



# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Vancouver, BC | November 2025



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

“  
*Let the peace of Christ rule in  
your hearts.*

”  
- Colossians 3:15

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTE



*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

This November, we say farewell to Mme. Esquivel, who has completed her maternity leave position at St. Mary's. Mme. Esquivel has been part of our community since 2017 and left to welcome her daughter, Lucia (Lucy). We thank her for her dedication and wish her all the best as she enjoys time with her family. We'll see her again at our School Mass on November 19 at 9:30 a.m. — all parents are welcome to join us!

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, we've reflected on this special time of renewal and faith across the Church and only takes place every 25 years. Our students and staff have taken part in meaningful ways — learning the official Jubilee Hymn, making pilgrimages to Holy Rosary Cathedral and St. Jude's Shrine, and deepening their faith journeys together.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of *Gravissimum Educationis*, reminding Catholic schools to be “places where faith, culture, and life are intertwined.” May we continue to live out that mission each day at St. Mary's.

Warmly,

*Brenda Krivuzoff, Principal*

November 2025

*Month of All Souls*

*Virtue: Stewardship*

- 2** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 6** No Stone Left Alone Mountain View Cemetery (Gr. 6 classes) am
- 7** First Friday Mass at 9:10
- 10** Remembrance Day Presentation in gym to Gr. 4-7 @9:00
- K-7** Remembrance Day Assembly(Gr. 4 leading) @10:45 gym (please send \$2 for a poppy to go to the Vancouver Poppy Fund)
- 11** Remembrance Day Holiday: school closure
- 14** Gr. 7s visit to ND
- 19** Grade 4 School Mass 9:30 Power lunch
- 21** Professional Day: School Closure
- 23** Choir Sings 5:00 pm Mass
- 24** Wonderland Book Fair Begins through 27
- 26** Favourite Book Character Out-of-Uniform \$2
- 27** Parent & Teacher Conferences No regular school/ No Before or After school club Book Fair is open





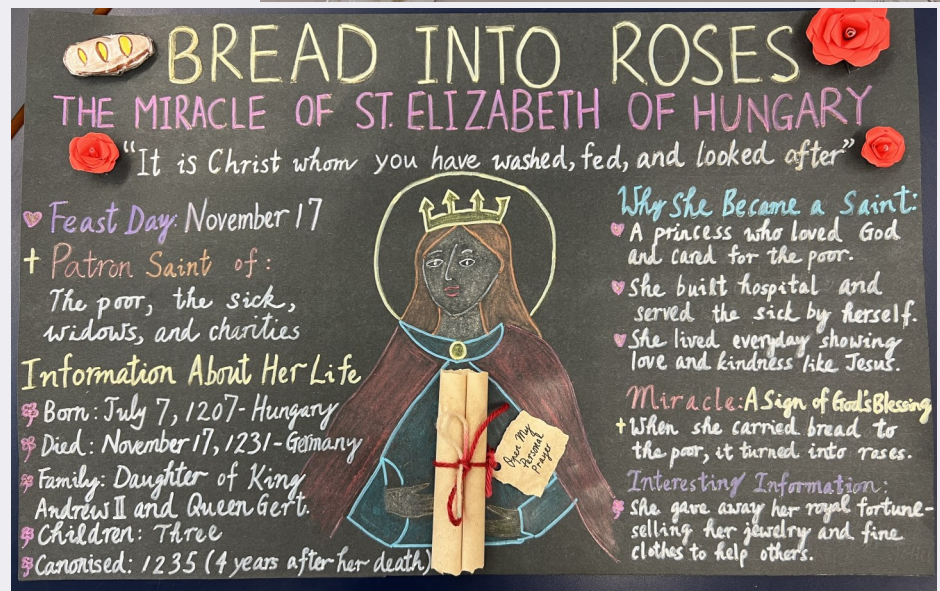
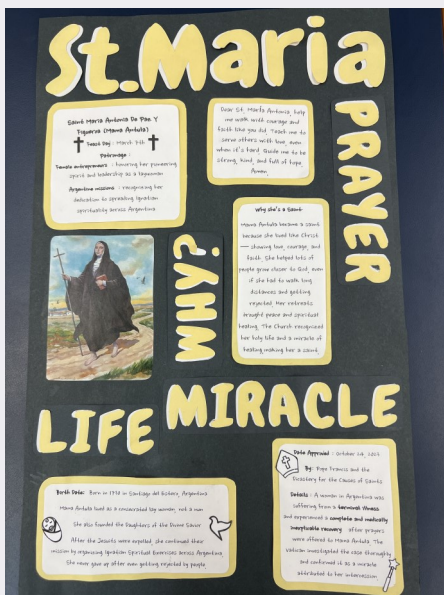
## FEATURE: COMMUNITY



