

St. Mary's School Newsletter | January 2022



www.stmary.bc.ca



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I pray this newsletter finds you in good health. Let the heavens be glad and earth rejoice! Jesus, our Saviour has been born! Happy New Year to all our families. I hope your holidays were filled with wonderful memories of family and friends. Here I am with my family overlooking Sylvan Lake, AB after a snowshoeing adventure, despite the frigid temperatures. Did you take the opportunity to view and enjoy this year's Christmas Musical? It was an incredible effort on the part of the students and staff involved. Your children were so happy to perform for you and were so delightful to watch!

Our updated Communicable Disease Control Exposure Plan is now available on our website. We have been working on a plan to provide coverage for staff in the event that we have several staff away to due illness. **January events are subject to change as we adjust our planning in the coming weeks.** We are welcoming all students back on Monday, January 10 unless your child is quarantining due to international travel, or in self-isolation due to contracting COVID. Please send your child to school with a 3 layer mask if possible. We are experiencing winter weather, and students should come to school dressed to go outside for recess breaks. In the event of a school closure, please check our website home page, and google calendar for notifications.

May God bless your family in this New Year.

Yours sincerely,
Brenda Krivuzoff

Principal



A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just!

- Pope Francis

Before & After School Club Registration



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Jan. 4-7 Phased approach to school opening
- ◆ Jan. 10 All students resume in-person classes
- ◆ Jan. 12 Virtual School Mass 9:30, Gr. 5L is leading; link will be sent to parents
- ◆ Jan. 19 Notre Dame Placement Exam
- ◆ Jan. 25 Gr. 2 Reconciliation is postponed
- ◆ Jan. 28 Pro-D Day School Closure



#wearesaints



@SMSaints



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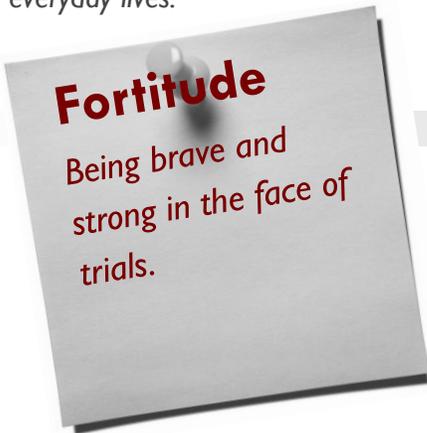
Virtues In Practice

Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus

This month in our “Virtues in Practice” program, we will focus on the virtue of **“fortitude”** which means **“being brave and strong in the face of trials”**. The ongoing Covid pandemic is certainly proving to be a trial for us and for many people. God invites us to rely on his strength and goodness in the midst of this uncertain time. When we recognize our powerlessness, we realize not only how much we need God’s help but we also see how strong He is and how much He loves us. In recognizing our weakness and relying on God’s strength, we find true freedom, and can say with Saint Paul, *“I will gladly boast of my weaknesses ... for when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

“Lord Jesus, please continue to lead us through this time of pandemic. Increase in us the virtue of **fortitude**: give us the strength to be brave and strong in all the trials we face.”

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.



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

Available for FREE download at www.nashvilledominican.org
 Questions? VirtuesProgram@op-tn.org



Congratulations to Zoe (Grade 4) who received her First Holy Communion at our December School Mass. (above)



Our Grade 2 classes led our Advent Prayer Service before we left for our Christmas holidays. (left)





Community Connections

ARREST THESE MERRY GENTLEMEN

Thank you to the cast, classes and staff involved in this year's musical, specifically Mrs. Ryznar, Mr. Mogatas and Mr. Pascua. You may watch and share [Arrest These Merry Gentlemen](#) with your family across the world!



Community Connections

Out-of-Uniform Day—Dec. 16

Santa's Little Helpers Costume Prize Winners:

Kindergarten: Cassey S.

Grade 1: Siddel M.

Grade 2 Marino: Aurora S.

Grade 2 Moffatt/Bevacqua: Liam R.

Grade 3: Alfred J.

Grade 4: Julian F.

Grade 5 Lewis: Angelo S.

Grade 5 Stokovac/Ryznar: Isabella A.

Grade 6: Tyler C.

Grade 7 Quick: Mariald L.

Grade 7 Pascua: Keith K.

