



St. Mary's School Newsletter | April 2024



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last Sunday, we joyously celebrated Easter, remembering the resurrection of Jesus. Through his sacrifice, Jesus offered salvation to all, granting us the opportunity to embrace eternal life through His love and grace. As stewards of this important message, let us share the news and live out His teachings through our parish, school, and daily interactions in our community. Let's rejoice in the signs of new life and express gratitude to God for his abundant blessings.

There are 72 Grade 7 students preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation this month. We pray that they will be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be their helper and guide to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Students can now have the option to wear their summer uniform following the guidelines set out on page 12 & 13 of our parent handbook found on our website (skorts or shorts with plain white socks and runners).

Have a blessed Easter!

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Krivuzoff
Principal



Month at a Glance

- ◆ April 2 Mite Boxes due, Term 2 Report Cards released on MyEdBC, Summer Uniform ok
- ◆ April 3 SMS Spelling Bee 9:30 church
- ◆ April 4 Out-of-Uniform Spring Theme \$2
- ◆ April 5 Student-Led Conference Day; No Before or After School Club, Students to come in uniforms to their scheduled conference
- ◆ April 10 School Mass 9:30 Grade 3 leads
- ◆ April 14 Choir sings at Sunday 5:00 pm Mass
- ◆ April 15 Confirmation Rehearsal 6-6:45; Gr. 2 Swimming
- ◆ April 17 Confirmation 7:00; Junior and Senior Choir sings at Confirmation
- ◆ April 22 Gr. 2 Swimming
- ◆ April 26 Readers are Leaders Regionals 10:00 church basement
- ◆ April 29 Gr. 2 Swimming; Friar's Track Meet at SFU
- ◆ April 30 CISVA Spelling Bee
- ◆ May 1 Jeans Day Out-of-Uniform \$2; Grade 5 Victoria
- ◆ May 4 Junior and Senior Choir signs at First Communion 1:00pm
- ◆ Save the Date: May 23 St. Mary's Spring Festival for bands and choirs 7:00pm

“ *SPEAK to the EARTH & it shall TEACH thee.* ”
Job 12:8



#wearesaints smsaints604 smsaints60 smsaints604

Please download our School App on iTunes or Google Play Store



DOMINICAN MONTHLY VIRTUE IN PRACTICE PROGRAM

Year of Hope: Trusting in God's Loving Plan

This April in our Virtues program we continue with our overall theme of "Hope", which means "trusting in God's loving plan".

This month we will practice the virtue of "Obedience: saying "yes" to the will of God and those he has set over us. Obedience is not exactly a popular virtue in our culture. Someone who is worldly seeks power, and they don't want to obey anyone else. As Christians, we believe that the person with the most authority is not the one who controls the most people, but the one who *serves the most people!*

True obedience leads to living in the freedom of the truth that our lives are guided by our Heavenly Father, who has a plan for each of us. Obedience doesn't mean being forced to do things we don't want to do, and it certainly does not mean doing sinful things just because someone in authority tells us to. Instead, obedience means that we choose to want what God wants, so that we can experience the freedom and joy of following Him.

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 in our everyday lives.

A JOYFUL ENTRY: EMBRACING FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

Congratulations to Filippa Lee (5SR) and her mom Amy Lai who were welcomed into the Catholic church with her baptism during the Easter Vigil last Saturday at St. Francis Xavier Parish. May God give them grace and glory to live in his Love, and help our community draw closer to God by faith, prayer and example.

The priest pours water over Filippa's head.



Ms. Lai and Filippa standing with their sponsor and godmother.



Grade 5L lead school Mass on March 27 which included a reenactment of the gospel.

Year of
Hope
STUDY

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast."
—Hebrews 6:19

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."
—Hebrews 10:23

HOPE is trusting in God's loving plan. Through the theological virtue of hope our hearts are set on the goal of heaven.

THE YEAR OF HOPE offers an opportunity to focus on study skills and vocations. We know that God designed each of us with gifts and talents to suit His plan for our lives, and that He expects us to do our part to increase the talents He has given us so that we are ready to answer His call.

