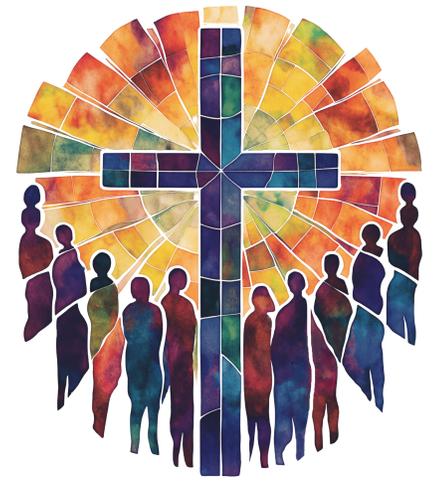




# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Vancouver, BC | February 2026



Living,  
Celebrating, &  
**PROCLAIMING**  
**OUR FAITH**

“

*I will keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

*Psalms 16:8 (NIV)*

”

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*



Happy Catholic Schools Week! It's a special time to celebrate the gift of Catholic education and the vibrant faith community we share at St. Mary's. For 95 years, we have remained committed to our mission of "Nurturing the Heart, Mind, and Spirit."

Also in February, we join other schools at the **Catholic Educators' Conference (Feb. 12 & 13)** and look forward to seeing Mrs. Moffatt accept her 25-yr. service award. Our St. Mary's **Valentine's Day Gala**

**(Feb. 14)** is quickly approaching—a wonderful evening of fellowship supporting our school building development project. Thank you for your generous donations for the gala basket silent auction. Students will enjoy a **free pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 17)** the day before the season of Lent, a 40-day journey of reflection and renewal. We'll close the month with **Pink Shirt Day** and a **school-wide dance adventure** celebrating kindness and community.

We're excited to introduce **The SAINTS' Locker**—our brand-new online pop up store for St. Mary's merchandise! This season, we're featuring adult sizes so parents can proudly show their school spirit too.

Thank you for choosing St. Mary's as your educational partner. We are proud to serve your families and to share faith, conversations about your child's growth, and see you at community events in the months ahead.

Sincerely,  
*Brenda Krivuzoff*  
Principal

February 2026

*Celebrate Catholic Schools*

*Virtue: Honesty*

- 1-7 Catholic Schools Week
- 2 LoveEd Program (Gr. 4-7)
- 4 Re-registration Day, Hot Lunch  
Written Spelling Bee (Gr. 4-7)
- 6 First Friday Mass 9:10
- 10 Grade 2 Reconciliation 3:30 p.m.  
church
- 11 Re-registration due, Hot Lunch  
Olivo Cafe
- 12-13 Professional Days: School  
Closures
- 14 St. Mary's Valentine's Day Gala  
6:30 church basement
- 16 Family Day Holiday: School  
Closure  
Purdy's Campaign sales due
- 17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake  
Breakfast 9:00-11:00
- 18 Ash Wednesday School Mass  
9:30 (parking limited)  
Choir Sings at 5:30 pm Mass
- 20 Hot Lunch—SMS Soup/  
Sandwich
- 25 Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Out of  
Uniform \$2.00 Proceed to the Men's  
Shelter (RCAV Catholic Charity)
- 27 LoveEd Survey Due (Gr. 4-7  
only)





## Happy Catholic Schools Week!



We are honouring our school community and the vital role each member plays in our mission. We honour our students, parents, staff, and priests for their dedication to nurturing a faith-filled environment.

Our Catholic Schools' Week celebration began with the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, February 1st at St. Mary's Parish. The Mass was well attended, with approximately 60 students proudly wearing their uniforms. They contributed beautifully, leading the readings and singing with confidence and reverence.

Throughout the week, we are honouring our school community with daily school-wide morning prayers and special activities, including:

- **Monday, Feb. 2:** Catholic Trivia Competition
- **Tuesday, Feb. 3:** Parent Appreciation
- **Wednesday, Feb. 4:** Teacher Appreciation
- **Thursday, Feb. 5:** School-Wide Collage
- **Friday, Feb. 6:** Priest Appreciation at our First Friday Mass, 9:10 a.m.

