

St. Mary's School Newsletter | May 2022



www.stmary.bc.ca



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the month of May, we reflect on Mary's example of faith, courage, and fortitude. With all of life's change, devotion to Our Lady helps us to remain consistent in the most important thing, our prayer life, such as saying the rosary or going to Mass every Sunday.

It's hard to believe, but we are now in our final two months of school. We are so proud of students' growth and development academically, socially, physically, and spiritually. We are grateful for the continued support from our parents.

A combined Spring Concert and 90th Anniversary of the school celebration will be on June 7 from 5:30 pm-8:00 pm. We are inviting not only our current school community but former staff, students, and parishioners who have supported the school over the years. We have been proud to provide excellence in Catholic Education since 1931, and this event will reunite and strengthen relationships for years to come.

St. Mary's is hosting a summer camp July 4-8 for students entering Grades 1-7 in September. If you are thinking of enrolling your child, please do so early. Email summercamp@stmary.bc.ca for more information.

Please support the School Building 50/50 raffle by purchasing tickets and passing the link on to your BC friends, co-workers, and relatives. We require a new school that would include a standard gymnasium with a stage and flexible learning spaces for students to create, build and explore. Another goal is to offer more placement to children in our parish and neighborhood. The total is currently over \$8000. Last year we raised almost \$20,000. Let's at least meet or beat that total throughout May and June!

We wish all mother's a wonderful Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal

"We are impatient, anxious to see the whole picture, but God lets us see things slowly, quietly."

- Pope Francis



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smsaints604

Before & After School Club May Link



Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 2 - 8 Neat Uniform Focus Week
- ◆ May 11 - School Mass 9:30
- ◆ May 13 Out of Uniform: Jeans Day
#JeanUp to support BC Children's Hospital Fdn
- ◆ May 16 Track Meet (St. Joseph's)
- ◆ May 17 Track Meet (St. Helen's)
- ◆ May 20 School Closure - Day in lieu
- ◆ May 23 Victoria Day: School Closure
- ◆ May 27 Fun Day (Early Dismissal)
12:00pm; No After School Club
- ◆ May 30-June 30 Bike to School Week

Last call for Mite Boxes, please bring them in by Monday, May 16.

Virtues In Practice

Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus

This month in our “Virtues in Practice” program, we will focus on the virtue of **“responsibility”** which means **“being reliable in your duties”**.

“Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1731). We all want to be people who can be counted on to take care of others and the jobs entrusted to us. We’ve all been tempted to make excuses when we’re caught neglecting our duty or doing something wrong - and we all know how we lose trust in people when we can tell they’re just making excuses. Practicing acts of responsibility makes it easier for us to follow through and to own up to our mistakes.

“Lord Jesus, help us to be honest with ourselves, to take responsibility for our actions and sins, and to determine to change them for the glory of God. During this month devoted to your mother, remind us to seek her intercession daily and help us grow in love for her and you. Amen.”

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

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.

Sacrament of First Communion

Over the next two months our Grade 2 students will be receiving their First Holy Communion in the parish. Congratulations to Meenna and Sophia who celebrated the sacrament with their families this past weekend. First Communion is very important in the life of a saint. We are all called to be saints. God bless our Grade 2 students!



Virtues
in Practice



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

Responsibility
Being reliable in your duties

Sacrament of Confirmation

Thank you to Fr. Guy who confirmed our Grade 7 students on Wednesday, April 27th! The word "confirmation" comes from *firmare*, the Latin word meaning "to strengthen". The Holy Spirit strengthens you in your faith and becomes your inner guide. He helps you to know God and to do what is right. He gives you the ability to stay true to Christ and tell others about Him.

Thank you also to Mrs. Ryznar and Mrs. Maier for directing the children's choir. It was a joy to celebrate with the families. May God bless them all!



Community Connections

St. Mary's Spring Concert and 90th Anniversary Celebration

St. Mary's School Spring Concert and 90th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Tuesday, June 7 from 5:30-8:00 pm. Come celebrate our Fine Arts Program and 90th Anniversary! The festivities begin at 5:30 with food trucks in the front parking lot. Enjoy a meal with your family and connect with other families from our School and Parish Community. There will be performances by all the students in our school from Kindergarten to Grade 7 including our three school choirs (Primary, Junior and Senior) as well as our five bands. All are invited to attend! The concert will begin at 6:30 in the playground with our choirs and all the students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 and the band concert will follow at 7:15 in the gym which will include all students from Grade 4 (ukulele) to Grade 7. Take part in our Building Fund Raffle and 50/50 draw as well! Parking will be off-site. More details will be announced closer to the date. We hope to see you there!



Grades 2M and 5L led a solemn and reflective Stations of the Cross from Mother Mary's perspective. Mrs. Marino and Mrs. Lewis are so proud of their classes for their conscientious and prayerful participation in helping the students and teachers to prepare for the Easter Triduum.



On Holy Thursday, students rotated to different stations with their family group to learn about the passion of our Lord. Alleluia he is risen!