LIVING OUR FAITH



A LETTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP FROM A CONFIRMANDI

Confirmation is an important milestone in our journey of faith, marking a commitment to our Catholic beliefs! All Catholic Grade 7 students seeking the sacrament of Confirmation were asked to write Archbishop Michael Miller a letter by considering the following questions: Why are you seeking Confirmation? Who are the people in your life whose faith inspires you? Tell me about your relationships with Jesus. What is your prayer life like? How will you witness your faith after Confirmation? In the letter below, the author eloquently articulates his sincere intentions for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Archbishop Miller expresses his congratulations and the assurance of his prayers to all 72 confirmandi and their families in the school and parish. Confirmation will be celebrated by Fr. Joseph on April 17 at 7:00pm. Our community is welcome to attend the Confirmation Mass.

Dear Most Reverend Archbishop Michael Miller,

My name is Leonardo Saboya and I am part of the Grade 7S class in St Mary's School. I am very excited to receive my Confirmation this year. This step in my Journey of Faith will help me to overcome many obstacles as I will know that God will protect me, and the Holy Spirit will guide me.

There are many reasons as to why I would like to get Confirmed. One of the reasons is for me to continue being a disciple of Jesus, and continue spreading the Word of God. Being Confirmed will grant me the strength, and wisdom to make this change in my life. It will help me to understand God's plan for me. Furthermore, I also want to be Confirmed to overall learn more about Jesus and the Bible. I am very happy that my parents have put me in a Catholic School, so that I can continue to learn more about Jesus, and have wonderful opportunities to receive various Sacraments.

There are numerous people in my life that inspire me Spiritually, with their Faith and Dedication, but I have chosen two that stuck out to me the most. Those two people are my Mom, and my Grandma. My mom to me is a great example of dedication, hard work, and faithfulness. Despite all the things that busy her in her life, she still finds time for God. It's something that I strive to accomplish, having a great, and deep love for God, while still leading a normal work life, and potentially taking care of children of my own. As for my grandma, I admire how kind and humble she is. She always puts God first, then others, then herself. Her generosity is in my opinion her greatest virtue. I seek to be as generous, and as humble as her. Me being inspired by these two great role models will definitely help me to become the best version of myself, and set an example for others as well.

My relationship with Jesus is fairly strong. I do my best each day to talk, and connect with Jesus. One thing that I think has really strengthened my bond with Jesus is the prayer process. The prayer process teaches you not only to pray, but also to just sit down for a moment, let go of everything and talk to Jesus. Each time I do the prayer process I feel growing closer and closer to Jesus. I think meditation also helped me with my relationship with Jesus. A quick meditation before prayer really calms me down, helps me collect my thoughts, and focus on Jesus.

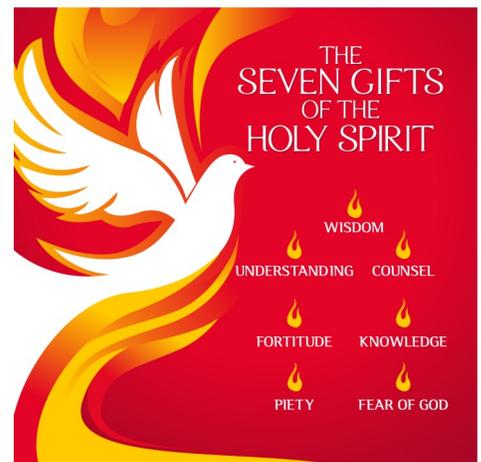
Going to church every Sunday also strengthens my relationship with Him. Mass helps me understand what Jesus did for us, and how his role by dying on the cross gave me, and each one of us eternal life. My prayer life is great. For Confirmation I am trying to learn as many prayers as possible so I can be prepared. Though I am learning the prayers and memorizing them, it goes deeper than that. I really need to fully understand the prayers, and not just say them out loud, but rather think about every sentence in the prayer, and comprehend what it means. I am trying my best to do so, but I struggle with doing that.

In addition to that, I also try to learn the prayers in my first language; Portuguese. So far I know The Our Father, The Hail Mary, The Apostles Creed, and the Hail Holy Queen in Portuguese. I look forward to expanding my knowledge, and prayers. Therefore, I can get a deeper understanding of the prayers, and learn more about my language.

Another reason as to why I learn prayers in my own language is to make my grandma happy. She loves that I am mixing my own culture, and prayer together. It is also a way to not forget my mother tongue since my grandma would be really mad at me if I did forget.

After my Confirmation I will stick to going to Mass every Sunday as that strengthens my relationship with God. Confirmation is a way for me to fully enter and be a member of the Catholic Church. I hope that with Confirmation, God, and the Holy Spirit will guide me throughout my Journey of Life. In whatever career path I choose I hope that God will always be with me. Confirmation is a way to express my love for God, and continuing to indulge in the Catholic Faith.

