

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'elxwéyeqw and Pelólxw Tribes of the Stó:lō peoples.



Dear St. Mary's Families,

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." - Romans 12:18

In this month when we remember those who gave their lives for the freedom of our country, we also pray for peace in the world – and we know that peace begins in the heart of each of us.

This is the month of All Saints and All Souls. You might want to choose a patron saint for your family to pray to this month (and beyond). Here is [a list](#) of patron saints for families. Please also see the next page for an invitation to send us names of people to pray for during this month.

Wishing you a peaceful month of November before we get into the hustle and bustle that always characterizes December (see page 6 for more on that!).

Mrs. Jeanine Sallos
Principal

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL...IT'S WHERE I BELONG!



Important Dates

Wednesday, November 1

All Saints Day – Mass, dress as saints

Saturday, November 4

Spirit Day for Grade 7
Oktoberfest

Sunday, November 5, 9:30 a.m.

School-led Mass – also for First Holy Communion students

Friday, November 10

Remembrance Day service hosted by Grade 4/5

Monday, November 13

Remembrance Day observed – NO SCHOOL

Friday, November 17

Local Pro-D Day – NO SCHOOL

Friday, November 24

CISVA Pro-D Day – NO SCHOOL

Sunday, November 26, 9:30 a.m.

Mass for Confirmation students

Thursday, November 30

Skating Field Trip – all grades/Colour Day

November Events

All Saints and All Souls

November is the month when we celebrate the saints in Heaven – both those officially recognized by the Church, and those who are there with God – and also pray for the souls of our loved ones who have gone before us, and those who have no one to pray for them.

As previously announced, we will be celebrating All Saints Day by dressing as saints and also going to Mass.

I would like to invite you to share names of deceased family members and friends for whom you would like us to pray this month. Please write their names on the sheet enclosed with the brown envelope and we will place the sheets in our book of souls. The staff will pray for these people through the month of November.

Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 10th, our Grade 4/5 class will be hosting a Remembrance Day Prayer Service/Assembly for the school. Families are invited to join us for this service, which will be held at 2:00 p.m.

Each year the Royal Canadian Legion brings poppies to the school as part of their Poppy Campaign. From the Legion Website: *The Poppy Campaign is very much a local initiative, conducted by Legion Branches in cities, towns and communities across the country. Donations collected during the Poppy Campaign are held in Trust at the branch level to directly support Veterans and their families within their community and to help ensure Canadians 'never forget'. Learn more about how [your donations help Veterans](#).*

The Legion does say that poppies should be distributed to everyone, but donations are very much appreciated. We will make sure that everyone has one by November 10th. If your child brings a donation sooner than that, they will receive their poppy to wear prior to our Assembly.



Food Drive Needs of the Week

October 30 – Nov. 3

Pasta and pasta sauce

November 6 - 10

Toothpaste/toothbrushes/
deodorant

November 13 - 17

Coffee/Tea

November 20 - 24

Canned Soup

November 27 – Dec. 1

Pancake mix/syrup



School Fundraising Programs

Shopping Through Our School – Christmas is Coming!

While you may already be purchasing pre-paid Gift Cards through us to use for your own grocery and gas needs each month, with Christmas right around the corner, this is a chance for you to give twice!

If you usually buy gift cards for family and friends, why not take advantage of the convenience of ordering them in one fell swoop with the ease of having your account directly debited. Not only are you giving a gift to a loved one, you are also supporting our school.

In addition, if you support our Parish/School Christmas hamper program, gift cards are a requested item so that our Grade 7 students can shop for specific needs.

Petite DIY Christmas Tree – new this year!

These sweet Lemon Cypress trees come in a 4" pot, complete with lights, moss and decorations to colour to suit your style. Each tree kit is \$20.

Deadline for orders: November 20th

Pick-up: week of December 4th

Purdy's Chocolates

Know someone with a sweet tooth? We are once again sending home the Purdy's Christmas Fundraiser catalogue. Orders should be placed online (information will be in the brown envelope) but paper order forms are available on request.

Deadline for orders: November 29th

Pick-up: December 14th

Poinsettias

Once again, we will be offering poinsettias for sale! Bring some Christmas cheer to your home or office!

6" Red Poinsettia – only \$12

8" Red Poinsettia – only \$18

Deadline for orders: November 29th

Pick-up: December 7th



THANK YOU



Past Fundraising

Coupon Books

Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser.

This year we sold 108 books and raised \$808.50.

Walkathon

There were 28 responses to the survey we sent out – thank you to all who took the time to provide feedback. Your suggestions were appreciated! With some tweaking, this has the potential to once again be a very successful fundraiser for St. Mary's.

