



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We welcome all new and returning families to our St. Mary's School family. Parents are the first educators of their children. As Catholic educators, our goal is to work with you in promoting the Catholic Christian formation of your child and strive for excellence in education by helping each student develop to his or her potential.

This summer, there has been considerable media attention on the topic of schools across Canada banning cellphones. At St. Mary's, our policy remains consistent: students are not permitted to use their cellphones or wear smartwatches during school hours, including recess and lunch. This policy also extends to afterschool activities,

such as sports games, where students attending as spectators are expected to refrain from using these devices. We appreciate your continued cooperation in maintaining a focused and distraction-free learning environment.

We are excited for the year ahead, eager to see our students return healthy, enthusiastic, and ready to learn. We will pray for your families throughout the year, and for our new building project and its success in bringing Catholic education to our world. We look forward to watching them build strong connections with their friends and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal

MONTH AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Virtue: Friendship

- 2 Labour Day Holiday
- 3 School Re-opens 8:50-12:00,
Opening Prayer 9:15 (church)
K Gradual entry begins
Grade 7 to Camp Zajac (3-6)
- 6 First Friday Mass 9:10
- 9 Student Network Campaign
(Mentors)
- 10 Meet the Teacher 6:30 (church,
then school) **Mandatory Meeting**
- 11 School Mass 9:30 (Cross Blessing)
Terry Fox Ambassador
Presentation 1:00 (gym) \$2
- 12 Kindergarten Parent Connections
1:00 (front entrance)
- 13 Back to School Family BBQ 5:00
Student Network Elections
- 16 Kindergarten First Full Day
Grade 4 Cheakamus (16-17)
- 22 School Choir sings at 5:00pm Mass
- 24 St. Mary's Invitational Cross-
Country. Meet 10-2 South
Memorial Park
- 25 Individual and Class Photos
- 27 Truth and Reconciliation Prayer
Service (Gr. 7) 2:15 Church
Orange Shirt Day Out-of-Uniform
- 30 National Day for Truth and
Reconciliation: School Closure

“
*May your kingdom come. May your will be
done on earth as it is in heaven.*
”

Matthew 6:10 (GNT)





OUR THEME

In "Celebrating Our Faith," I explore the profound symbolism embedded within the single flame. This piece embodies the essence of our Catholic school community, where illumination, celebration, and dynamism intertwine.

Candles, central to the visual, carry a symbolic weight that transcends mere wax and wick. They evoke the essence of celebration, serving as steadfast companions in liturgical and sacramental rites. Within their flickering light resides the embodiment of our collective zeal, our fervent devotion symbolized by the fire.

The flame, a beacon of the Holy Spirit, dances with purpose and vitality. It represents the ardor of those who are ablaze for Christ, echoing the words, "I have come to set fire upon the Earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!" (Luke 10:49). Here, the flame is not static but dynamic, a force propelling us forward in our spiritual journey.

Upon seeing the visual, my daughter Zoe exclaimed, "Mama, it moves!" Just as Zoe marvels at the movement of a flame, we too are invited to marvel at the ever-moving spirit within us. The flame is not stagnant but alive, embodying the pulsating heartbeat of our faith.

Through "Celebrating Our Faith," I invite viewers to immerse themselves in the vibrancy of our Catholic community, where the flame of devotion burns brightly, illuminating our path with its timeless glow.



