

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We extend our congratulations to Archbishop Richard Smith on his recent appointment as the new Archbishop of Vancouver by Pope Francis. His installation will take place in late May, and we look forward to welcoming him into our Archdiocese. At the same time, we express our deep gratitude to Archbishop Michael Miller for his years of faithful leadership, guidance, and shepherding of our community.

Our connection-building activity this month is our Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast on Tuesday, March 4. Staff and parent volunteers will be preparing and serving hot pancakes—free of charge—for all students to enjoy. Traditionally known as

Shrove Tuesday, this day marks a time of celebration before the Lenten season begins. Ash Wednesday follows on March 5, inviting us into forty days of prayer, reflection, and preparation for Easter. Parents are invited to our Mass at 9:30.

A special highlight of our Jubilee Year 2025 celebrations took place last month, as our Junior Choir embarked on a pilgrimage to Holy Rosary Cathedral. During their visit, they recorded a beautiful rendition of the Pilgrim's Song, which we also captured on film. We look forward to sharing their inspiring journey and performance on our website soon.

Teachers are in the midst of assessments and report card writing. Term two reports will be released on April 2. Please continue to keep Pope Francis in your prayers as his condition continues to improve.

Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



“The Word of God is quick to discern the thoughts & intents of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12(ASV)

MONTH AT A GLANCE

March 2025 Season of Lent
Virtue: Fortitude

- 4 Mardi Gras Free Pancake Breakfast
- 5 Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30
Choir Sings at 5:00 pm Mass
- 7 First Friday Mass 9:10
K-7 Black Dog String Quartet Performance
- 9 Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 12 St. Mary's Spelling Bee 9:30
- 13 Wear Your Jersey Out-of-Uniform
Notre Dame Band Festival for Grade 7s 3:00
- 14 School Closes for Spring Break 12:00
Dismissal
- 17-28 Spring Break: School Closure
- 31 School Re-Opens



Students wore pink to promote kind and respectful actions on Feb. 26

DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

Fortitude

This month in our "Virtues in Practice" program, we will focus on the virtue of **"fortitude"** which means **"being brave and strong in the face of trials"**. God invites us to rely on His strength and goodness when we go through hard times. In recognizing our weakness and relying on God's strength, we find true freedom, and can say with Saint Paul, "I will gladly boast of my weaknesses ... for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

The goal of Catholic Education is heaven, but knowledge alone will not get us there! The "Virtues in Practice" program is helping us to live out our faith everyday. St. Mary, pray for us!

Congratulations Mrs. Der



Mrs. Der was honored with a certificate and award from CISVA Superintendent Sandra Marshall in recognition of her 40 years of dedicated service in education.



Sharing a moment with Archbishop Michael Miller for a commemorative photo.



Teachers, dressed in red and carrying heart-shaped signs, enthusiastically cheered for Mrs. Judy Der as she accepted her 40-year service award at the Italian Cultural Centre.



Mrs. Caldwell presents a gift on behalf of our staff and school community to Mrs. Der at our Feb. 19th school Mass.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ROSARY



Mrs. Ryznar (Choir Director) and Mrs. Maier (Organist) make adjustments to the organ for the sound



St. Mary's Junior Choir at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Recording to be posted next week on our website.



Filming the journey on Granville Street



Singing joyfully in the choir loft at the cathedral

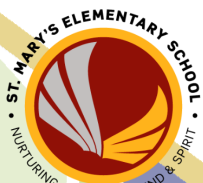
Students sitting under the magnificent pipe organ



Group two arrives at the cathedral by school bus



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE



PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Successful End to Basketball & Exciting Start to Badminton in PE

We have wrapped up another exciting basketball season in PE and it has been fantastic to see the students grow in their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. From dribbling and passing to game play and strategy, our students put in great effort and showed tremendous improvement throughout the season. Well done to everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm!

Now, we are two weeks into our much-anticipated badminton season, and the energy in the gym is incredible! Students are eager to learn new skills, from racket handling and footwork to serving and rallying. It's wonderful to see their excitement as they take on new challenges and develop their abilities in this fast-paced and engaging sport.

