



St. Mary's School Newsletter | May 2023



Note from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin May, we reflect on Mary's example of faith, courage and perseverance. We ask Mary for her prayers that she may intercede with God for us. On May 12 at 9:15, our Grade 4 class will lead a Crowning of Mary prayer service, in which all students are invited to participate. To contribute to the occasion, students are encouraged to bring one flower to place either at the grotto outside the church or beside Mary inside the church. A procession will begin at the school in family groups to the grotto and church. Parents are also welcome to attend. In addition, we have arranged a special Mother's Day Tea to recognize and honor all mothers and grandmothers. After the crowning of Mary, Grade 7 students will serve the attendees with a selection of teas and dainties. Our primary, junior, and senior choirs will each perform a song for your enjoyment. Attendees for the tea are asked to register by May 8 using this [link](#).

Our Grade 2 students plus Jillian (6M), Terrel (3C), and Bea (4) will receive their Holy Communion on May 6 at 1:00pm. We thank Mrs. Marino, Mrs. Moffatt and Mrs. Bystrom working with you to prepare the children. We look forward to this upcoming celebration with anticipation.

We are pleased to offer many other community connections in May and June to build relationships and celebrate learning. We have the new Kindergarten Orientation on May 24, Spring Festival for Band and Choir on May 25, Bike to School Week May 29-June 2, multiple Track & Field meets, Chris Bray concert for families on June 1, and the Children's Hospital Run for the Kids Race on June 11 to name a few. Please register for these last two events using the links on pages 9 & 10 in this newsletter.

The St. Mary's Parish Centennial Committee is excited to announce the St. Mary's Centennial Challenge, a fun competition that will take place on July 1st. The event will feature five participating teams, and we've been invited to form a school team of 50, made up of staff, alumni (aged 13 or older), and parents. We encourage you to click on the [link](#) provided to learn more about this exciting event and register your interest. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our community spirit and come together with our parish family to celebrate Canada Day.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all mother's a wonderful Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14th.

Sincerely,

Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal



Before & After School Club May [Link](#)

Neat Uniforms In-Store VIP Day

Our exclusive VIP Day at Neat Uniforms store is Thursday, May 4th from 10am to 5:30 pm. Our focus week also runs until May 6th. This is the perfect opportunity to visit Neat Uniforms to make sure you are getting the best prices on uniforms. Please ensure your child is dressed in the approved uniform every day. Walk ins are welcome.

Pop Up Store Coming Soon....

Branded Hats for Four Seasons:

Exciting news! Our Pop Up Store featuring four different styles of hats with an embroidered school logo for both students and adults is opening in just two days! The store will be open for a week, allowing us enough time to produce the hats just in time for the sunny weather in June. Don't miss out on the chance to grab these stylish and practical hats for the whole family.



"The heart of Mary, more than any other is a humble heart, capable of accepting God's gifts. In order to become man, God chose precisely her, a simple young woman, who did not dwell in the palaces of power and wealth, who did not do extraordinary things. (Oct. 9, 2016)
- Pope Francis

#wearesaints smsaints604 smsaints604 smsaints604

Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store

Virtues in Practice

Zeal

During May, we will practice the virtue of **“zeal: being driven by an intense love for God”**.

If the virtues could be given images from modern culture, then *zeal* would be the superhero figure: this character will go to any length to help people in trouble or even to save the planet! In what is probably the best description of zeal in the New Testament, Saint Paul describes the sufferings he willingly endured to achieve the goal of spreading the faith:

“Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep ... in toil and hardship through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure. And apart from these things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches” (2 Corinthians 11:24-28).

Saint Catherine of Siena, who epitomized zeal in her love for the Vicar of Christ and His Church, said that “If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire.” May zeal for the Lord consume us!

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.



Grade 5L greatly enjoyed a baking-themed STEAM lesson in the last week of lent. Feeding and watching the yeast grow (observation/science), halving and measuring the recipe ingredients (math), mixing all the ingredients together to form the dough (chemical reaction/science), shaping the dough (engineering), designing & forming the pretzel shape, and using plenty of low tech but useful baking tools, all resulted in a delicious, high-interest activity!



Grade 3 led our April School Mass



Grade Two students made un-leavened bread to prepare for their First Holy Communion. We are very excited to be receiving Jesus soon.



Grade 5SR praying the rosary at the shrine

Saints' Community and Connectedness

Each of the Grade 7 students have had an opportunity for a retreat experience connecting with one of their parents or important caregivers. The Grade 7 Ladies experienced their Mother-Daughter retreat back in November. The Grade 7 Gentlemen experienced their Father-Son retreat on April 20th this year. Both retreats were held in our parish hall – Thank you Fr Joseph, Fr. Gabriel and Fr. David for the space! These retreats are part of our effort as a school to encourage maturity through connection - especially good connection within in our families. *To our Grade 7 students and parents reading this, shhh... let's let the specific activities we did remain a secret so future Grade 7's can enjoy the surprise!* However, we are excited by the hope that these retreats can foster; resilience, respect, faith, a sense of feeling supported and an opportunity for identifying their strengths and capabilities, especially as our Gr. 7's grow from child to teenager! Thank you to the Grade 7 parents who were able to attend and spend the time preparing for your part in the retreat. We hope this experience inspires even more fun times getting to know and connecting with your child!



