



St. Mary's School Newsletter | February 2023



Note from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,



We are approaching re-registration time, and packages will be sent home shortly to K-6 families for the 2023-24 school year. We are excited to continue to offer an excellent faith-based education program to our students. If you have not had the opportunity to view our updated 360 virtual tour on our website, please check it out to meet our amazing staff and view our new learning spaces.

Catholic Schools Week runs February 12 to 18th. Our CSW staff committee is planning activities for students at school this week. The week will culminate with our staff attending our Catholic Educators' Conference Feb. 16 & 17, with over 1800 other educators across the province in person this year.

We thank you for choosing St. Mary's for your child, and wish you all a joyous Family Day holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Krivuzoff

Principal



Before & After School February Link

Uniform Policy

We are asking parents to review our uniform policy on pages 12-13 in our [parent handbook](#). Please ensure students are wearing the official uniform pieces from NEAT Uniforms. Black low heeled dress shoes or plain black running shoes with no contrasting stripes are required with the formal uniform. Hair accessories should compliment the uniform (e.g. burgundy, black, navy, dark green).

Thank you for your cooperation.

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



“Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”

- Pope Francis

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Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



Virtues in Practice

Honesty

During February, we will practice the virtue of **“Honesty: Being trustworthy and true”**. We all want to be trusted, because trust is the basis of true friendship. No one will share their deepest selves with someone they don't think they can trust. Being honest and trustworthy means protecting and proclaiming the truth, but it also includes practicing what we preach. No one wants to be a hypocrite, to say one thing and do another. To be trustworthy we must strive to be people of integrity, living out our deepest values in every area of our lives. A person of honesty and integrity will naturally win the friendship of many.

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.



3P Handmade Beaded Rosaries

Catholic schools week is typically celebrated as a way for the Catholic school community to come together and celebrate their faith, as well as the education and values that the school represents. It is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, parents, and members of the broader community to come together and recognize the contributions of Catholic education to the community. It is also a chance to raise awareness about the benefits of Catholic education and to promote enrollment in Catholic schools. Additionally, it is a time to reflect on the mission and values of Catholic education and to recommit to the work of providing a faith-based education to students.

Grade 5SR leads Mass for Christian Unity

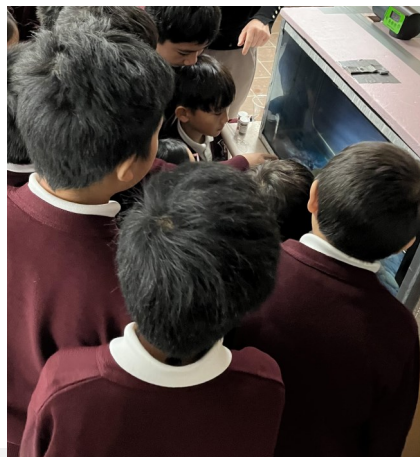


Curricular Activities

Grade 7 Outdoor Education took place last week at Loon Lake in Maple Ridge. Students went on a guided hike in the forest on the Mindfulness Path. They also learned important skills to use in the wild such as using a compass, shelter building and fire making.



On Monday January 23rd, we received our Coho Salmon eggs. It is another year of a long standing program at St. Mary's in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Education in teaching students about the natural resources specific to British Columbia. This year we received 180 Coho eggs. The tank is chilled and the students are set to hatch these eggs. Stay tuned for more!