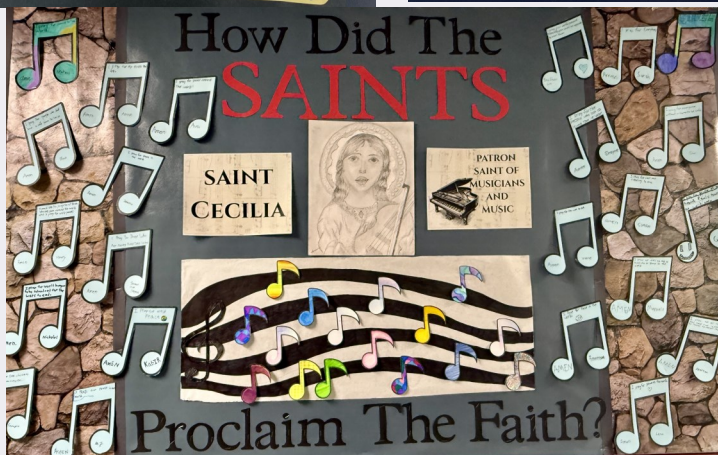
*Celebrating Mrs. Stokovac's Retirement — Current and former staff gathered to honour her remarkable career and share in the joy of this special milestone!*



*Thank you Mrs. Stokovac!*



*Gr. 7 Learning about our Saints*



*Gr. 6L shares how St. Cecilia proclaimed the faith*



*Gr. 3 making rosaries*



# VIRTUE IN PRACTICE

## Stewardship



Living,  
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**OUR FAITH**

During November, we will practice the virtue of "Stewardship: returning to God the first fruits of your time, talent and treasure".

Each of our lives - our very existence - is a gift from God. As Christians, we are called to use everything we've been given for God's glory. The word "steward" was used in centuries past for a person appointed to take care of all the material possessions of a ruler (or other powerful leader) when he/she was absent. In the Gospels, we read several of Jesus' parables which talk about "the good steward" and "the bad steward"; here Jesus is instructing us to use all that we have been given to help others and strengthen His Church.

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

## TOGETHER WE CAN

### Walkathon 2025

Thank you, St. Mary's community, for your incredible support in raising funds for our new school bus! Congratulations to all the students who reached the \$150 milestone and earned our limited-edition Walkathon spiritwear t-shirt. A heartfelt thank-you to all our families for helping us get closer to achieving our fundraising goals through your generosity and school spirit!



*Grade 6 at Central Park*

- **The total proceeds raised for the 2025 Walkathon was \$33,644.80**

**Grade 1P and 7S won the free field trip**

**Grade KV and 6L won a free hot lunch**



*Grade 1M on their way back from their walk*





# FAITH IN ACTION

## *St. Mary's Alumna Discerns Vocation in Nashville*



St. Mary's School is very happy to share the joyful news that alumna Isabel Ryznar entered the convent of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 15, 2025, joining twenty other young women in answering God's call. After years of prayer and discernment, Isabel took this next step on her journey toward her vocation.

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, often known as the "Nashville Dominicans," live out their charism of contemplative prayer and active apostolate to *"go and teach the Gospel to all nations."* As we celebrate the *Feast of St. Cecilia on November 22*, we invite our St. Mary's community to keep Sister Isabel and all young people discerning their vocations in your prayers. May God continue to bless them with courage, joy, and peace as they follow His call.



*Sister Isabel is on the far right of the middle row.*

“ Christian education is a choral work: no one educates alone. Every teacher, student, parent, and member of the community is called to take part... ”

(Oct. 28, 2025)



Leo P.P. XIV

*Receiving the Dominican Pin*





## LEARNING IN ACTION



**Cranberry Creations and Tim Burton Inspiration**  
– Trying our homemade cranberry sauce and showing off a Tim Burton inspired self-portrait!