Grade 7 Confirmation

On Tuesday April 20th, the Grade 7 class were blessed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In a beautiful ceremony, his Grace, Archbishop Michael Miller, confirmed the members of the Class of 2023 and sealed them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The school and parish communities were filled with joy as these young men and women completed their Sacraments of Initiation. We wish them all the best as they continue on their faith journey as sons and daughters of God.

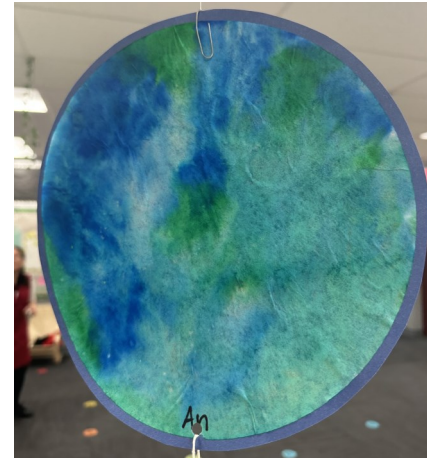


Curricular Activities

As Climate Change Leaders the Grade four class made a promise to take care of our beautiful planet, Earth. We spent a week participating in planting, writing poetry, eating "plastic free" snacks, going on nature walks, creating nature art, and picking up garbage!



Kindergarten's Earth Day Promise (right)



Gr. 6M students finished constructing their wooden birdhouses for ADST



"Growing Smiles" in Grade 1



It is Grade 3P on our Earth Day walk



Student Network Mentors and Ambassadors lead an Earth Day prayer and meditation at 9:00 on April 21 in all classes. Classes were challenged to go on a walk this day and complete an ECO Tic-Tac-Toe card full of activities. (Grade 2MB)

Saints' ReconciliACTIONS

Our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the high energy Tribal Vision Dance group performance in April. Tribal Vision is a First Nations family dance company based on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario, Canada. The Company is made up of Champion Dancers and a World Class singing champion. They love sharing their rich culture with people the world over. The dance styles that were presented are dances you would see if you attended a Powwow. A Powwow is a social gathering where First Nations people from all over North America (Turtle Island) come together to sing, dance, visit, arrange ceremonies and give thanks to the Creator. Students learned about the feathers and bells on their dance outfits and how the drum represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth.



Students volunteered to participate in a social dance



Dance outfits suit different dance styles



Highly skilled moves using the hoop creates the earth



Saints' Community and Connectedness

Thank you to all our families who joined us for the Joyce St. Clean Up Party! It's great to be involved in change that benefits everyone in the community. Special thanks to Honorable Adrian Dix, MLA for Vancouver Kingsway, and Mr. Don Davies, MP for Vancouver-Kingsway, for participating. Thanks also to my fellow collaborators: the Collingwood Business Association, Collingwood Community Policing, and Collingwood Neighborhood House. Want to do more? The Collingwood Community Police is organizing the City of Vancouver Neighborhood Clean up in May. Contact the Community Police Office at 604-717-2935 or visit their office at 5160 Joyce Street for more information.



Saintly Sounds

Spring Music Festival

St Mary's School Fine Arts Department Presents: A Spring Music Festival featuring our school choirs and bands. This evening of music will take place on Thursday, May 25 starting at 7:00 pm in the school gym. The program begins with our three choirs (Primary, Junior and Senior) at 7:00 pm. There will be an intermission at approximately 7:30 and then the 5 bands (grades 5-7) will each perform beginning at 7:45. Admission is free, but donations for the St. Mary's Fine Arts Department are always greatly appreciated.

Who is involved? All choir students from grades 2-7 and all band students from grades 5-7.

Dress Code for Students? Students will be dressed in their full school uniforms.

Physical Health Education

PHE News

'Tis the season for running, jumping, and throwing! Our PHE and co-curricular track and field program is in full swing. It is exciting to see students setting goals, with guidance, and exerting themselves towards achievement! It is also rewarding to see children becoming stronger and healthier, and developing their physical literacy in the process. Of course, it's most enriching to do all this in caring and supportive class and team environments, surrounded by nature.

We are blessed. Enjoy getting outdoors with your families this spring!

Mrs. Kozak



Grade 2MB showing love for nature on Earth Day



Feeling joy of movement!



It's a Spring Celebration with Grade 1

Grade 4 Relay Introduction in PHE



Jumping creatively as we arrive at our happy place!

Saints Extracurricular

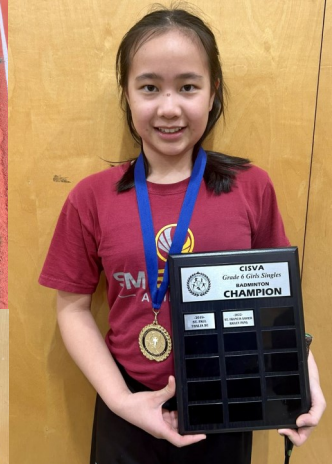
Track & Field

Last week we had our first track meet at St. Catherine's in Langley! It was a great experience for all of the runners. It felt great to be on the track and get the first races of the season in the books in the sunshine. We look forward to the St. Helen's Meet on May 17th!