Saints Celebrations

25 Years of Service Recognition

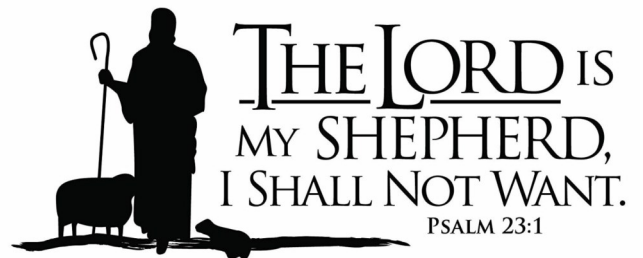
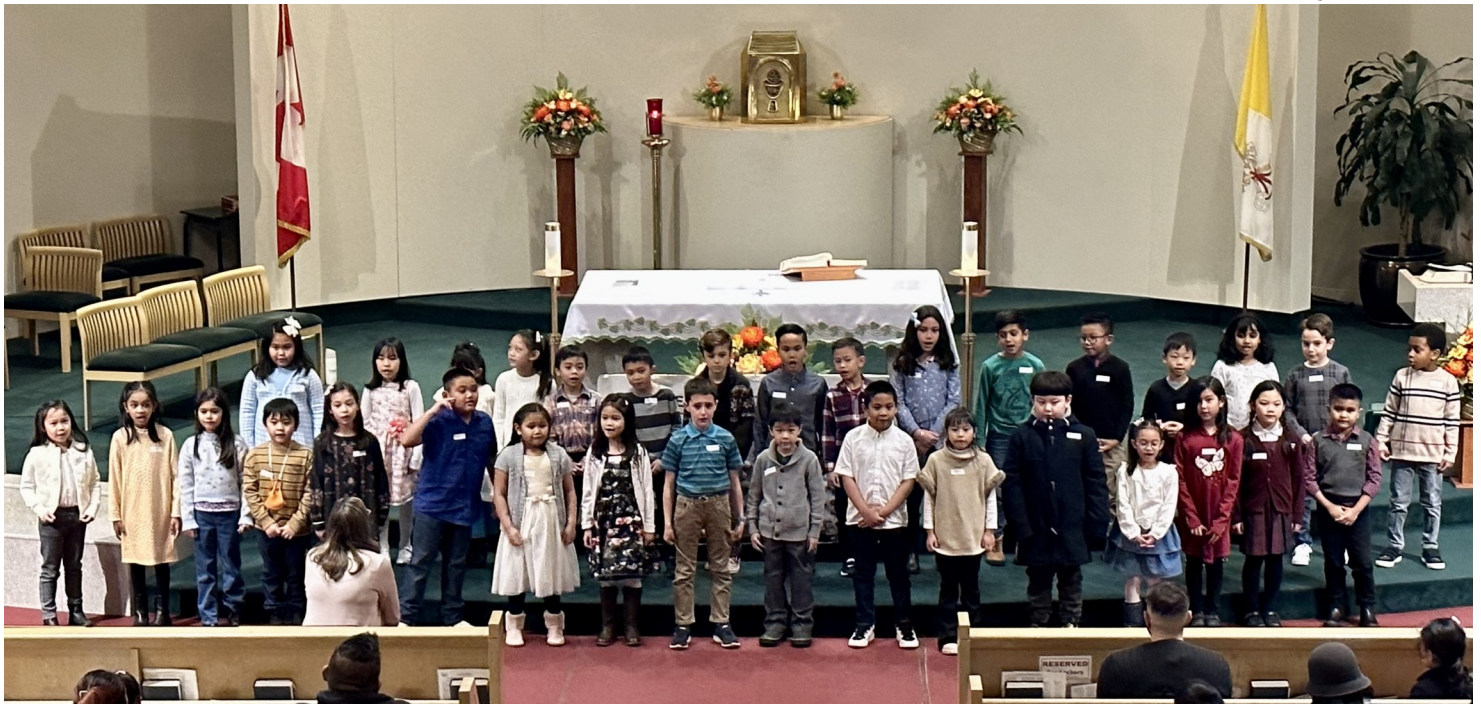
Last week, our school community honoured two of our staff members for achieving 25 years of service in CISVA. Congratulations to Mrs. Kozak and Mrs. Collins! Superintendent Deacon Henk Luyten, and Associate Superintendent, Lesya Balsevich, visited our school to present a certificate and pin to our teachers for their dedication and commitment to the teaching profession and development of students. Mrs. Kozak and Mrs. Collins have made an incredible difference in the lives of the students they taught and the school communities they served over the last 25 years. We are blessed to have them work at St. Mary's!



Grade 2 First Reconciliation

Congratulations to all our Grade 2 students who celebrated the healing power of Jesus through their First Reconciliation last night. Thank you to our teachers, Mrs. Moffatt, Mrs. Marino and Mrs. Bystrom, for organizing the celebration, and to all the families for your support at preparing the children at home.

Please continue to pray for our Grade 2 students as they continue to prepare for the sacrament of Holy Communion in May.



Saints' Physical and Health Education

In the dark, cold, winter days, we find light, life, and friendship in the gym! We are continuing to follow the [Long Term Athletic Development](#) model as we integrate the [Junior NBA Basketball curriculum](#), endorsed by Basketball Canada, into our basketball program. It has been exciting to see the students grow in knowledge, skill, and collaboration by the coordinated efforts of our school PHE, Intramural, and Inter-School programming.

We enjoyed another successful clinic with Joey Heywood, aka "King Handles", and were honoured to have him join us as he was a recognized community member for Burnaby School District's Black Excellence Day.

February will continue to be a month full of action, cooperation, play, and exploration as our various classes take on cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, and swimming adventures while we continue with our basketball program.

Wishing good health to everyone!

Mrs. Kozak

Joey Heywood comes to help us improve our basketball techniques and shares lessons for life.



