



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Number 2

Our Virtue focus for September – FAITH

To begin the new school year, we focus our attention on the first of our virtues - **Faith**. Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us.

A faithful person believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God.

A faithful person believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A Faithful person...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honors people's God-given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of faith, people who can truly believe that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe at school. Amen

TEMPORARY TRANSITION PACKAGE PICK-UP

Those parents who have chosen the temporary transition option and are required, by the teacher, to pick up a package, please note that the date and time for pick-up will be Friday, September 18th from 9:15am-9:45am. Tables will be set up on the north side of the school building outside the gym doors. It is important that you pick up the package and return to your vehicle promptly.

AIR QUALITY

As you are no doubt aware, our region currently has an air quality advisory due to wildfire smoke from active fires in Washington and Oregon and from the fire in New Westminster.

We have been advised to monitor the hourly air quality health index (AQHI+) using the provincial website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-quality/aqhi>

We will reduce outdoor activity during poor air quality episodes. When the AQHI is in the very high category, we will move activities requiring intense physical activity (i.e. PE or outdoor team sports) indoors or cancel them.

For younger students (i.e. primary grades), we will consider moving recess and lunch indoors when the AQHI is in the very high category.

Our school will continue implementing our school's safety plan which includes regular handwashing, physical distancing, and remaining in assigned learning groups/cohorts.

TENNIS

The students will be participating in our school tennis program again this year. Due to COVID, the coaches have assured us that they will be following the appropriate protocol to ensure the safety of the students. The tennis racquets and equipment will be thoroughly sanitized before, during, and after each Tennis class. Furthermore, the coaches as well as the teachers will be wearing face masks to prevent the spread of the virus through the air and nobody will be working if they are feeling ill in any way. Social distancing will be practised at all times during games and no handshakes or contact will be made between students. Fortunately, Tennis is

one of the few sports that Dr. Henry, our PHO, has highlighted as being socially distanced by its own rules and setup (it is non-contact) thus making it much safer than other contact sports. If parents do not feel the sanitization of racquets etc. is enough, it is okay for students to bring their own racquets provided they are **junior size** for safety purposes, as well as making it easier to play, and to prevent unnecessary injuries. We are very happy to have Gino Suarez back to our school and teaching the fundamentals of Tennis to our students.

Tennis is lifelong sport that can be played by all ages and levels and is free on public courts situated all over our municipalities.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember that the upper parking lot is for **staff vehicles only**. It is *not* to be used to drop off or pick up students **at any time of day**. Parents, guardians, daycare workers, etc. are not to use this parking lot at all during school hours. **No exceptions**. Please pass this information along to anyone who may be picking up or dropping off your child. In the lower parking lot, you may park in clearly marked spaces **ONLY**. If all spots are occupied, you **ARE NOT** permitted to park "off to the side" or "close to the pylons". Please do not stop and get out of your vehicle to help your children with their bags in the drop off zone.

Parking lot rules are in place for ***the safety of all the students*** and staff. We thank you for your cooperation. **Parking lot rules will be strictly enforced!!**

NON-UNIFORM DAY

Help fill the St. Michael's Parish food bank cupboards.

The student leadership team is hosting a non-uniform day on Thursday, September 24th. The theme is "Jersey Day". With a minimum donation of \$2.00 students are permitted to dress in their favourite sports' jersey. All money raised will be donated to Father Rossi's Community Food Bank.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Student absences should be reported to the office **no later than** 9:00 am each weekday morning. If you leave a message on our voicemail, please indicate the reason your child is absent. If we do not receive your call, we will call your home, your workplace or an emergency contact number.

Please let us know if any of your contact telephone numbers change. Timely reporting of your child's absence helps us to save valuable time and ensures the safety of each and every student at St. Michael's School. **Any extended absence, i.e. family vacation, requires parents to**

complete a "Leave of Absence" form. These forms are available from the office and are also on our website under 'downloads'.

Students are expected to be on time for school and should arrive no later than 8:55 am each morning. If students are not in their classrooms by 9:00 am (**COVID time**), they will be considered late. Late students **MUST** report to the office before going to class.

We are required to keep very accurate records of student attendance as a condition of our funding. As such, it is vital that notes are sent to explain any absenteeism. On your child's return to school, an absentee note stating the nature of the absence, dates of the absence, full name and grade of the student and parent signature is required. **For your convenience, and for administration purposes, these forms can be downloaded from the school's website under "forms."** It is very time consuming for office staff to have to send home reminders to submit absentee notes and then follow-up when notes are not received. We thank you for your cooperation in submitting notes promptly!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS PROGRAM

Welcome Back to the Scholastics Program for the 2020/2021 school year!

