



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

8909 Mary St., Chilliwack, BC V2P 4J4

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.



Dear St. Mary's Families,

Here we are in March, and already in the midst of Lent. I had a hard time finding a picture that would reflect both the Lenten season and Easter, which will come right at the end of the month!

With Spring Break taking up two weeks, March seems like a short month, but we are squeezing a lot into the days we're in session. I am particularly excited to watch the school musical, *Tell Me the Truth*, next week. Staff and students have been working very hard to prepare this production.

Once we are back, we will already be in Holy Week. As always, we will spend the morning of Holy Thursday in prayerful preparation for the Easter Triduum. I encourage all of our families to participate in the various liturgies that week. A Holy Week schedule is attached to this newsletter.

Mrs. Jeanine Sallos
Principal

Important Dates

Friday, March 1st

Confirmation Retreat, 9:00 – 5:00

Sunday, March 3rd

School-led Mass, 9:30 a.m. (choir and lectors to arrive in uniform at 9:15)

Students preparing for First Holy Communion also requested to attend this Mass

Wednesday, March 6th

Free pizza lunch

School Musical – performances at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 7th

PFG Meeting, (Zoom), 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 8th

Last day of school before Spring Break

Blue/Green Colour Day in support of Seminarians (please bring a donation)

March 9 – 24

Spring Break

Monday, March 25th

Return to School

Thursday, March 28th

Holy Thursday – NOON DISMISSAL

Friday, March 29th

Good Friday – NO SCHOOL

School Life

Spiritual Life

The **Confirmation Retreat** will be Friday, **March 1st** (from 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.), led by St. Mary's Youth Ministry.

Sunday, **March 3rd** is a **school-led Sunday Mass**. We invite all students to wear their uniform to the 9:30 Mass. Lectors and choir members are asked to arrive at 9:15 a.m.

This is also a Mass for the students who are preparing for First Holy Communion.

School Musical

It's the 1970s and time for the grooviest game show on television, **Tell Me the Truth**. Our glamorous hosts and far out announcer lead contestants through an array of bible questions leading everyone to take a fresh look at the true message and answer – Jesus.

There will be two performances on Wednesday, March 8th:

- 11:00 a.m. – this is a great one for non-school families, grandparents, parents with young children, etc.
- 7:00 p.m. – this performance always fills up quickly, so if you are interested in attending, please order your tickets* soon!

*Tickets are not required for St. Mary's School children.

We do ask that ALL school children attend the evening performance. The children have been working very hard to learn their individual class song as well as songs for the opening and finale of the show.

On the evening of the performance all students should go to their classrooms at 6:30 p.m. Cast members will be advised by their directors as to when they should arrive for hair and make-up.

Attached to this newsletter is the list of costume requirements for each class. Unless directed otherwise by their teacher, all students should wear these costume clothes to school on both Tuesday, March 7th (for the dress rehearsal) and Wednesday, March 8th for the performance.



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

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!

School Life, Continued

Sporting Life

February was a busy month in athletics. Our Gr. 4/5 Girls finished their tripleball season with a great display of sportsmanship and skill at their final tournament. Thank you to Mr. Seiler for coaching. The Gr. 4/5 boys had a few Gr. 3 boys join them for practices for tripleball and enjoyed the few practices they had.

The Gr. 6/7 boys and girls (with the help of some Gr. 5's) had a friendly tournament at Cornerstone in Abbotsford for basketball as a way to cap off their hard work at practice this season.

We would love to see a full group of 4/5 girls and boys join us after spring break for basketball, even if they haven't played before. There is so much that is learned through team sports and we would love to grow our basketball program even more.

Track and Field for Grades 3 – 7 will begin after Easter.

Fundraising...past and future!

Parking Lot Fundraiser – March 16th and 17th

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.

It is a privilege to be able to do the parking lot fundraiser. Heritage Park wants us to do it as we know what we are doing and it goes smoothly. It takes lots of people to do it properly. It is preferable that you sign up for more than one block of time if you are able as you would see that it is easier to keep track of the parking lot. It is good if you bring your children as the attendees like to give the money to the children and parents are also needed at the gate to collect money.

