



# St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Number 15

I would like to wish all St. Michael's parents, students and friends a safe, merry and holy Christmas. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff, parents and students to St. Michael's School in 2015.

"Advent is a season of joy and hope for all who follow Jesus. We must be careful not to lose sight of the true meaning of the season as the world around us hustles to buy and sell, to have parties and plan vacations. Advent is a time to renew our life in Christ and to thank God for saving us in Jesus; it is a season for asking God to save all people and for praying for peace in the world. During Advent, we are invited to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord – to wait in joyful hope for his return in glory at the end of time and to prepare for the annual celebration of his birth." (National Liturgy Office, CCCB)

May God truly bless you and your family with love, grace and mercy this Christmas.

## HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

"The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy is a major event in the Catholic Church, which is being held from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8, 2015) to the Feast of Christ the King (November 20, 2016). Like previous jubilees, it will be a special, holy year of remission of sins and universal pardon, focusing particularly on God's forgiveness and mercy. It is an extraordinary Jubilee because it had not been predetermined long before; usually jubilees take place every 25 years. In fact, the 2016 Jubilee was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It is the 27th Holy Year in history, following the 2000 Jubilee during the St. John Paul II papacy."

## CONFESSION TIMES AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

THERE ARE NO CONFESSIONS AFTER 5:00 p.m. ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

For Confession times at other parishes, please see the PARISH bulletin.

## ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL CHOIR

A reminder that the school choir sings Christmas Day at the 8:30am Mass.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Students will be dismissed for the Christmas holidays tomorrow, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Please join us for Mass at 9:00 am and then come to the gym at 10:45 am for the singing of Christmas carols.

**School will reopen on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

## STAFF CHANGES

We say good-bye to Ms. Kools who has been teaching Grade 5 and French and we welcome back Mrs. Tantongco, who is returning from maternity leave. We thank Ms. Kools for her faithful service to the school and we wish her God's blessings!

## IT'S A GIRL!!

Congratulations to the Valing family (Francesca – grade 3 & Emil – grade 2) who welcomed a new baby sister to their family. Philipa Rose weighed in at 9 lbs 15 oz (way to go mom!). We wish the entire Valing family a lifetime of love and happiness!

## REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2016-2017

We need to know our numbers for Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten next year (born in 2011), please let Mrs. Hunt know as soon as possible. Please let your friends know that we are hosting an Open House on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for any NEW family interested in having their child/ren attend St. Michael's School (any grade). There is no need to RSVP for the Open House. Application packages for new families will be available that evening.



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT – THANK YOU

A special thank you goes to all the parents who helped with the “take down” after our Christmas concert. Your willingness and readiness to help was GREATLY appreciated!

### GOODBYE

We say goodbye to the Zydowicz family who are leaving the school in December. We wish them all the best and thank them for their years of support. The St. Michael's School family will miss you.



### SKATING

Thank you to our Parent Association for organizing our annual skating party this past Tuesday. As usual, the event was a big hit with the students!

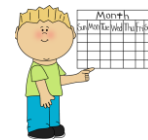
### STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS



The student leadership team would like to thank the Parent Association for their help with organizing the Kids' Christmas Craft night. In total, \$210 was raised to help fund shoeboxes through the Samaritans Purse Organization. The student leadership would also like to thank everyone who purchased tickets to our Christmas Extravaganza and popcorn party. Through your generosity we raised \$650 to help fund the student leadership outreach programs.

### JANUARY CALENDAR

Please find the January 2016 calendar attached to this newsletter.



### LOST

The following students are missing various clothing items. Please check to make sure your child has not “mistakenly” taken any of these items:

Jessica O. in grade 4 is missing her school sweater

Rita K in grade 5 has lost her white school golf shirt

Gabriel P in grade 6 has lost his green, knit “Yoda” hat



If you find any of these items, please return them to the appropriate classroom or to Mrs. Hunt.