Living, CELEBRATING, and Proclaiming OUR FAITH



CELEBRATING MARY

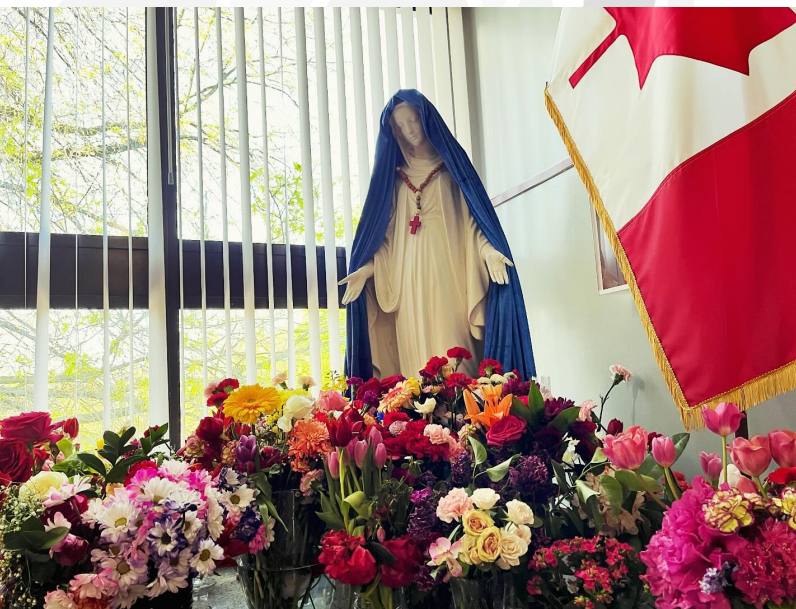
This year, we are also going to focus on celebrating our patron saint, St. Mary. Our Lady leads us to the Lord. She gave us Jesus Christ the King, God's one and only Son. We will be meeting in multi-graded family groups to discover more about Mary and how praying to her can help us with the challenges in life. The dates are: Oct. 9 at 9:15; January 22 @9:15; and May 7 @9:15.

TERRY FOX

We are excited to announce that on **Wednesday, September 11th**, our school will have the honor of hosting an ambassador from the **Terry Fox Foundation**. The ambassador will be giving a special presentation to our students, sharing the inspiring story of Terry Fox and the lasting impact of his legacy.

As part of this special day, we will also be raising money to support the Terry Fox Foundation and their continued efforts in cancer research. We kindly ask that each student brings \$2 to school on **Wednesday, September 11th** to contribute to this important cause. Let's all come together as a school community to make a difference and honor the memory of a true Canadian hero. We will incorporate our run for Terry Fox into our PE lessons.

Thank you for your support! *Mr. Flynn*



DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

Year of Charity



This year, St. Mary's will continue the "*Virtues in Practice*" program which enables students to grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and virtues. The program covers 27 virtues over a three-year cycle and each year emphasizes one of the three theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity. Our theme for this year is "Charity", which emphasizes community, particularly in regard to students' interactions with one another, because "he who does not love the brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20).

Developing charity requires divine grace and is best learned by a good example: first, by learning to better know and love God (who is Love), and secondly, by parents and teachers who model a life of charity. Let us strive together to love our neighbor and to show the children that God is first and foremost in *our* lives, by developing our own habits of daily prayer, weekly Mass, and eliminating any obstacles in our relationship with God. Let us join together to pray this year for all the school's efforts to deepen the virtue of charity.

This September, students will begin exploring the virtue of "Friendship", which is defined as "sharing a mutual love that seeks the good of the other".

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. St. Mary, pray for us!



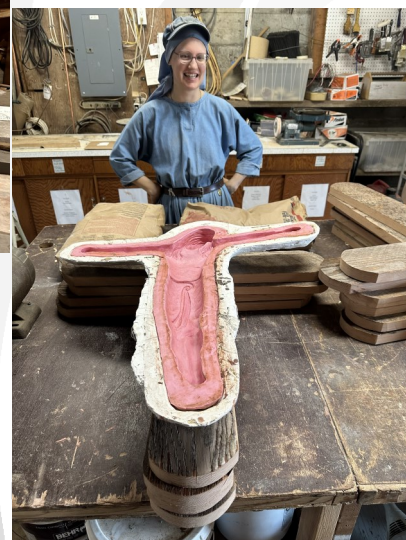
BLESSING OF OUR NEW CROSS

The "Prince of Peace" cross, crafted with care and devotion by the Dominican Sisters of Queen of Peace Monastery, is made from wood over 100 years old, salvaged from a Catholic school. This cross beautifully embodies our theme, "Celebrating Our Faith." It stands as a symbol of our school's deep commitment to Catholic values, seamlessly blending tradition with the present as we honor our faith in a modern context. It also serves as a tangible connection between our school's spiritual past and future.