Grade 1's work on ball control



Grade 6 enjoys applying their learning during Intramurals while Grade 7's practice their scorekeeping.

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Saints' ReconciliACTIONS

Seeking Truth, Healing and Reconciliation

St. Mary's staff and community are continuing on our journey towards Truth, Healing and Reconciliation. At age appropriate levels, students come to learn about and appreciate traditional Indigenous cultures, teachings, values, and environments, and about how that has been impacted by colonization and colonial systems.

In the winter season, we look towards the north and the lives of Inuit people; their history and current ways of living, and of course, iconic images such as the inukshuk and northern lights.

The learning journey has been challenging at times, but enriching and fulfilling as we learn and broaden our perspectives.



Grade 2's share their learning and reflections based on the book *Sweetest Kulu* by Celina Kalluk



As several classes study the medicine wheel, teachers alike are learning.

Mrs. Maier, Ms. Simmons, Mrs. Ryznar, and Mrs. Kozak are reading, studying, and discussing the novel "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.



Community Connections

Lunar New Year Celebrations | January 2023

Hopping into the Year of the Rabbit! Rabbits are known for being gentle, quick and clever. It is said that 2023 will be a year when thoughtful action is rewarded more than huge risks. After all the challenges of the last few years, 2023 is for cultivating peace and patience!



The Lui family participating in the Lunar New Year Parade Jan 22



Celebrating the New Year together and creating Dragons in Grade 1



It's the year of the Rabbit!



3P Paper bag dragons

Kindergarten Lunar New Year cherry blossom lanterns



Saints Connections

Parent Workshop

Attention All Parents! Would you like to improve your relationship with your child(ren)? Are you struggling to understand your child's behaviour? Do you want to sort through how to respond to your child in a way that helps them grow? Join this high quality 4-day workshop over two weekends in February and March to discover answers to these questions personalised to your family life. If you have any questions about the workshop please email Mrs. Ruggier or feel free to register at the link provided (<https://forms.gle/9jvFgvjeHKBEor636>).



Over two weekends: February 25, 26 and March 4,5
4855 St John Paul II Way, Vancouver 8:30am-4:30am, daily
Facilitated by: Leah Bittante



Building Committee | Fundraising

Gala Dinner

Thank you for all your donations for the silent auction baskets.





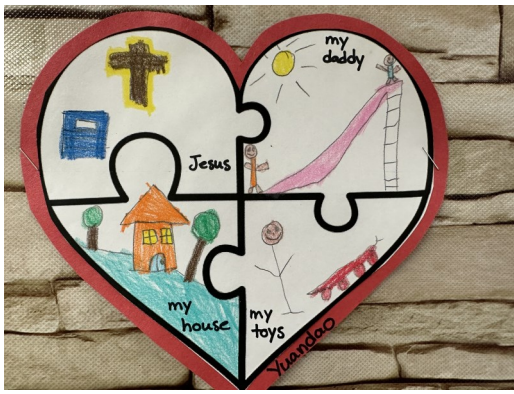
Saints' Athletics

Grade 6's win first place at Holy Cross tournament



Gr. 7s boys win 2nd place at St. Helen's tournament





Kindergarten: What lives in my heart?

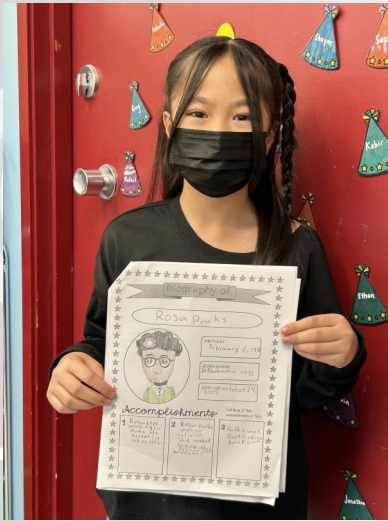


Grade 2 students made a cloud in a cup to explore the parts of the water cycle.



TREE OF MEMORIES
90 YEARS OF ST.MARY'S SCHOOL

#futuresaint



#futuresaint
Grade 3 learns about Rosa Parks



Grade 2 water workshop



#futuresaint Upcoming Events

- ◆ Feb. 8-15 Re-Registration
- ◆ Feb. 10 "Love Is In The Air" St. Mary's Gala Dinner
- ◆ Feb. 12-18 Catholic Schools Week
- ◆ Feb. 16 & 17 CEC Conference; School Closure
- ◆ Feb. 20 Family Day Holiday; School Closure
- ◆ Feb. 21 Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast 9:00-10:30
- ◆ Feb. 22 Out-of-Uniform Pink Shirt Day \$2 to participate
- ◆ Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday School Mass 9:30

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