

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL



8909 Mary St., Chilliwack, BC V2P 4J4

[www.saintmarysschool.ca](http://www.saintmarysschool.ca) T: 604-792-7715

*St. Mary's Elementary acknowledges that the land on which we gather, work, learn and play is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Ts'elxwéyeq and Pelólxw Tribes of the Stó:lō people.*



## Important Dates

### Friday, February 2

Skating Field Trip (whole school)

### Wednesday, February 7

Annual General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### February 11<sup>th</sup> – February 16<sup>th</sup>

Catholic Schools Week – see inside for details

School-led Mass on February 11, 9:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Breakfast

Red/White/Pink Dress-up Day

### Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday – Mass for K – 7

### Thursday -Friday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Catholic Educators Conference – no school for students

### Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

Family Day Holiday – no school

### Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Pink Shirt Day



Dear St. Mary's Families,

We are officially at the halfway point of the school year. The last five months have been busy; I know that the next five will be just as full!

At this time of year I have the pleasure of meeting potential new families and giving tours of the school. I am especially grateful to existing families who recommend us to friends or family. One thing that I hear over and over when people visit the school is how friendly and well-behaved the students (and staff!) are. During this month when our society celebrates LOVE on February 14<sup>th</sup>, it is joy to see that our school community puts the Love of God and Love of Neighbour into action daily.

The Parish Education Committee and I look forward to seeing someone from each family at the AGM next week!

Mrs. Jeanine Sallos  
Principal

## School Life

### Catholic Schools Week: February 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

What a great opportunity to celebrate and promote our school!

- Sunday: Come out to our **school-led Mass at 9:30 a.m.** We invite all students who attend to wear their uniform and show St. Mary's pride!
- Monday: We will be hosting **Breakfast for Seniors** of our parish in the morning.
- Tuesday: **Red/White/Pink Dress-up Day** and **Pancake Tuesday**. Students will eat pancakes and celebrate Valentine's Day in advance (please note: treats should not be sent to school without checking with your child's teacher.)
- Wednesday: **Ash Wednesday**. Staff and students will attend Mass at 9:00 a.m. Students should be in proper uniform.
- Thursday/Friday: Teachers attend Catholic Educators' Conference: **NO SCHOOL for students.**

### Pink Shirt Day: Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

St. Mary's School joins with other schools and organizations around the province to commemorate **Pink Shirt Day** – an initiative to raise awareness around bullying. Students are invited to wear a pink shirt **with/on top of their regular school uniform.**

This is not a general colour day – **if your child is not wearing a pink shirt, he/she should come in regular uniform. Please note:** as this is a Wednesday, students in Grades 1 – 7 will be attending Mass. While students are able to wear their pink shirts, please also ensure that they are neatly dressed for Mass.



### Need Used Uniforms?

Cristine Angue is our used uniform coordinator. If you are looking for a "new to you" sweater, or want to have some extra pants on hand during this wintry weather, please contact her:

[cristine\\_daigan@hotmail.com](mailto:cristine_daigan@hotmail.com)

Let her know the sizes of items that you need and she will let you know if there is anything available, and make arrangements to send the pieces to school.

All used uniform pieces are \$5.

Please make sure to **change the name** in any pieces you acquire so we can get lost items back to the right person!



## Fundraising!

### Parking Lot Fundraiser – March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

When events are held at Chilliwack Heritage Park, various groups are given the opportunity to assist with parking, and in return are given half the donations received that day.

We have been given the opportunity to man the parking lot on the weekend of March 16/17. This is an excellent opportunity to get a LOT of participation hours. We are hopeful that people who have done this so capably in the past will be able to come again this year and be able to help mentor some new people! Some families earn all of their hours during this weekend!

For more information please contact our PEC Fundraising Coordinator, Elaine Monteiro (fundraising@saintmaryschool.ca)

**In general, this is the sign-up link for all parent participation activities. You can check this on a regular basis for current opportunities:** [Group Page: St Mary's Chilliwack | SignUp.com](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Golf Tournament, Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>!

### West Coast Seeds

Do you have gardening plans for spring? We have an exciting new fundraiser that has just begun! We are partnering with West Coast Seeds to bring you a wonderful offering of flower and vegetable seeds that you can plant this coming spring. West Coast Seeds provide the very highest quality selection of seeds that meet or exceed the Canada Number One germination rate. West Coast Seeds only offers non-GMO, non-GEO seeds that are never chemically treated.

These seeds are sold at regular West Coast Seeds pricing, (as on their general website,) but we receive 40% of the cost! To see what items are available online, or to place your order, please go to [fundraising.westcoastseeds.com](http://fundraising.westcoastseeds.com) and go to the shop drop down menu. Orders can be placed until Feb 5, 2024.



## Happy Valentine's Day!

### Shopping Through Our School

It is never too late to start putting in a standing order for gift cards! Cards are ordered at the beginning and middle of the month. It's a great way to budget for your groceries and gas (and maybe some treats like Starbucks or Tims!).

The company we order through, Progressive Fundraising, is offering an e-gift card option for some of the suppliers. These gift cards are ordered the same way; however, instead of receiving a physical gift card, you will receive a secure email with your gift card information. Ordering this way allows for a faster turnaround time with delivery direct to your email. To redeem your gift card, simply print out or show it on your phone at the retailer/restaurant! For more information, including participating companies, please contact Mrs. Netzlaw at the office.

## From the Parish Education Committee

### Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.

Each year the school holds an AGM to keep families up to date on the work of the PEC, the financial status of the school, etc. This year we will be handing out registration packages at the AGM. We ask that every family sends at least one adult representative. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you will need to come to the school to get your registration package - they will not be sent home in the brown envelopes this year.

### Registration

As mentioned, registration packages are in the process of being prepared and will be distributed at the AGM.

If you are a current school family and have a child who turns 5 in 2024 – and thus will be starting Kindergarten in September – please let us know and we will put a special Kindergarten registration form in your family's package. Please contact Mrs. Netzlaw by phone or email (cnetzlaw@saintmaryschool.ca).



### Sacramental Preparation

Thank you to parents (and Confirmation sponsors) who attended the Confirmation or First Holy Communion meetings in January. There is a **Mass for Confirmation students** on Sunday, February 25, at 9:30 a.m., and a **Mass for FHC students** on Sunday, March 3, at 9:30 a.m. (this is also the regular school-led Sunday Mass).

The **Confirmation Retreat** will be Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (held during regular school hours), led by St. Mary's Youth Ministry.



### Tax Receipts

Tuition tax receipts for 2023 will be available by the end of February.

St. Mary's is bound by Revenue Canada's tax laws.

Calculations to determine amount eligible for tuition tax receipts are very complex. Each year our school is audited and, based on the financial statements, the religious and secular costs of education are calculated.

You must claim this receipt under **CHARITABLE DONATIONS**.

### Promote Our School!

At this time, when families start thinking about where their children should go to school in September, please tell them your positive experiences at St. Mary's, and invite them to watch [this video](#) highlighting our school.