We are truly grateful for our teachers and staff, whose dedication makes these celebrations meaningful, and for our students and families, who bring joy and faithfully live out our school's mission each day.

## THE SAINTS' LOCKER POP UP MERCHANDISE STORE

### Introducing The SAINTS' Locker!

Our new online *Pop Up Merchandise Store* is now open until **February 21!** Grab adult **crew necks, quarter zips, full zips,** and youth & adult **tees**—perfect for showing your St. Mary's spirit at school, church, or sporting events. Each "SAINTS" logo is one-of-a-kind, featuring our signature *St. Mary's tartan* fabric. We're also proud to feature our 1931 logo as we look ahead to celebrating 95 years of St. Mary's in 2026!

Orders will be delivered directly to the school and sent home with your child 1.5 to 2.5 weeks after the store closes—no shipping fees!

New items will be added each season in The SAINTS' Locker, so there's always something fresh to wear!

### What's in your locker?

Visit *The SAINTS' Locker* [here](#) and on our website slider.



“

*The Catholic school is a place where faith, culture and life cross paths.*

”

Pope Leo XIV



# CONGRATULATIONS MRS. MOFFATT

## 25-yr. CISVA Service Award

Mrs. Moffatt will be recognized for her 25 years of service on February 13, 2026, during the 45th Annual Catholic Educators Conference in Vancouver. We are proud to celebrate her dedication, leadership, and many accomplishments. Mrs. Moffatt has been a valued member of the St. Mary's School community since 2017 and currently serves as Grade 1 Teacher and Primary Curriculum Director.

*It is quite surreal to reach this milestone in my career. I am very proud and grateful.*

*I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was little. I went through a lot of challenges and worked incredibly hard to become a teacher. When I first graduated I was a TOC for a year. I believe it was God's grace and him working through others that I didn't give up on my teaching dream. So to make it to twenty five years, I don't think I ever allowed myself to imagine reaching this milestone.*

*One of the things that drew me to Catholic schools was the sense of community. This sense of belonging and caring in our schools is really special. Getting to share in and support the students to grow and thrive over a school year and beyond is a real gift.*

*I have taught Kindergarten, Grade 3, library, Grade 2, Learning Support, French and now Grade 1. Each position has had things I loved about the ages and content I got to teach. I love the excitement and enthusiasm for learning from Grade 1s. I have always been interested in literacy and social emotional learning which is perfectly matched for grade 1.*

*All the students I have taught have a special place in my heart. I am honored to be a part of their lives and to know their families. One example of that connection that stands out is a baby gift I got when I had my daughter. (Who I can't believe will graduate high school this year!!) The grandmother of one of my Grade 3 students knit me the most beautiful white blanket.*

*It is so special, I saved it and used it for both my children on their baptism day.*

*I have worked with many amazing teachers that I have learned from and grown with. I love collaborating with other teachers to help students and continually finding new ways to make learning engaging. Several of the teachers I have worked with have become life long friends. I believe God put them on my path for a reason and I am grateful for those relationships.*

*I also have to thank Brenda who has been my principal at two schools for a big portion of my career. I appreciate the opportunities and challenges she has given me to continue learning and growing as an educator.*

*I am looking forward to celebrating with my family. I think we will go out for a special dinner, not sure where yet.*

*I am grateful to my colleagues on the SMS staff and the community for their support and look forward to celebrating together.*

**Mrs. Moffatt**



“  
I love collaborating with other teachers to help students and continually finding new ways to make learning engaging... ”



Grade 1 Teaching Team: Ms. Paccani and Mrs. Moffatt



# GRADE 7 CONFIRMATION RETREAT

In the second week of January, our Grade 7 classes attended a Confirmation Retreat. This retreat was an opportunity for us to grow spiritually and get closer to God through the Holy Spirit. We had small group discussions, prayers, and reflections, and we learned about the Sacrament of Confirmation.



To further deepen our understanding of Confirmation before we receive it, our teachers prepared some activities for us during the Confirmation Retreat. This included going to St. Mary's Parish to participate in an opening prayer, listening to Scripture readings, and singing hymns with our entire hearts.