This year, we raised \$6414.60. Thank you to all who donated and/or collected pledges.

Please note: there are numerous fundraisers happening in December. Please do not feel obligated to support them all! These smaller fundraisers are intended as a convenience for those who might already be planning to purchase such items.

School Life

Go, St. Mary's Knights!

We have had a very successful fall athletic season, with Cross Country, Co-ed Soccer and Girls' Tripleball (Volleyball) all on at the same time! Our athletes and coaches were very busy! Thank you to all the coaches and helpers: Mrs. Choboter, Mrs. Delviken and Mr. Seiler. A special thank you to Miss Gillespie for both coaching and coordinating!

Thank you also to parents for arranging your child's transportation to and from games, and for being prompt about picking up children from practices.

Soon Volleyball for Grades 4 and 5, and Basketball for Grades 6 and 7 will be starting. Watch for information forms and permission slips coming home in the upcoming weeks.

Colder Weather is Coming

As every parent who has dressed their child for Trick-or-Treating knows, once we hit the end of October, we definitely start moving into winter weather, even though it's technically still autumn. Students will be going outside to play even on drizzly days, so please make sure that they always have jackets and appropriate footwear. Keep in mind that on cold and frosty or snowy days we will also be outside. Mittens/gloves, hats, snowpants and boots are all a good idea on those days!

If we have extreme weather conditions (e.g., heavy rain, arctic outflow winds), children will remain indoors.

If you feel your child should not go outside due to illness, he or she is probably not well enough to be at school.

If your child wears boots to school, please make sure they have a pair of inside school shoes (plain black) to change into.

If school must close due to inclement weather, we will send an email, post on Facebook and notify Star 98.3 radio station by 7:00 a.m.



Absences

If your child will be absent, please phone or email the school office (cnetzlaw@saintmarysschool.ca) or report the absence on the school website. If you are emailing, it is helpful if you CC your child's teacher.

We are required to track all absences for funding purposes. If you phoned in the absence, please send a written note when your child returns to school, stating the reason for the absence.

We ask that families refrain from taking children out of school for vacations outside of scheduled vacation times. If you do choose to do so, please be aware that teachers are not required to send homework packages with your child. However, your child may be required to make up work missed upon return.

From the Parish Education Committee

Message from the Chair:

St. Mary's School Community:

I pray this message finds you well and settled into the new school year.

As many returning parents and guardians will recall, toward the end of last school year we sent out a link to complete a survey on the many aspects that make up the overall experience that you and your child(ren) have at our school.

The office will be emailing a pdf document that is an overview of the feedback from specific questions, general and specific comments, and general themes that our community feels and has experienced.

The PEC has gone through the survey and will be integrating many aspects of the results into our strategic plan that is currently under development.

Your feedback is always appreciated and if there is anything that you feel can be improved upon that falls under the scope of the PEC, I ask that you please reach out and let us know. The PEC's next formal engagement with the community will be at the Annual General Meeting that we hope to host in the spring.

God bless and thank you for your continued support of our beautiful school.

Dale Wagner

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

Maintenace – Dave Homme - maintenance@saintmarysschool.ca

Parent Participation – Alphonsine Shamavu –
parentparticipation@saintmarysschool.ca

Delegate to CISVA – Melissa Godbout -
Pecdelegate@saintmarysschool.ca


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THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL OKTOBERFEST

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WIES'N (EVENT) SPONSOR

 **CHILLIWACK CARPET ONE** FLOOR & HOME



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Well...not really, but this month we are starting to think about things that will be happening in December! Some parent participation opportunities will be shared. Please wait for an email, Facebook post and/or Sign-Up post.

- First, and most importantly, **Advent**. The First Sunday of Advent is December 3rd. All classes have an Advent Wreath in the classroom for prayer time, and we will be needing **two volunteers** to put the wreaths together the week before.
- The Kids Who Can will be making and selling **Advent Candles** again this year! These were beautiful, high-quality beeswax candles – their sight and light natural scent really help us to worship with all our senses! Candles are sold in a set of 4 (3 purple, 1 pink) – price to be announced shortly. Proceeds go to our **Kids Who Can** foundation, to help support its charitable initiatives.
- Each year the school does a Christmas Lunch for all students and staff. In the past this has sometimes been a turkey dinner, but we have also just done pizza in the past! We will have to make a decision about this year within the next couple of weeks, but in any case we will need **volunteers** to help facilitate this event on and prior to **Wednesday, December 13th**.
- Our annual **Christmas Shop** for St. Mary's students will be held on **Friday, December 15th**. This activity is very popular with our students. The "shop" is stocked with items donated by our school families, and each class is given an opportunity to go shopping for parents/grandparents. Every item costs \$1.

