



St. Michael's School Newsletter

9387 Holmes Street, Burnaby, BC V3N 4C3
Telephone (604) 526-9768 Fax (604) 540-9799
Website: www.stmichaelschool.ca

February 13, 2020

Number 22

Follow us on Twitter @StMichaelsBby

OUR VIRTUE FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY—EMPATHY

In February, we celebrate the virtue of **empathy**. God wants us to understand and care about others. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other - to live together. **Empathy** helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

An empathetic person...

- listens when people speak
- notices when someone is upset and tries to help
 - can name his/her feelings
- can see a situation from another person's point of view
- accepts that others have different perspectives

***"Life's most urgent question is:
what are you doing for others?"***

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

MINISTRY MONITORING VISIT

Kudos to all the St. Michael's staff for "acing" the Ministry Monitoring visit conducted yesterday! The inspector was extremely pleased with all the work St. Michael's School is doing to ensure it is in compliance with all Ministry regulations, policies, etc. A huge thank you to Mrs. Kennedy, who although absent, laid the groundwork for the success of this inspection!

NO SCHOOL

A reminder that the school will be closed for the next three days: **Thursday February 13th, Friday, February 14th and Monday, February 17th**. Teachers are at the Catholic Educator's Conference on Thursday and Friday. School is closed on Monday for Family Day.

We wish you all a very happy long weekend!

WRITTEN SPELLING BEE

Just a reminder to all the students taking part in our Spelling Bee program, that the Written Bee will be on **Tuesday, February 18th** beginning at 9 a.m. in the gym. Good luck to all our spellers!

FRIENDSHIP DAY

The Student Leadership team invites our school community to take part in our 'Friendship' Non-Uniform Day on **Wednesday, February 19th**. Students are asked to come dressed in pink and red and to bring a minimum of \$2 for donation. But more importantly than just wearing the colours pink or red, the students are encouraged to be "**extra**" kind to their peers by doing random acts of kindness. This day is an opportunity to do something **extra nice** for someone else, to appreciate our fellow citizens and build community. Thank you for your continued support.

PARENTS OF GRADE 2 STUDENTS

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 pm** for all parents of children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The Grade 2 Mass will be held on **Sunday, February 23rd at 8:30 am**.

GRADE 1 ASSEMBLY

Please join us for the Grade 1 Assembly on **Thursday, February 20th at 9:15 a.m.**

HELP WITH OUR HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

We are still in need of parents to help with the Hot Lunch program. There is a sign-up sheet under the PA (Parents' Association) section found on the Parent Information bulletin board across from the office.

We are most appreciative of your help!

MARDI GRAS – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24th 5:00 - 7:30pm

Enjoy fun activities: **cake walk, bouncy castle, ice cream sundaes, crafts, candy jar game, face painting and carnival games** with lots of prizes to be won! Food available for dinner like OPA, hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza and sushi rolls.

Passport play cards are available at the door for \$5 and \$10. Avoid the line at the door and buy your play card before at the office. Dress up and wear a costume - Prizes for best boy and girl costumes.

We ask each **primary student** (grade K-3) to bring in a cake for the Cake Walk Game and each **intermediate student** (grade 4-7) to bring in a candy jar for the Candy Jar Game. The class that brings in the most cakes for primary and candy jars for intermediate will **win a non-uniform day and a free play is given for each donation.**

All items can be dropped off in the school kitchen or in your child's classroom the day of Mardi Gras. Candies may be packaged in any type of container...be creative. Everyone sincerely appreciates your support...especially the kids!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast February 25

The Parents' Association will be serving the entire school a pancake breakfast on **Tuesday, February 25th**. This is served during the morning hours before lunch. You may want to feed your child a small breakfast and pack a lunch just in case.

ANNUAL PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

The Annual Parent Information Meeting for St. Michael's School will be held on **Thursday, February 27th**, at 7:00 pm in the school gym. Two participation hours will be given to each family in attendance.

Re-registration packages for returning students and 2019 Tuition Tax receipts will be distributed at this meeting. If you have a child entering Kindergarten in September 2020, registration forms will be included in the re-registration package. If you **do not** receive forms for your Kindergarten child, please speak with Mrs. Bird **ASAP**. Re-registration packages, including tax receipts, for those not attending the meeting will be sent home on Friday, February 28th.

There will also be two presentations for parents. One will be given by representatives from "Classmates" who are contracted by St. Michael's School to assist with technology infrastructure and help teachers learn how to use technology as a valuable tool in their classrooms for creating, collaborating and problem solving to provide students with better learning experiences.

The second presenter is Peter Nation, one of the coordinators of Catholic Voices Canada. Peter has an Honours BA in Philosophy and a Master's degree in Religious Education. He was a high school teacher for 28 years, most of them at St. Thomas Aquinas in North Vancouver where he taught Grade 11 and 12 students and was the Head of the Religion Department. He has also taught RCIA and Adult Faith Development for 25 years. His topic will be related to *How would you answer someone who asked the question, "Where does the Church stand on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity?"*

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Thursday, March 5th**, between **11:00 am and 7:00 pm**. No regular classes are scheduled for that day. Students are required to come to school with their parents at their scheduled conference time only and are to wear their St. Michael's School Uniform to the conference.