Thank you to our families who joined us for the Joyce St. Clean Up Party. There were about 80 participants from the neighborhood who helped bag several bags of garbage. It was a fun community building project and we hope it inspired others to pick up after themselves and keep our neighborhood clean and vibrant!



Community Connections

Come do a selfie with our banner! Our banners are up in front of the church. You are invited to come do a selfie in front of them and post it on social media! We'd love for you to tag @smsaints604 in your photo so that we share it on our feed. We want to know how many SAINTS we have out there!



Earth Day is Every Day!

Grade 4 met their Earth Day goals (8)...we picked up garbage (2x), planted flowers and vegetables, and recycled & sorted our plastics.



Grade 3 Earth Mosaics



Grade 2MB Earth Day pledges



Grade 4 weaving from a collection of yarn balls



Grade 1 ladybugs



Readers are Leaders

Congratulations to Kristina, Juri, Keith, Amber, Charlize, Vince and Joya in Grade 7P for once again winning the Readers are Leaders Regional competition. Readers Are Leaders is a CISVA-wide reading competition where students are quizzed jeopardy-style on a set of select books. We wish them all the best as they move on to the Finals on May 12! If they win, this will be their second time as CISVA Readers Are Leaders champions. Onward, readers!



CISVA Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Keith who placed 2nd in the CISVA Spelling Bee April 28th. He competed against 18 top spellers from CISVA schools. Way to go Keith!



Saints Athletics

Health and Physical Education

The Saints have been in action since we returned from the break. Coordination has been a focus of the term and students have worked on this through using racquets, skipping ropes, and throwing and catching footballs, to name a few.

Balance and rotating our bodies over horizontal and vertical axes is developing through gymnastics.

Goal setting, speed, and endurance are the focus of our PHE classes and track and field training sessions.

The diversity in activities, in ways to move the body, and physical locations is all designed to develop comprehensive physical literacy for our Saints. As physical inactivity in children is beginning to be considered a crisis, what we are doing to create positive, holistic, and age-appropriate developmental environments are increasingly essential.

Thank you to all families for your continued support of St. Mary's PHE program and of all our volunteer coaching staff.

A couple of articles of interest:

[Children With Poor Physical Literacy Struggle As Adults](#)

[How Raising a Physically Literate Child is Like Raising a Reader](#)

[Why I Wish I Played More Than One Sport As A Kid](#)



Grade 5's learning Canadian football basics



Grade 6 Participating at the CISVA Badminton. Singles,



Grade 2's completing swimming lessons for the season

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Curriculum Updates



On April 25th, we finally released our Salmon Fry into the wilds of Stanley Park in hopes that they will return to spawn in 4 years! We successfully raised 105 salmon fry this year. The Kindergarten and Grade 4 class gained valuable experience learning about our valuable west coast resources.



Grade 1 Nature Art at Van Dusen Garden



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!



Saints Fundraising

The Big 2022 Raffle

St Mary's School Parent Support Group. Buy your tickets below!



St Mary's New School Development Project

\$8,935 raised

283 donors

When

All ticket sales end at midnight on June 22, 2022!

Where

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW!

This year's Building Fund raffle is underway. Volunteers are available in the church foyer after all Masses to help you purchase your tickets. There are some fantastic prizes available! Get your tickets today!

Please share the information with your friends and family!



New Playground Progress

There has been significant progress in the installation of our new playground toy and excitement is in the air. We expect the installation to be completed today and students will have access as soon as they have an orientation. The students are anxious to try out the new features. Please thank all your Walkathon donors who have contributed to the completion of this project! We will share the final photo shortly.



Coming Up



Our #JeanUp Out-of-Uniform Day is on May 13 for the BC Children's Hospital Foundation. Students can wear jeans to school this day and are asked to bring a twoonie to support this charity. Please make sure the jeans are appropriate and comfortable for school (no shorts, rips or holes).



BIKE to school WEEK

MAY 30 ▶ JUNE 3

REGISTER NOW!

We're excited to let you know that St. Mary's is participating in Bike to School Week this year from May 30-June 3! This event encourages students and families to choose active modes of travel to get to and from school throughout the week. The benefits of active travel include reduced traffic in school areas, students arriving to school energized and ready to learn, and student participation in a sustainable, curriculum-linked activity. Active travel includes biking, walking, scootering, skateboarding and using other mobility devices to get to school. With positive encouragement and school support active travel can become a lifelong habit for students!

How does it work? Each morning, school mentors will be tracking students' biking and other active travel trips to and from school. We will have activities for kids this week, such as safety instruction, bike decorating, etc. All bikes will be stored in the back playground during the day.

ST. MARY'S SUMMER CAMP JULY 4-8, 2022

St. Mary's is excited to offer its first Summer Camp taught by experienced teachers.

We are planning a wide range of engaging activities for children entering Grades 1-7 in September 2022.

Morning Programs Offered: 8:30am-12:00pm (\$250)

Please click on the link to view the course descriptions and register.

