



# St. Michael's School Newsletter

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November 28, 2019

Number 13

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### Our Virtue focus for December – Hope

During the month of December, we celebrate the virtue of **Hope**. We believe that God comes to us as a human being who can show us the way of life. God has given us the Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

#### *A hopeful person is....*

- † optimistic
- † inspired and inspires others
- † one who sees the good in the world.

Sometimes in life, bad things happen to us that we cannot explain. During these times we tend to get mad at God for putting us through so much pain. We forget God is always there for us and He does not want to hurt us. When you feel sad and alone, remember to never lose **HOPE**, pray to Jesus and things will get better.

Let us pray for the grace and courage to be people of hope, people who can see, participate in, and contribute to God's goodness emerging around us. Amen

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

The December calendar can be found on the school's website.

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent, the season in the Church year that gives us time to wait expectantly and joyfully for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Advent provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the way we live while we are waiting.

Today, more than ever it seems, we need peace in our world. Christ is the Prince of Peace. Christ is our own personal peace. Christ is our Life, and in Christ we are all one. There are no divisions in Christ. There is no "us" and "them". In accepting Christ, we also accept one another as important and loveable enough for Christ to die for. We have to get beyond our human greed and fear and jealousy and hate and unforgiveness. We have to get beyond our obsession with wealth and power and prestige. We have to humbly kneel before the manger, together. If we all focus on the newborn King, the Prince of Peace, then peace will reign in our hearts and in the world.

We thank our parent volunteers for making the beautiful Advent wreaths which will have a place of honour at our classroom prayer tables. Our Advent wreaths will be blessed at the school Mass tomorrow morning.

### NON-UNIFORM DAY—A BIT OF HISTORY!

Today our Student Leadership Team is hosting a "Historical Figures" non-uniform day. We thank all those students who participated and brought a toonie donation for our social outreach projects.

Many staff members came dressed as William Holmes or a member of his large family. William Holmes is considered to be the first non-indigenous resident of Burnaby. In March 1860, Holmes acquired the first land title in the area that would become the Municipality of Burnaby. Legally known as Lot One, Block One, this parcel was located on North Road and the Brunette River. The eight-member Holmes family built a log cabin on the lot on a bluff above the river in which they lived for many years until a bigger home was built. The log cabin remained and in 1892 was used as an isolation hospital when a smallpox epidemic hit the lower mainland. Afterwards, local health officials burned the cabin to prevent the spread of disease. The St. Michael's Parish site was part of this lot before it was subdivided and sold off multiple

times throughout the following years. Armstrong Avenue was named after its previous owner J.C Armstrong. This street was eventually changed to the current Holmes Street after William Holmes. Additionally, 9387 Holmes Street was previously 993 Holmes street before it was re-numbered in 1961.

**PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY!**

Get your friends and family together for our *St. Michael's Family Craft Night* on **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** to kick start the Christmas season for a fun-filled night out creating a keepsake for yourself or to gift. Tickets are only \$30 per adult and per child. This cost includes your choice of one ceramic (mug, plate, bowl, figurine, ornament), all supplies and kiln firing, plus appetizers and door prizes! Tickets are available at the school office or email Sarah Golding at [sarahgoldstar@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahgoldstar@hotmail.com). (Credit card ticket purchases can be accepted by the PA through Sarah) Don't miss out on this fun event! Hope to see you there!

**SCHOLASTIC ORDERS**

Scholastic Orders were distributed this week. Orders are due **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Late orders will be accepted until December 9th. This will be the last order before Christmas.

**SUNDAY MASS – DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

Our family Mass will be held next Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. All our school families are encouraged to attend. The school choir is required to sing, and our students also read at this Mass. **Breakfast with St. Nicholas will be held on this day!**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Our students are busy preparing for this year's Christmas concert, "Tails from the Manger", a heartfelt rendition of the Christmas Story. There will be a matinee performance on **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 pm and an evening performance at 7:00 pm. Students must participate in both performances.

For the evening performance, students are to arrive at the school at 6:30 pm. **Please note that the school doors will not be open prior to 6:30 pm.** Because the evening performance is usually very crowded, we ask that, if possible, grandparents, siblings, etc. attend the matinee performance.

As the Fine Arts Department is raising funds to cover the costs associated with this production (lights and sound,) as well as for the upcoming Spring Musical, "Annie", we really appreciate your monetary donation (suggested minimum \$5) as the entrance admission. Of course, donations of non-perishable food items (please check the expiry dates) for Father Rossi's Food Bank are also most gratefully accepted. As well, we will have a concession stand with all proceeds going towards Fine Arts. Thank you for your generosity!