There is no need to feel apprehensive about volunteering at this event. It is kind of exciting and never are you in any harm. The Knights of Columbus send a volunteer as they do the insurance part in their name and feel that they should send a representative

There is not a lot of walking involved, and it is not difficult to direct traffic. In past years, our school has earned \$5000 for just one weekend's worth of work – we do not want to miss out on this opportunity, so please consider signing up for lots of spots!



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 a new 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

2023 Income Tax Receipts

Income tax receipts were sent home in this month's brown envelope. Please remember that **this amount is claimed as a Charitable Donation**, not as tuition.

The amount is derived following a complicated process approved by the Canada Revenue Agency and audited by the Society of Christian Schools of BC. If you have any questions about your tax receipt, please contact our bookkeeper, Mrs. Donegan, bookkeeper@saintmarysschool.ca.

2024/25 Registration

Registration packages were sent home to all existing families. Deadline for returning packages in order to get the early-bird registration fee (\$25) was Thursday, February 29th. Registrations received after that date will pay the \$50 fee.

We would appreciate having your registration in as quickly as possible. The number of students we anticipate for 2024/25 is the key factor driving our budget for the year, which is due to CISVA at the end of May.

If you know of a family interested in enrolling in the school, please let them know registration packages are now available at the school office.

Fundraising Meeting

There will be a Parent Fundraising Group meeting held via Zoom on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m. Join in to talk about future fundraising plans for the rest of this school year and beyond!

<https://zoom.us/j/95981274822?pwd=QTRtMkx0UGQvK3g5MU NaUG5sSnFkZz09>

Link will also be sent via email on the day of the meeting.

PEC Member Contact Info

Chair – Dale Wagner
pecchair@saintmarysschool.ca

Vice-Chair – Giorgia Quadrelli
pecvice@saintmarysschool.ca

Treasurer – Sheldon Pimenta
pectreasurer@saintmarysschool.ca

Fundraising – Elaine Monteiro
fundraising@saintmarysschool.ca

Maintenance – Dave Homme
maintenance@saintmarysschool.ca

Parent Participation/Secretary – Alphonsine Shamavu
parentparticipation@saintmarysschool.ca

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.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL MUSICAL!

We look forward to having all of our students attend both the morning (11:00 a.m. – a normal school day) and evening (7:00 p.m.) performances. Here is what your child is to wear. Please have him/her wear this costume to school on both Tuesday, March 5th (dress rehearsal) and Wednesday, March 6th unless instructed otherwise by your child's teacher.

On the evening of March 6th, students should come to their classroom at 6:30 p.m. Cast members – your directors will advise you as to what time you should arrive.

Kindergarten, Grade 5/6 and Grade 7

Kids will wear jeans, any shoes, and the provided tie dye shirt. They can wear any shirt to school and we will put the other on top/ or change. Girls wear their hair down if possible. We will provide additional accessories to complete the look.

Grade 1/2 (both classes)

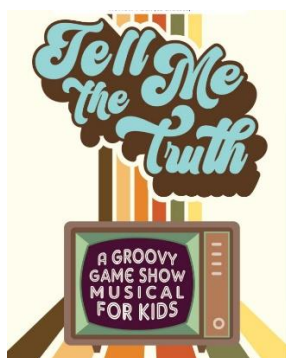
Students wear comfortable clothes to go under their animal costume (which were either brought from home or supplied by the school).

Grade 3/4

Tie Dye shirts provided by the school. Jeans for the bottom with any shoes.

Grade 4/5

Will have costumes from the school provided to them. They need to wear appropriate clothing under that school costume. This can be shirt, pants and for some, shorts. Everyone should bring sandals to wear on their feet.



ST. MARY'S PARISH

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday Mass

- Saturday, 5:00 p.m. (anticipated); Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 26: Parish Lenten Penitential Service

- 7:00 p.m., several priests available to hear confessions

Thursday, March 28: Holy Thursday

- No morning Mass
- Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday

- Divine Mercy Novena, 10:00 a.m.
- Confessions, 10:00 a.m.
- Stations of the Cross, 11:00 a.m.
- Celebrations of the Passion of the Lord, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 30: Holy Saturday

- Divine Mercy Novena, 10:00 a.m.
- Confessions, 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Vigil), 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday

- Mass at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
- Divine Mercy Novena, following 9:30 Mass