Program Benefits:

- Every order you place using your school's Class Code (RC249384) helps fill your child's classroom library with books and teaching resources.
- The flyers have books for every level – from K to Grade 7 to support your child's grade levels and interests, and the Canadian curriculum! (**Note: kindly be aware that we have no input on books placed in each flyer, we ask that parents take the time to review items being purchased.**)

A quick review of how the program works:

- Create an account or sign in if you have an existing account from last school year
<https://classroomessentials.scholastic.ca/en/home>
- Update email preferences - Sign up for promotional emails to receive the monthly Digi-flyers.
Enter grades of interest.
- Place an order on the Reading Club Shop and use your school's Class Code in the coupon field during checkout (RC249384).
- Enter class code RC249384 in the "Apply Coupon Codes/ Class Code" field which displays in the payment screen.
- When you use a Class Code (RC249384), 20% of your order goes back to the class in rewards that the teacher can use to create an even better learning environment. PLUS, when you use Class Code, your order of \$35 or more ships for free!
- Printed flyers will still be distributed monthly. Hand sanitization will occur for all flyers handled prior to distribution. It will be recommended to teachers to have students pick up flyers individually to reduce handling. Flyers will not be needed for ordering.
Quick summary to order Scholastics:
 - Go to <https://classroomessentials.scholastic.ca/en/home>
 - Create an account
 - Place order
- Enter class code during the payment screen of checkout (RC249384) in the following field: Apply Coupon Codes/ Class Code
- Orders will ship direct to your home to reduce handling, shipping is free over \$35 with entry of the class code.

LOST AND FOUND

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LABEL EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR CHILD. We are already finding uniform sweaters with no name! Due to COVID we do not have parents who will be able to sort through the lost and found. Unlabeled uniform items will be handed over to used uniforms, all other items will be thrown out or donated to charity.

LEARNING IN DEPTH (LiD) CEREMONY

Our LiD ceremony will take place on Friday, September 25th at 2:00 pm. At this ceremony all new students (including our Kindergarten students) will be assigned a random topic to study in depth. Our ceremony will be held in each individual classroom.

Learning in Depth - FAQ

Q. Won't students become bored with the same topic for twelve years?

A. Boredom is a product of ignorance; generally, the more we know about something, the more interesting it becomes. An underlying principle of the LiD project is that "everything is wonderful, if only we know enough about it."

Q. The random assignment of topics is absurd. Why not let students choose their topic?

A. Children's interests at age five tend to change quite often. A particular topic may be stimulated by a recent movie and change in a week; even the dinosaurs so loved by typical five year old commonly lose their appeal after a few years.

Q. Why would you force a student to learn so much about a limited and possibly useless topic for years?

A. To learn the pleasure of learning. Only by learning in depth can one come to understand the greatest pleasures of learning. And it's hardly "forcing". Students routinely say that LiD is their favourite activity in school.

Q. What is the research basis for this project?

A. Nearly all questions of educational importance are matters of value and meaning, and these are beyond the reach of the dominant forms of research methods we currently have available. What research basis is there for including Social Studies in the curriculum?

Q. Aren't many of these topics developmentally inappropriate for the ages at which they are to begin?

A. We have always liked, and agreed with, Jerome Bruner's argument that "any subject can be taught effectively in some intellectually honest form to a child at any stage of development" (1966, p. 33).

Q. Will the "depth" knowledge transfer to other curriculum areas?

A. We suspect that it will transfer unstoppably. The kind of expert knowledge and layered understanding, and the skills developed in learning, that will be built up over the years cannot fail to affect how students deal with other subjects and topics in the curriculum. Remember, we have never had anyone—anyone—go through such a program. Our suspicion, and hope, is that it will transform students' experience of schooling and our sense of what schooling can be.

NO SCHOOL – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

A reminder that there is a Professional Development Day scheduled for Monday, September 28th; therefore, there is **no school** on Monday, September 28th.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We understand that we have a number of parents who are interested in before and after school care. Although the school does not offer this service, we often get companies who can provide before and after school care. We do not endorse any companies and we ask that parents conduct their due diligence. The following daycare service is available close by the school if you are interested: Imasha Bandara - Rainbow Bunnies Daycare, rbunnies.daycare@gmail.com, 778-233-9902

Thought of the week...

Let us pray together “A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic”

*Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.
We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.
Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.
Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.*

Author unknown. Posted on AscensionPress.com.