*Grade 2 explored survival at the Museum of Vancouver during the Seal Skin and Cedar workshop, learning how the Metis and Inuit peoples used natural resources to live off the land.*



Buddy pumpkin painting with Grade 1M (above) Grade 6L Egg Drop Experiment (right)



**Pumpkin Heads Take Grade 2!** *A fun fall trend turned classroom favourite—our pumpkin head creations were a hit!*





# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

*Mrs. Ryznar*



At St. Mary's School, we believe that music is not only an essential part of a child's education but also a beautiful way to deepen and proclaim our faith. Rooted in the BC Music Curriculum, our program helps students explore and express themselves through music, develop creativity and collaboration, and make meaningful connections to community, culture, and faith. Through music, students learn that they can communicate and respond to God's love in joyful and expressive ways.

In the intermediate grades, students expand their musical skills through instrumental study—including recorder, ukulele, and band instruments—as they continue to grow as musicians. These experiences nurture technical skill, musical understanding, and a deeper appreciation for music as a form of prayer and praise.

Beyond the classroom, St. Mary's offers a vibrant extracurricular choir program which includes approximately 150 students from Grades 2 to 7. Our choirs are currently preparing for the Christmas season, sharing their voices through community outreach concerts and our Primary Christmas Concert on December 16 and Intermediate Christmas Concert on December 17—mark your calendars!

Each month, our St. Mary's Intermediate Choirs have the privilege of leading the singing at the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Parish Mass. Our next Parish Mass will be on Sunday, November 23, and we warmly invite all families to join us.

Through all of these experiences, St. Mary's School seeks to nurture a lifelong love of music as a pathway to faith, community, and joy—helping students use their voices and instruments to praise God and bring His light to others.

*Our grade 7 bands joined with the Notre Dame Senior band for a special performance in the St. Mary's School Gym on October 28. St. Mary's Alumni pictured right.*





## ON THE MOVE

### *Field Trips*



In October, our students enjoyed a variety of fun and enriching experiences! Grades 3 and 5 attended a performance at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, developing their appreciation for live music. Grade 1 students had a wonderful time at the pumpkin patch, where they picked their own pumpkins and decorated them with help from their Grade 6 buddies. Meanwhile, our Kindergarten class explored Gaston Park, discovering the beautiful shapes, textures, and colours of autumn leaves.







# HALLOWEEN FUN

## CONGRATULATIONS COSTUME CONTEST PRIZE WINNERS

### Kindergarten V

Funniest – Zach  
Most Original – Matthew  
Dynamic Duo – Vela and Gianna  
Best Character – Klara

### Kindergarten M

Funniest – Archie  
Most Original – Idhant  
Dynamic Duo – Aamy and Kayla  
Best Character – Antonia

### Grade 1M

Funniest – Stephen  
Most Original – Sabrina  
Dynamic Duo – Matilda and Lesley  
Best Character – Katriona

### Grade 1P

Funniest – Wilfred  
Most Original – Laura  
Dynamic Duo – Xyler and Zia  
Best Character – Aria

### Grade 2

Funniest – Jerome  
Most Original – Raania  
Dynamic Duo – Zoe and Alexander B  
Best Character – Elijah

### Grade 3

Funniest – Kameli  
Most Original – Luke  
Dynamic Duo – Cole and Karson  
Best Character – Harper

### Grade 4

Funniest - Rehan  
Most Original- Cassey  
Dynamic Duo- Eva and Kyra  
Best Character - Brenden

### Grade 5Q

Funniest - Zion  
Most Original - Emma  
Dynamic Duo – Peyton and Vanessa  
Best Character - Alexander

### Grade 5LR

Funniest - Liam  
Most Original - Amelia  
Dynamic Duo – Adelizze and Kayla  
Best Character – Anthony

### Grade 6L

Funniest - Gregorio  
Most Original - Clara  
Dynamic Duo – Lara and Luana  
Best Character – Mischa

### Grade 7P

Funniest - Brennan  
Most Original - Woojin  
Dynamic Duo – CJ and Marcus  
Best Character - Aadhya