Warm Regards,
Leonardo Saboya





VOLUNTEER AT THE JOYCE STREET CLEAN UP PARTY

Join us in celebrating Earth Week by taking part in our 3rd annual clean-up event involving St. Mary's School & Parish, Collingwood Policing, Collingwood Neighborhood House, and Collingwood BIA. Together, we will make a positive impact by tidying up Joyce Street on Saturday, April 27 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

This event provides an excellent opportunity for 20 families to contribute volunteer hours. To participate, simply sign up your family through onvolunteers using one parent's name. Additional parents can be included using the ad hoc feature, which will be credited after the event. On the day of the clean-up, gather with your family in front of the school at 10:30 AM to collect your supplies. After the clean-up, reconvene at the school playground for a BBQ and prize draws. Participants will be contacted to confirm their meal preferences.

Let's come together as a community to make a difference and enjoy a rewarding day of stewardship, and friendship!

LIVING OUR FAITH

Collingwood
Business Improvement Association

Join us at the 3rd annual

JOYCE STREET CLEAN UP PARTY

Sat, 27th April
Start at 10:30 am

St. Mary's School parking lot
5239 Joyce Street

We will cover Joyce Street & nearby areas, then head
back to St. Mary's for a BBQ & prizes

WHERE YOU CAN SIGN UP:

Collingwood Community Policing Centre 604.717.2935	Collingwood Neighbourhood House 604.435.0323	St. Mary's School 604.437.1312	Collingwood BIA 604.639.4403 info@shopcollingwood.ca
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SHARING OUR TALENTS

SAINTS Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our SMS Spelling Bee contestants on an exciting, 12 round competition today! The top three competitors were: 3rd - Binh Ho, 2nd - Annabel Chou, and in 1st - Vivianne Obillo, with the winning word: "transmute". Vivianne will be representing St. Mary's at the CISVA Spelling Bee on April 30th! Thank you to Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Collins for sponsoring the group of students with their practices.



Readers are Leaders

It was an What a fantastic turnout in this year's Readers Are Leaders Club! Nine teams (63 students) participated in our In House Competition on March 26th. After three rounds, two grade seven teams tied for first place. After the first overtime round, we had a winner! Congratulations to Aoife Bailey, Hannah Chin, Chimuanya Eziamaka, Mikaela Ferreira, Sofia Montemayor De Vizcaya, Sienna Varriano, and Angela Yang. They will be competing in the Regionals held at St. Mary's on Friday April 26th. Thank you to Ms. Simmons and Ms. Lombardo for sponsoring the teams!



WINE SURVIVOR CHALLENGE IS BACK!

Join us for our 2nd annual Wine Survivor Challenge and help support St. Mary's School in purchasing a new school bus. The funds raised will directly contribute to enhancing educational programs and opportunities for the students at St. Mary's School. From Kindergarten through Grade 7, students benefit from various outdoor and indoor field trips such as skating, snowshoeing, outdoor education, paddle boarding, parks, theatres, museums, etc.

Here's how the Wine Survivor Challenge works:

Entry Fee: \$35 (\$20 for participation + \$15 average price of a bottle of wine)

Extra Lives: \$10 each, with a maximum of 2. Extra lives increases your chances of staying in the game.

Elimination Process: Starting from Thursday, April 18th, names will be drawn Monday to Friday to eliminate players. Prizes: Liquor store gift cards awarded to the last six surviving players. No person under the age of 19 can enter the game.

Playing Options:

Playing with **ONE** life: \$35 (Entry fee of \$20 + Cost of one bottle of wine \$15)

Playing with **TWO** lives: \$45 (Entry fee of \$20 + Cost of one bottle of wine \$15 + one extra life at \$10)

Playing with **THREE** lives: \$55 (Entry fee of \$20 + Cost of one bottle of wine \$15 + two extra lives at \$20)

Prizes will be distributed based on the number of participants, so the more players, the more prizes available. We encourage you to invite your friends and family over the age of 19 to join in the fun!

Prize Distribution:

- 1st Prize: 50% of the wine in gift cards

- 2nd Prize: 25%

- 3rd Prize: 10%

- 4th, 5th, and 6th Prize: 5% each

The prize winners will receive their gift cards by the end of May.

To participate, follow these simple steps:

1: Click on the [2024 Wine Survivor Challenge](#) link to complete the entry form.

2: E-transfer your payment to fundraising@stmary.bc.ca with your **full name** and the note "**Wine Survivor.**"

Entries will be accepted until midnight, April 16, but we won't start drawing until the 18th. The game runs until approximately May 16th.