After that, we visited St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church which is located in Vancouver West. The priest shared the history of the church and talked about the lives of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. Then, we walked around the church and joined some activities, such as a scavenger hunt. We needed to find the descriptions of the stained glass windows and mosaics. We also drew some pictures of the stained glass windows that we had observed and wrote personal reflections in our notebooks. Before the end of the visit, we lay on the floor and looked up at the stained glass windows at the top of the church. This made us feel calm and very peaceful.

After lunch, we started to present our Sacrament Projects at the church. These Sacrament Projects were something we had worked very hard on. There were seven groups which included **Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick**. Each group also performed a skit and demonstrated the role of their Sacrament. These projects not only helped us understand the seven Sacraments more clearly but also built teamwork skills. In the end, we had a closing prayer for our Confirmation Retreat.

The Confirmation Retreat gave us valuable and special experiences because it helped us strengthen our faith and understand the Sacraments. After the retreat, we felt ready for our Confirmation and hoped to have more meaningful experiences like this in the future.

### Reflection by Filipa Lee (7S)

## VOICES OF CHANGE

The Confirmation Retreat was not just a trip and a day off from school. It was a day to strengthen my relationship with God and to feel the Holy Spirit.

I saw the beauty of the Mosaics. Having a paper with the signs of what is on the image helped me understand the image better. And those three domes, I loved those. I have never seen those in a church before.

Laying down, looking at God in the center, I just felt relieved, stress free, in peace and with God. It felt *calming*.

When we were all eating pizza and other snacks, it felt like Outdoor School again. It brought me back to a good memory where there was laughter and joy.

I felt that the best way to end was a song, we all came together, and it was beautiful.

My experience definitely strengthened me with the Holy Spirit. I definitely decided that I am prepared for my Confirmation.

### Reflection by Tyler Tintero (7S)



Fr. Joseph Pidskalny spoke to the Grade 7s about the lives of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ.



# VIRTUE IN PRACTICE

## Honesty: Being Trustworthy and True

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. Being honest and trustworthy means 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.