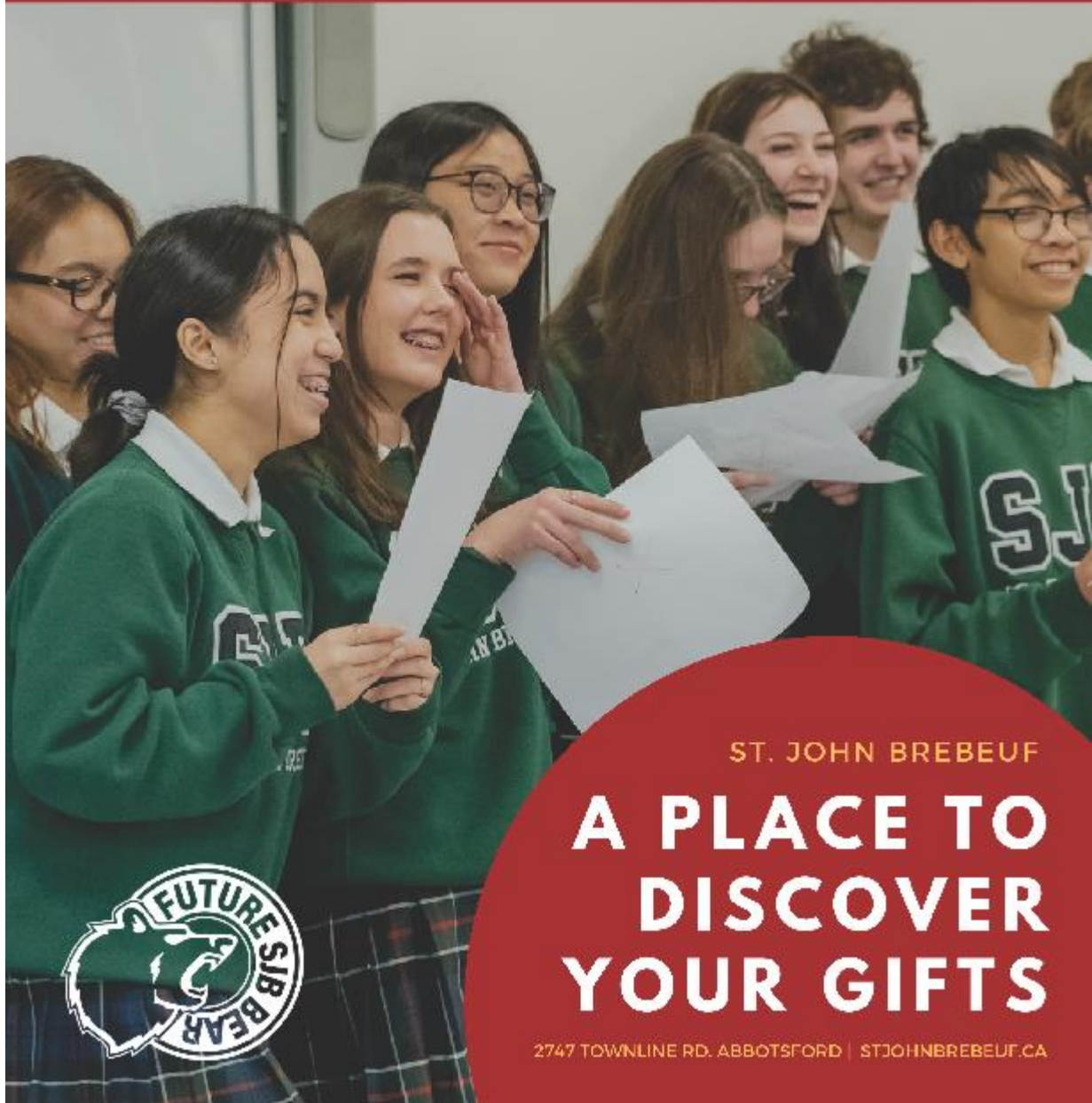
We will **accept donations** from now until December 13th. Items should be "gently used" and in good condition (no big items please!). Suggestions are tools, picture frames, kitchen items, jewelry, soap/bubble bath, books, ornaments, etc. We will also gratefully accept donations of **gift bags**.

On the day of the event we will need **many volunteers** to help wrap presents.

- Finally, we will celebrate Advent and Christmas in song with our **annual Advent Prayer Service** on the evening of **Wednesday, December 20th** and **Christmas Singalong** at 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, December 22nd**.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE SJB
OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 6-8 PM



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