**Please be advised that the Lost and Found box will be emptied at noon tomorrow. Anything not claimed will be donated to charity or the used uniform store.**

### ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

For the first time in BC's history, the curriculum in all subject areas has been revised at the same time. You may be aware that we are in the first year of a three-year plan to implement this new curriculum. This year is the beginning of the transition, with a full shift to the new K - 7 curriculums to take place in September 2016. As part of the CISVA's plan to support the execution of the new curriculum, schools are required to add two additional professional development days to this school year. This additional time will be used for the purpose of enabling teachers to participate in professional development related to the implementation of the redesigned BC curriculum. Please mark your calendars with a note that the school will be closed on the following two days: Monday, April 18th, 2016 and Friday, May 20th, 2016.

### FLU SEASON

While we can't prevent all infections, we can control the spread of illnesses, especially in a school setting. Please keep sick children at home, not only for their own well-being but also out of consideration for their teachers and classmates. We are asking for your cooperation in following the advice given to us by the Fraser Health Authority. If your child(ren) have flu-like symptoms, including fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea, **it is important that they do not return to school for at least two full days after their symptoms have cleared.** It is also recommended that they do not attend any group events such as birthday parties etc. until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have cleared. We would like your help in encouraging your children to wash their hands thoroughly with warm water and soap after using the washroom and prior to eating and remind your child to cough or sneeze into their elbow (not their hands).



### ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL BOTTLE DRIVE

Please help St. Michael's School to raise additional funds for our **Green Team** projects by dropping off your refundable bottles and cans during the week of January 3 – 8, 2016. Items can be left at the side of the school near the gym doors (under the stairwell). We will accept beer/wine bottles, beer cans, other refundable alcohol containers, pop cans, juice cartons, water bottles, etc. Anything that can be returned for a refund, we will happily accept! And the best part, you just need to drop off and we will do the sorting! Encourage your family and friends to also drop off their refundables rather than dealing with the hassle of the recycling depot. Enjoy your holiday beverages knowing your empties are going to a great cause. Thank you for your continued support!





### **ST. THOMAS MORE APPLICATIONS**

St. Thomas More Collegiate is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Applications for those entering grade 8 in September 2016 will be available at the Open House. Application deadline is on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. The Placement Test will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2016 at 1:00 pm. For more information, please call St. Thomas More at 604-521-1801 or check out their website [www.stmc.bc.ca](http://www.stmc.bc.ca).

### **PREPARING FOR THE WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, tune in to **CKNW AM 980 on the radio** for information regarding any school closure. Information can also be found on their web site, [www.cknw.com](http://www.cknw.com) or on our website [www.stmichaelschool.ca](http://www.stmichaelschool.ca). In the case of inclement weather in the morning, closures are usually reported every ten to fifteen minutes. **The class phoning parents will phone all the families to ensure that everyone is informed of the closure.** Please do not tie up the school and parish telephone lines by trying to call these offices. The radio station WILL NOT announce if the school is open; therefore, if you DO NOT hear the name of the school then the school is open. Likewise, if you do not receive a call from your class phoning parent then the school is open. **All calls will be made by 8:00 am. As traveling conditions vary depending on where you live, please use your own judgment regarding sending your child to school. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.** Also, please remind your child/ren to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, (i.e. **boots, warm jacket, mitts, toques**). If weather conditions are reasonable, students will go outside to get some fresh air during recess and lunch breaks.

### *Thought of the week...*

#### **Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?**

Why do we celebrate Christmas,  
A "Mass" for Christ, each year?  
Why do we shop and give out gifts,  
Basking in Christmas cheer?

Our joy is based in the Gospel,  
The amazing "good news" of Christ;  
We're grateful for what He gave to us  
And all He sacrificed.

Priceless gifts He brought,  
Eternal life, and more,  
A perfect role model for all of us,  
He opened heaven's door.

At Christmas time let us be  
Reverent and devout,  
When celebrating Christmas remember:  
Jesus Christ is what it's about.

*By Joanna Fuchs*