[Creative Kids Art and Writing Camp \(For students going into Grades 1-3\)](#)

[Young STEAMers Camp \(For students going into Grades 1-3\)](#)

[Fashion Upcycling Camp \(For students going into Grades 4-7\)](#)

[Digital Photography Camp \(For students going into Grades 4-7\)](#)

After-Camp Care (optional) 12:00-3:00pm (\$100)

Students must be registered in a morning camp.

If you have questions please email summercamp@stmary.bc.ca.

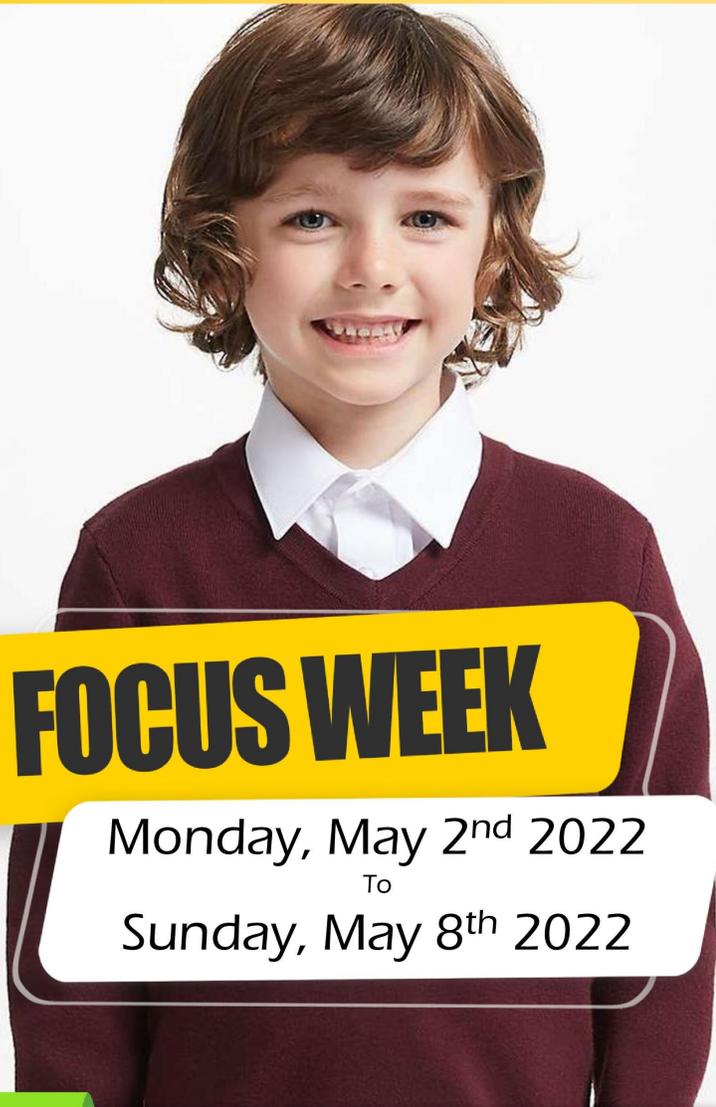




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St. Mary's School - Joyce



FOCUS WEEK

Monday, May 2nd 2022
To
Sunday, May 8th 2022

10%

REBATE VOUCHERS AND FREE SHIPPING
DURING YOUR SCHOOL FOCUS WEEK

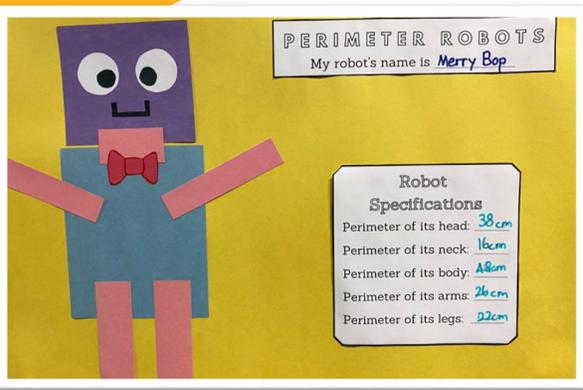
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Students gathering for a cheer after our track practice. #SAINTSon3!



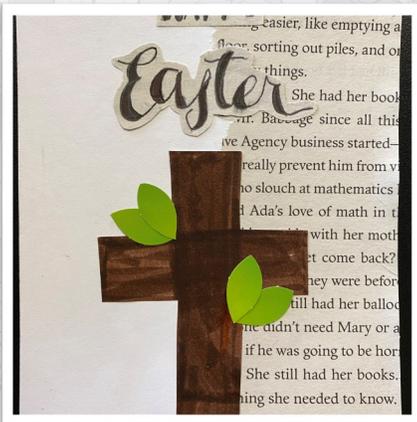
Grade 3 Perimeter Robots (above) and all the measuring that took place first (below)



Mrs. Carol Arnold's retirement celebration after 21 years of dedicated and loving service at St. Mary's School.



Thanks to the Grade 1, 5SR and 6 classes who made 65 Easter Cards for the Food Bank REFOOD Program



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