Staff: Mr. Mogatas



Kindergarten field trip to Heritage Christmas at Burnaby Village Museum



We had 100% participation on our Santa's Little Helpers Out-of-Uniform Day, Dec. 16 and were able to raise \$504.90 for food baskets for families in our community. Thank you SAINTS!



Saints Fundraising

Christmas Poinsettia & Seasonal Flower Fundraiser 2021

Thank you to the fundraising Sub-Committee, our volunteers, and all who purchased plants to make this such a successful fundraiser!



Saints Athletics

Congratulations to Mrs. Kozak, coaches and students who participated in the fall sports season. Our community recognized cross-country and volleyball sports at an assembly on Dec. 16. Special congratulations to our cross-country top 8 finishers: Amber (7P) 8th place, Theo (7P) 5th place, Eoin (2MB) 3rd place. Also, congratulations to our Gr. 7 girls volleyball team for making it to the first round of playoffs.



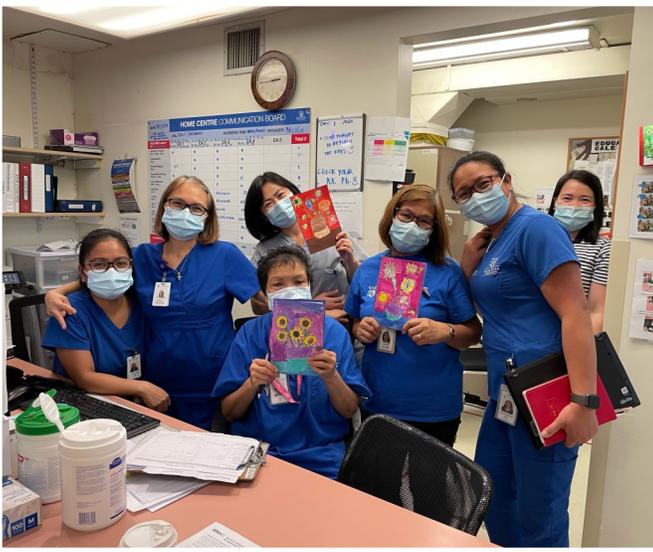
Three cheers for SMSaints!



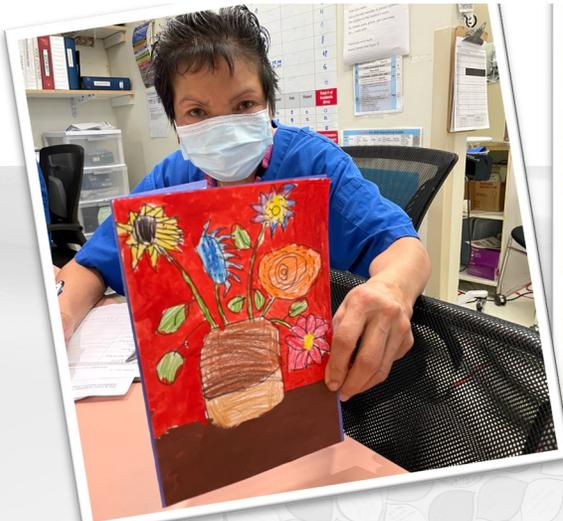
PE in the classroom?
Mrs. Lewis and Aoife enjoy a game of ping pong on a make-shift table this week.

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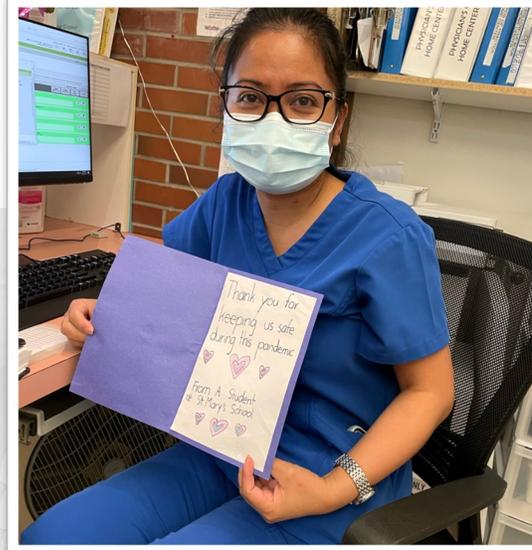




Kindergarten Gingerbread Man Hunt!



Cards for Health Care Workers from 2M



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

Here we have some Grade Two students building volcanos from scratch using salt dough. We look forward to erupting them soon to learn how baking soda and vinegar can produce enough gas to simulate a volcanic eruption.

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