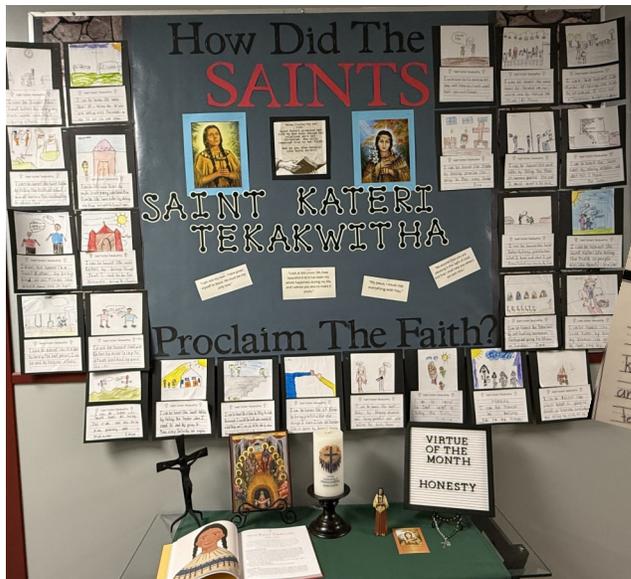


Jeffrey Fletcher from Fast Break Basketball

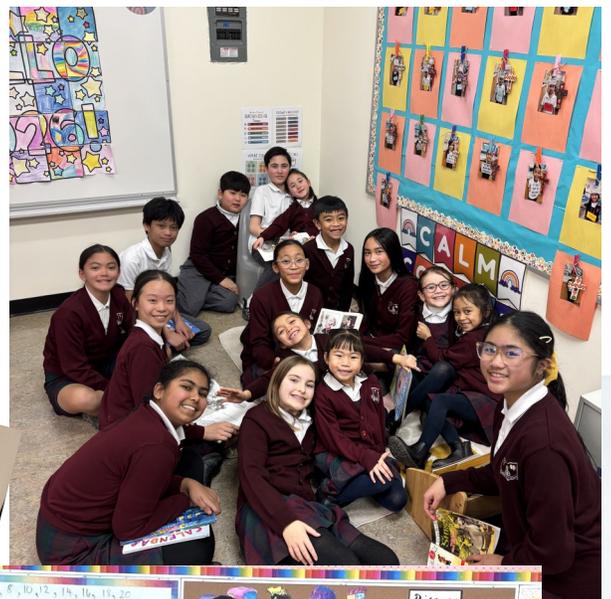
# LEADERS IN ACTION

## Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

The Grade 3 class is learning how Saint Kateri Tekakwitha proclaimed her faith.



Grade 1P and 6 Buddy Reading (right)



Theo Mogatas speaks to primary classes about using kind words with others



# BEYOND CLASSROOM BOUNDS

Grade 2 had an amazing day at Grouse Mountain through the Outdoor Wilderness Program! We gathered in the Big House to listen to a First Nations story about Seagull stealing the sun, which taught us the importance of being mindful of our actions and respecting what does not belong to us. We were also lucky to see a Barred Owl up close, snowshoed for 45 minutes, and ended the day with a warm cup of hot chocolate.



Grade 1M Penguin Parade



Grade 2 Perspective Art Lesson—Catch a Snowflake Feel the Magic art



KM—My snowman melted because...it was sitting by a campfire.



Grade 6 CBC Newsroom Tour—Future Anchors and Journalists





# ACHIEVEMENTS



Throughout the months of January and February, St. Mary's Elementary School enjoyed a vibrant and successful basketball season marked by strong student participation, enthusiastic effort, and meaningful camaraderie. Over one hundred intermediate students across grades five to seven committed themselves to before and after school practices, skill development, and teamwork, demonstrating both growth and sportsmanship on and off the court.

The season included participation in several tournaments, where students proudly represented St. Mary's with energy and respect. While competition was part of the experience, the true highlight was the collaboration, encouragement, and resilience shown by teammates as they learned to support one another through both challenges and successes.

Basketball at St. Mary's proved to be more than just a game—it was an opportunity for students to build confidence, form friendships, and experience the joy of being part of a team. The sense of community and shared purpose throughout January and February reflected the values of the school and the beauty of the game itself.

*Home of the*



*Grade 7 Girls at Holy Trinity Tournament*



*Grade 5 Boys*



*Grade 7 boys at the St. Helen's Tournament*



*Grade 5 Girls*



*Grade 6 Girls*



*Grade 6 Boys*

*The Senior Choir performed at the farewell celebration for Sr. Margaret, Sr. Normande, and Sr. Theresa. January marked the departure of the Sisters of the Child Jesus from our parish after 95 years of dedicated service. The Sisters of the Child Jesus taught at St. Mary's School in 1931, leaving a lasting legacy of faith and education in our community.*





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Collingwood  
Business Improvement Association

## HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

LION DANCE CELEBRATION  
February 28 | 11:00 am - 1:30pm

Rupert St. & Kingsway  
Joyce Street → Skytrain Station

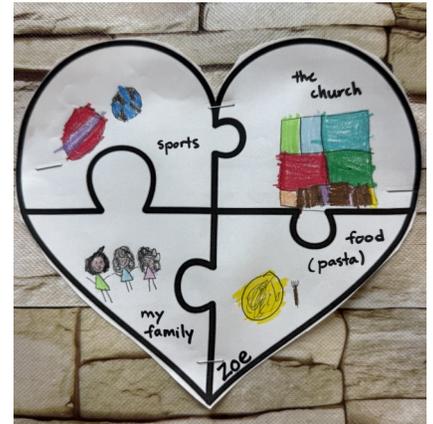
To sign up your business, scan the QR code →



KV Love Bugs



KM Rainbows



KV What lives in my heart?

## 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.

Dedicated ASC phone line: **604-428-0357**. Please use this number to contact club staff **between 3:00-6:00 pm on school days** if you will be late or if someone else will be picking up your child.

Please click on the updated link below for more information.

[February Registration Link](#)