The Student Led Conference allows students to be present to show what they have done this learning period and to receive feedback and encouragement from their parents. Students become accountable for their learning and accept responsibility for reporting their progress to their parents. Students will be explaining and demonstrating what they have learned at school by showing parents samples of their work in their portfolios, notebooks and in classroom displays. The students will conduct the conference and the teacher will be on hand to give support and encouragement.

There are several reasons for conducting the conferences in this way. By having the students actively involved in the conference, they will:

- Assume responsibility for reporting their progress to you.
- Collaboratively set goals with you for further learning.
- Be accountable for the work they produce and the quality of that work.
- Develop good communication and leadership skills.
- Show you firsthand some of the many learning activities they are involved in at school.

At the conference, your child will:

- Share work samples with you.
- Demonstrate some recently acquired skills.
- Ask you to comment on his/her progress.
- Collaboratively set a goal for the next learning period with the parent and teacher.

Conferences will last approximately 30 minutes. Your positive comments, encouragement and questions about your child's work, will help your child feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in what he/she has done this term.

Up to three students and their parents will be involved in conferences at the same time. Each family will have a separate area in the classroom. After this conference time is over, you may make an appointment with the teacher if you have further concerns or questions which you would like to discuss at an individual Parent/Teacher Conference.

This is a very special time between you and your child, and we would request that a parent be present on this day and not send a substitute. Please use the "School Appointments On-Line" (see below) to schedule your appointments.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE—ONLINE APPOINTMENTS **PARENT INSTRUCTIONS**

On-line appointments open today **Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 9:00 am** and will close at **10:00 pm on Thursday, February 27th**. Register early to get your best time!

1. Go to our school appointments web site: stmichaels.schoolappointments.com
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button. **If you registered last term, you shouldn't need to create a new account this term.**
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. If you have more than one child, click "**Insert New**" to add siblings.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the teacher you wish to book appointments with and the "**View Calendars**" button.
5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments and then click the "**Book Appointments**" button to save your bookings. Repeat for each child.
6. Print your schedule of appointments when you have completed booking all your appointments.
7. When you have completed your entries – click to "LOG OUT"

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP!

We thank our Parents' Support Group (PSG) for their wonderful support of some of our extra-curricular school activities and programs. This year the PSG has helped replace basketball ball, which have added extra bounce to our exciting games. As well the PSG has supplied many wonderful new books to the library to benefit our Wednesday Reading Room club spearheaded by Mrs. Tantongco! There are also plans to help provide a water bottle filling station in the primary wing of the building. Thanks, PSG!

2020 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Our Basketball season is slowly winding down. We thank all our coaches and team members for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship.

FEBRUARY 2020				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
17 Family Day No School	18 Gr. 7 Boys @ OLF	19 Gr. 6 Girls vs St. Patrick @ St. Michael's	20	21

ENGINEERING FOR GIRLS

Is your daughter interested in the field of engineering? If so, you may wish to check out a UBC Engineering event for girls ages 10-18 called "*Technovation Girls*" on March 6 or April 17th. Participants will be challenged to build an app to solve a problem they identify within their community. This program is offered through UBC Geering Up. To RSVP or learn more go to: women.engineering.ubc.ca/events.

ST. MICHAEL'S AUCTION 2020

Take a trip back to the Middle Ages with this year's Auction:

A Night in Camelot

Save the date: April 25, 2020

A representative from the Auction Committee will be on hand at our Annual Parents' Information Meeting to update you on the preparations to date and answer any questions you may have.

The yearly Auction is St. Michael's Parish's largest single fundraiser. As our Parish generously supports the school in many ways to benefit our students, everyone's help is needed to ensure the success of this event. Our Auction Committee is hard at work planning, and thanks you in advance for your generous donations. Also, if you are in need of Parent Participation hours, the Auction is a perfect opportunity to earn these. Check out the areas below where volunteers are needed.

Class Competition

Keep the donations coming so the kids can join in on the fun:

- **Extra recess:** Class with highest participation (largest number of families who make a donation)
- **Pizza party:** Class with the highest overall donation amount

Bring a Bottle

- This year's Parents General meeting (AGM) is happening on **Thursday, Feb. 27**. Please bring a bottle of wine or fine spirits to the AGM to help with our bottle booth. Our goal is to have 100 bottles and raise \$1,500 at the booth!
- You can also bring your donation and drop it off with one of the Auction Committee volunteers who will help with receiving and recording all the donations. Remember, all donations count towards the class competition!

Corporate Donations

- Do you have a favourite restaurant, auto mechanic, dentist, kid's birthday party place? Why not ask them if they'd like to be a corporate donor?
- Corporate donations also count towards the class competition.

Care to Lend a Hand?

- How many more volunteer hours do you still need to complete the yearly total of 60? Is your total looking a bit short?
- Well, here's the perfect solution: volunteer for the Auction! You'll get your hours and help make the Auction better, too.

Here are some positions where we could use your help:

- TUPS, also known as Theatre Under the Pews; volunteers will need to be available on the evening of the Auction to help oversee the children registered for TUPS (contact Cyrus at cjmanalo@shaw.ca)
- Cataloguing: a few hours of work in the Shrine Room (contact Cicy Zhang at cicyzhang@hotmail.com)

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

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

Thought of the week...

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

~Maya Angelou