A spectacular season in badminton this year placing 4th overall in the league. Congratulations to our Grade 6 & 7 Team and to all the coaches, and Mrs. Vukasovic as our Badminton Director. Thank you for your efforts!

Angela (6) is the Grade 6 Girls Singles Champion!



Angela (6) and Ethan (6) took 3rd place!



Our Grade 6 Readers are Leaders team win regionals and then brought home the CISVA Championship trophy today at Queen of All Saints. This is the third year St. Mary's has won the championship. Congratulations to the students and their sponsors, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Bystrom. Keep reading everyone!

"Hard work pays off!" Ms. Simmons



Kyle (7) and Trisha (7) win bronze in mixed doubles.

Congratulations to Daine (7) for representing St. Mary's at the CISVA Spelling Bee Championship with an outstanding 4th place finish on Apr. 25. Thank you Mrs. Lewis for sponsoring this event.

Community | Faith Formation

An Evening with Chris Bray

Join Chris Bray, Catholic musician and speaker, in the evening for part II of the school program called "Hope Aloud!" where Chris will put on a lively and musical hour for the parents and community in the school gym. Each parent of a student who attends will receive 1 hour of credit towards their volunteer hours. Each parent will have to individually sign in to receive hours on the sign in sheet at the entrance of the gym on the evening of the event.

Please use the [link](#) to register so we can provide adequate seating and refreshments.



Presented by



Join us for a celebration in story and song
St. Mary's Elementary School Thursday June 1
7:00 pm



Saints Community | Fundraising

BC Children's Hospital Foundation Run for the Kids!

Dear St. Mary's Community,

I would like to warmly welcome all of the St. Mary's School community to join our team for the 2023 BC Children's Hospital Foundation Run for the Kids!

This is a wonderful event to give back to BC Children's Hospital, especially since many of our children have received their care. It is also a true way to show our solidarity and support for children and families in our own community who suffer from illness and injury.

When and Where?

Sunday, June 11. Meet at the St. Mary's designated space between **8:15 and 8:30 am.**

8:40 Warm Up

9:00 Race Start

To get a team shirt, you will need to **register on St. Mary's Team by May 17th.**

Click here to register and join St. Mary's Team: [Register to Run](#)

(we are doing the "Run in Vancouver")

Meet us at the St. Mary's Vancouver spot in the gravel parking lot **behind Nat Bailey Stadium.**

Please note that children under 16 are to be supervised by a parent or guardian so you will need to make arrangements for your child's supervision if you are not participating.

There are many activities and freebies to enjoy after the race.

People of all abilities are welcome to run, jog, walk and/or wheel.

Hope to see many, many of you at this special community event!
Mrs. Kozak





A circular collage of crumpled plastic bags in blue, black, and green, with a red heart in the center.

MY Earth Day PROMISE.
by Sarah _____
I promise to save water
by turning off the
tap.
I will also eat fruits and
vegetables.
I promise to recycle
paper.

Grade 3 Earth Day Promise

If you attended St. Mary's Elementary, we'd love to reconnect! We are continuing to grow our St. Mary's Community by reaching out to members who attended our school. If you are interested in hearing from us through our news letters, fundraising opportunities, and see what is happening on our social media, [please fill out our form!](#)

- ◆ May 3 Readers are Leaders Championship 10:00am
- ◆ May 4 Neat Uniforms in-store VIP Day 10:00am
- ◆ May 9 Grade 7 Grad Photo
- ◆ May 10 Power Lunch
- ◆ May 12 Crowning of Mary and Mother's Day Tea (church and basement) 9:15am to 11:15 am
- ◆ May 15 Jeans Day Bring \$2
- ◆ May 17 St. Helen's Track Meet
- ◆ May 19 School Closure (Day in Lieu for August Professional Day)
- ◆ May 22 Victoria Day Holiday
- ◆ May 24 School Mass (staff leading) Power Lunch
- ◆ May 25 St. Mary's Spring Festival for Band and Choir 7:00pm
- ◆ May 26 St. Mary's Fun/Sports Day 12:00 Early Dismissal
- ◆ May 29-June 4 Bike to School Week
- ◆ May 30 Senior Choir sings at STMC Concert (OLM gym)
- ◆ May 31 Our Lady of Mercy Track Meet
- ◆ June 1 Chris Bray Concert 7:00pm gym
- ◆ June 11 Children's Hospital Foundation Run for the Kids

St. Mary's Elementary School #wearesaints



5239 Joyce St.
Vancouver, BC
V5R 4G8
T: 604.437.1312
F: 604.437.1193

Email: office.smarv@cisva.bc.ca

Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

#wearesaints

Facebook @smsaints604

Instagram @smsaints604

Twitter @smsaints604

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