We look forward to a fun and rewarding badminton season and can't wait to see the students continue to learn, grow and enjoy the game! Here are some winter field trips the students enjoyed this term.

Mr. Flynn



Grade 7s at the Sea to Sky Gondola



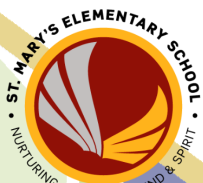
Grade 5s skating at Shipyards



Grade 2s snowshoeing at Grouse Mountain



Gr. 3 enjoying their swimming lessons.



ATHLETICS

Our Grade 6 boys played a hard-fought game against St. Patrick's, showing determination and teamwork throughout the season. Though they came up just a few baskets short, they finished strong and should be proud of their effort. Thank you, boys, for your dedication, and a special thanks to Coach Quick for your guidance and support.

Meanwhile, our senior boys are gearing up for the quarterfinals at home on Thursday, March 6. Wishing the best of luck to the team and Coach Pascua and Coach Facultad—go St. Mary's!

Congratulations to the Grade 6 Girls Basketball Team advancing to the Quarterfinals at Richmond Olympic Oval on March 10. Thank you to Coach Lombardo and Coach Flynn for their work with the team. Go SAINTS!



Congratulations to Mina Wang in Grade 4C for her outstanding achievement at the Skate Canada competition in Kelowna over the weekend! Mina earned Gold (1st Place) in her category and group, showcasing incredible skill and dedication. Well done, Mina!

MORE FUN FIELD TRIPS



Grade 6M making art @ the Vancouver Art Gallery



Kindergarten at the Fire Hall

CELEBRATING LIFE @ ST. MARY'S



Grade 1 Kindness is a Golden Heart



STEM Structures in Grade 1



Celebrating 100s Day in KV



Celebrating 100s Day in KM



Grade 5 enjoys a visit from Hon. Minister Dix



7S Exploding Hearts



STUDENT VOICE



Catholic Schools Week—Letter to Parents

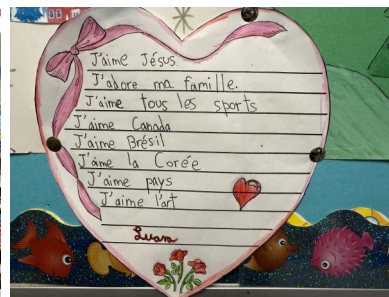
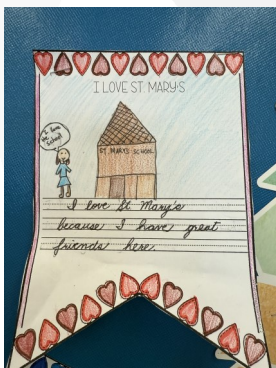
Students had the opportunity to write a letter to their parents about the significance of receiving a Catholic education. Max's heartfelt message beautifully captures his gratitude, personal growth, and the profound impact of a St. Mary's education.

"I feel like I've grown so much as a person, and even more, a child of God. St. Mary's has helped me in so many ways—academically, socially, and spiritually. This school genuinely shapes people into better individuals every day. When I walk out those doors for the final time, I can't even begin to express how much I've learned, built relationships, and grown in my faith.

St. Mary's supports me like no other, emphasizing both academic achievement and personal development. It has taught me the significance of integrity, kindness, and perseverance—values that are essential in and outside the classroom. Through extracurricular activities like sports and band, I've also developed leadership skills and formed strong friendships.

I am so grateful for the countless opportunities I've had to learn, bond, and grow as a person and as a child of God. I can't imagine my life without this experience. And again, I will say this so many times—thank you."

Excerpt of a Thank you letter to his parents by Max Facultad (Grade 7 Student)



Fr. Mark Hoo visited all classes in February. (top)
All classes created and presented spiritual bouquets for the priests in our parish. (right)
Grade 2 Reconciliation Banner (left)
Grade 3 Love Is... (far right)



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. Please sign up using the link before 7:00am, or 1:00pm, [March Club Link](#) Please note we have an early dismissal on March 14 so there is only BSC on this day. Club Registration Links can be found on our website under "Quick Links."