Don't miss out on the chance to win prizes while supporting our school! Invite your family and friends over 19 to join in the fun. Let's make this year's Wine Survivor Challenge the best one yet!

Thank you for supporting St. Mary's School!



wine survivor challenge
A Fundraiser for
St. Mary's School

The logo for St. Mary's School, featuring a circular emblem with a stylized figure and the text "ST. MARY'S SCHOOL" and "NURTURING THE HEART, MIND & SPIRIT".

Grade 5 STEAM /Lenten Activity: Pretzel Making

Experienced and new bakers in grade 5 enjoyed making (and eating) pretzels during the last week of Lent! Pretzels remind us of Jesus, the Bread of Life, and are formed in a way that reflects the prayerful posture (crossed arms) from earlier times in church history. Pretzels are also a sugar-free "treat" during Lent! Students made connections between the activity and Science (chemical reactions, biology - watching yeast grow and bloom, our bodies being complex machines made up of multiple simple machines), Technology (simple kitchen tools), Engineering (forming the pretzels), Applied Design (following a plan - recipe - from start to completion) Math (fractions, decimals, measurement) - STEAM! The best part was tasting and sharing the fruits of our labour.



LIVING OUR FAITH



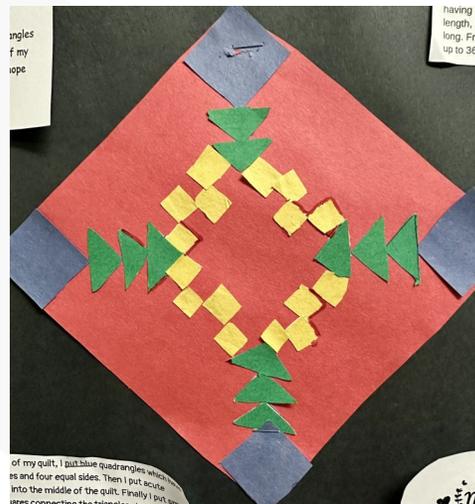
Grade 4C Moon Phases



Grade 1 Ladybugs and frogs



Kindergarten Cherry Blossom Trees



Grade 6M Quilts blocks emphasizing shapes, angles and symmetry



PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (PHE) 23-24

March was an enjoyable and short month for all at St. Mary's. Our basketball season finished up in March. Congratulations to our Grade 6 boys and Grade 7 girls who made the playoffs. We are also very proud of our Grade 7 boys who gave it their all in what was a very high scoring game against St. Francis De Sales. The boys can hold their heads up high in what was an excellent season. Well done to all basketball teams on your excellent efforts this season! A big thanks to all our players, coaches, referees, scorekeepers, helpers and stewards at each game. A big thanks must also go to Mr. Mogatas for the Live Stream of our Grade 7 boy's Quarter Final at the Richmond Oval. This allowed all our students and staff to watch the game live from St. Mary's.

April sees a recommencement of the Badminton season. Our students are relishing the opportunity in our PE classes, to develop their skills. Our practices for both Grade 6 and 7 Badminton players are well underway. Grade 6 and 7 Badminton Intramurals have allowed our students to develop their skills, while also having lots of fun. I would like to wish all players and coaches the best of luck this season. It is wonderful to see our students enjoy this wonderful sport and it definitely is a big hit at St. Mary's.

We will also have Track and Field starting this month. Like Badminton, track and field always brings huge interest from our students. Running and track and field activities will be implemented into our PE lessons along with Badminton as we work through the month of April. Thanks to all our coaches and athletes who are taking part.

Finally, our Grade 2 students will be starting their swimming lessons on Monday the 15th of April. They will have six weeks to learn and develop their swimming skills, which is an essential life skill.

Happy Easter to all!
Mr. Flynn.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH THE DOW FAMILY

Jovey Dow is a happy and familiar face at almost all of our Special Events from Back to School BBQ to Centennial Celebrations, and recently seen volunteering at our Power Lunches. Her warm personality is inviting to children and parents alike, whether it is volunteering or playing at the park. Jovey, thank you for your dedication to our school, and we hope to see you at our parish events as Zola will be moving on next year to secondary school.



Jovita Dow with her daughter Zola (Gr. 7S)

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Please use the April [Link](#) to register for regular or drop in club use. April 30th will be added to the May google form. Thank you for keeping your account up-to-date and providing notice for cancellations.