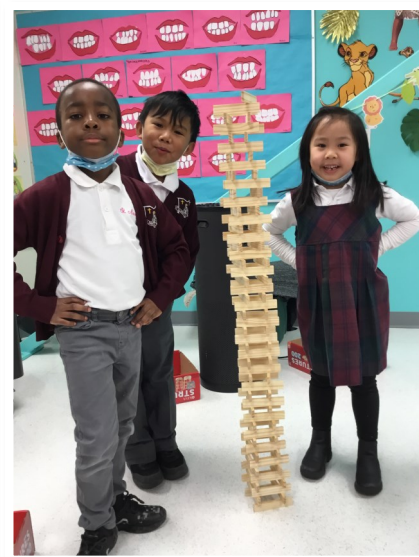
EarthPal can also stand a variety of seasons. It scans the biome before entering to make sure its surroundings are safe. Most importantly, it detects when fish have plastic in them. It is also able to spot blown pipelines, it opens up a vacuum that sucks all the dirty water and chemicals out by using mini Saywer water filters to clean the water.

The activity was based on the novel, The Wild Robot.



Grade I building a structure together in STEAM class using cooperation.

(Below)



We just received our Coho Salmon eggs for the Salmonids in the Classroom program! We have 110 eggs for our tank and the Kindergartens and Grade 4s are looking forward to watching them hatch. Stay posted for more Salmon updates.

(left)



STEAM Education

The Grade 4's are learning about an Aquaponic Ecosystem, a closed-loop ecosystem that raises fish and grows plants! It is a sustainable & efficient way to grow food & it uses 90% less water than traditional farming. As you can see our plants have already started growing. Soon we will be eating radish microgreens and wheatgrass. Our beta fish is a great addition to our class. His name is Bob!



Grade 4's Water Garden



Snapshots



Grade 2MB's wishes for the New Year based on the book *The Wish Tree* (left)



Grade 1 snowmen painting lesson with outlines and geometric patterns



Kindergarten self-portraits; expressing themselves in positive ways



Kindergarten winter trees in cool colours



Grade 1 Lunar New Year—Year of the Tiger



Black Excellence Day



On Black Excellence Day, Grade 2M learned about Viola Desmond. She demonstrated bravery and courage to inspire Canada's civil rights movement by refusing to give up her seat in a movie theatre. We admire her fortitude.



Saints Alumni Where are they now?

Former St. Mary's student Abigail Aquino graduated from St. Mary's in 2003-04. Her 12-year-old son, RJ, is currently enrolled in Grade 6.

Abigail enrolled her son at St. Mary's to gain more knowledge of his faith and academics, and stay active. She assists coaching the Grade 6 boys team and knows, "everyone is still learning." Abigail recommended Joey Haywood as a guest presenter for St. Mary's students in January. She's known him for years and watched Joey and his friends play at Granville Island, UBC, and SFU. "He is great with kids, and I thought it would be awesome for him to share a different style of basketball called Streetball." Abigail described Streetball as "unexpected." You can incorporate tricks like putting the ball through your legs or over your head. Abigail's love of Streetball started at the very young age of 8. She played with the neighborhood kids both at Collingwood and Gaston Park. Abigail continued to develop her love of the sport at St. Mary's and continued to play competitively at Notre Dame Regional Secondary until the end of Grade 11. Abigail's passion for Streetball has inspired her to also play in a Recreation League at the Richmond Oval. She wants to challenge the stereotype of women in sport and inspire girls who have a passion for athletics to be active participants throughout and beyond high school. "I want to change that!" We admire Abigail's desire to give back to our school community and are proud to call her a SMSAINT!



Abigail Aquino with Joey Haywood share a common interest in Streetball.



Saints Athletics

It has been a January like no other with students phasing safely back into PE classes and extracurricular sports. At the time of writing, we are waiting to see what PHO directions will be on inter-school sports tournaments while our students and basketball coaches continue to work on skills and in-school scrimmages. We welcomed our wonderful guest coach, Joey Heywood, who shared his story of resilience and hard work, and amazing ball-handling skills. It was a great opportunity for 5-7's to take their skills to a new level! If you are interested in learning more, go to School of Handles Basketball at: schoolofhandles.ca.

We are also excited to re-introduce the "Swim in Schools" program to grades 2 and 3! All students are encouraged to keep swimming as part of their healthy living "portfolio".

This week, "One Vibe" hip hop is back and turning the gym into a dance floor. This is a fun and creative way to develop rhythm; a key component of physical literacy.

Thanks to everyone for keeping our Saints family safe, healthy, and happy in our start to 2022!



Jibril presenting our thank you card to Joey Haywood.



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Saints Athletics



Getting some basketball practice outdoors in the sunshine!



Grade 3s at their first swimming lesson.



Grade 7P learning their hip hop routine.



Happy to be playing with friends!





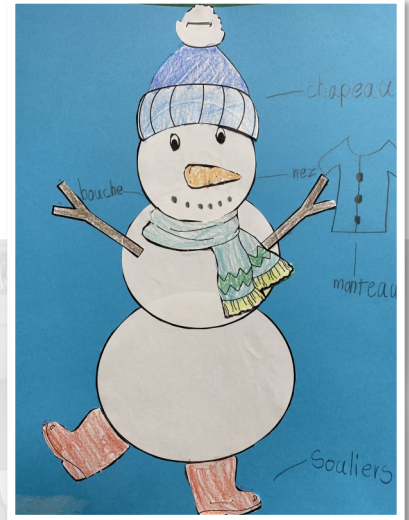
Grade 3 artwork inspired by Claude Monet's Bridge over a Pond of Water Lilies



Grade 5L Madonna and Child



Grade 5SR Snowy City Scenes inspired by Van Gogh



Il Fait Froid!

Sending love to all our families



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Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store.

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