



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Our Virtue focus for November – Conscience

During the month of November, we are focusing on the **Virtue of Conscience**

Conscience is the voice of God within us. As you develop your conscience, you will learn to make decisions that will make sure you will always have love in your life. Our conscience reminds us how to act towards other people and how to be a good friend. Sometimes it is hard for us to do the right thing, but we must always remember that the right thing is not always the easy thing to do.

A person of conscience...

- † chooses to do the right thing, even when it is hard
- † takes time to think and pray before making decisions
- † makes decisions according to gospel values
- † knows that their actions and decisions affect all those around them
- † thinks of others before themselves
- † accepts accountability for one's own actions

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of conscience, who know the good and decent way to act and then choose to act that way. Amen.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF ALL SOULS

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a different devotion. In November, it is the Holy Souls in Purgatory, those faithful Christians who have died and gone before us but who still must atone for their sins. The time they spend in purgatory cleanses them so that they may enter Heaven free from all effects of sin.

Praying for the dead, especially for those we have known, is a requirement of Christian charity. Our own prayers and sacrifices can be offered up to relieve their suffering.

One of the most commonly recited Catholic prayers is:

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

CHOCOLATE SALES – PURDY'S

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CHOCOLATE SALE IS TAKING THE PLACE OF OUR WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER. PLEASE HELP US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$10,000.

To reach \$10,000 we would need to sell \$40,000 worth of chocolates. YUM YUM!! That would be doable if every family (we have 163 families) can sell \$245 worth of chocolate. To break this down even further...if you get 10 family members to buy \$25 worth of chocolate each we will achieve this goal! We need to pay for our new Chromebooks.

St. Michael's School is excited to announce it's fundraising with Purdy's Chocolatier, this year, just in time for Christmas!

Whether you are purchasing gifts for your loved ones, children, grandchildren, friends and/or employees, Purdy's has something for everyone, at any budget. Options include big, or small, gift boxes, stocking stuffers and/or chocolate bars.

If you'd like to support St. Michael's School by purchasing some very sweet, and tasty, Christmas gifts, please click the link below:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/841136-77470>

After you've signed in, you can place your order and invite others (friends, family, etc) to join and support St. Michael's Fundraising Campaign.

The CUT-OFF date to order is **Wednesday, November 25, 2020**. The PICK-UP DAY will be announced but it will likely be the week of **December 6, 2020**. Pick up will be from the area in front of the church, drive-by style; more details to follow.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact fundraising@smeschool.ca. Thank you so much! Yolanda Lavorata

HALLOWE'EN CANDY

While the Good Shepherd ministry continues to be closed to the street teams, they continue their work on the downtown east side of Vancouver in a new way through collaboration with other outreach programs and facilities including the Door Is Open. The pandemic did not stop them from delivering more than 15,000 candy bags and several hundred pairs of socks and other amenities to residents of this desperate neighborhood. Whether students will be trick or treating or not, their need for candy donations remains.

The candy bags help them to deliver a prayer and note of inspiration to those who live without either. We ask our students to donate any extra candy they have and we ask parents who are not allowing their sons and daughters to go door to door, if you would consider purchasing bags or boxes of treats so that the organization can continue their mission.

OCTOBER INTERIM REPORT

Interim Reports will be sent home tomorrow, **Friday, October 30th**. These reports will include information to address the curricular areas of literacy, numeracy, and your child's transition to the new grade.

Students have set learning goals, which will also be included in the Interim Report.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

The November Calendar is available on the school website.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour at 2:00 am on **Sunday, November 1st** as we say goodbye to daylight savings time!

OUTSTANDING BOOKS

We have quite a few outstanding library books and school text books from last school year that have not been returned. If you can **PLEASE** check at home for any books that may belong to St. Michael's School, it would be greatly appreciated. Please have them returned to school as soon as possible.

SEXUALITY AND YOUR CHILD Gr. 4-7 PARENT MEETING - VIRTUAL

Please mark your calendar for a **mandatory** meeting for parents of students in Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7 **Monday, November 2nd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**. We have invited four different speakers to address various topics suited to each of the grade levels.

These presentations will be held virtually. Your child's classroom teacher will send a link.