### Grade 7S

Funniest - Tommy  
Most Original - Alfred  
Dynamic Duo – Annabel and Sofia  
Best Character – Klennia

### Honorable Mention

A group of 4 students in Grade 4 (**Alexandra, Lina, Macy and Sophia D**) who dressed up as teachers– Mrs. Cipriano, Ms. Cagliuso, Dr. Collins, and Ms. Lombardo

### Best Staff Costumes

Funniest – Mr. Mogatas  
Most Original – Mrs. Patro  
Dynamic Duo – Ms. Simmons and Mr. Pascua  
Best Character – Mrs. Caldwell (missing)



*Dynamic Duo*



*Most Original*



*Funniest*

*Best Character*



*Staff*

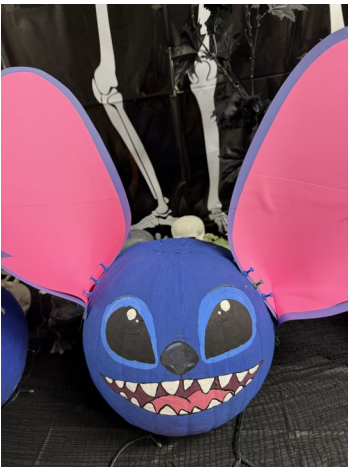


# SPOOKTACULAR CELEBRATIONS

We had a fantastic day celebrating fall with costumes, laughter, and festive activities! Students enjoyed sweet treats at our Spooky Scoops ice cream station, tackled the Spider-Man obstacle course, and had a blast with the pumpkin relay and ghost bowling. A big thank-you to all the parents who joined us for the Creepin' the Catwalk costume parade — your enthusiasm made the day even more memorable!

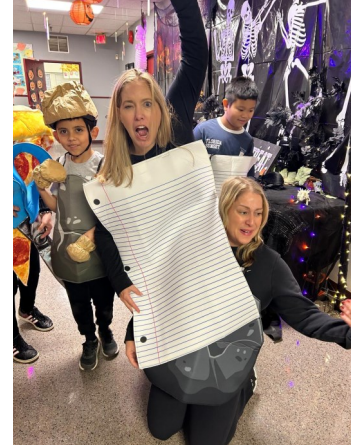
## Pumpkin Face off!

- First Place – 67
- Second Place – Rumi Ramen Noodles
- Third Place – Stitch



## Pumpkin Pounds!

Guess the weight of the great pumpkins!  
Dor in 6L- guessed it exactly 69 kg or 153 lbs.







# ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Home of the



## Girls' Volleyball

Congratulations to all our Grade 5, 6, and 7 Girls' Volleyball teams for advancing to the next round of the CISVA playoffs!

We're excited to host **three home games this week:**

- **Grade 7 Girls** – Thursday, November 6 vs. St. Augustine's School
- **Grade 5 Girls** – Friday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m. vs. St. Matthew's School
- **Grade 6 Girls** – Friday, November 7 at 3:00 p.m. vs. St. Matthew's School

Good luck to all our players — the results of these matches will determine who advances to the finals at **Harry Jerome!**

A heartfelt thank-you to our parents for providing rides and cheering from the sidelines, and to our dedicated coaches and players for their hard work, teamwork, and school spirit. Thanks to Ms. Vukasovic for directing the season.

Go St. Mary's!

*Janos places 1st at the CISVA Cross Country Championship Gr. 2 boys race. Congratulations!*





## 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. Please click on the updated link below for more information. Thank you for keeping your account up-to-date.

### [November Registration Link](#)

### **HALLOWEEN IN COLLINGWOOD – WRAP UP**

A huge thank-you to the CBIA for organizing this year's event and to all our amazing volunteers who spent their time handing out treats to our neighbours. Despite the rain, the community spirit was unstoppable! With over **30 participating businesses**, *Halloween in Collingwood* turned into a truly memorable day filled with fun, laughter, and spooky cheer.

We're so grateful for everyone who came out to celebrate — your support and enthusiasm make events like this so special!

**Next up:** Join us for the **Winter Carnival & Tree Lighting Festival** on **November 29**, featuring live performances (including the *St. Mary's Choir*), local art, delicious hot chocolate, and, of course, the magical tree lighting.



*Gr. 3 Haunted House, Pumpkin cat, and Scream Portrait*