Please read the information below regarding costumes.

<b>"TAILS FROM THE MANGER" CHRISTMAS CONCERT COSTUME LIST</b>		
<b>SONG</b>	<b>GRADES</b>	<b>COSTUME</b>
<i>Have We Got A Tale to Tell You</i>	<b>6/7</b>	<b>Grade Six</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>News Reporters (Trench Coat or Blazer, White Button Down Shirt, Dress Pants)</li> </ul> <b>Grade Seven</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play Costume/ Play Concert T-Shirt</li> </ul>
<i>The Road to Bethlehem</i>	<b>4/5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western (Plaid Shirt, Jeans, and Hat)</li> </ul>
<i>Worship the Lord</i>	<b>K/1</b>	<b>Sheep</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Black or all White Pants and Long Sleeve Shirt (No logos)</li> <li>Sheep ears provided by teachers</li> </ul>

<i>It Was A Miracle</i>	<b>2/3</b>	<b>Cows</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All White T-Shirt (No logos)</li> <li>• Black Pants</li> <li>• Black cow spots to be made and attached to shirt by teachers</li> </ul>
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### **REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2020-2021**

We are interested in knowing our potential numbers for Kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten next year (born in 2015), please let Mrs. Bird know as soon as possible. Please let your friends know that we are hosting an Open House on **Tuesday, January 14<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.

### **SKATING PARTY**

We thank the St. Michael's Parent Association for hosting our annual skating party for all students. This year the event will be held at Moody Park Arena (701 8th Ave) in New Westminster on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please see the grade groupings below:

Grades 2, 3, 5, 6 will skate during the morning session (9:30 am-11:15 am)  
Grades K, 1, 4, 7 will skate during the afternoon session (1:15 pm-2:45 pm)

Consent forms are being sent home today and they can also be found on our website. Please note that they are due back on **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **A reminder that it is the parents' responsibility to drive their children to and from the arena.**

Special note about parking at the arena: Unfortunately, there is construction going on in and around the arena parking lot. **Please be sure to allow for extra time to find parking.** Arena staff suggest parents enter via 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and drive through the arena parking lot. At the end, there is a T intersection. You can turn right and park behind the arena or turn left and park behind Massey Theatre. They do advise that there may be construction vehicles in these lots; therefore, there may not be room for all cars. Carpooling with some other families in your child's class would be a good option as well. There is also a drop off area directly in front of the arena.

### **ST. MICHAEL'S AUCTION: A NIGHT IN CAMELOT**

Save the date, April 25, 2020, and make plans to attend this year's auction which will take you on a trip back to the Middle Ages with our theme: A Night in Camelot!

The Auction Committee is already hard at work to plan for this event and ask you to take note of the following:

#### **Early Bird Draw**

Make a donation worth \$100 or more before the deadline and you'll be entered to win a great prize!

#### **Early Bird Donation Deadline: Dec. 9, 2019**

#### **Early Bird Prizes**

- Canucks tickets
- 2 tickets with reserved front row seating for the Christmas Concert (evening)

Each donation worth \$100 or more gives you 1 chance to win. **The prizes will be drawn on Dec. 9.** You can drop off donations in the box at the main school entrance.

#### **Black Friday Deals**

With Black Friday and Cyber Monday coming up soon (and some Black Friday deals are available right now!), it's the perfect time to get amazing deals on items you can donate.

Here are some great electronics ideas:

- Apple Watch Series 5
- Apple AirPods

- Apple AirPods Pro
- Nintendo Switch Lite
- Beats PowerBeats Pro (wireless earbuds)
- Ring Video Doorbell 2
- Dyson Supersonic hair dryer
- Amazon Echo smart speakers
- Fitbit Versa 2
- Google Nest Hub
- Dyson cordless vacuum
- iPad (6th generation)

If you're eyeing an item that's out of your budget, team up with friends or fellow parents so you can all pitch in and get something awesome!

Stay tuned for more details, and check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsauction/>

### **WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS**

With the cold days of winter upon us, 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.

In the event of inclement weather, such as snow, 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(ren) to school. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.**

### ***Thoughts of the week...***

Cultivate generosity and gratitude. Help your children learn how to live with open hands and open hearts by giving them plenty of opportunities to give to others. Nurture gratitude in your children in ways like giving them less stuff, unplugging their electronics on certain days and doing simple activities together instead, encouraging them to pray prayers of thanksgiving often, and requiring them to write thank-you notes for gifts they receive.

*Raising Unselfish Children in a Self-Absorbed World* – Jill Rigby