SWEATSUIT ORDERS

Dear Parents,

The colder weather is upon us and it's time to think about staying warm!

We are once again bringing in the option of purchasing a warm-up suit as part of the St. Michael's uniform. These items are not mandatory but can be added to the gym strip. Students may wear these items on gym days; they do not replace the regular winter uniform.

This year, with the uniform policy being different to allow for COVID safety protocols, some families have already purchased warm clothing for gym days. These will continue to be allowed for the remainder of this school year.

Samples of the new warm-up suit will be available this week in the music room which is accessible from outside back door for sizing etc. (weather permitting). Some of the samples are navy blue and some are black. The actual items we order will be navy blue, and they will have our school crest as well.

Order forms can be found on the following link on the school website,
<http://www.stmichaelschool.ca/warm-up-suit-order-form/>

and available already printed during the sample showings. Because this is not an in-stock item at Neat Uniforms, we ask that you submit the order form to your child's teacher (unfortunately, ordering online is not an option).

Orders are due Friday, November 6.

If you have any questions after seeing the samples and order form, please contact Mrs. Roche:
kroche@smeschool.ca

THREE-WAY CONFERENCES - VIRTUAL - CHANGE IN TIME

Three-way conferences are being held **VIRTUALLY** on

Thursday, November 19th from 9:00 am –5:00 pm.

Students are to attend their conference, wearing their school uniform (**YES, THAT IS CORRECT IN THEIR UNIFORM EVEN IF THEY ARE AT HOME**), at their scheduled time. Each conference will take approximately 15 minutes and it is **mandatory** that at least one parent be present virtually.

There will not be regular classes that day.

THE ON-LINE SCHEDULING SYSTEM WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd at 9:00am.

APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE UNTIL THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th at 10:00 PM. IF YOU DO NOT SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT, THE TEACHERS WILL GIVE YOU THE REMAINING AVAILABLE TIME SLOT.

3 – WAY Conference – Online School Appointments Parent Instructions

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 year, you will need to create a new account this year.**
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"

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

Please follow these protocols:

- 1) **Stay in your vehicle** until you see the students come out of the school.
- 2) Please wait for your children **at your youngest child's pick up area** i.e. if you have a child in Grade 4 and a child in Grade 2, wait for your child near the Grade 2 area. Please

be patient and let the parents with one child in the school leave first then you can pick up your Grade 2 child then walk midway and call to your older child.

3) **Maintain physical distance** while waiting in the wait area.

4) **Wear a mask in this waiting area in case physical distance cannot be maintained.**

5) **Do not call to your child** while they are walking with their class to their wait area as this causes confusion and too many children crossing over cohorts.

We thank you, once again, for your patience and flexibility during this unprecedented time!

USED UNIFORM STORE

Used-uniforms are sold on the first Friday of every month from 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm. The next sale will take place on Friday, November 6th. The sale of used uniforms will look a little different as we are minimizing parents from coming into the school. **The used uniforms will be sold behind the school, using the back door of the music room.**

Alternatively, you may order new items from our uniform supplier, NEAT Uniforms
<https://www.neatuniforms.ca/>

To ensure everyone's safety, the used uniform store will follow these guidelines:

- 1) Parents running the store will wear masks and gloves at all times.
- 2) **All parents will be required to wear masks when handling uniforms.** Hand sanitizers will also be provided for parents to sanitize their hands before entering the store area (mandatory requirement). One of the workers will give the hand sanitizer to the parents while they are lining up/before they enter the store area. The workers will help parents in finding clothing items in order to avoid people touching multiple clothing items.
- 3) **No trying on of any used uniforms.**
- 4) No exchanges are available when the used uniforms are sold.
- 5) All used uniform donations (if any) will be washed before being placed for sale.
- 6) Running the store outdoor to allow for better ventilation.
- 7) The number of parents entering into the store will be limited. If only one parent is available to serve customers, only two parents can enter the store etc. [THE UNIFORM STORE WILL BE OUTSIDE]
- 8) **Cheques only no cash.**

Thought of the week...

“To love one’s work, to be present in difficulties, to feel involved and to respond responsibly and to arouse that love that each one of us has in our heart, because the Spirit has given it to us. Taking the initiative is the reaction to this summons which is typical of love.”

~Pope Francis