Workshop at the Queen of Peace monastery.

We warmly invite all parents to join us for a special school Mass on Wednesday, September 11, at 9:30 AM, as we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. During this Mass, our new cross will be blessed and placed in the gym foyer, marking a significant moment in our school's spiritual journey.

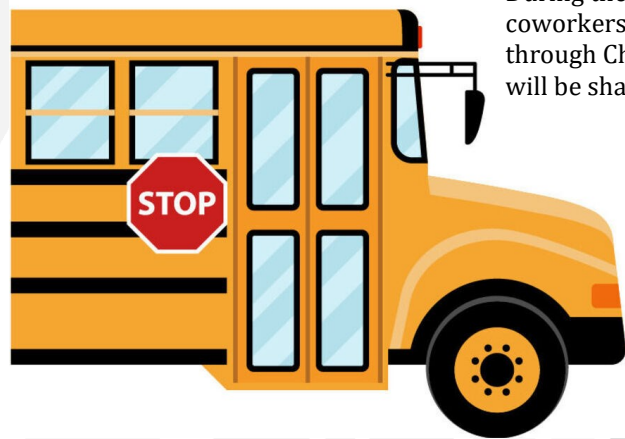




WALKATHON FUNDRAISER

Save the Date: We're excited to announce that our annual Walkathon is just around the corner, taking place on the morning of Friday, October 11th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This is our biggest community fundraiser of the year, where students, staff, and parent supervisors come together to walk to Central Park in Burnaby and raise funds for important school resources. This year, our goal is to raise funds to purchase a new school bus—continuing the focus of last year's campaign. Our K-7 students are incredibly fortunate to participate in approximately 80 field trips each year, made possible by our bus and dedicated personnel.

During the campaign, students will collect pledges from friends, family, and their parents' coworkers to support their participation in the walk. Donors can contribute online through Charitable Impact, via a paper form, or both. Further details about the fundraiser will be shared through our office in the coming weeks.



Walkathon pledge forms and online links coming soon.

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. Sept. 20 was missed on the original link.

[September Registration Link](#)

MEET YOUR PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC)

We are deeply appreciative of this dedicated group of parents who will play a vital role in supporting our school through various events, parent participation initiatives, and fundraising efforts.

Fr. Joseph D Souza - Pastor
Daniel Chou - Chairperson, Treasurer
Anne Woo - Vice-Chairperson, Delegate to CISVA
Richelle Tapia - Secretary, Fundraising & Special Events Coordinator
Alfred Liu - Parent Participation Coordinator
Joy Ravina - Fundraising & Special Events Coordinator
Katrina Asaua - Facilities & Maintenance
Liza Garcia - Parent Liaison



Alfred Liu, Daniel Chou, Liza Garcia, Anne Woo, Brett Hughes (former PEC), Ryan Raguero (former Chair), Richelle Tapia, Katrina Asaua, and Joy Ravina.

STAFF RETREAT

On August 27th, our staff came together for a day of prayer and reflection centered around our theme, *Celebrate Our Faith*. We explored how our families honor their faith through cultural, traditional, and spiritual practices. Each of us shared a story, artifact, or tradition that holds special meaning, highlighting how we celebrate these cherished moments with our loved ones.

Our guest speaker, Johnny Bevacqua, a former St. Mary's alumnus and former President of Vancouver College, offered valuable insights.

The day also included crafting Bible bracelets and enjoying a peaceful nature walk through a beautiful forested area. We concluded our day with a sacrament celebrated by Fr. Joseph, which provided a perfect and meaningful close to our time together. United and inspired, we are ready to embark on a year of faith and learning with our students and parents.



Johnny Bevacqua shares "Our vocation is a remarkable act of Faith."



We would like to acknowledge the land on which we live, work, and play is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the including the territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

