



# 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.*

## 3-WAY CONFERENCES

Don't forget.... it is 3-Way Conferences today! Reminder emails were sent home. If you do not have the Zoom link, please contact your classroom teacher directly.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE – PROFESSIONAL DAY

The school will be closed tomorrow **Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** as it is a Professional Development Day.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Dear St. Michael's Families,

Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair starts next week! The **Virtual Book Fair** is a fantastic way to continue to give our students access to the books they want to read. We are excited that you will be able to shop together, selecting the books that inspire your readers, from the comfort of your home. Do not forget that books make great gifts for Christmas!

All purchases benefit our school and earn **Rewards** that can be redeemed for books and Education Resources for our school's classrooms and library.

So, save the date! Our **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** will take place between **November 16-23**. All orders placed online will be shipped to you directly.

When it is time to shop, visit our school's **Virtual Book Fair** site using this link:

<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5151535>

Share this link with Grandparents, too! Extended family can participate in the **Virtual Book Fair** from the comfort of home.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering the love of reading in our students!

### **COVID NEWS AND REMINDERS**

Dear Parents,

We have been through our first positive COVID case and I write "first" with trepidation as I would prefer to write our first and last. However, our reality is that the number of COVID cases in our country is going up. With this in mind, our school continues to follow the strict safety protocols written in our safety plan.

Unfortunately, the amount of information we can share is restricted by the Provincial Health Authority. We are given strict guidelines about when and how to communicate to members of the school community. I do want to let you know that the letter sent out on Friday, November 13th, although approved by Fraser Health, did not come from them. It was at the insistence of the school that we were able to send that letter out to you once we heard we had a positive case. If the individual did not self report that they were positive, then we still would have been waiting to hear from the Fraser Health contact tracer. As of this morning, the school still has not heard from the contact tracer that there has been a member of the school community who tested positive. By sending out a letter early, members in our school community were able to be on heightened alert and to monitor for symptoms, which everyone should be doing regardless.

A notification letter such as the one sent home last Friday does not mean your child has been exposed to COVID-19.

If you do not receive a phone call or letter from Public Health, your child should continue to attend school. You can monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms daily using the BC COVID-19 Health Assessment Tool.

More information and resources regarding schools and COVID-19 is available on the "back to school" page on the Fraser Health website.

We do need to remind our students of such things as **no food sharing and no crossing over into another learning cohort**, but overall they are doing a great job in following the safety protocols. I ask you to remind your children, as we have also done here at school, that they should not share their food and if someone asks for some of their snack that they should respond with "No, I am sorry, we can't share food." Another way to avoid the temptation is to not pack such enticing treats like cookies, fruit gushers or chips. These can be saved for an afterschool treat. Packing carrot sticks, celery sticks, or roasted chickpeas may not illicit, "Can I have one?" (although it is too bad that many do not drool over the healthy treats) AND will also fuel the brain with premium gas as opposed to leaded gas. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support!

I can also honestly say that the students are incredibly happy to be back at school as I AM TOO!

I see and hear the buzzing excitement of classroom activities and outdoor play. They are genuinely enjoying in person learning and the routines of school life. We would like to keep the school safe and ask that you please continue to ensure you complete the daily health check on

each of your children before bringing them to school. We also understand that sometimes symptoms do not show up immediately, BUT if we are careful and stay home as soon as a symptom develops then we can limit the exposure to others.

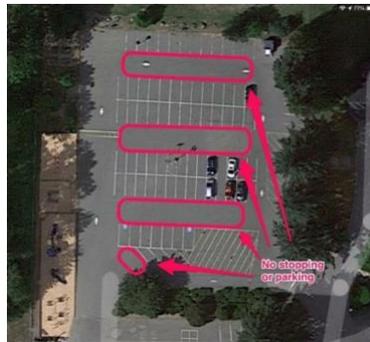
### **PARKING LOT SAFETY DURING AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP**

As the daylight hours are getting shorter, the chaotic parking lot situation at pick up must be reviewed. **Parking in undesignated areas is a safety concern**, especially with children and families walking through the parking lot. This is particularly worrisome when most drivers are in larger vehicles like SUVs and trucks, which can block visibility and make it difficult to see the children.

Let us all do our part to help protect everyone:

- Do not stop or wait in the parking lanes as it blocks vehicles from entering and leaving.
- Do not “create” your own spots, especially in the angled parking area near the gym.
- You do not need to all come at once to pick up your children. There is a 15- minute window to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation!



### **ADVENT WREATHS FOR SALE**

If you have ordered a wreath kit by email, please ensure to send along payment for it. You have been sent an email with instructions.

Each kit comes with everything for you to easily make your own Advent Wreath. It can be a fun craft for you and your kids to do together. We suggest having a pair of plant pruners/clippers or sharp scissors at home.

We have a limited amount of wreath kits left to order.

**Orders due by Sunday Nov 22 - \$30.**

To order please email [sme.parentassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sme.parentassociation@gmail.com)

Payment will be by e-transfer (details communicated once you email your order).

Drive thru pick up on Friday Nov. 27 2:00pm.

### **CHOCOLATE SALES – PURDY’S**

**So far, we have sold \$9, 086.70 worth of chocolates with a Profit: \$2,271.68.**

**HELP!**

**We were hoping to use the funds to help pay for 32 Chromebooks AND we are also looking at raising funds to build a covered area over the outside picnic tables.**

**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!**

**CUT-OFF DATE TO ORDER IS NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>.**

If you would like to support St. Michael's School by purchasing some extremely sweet, and tasty, Christmas gifts, please click the link below:  
<https://fundraising.purdys.com/841136-77470>

After you have 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 **Monday, December 7, 2020** between 2:30-3:30 PM. Pick up will be from the area in front of the church, drive-by style.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [fundraising@smeschool.ca](mailto:fundraising@smeschool.ca).  
Thank you so much! Yolanda Lavorata

### **GRADE 2 PARENTS MEETING & ENROLMENT MASS**

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the school gym** for those parents whose children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this school year. The Grade 2 Enrolment Mass will be held during one of our Friday school Masses.  
**This meeting is for any Catholic parent who intends to have his/her child receive the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion in 2020.**

#### **Safety measures:**

- Only one parent is to attend
- Everyone in attendance must wear a mask
- Seating will ensure physical distancing

### **NON-UNIFORM DAY**

The Student Leadership Team will be hosting a non-uniform day on **Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**. The theme for this non-uniform day is "*Throw Back Thursday*". Dress in the best of decades past, 90's 80's, 70's, etc. Students who choose to wear items connected with the theme will need to bring in a minimum donation of a toonie for our social outreach projects. Students who do not wish to participate must wear their school uniform.

### **REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2021-2022**

We are interested in knowing our potential numbers for Kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten next year (born in 2016), please let Mrs. Bird know as soon as possible. Please let your friends know that we are hosting an Open House on **Thursday, January 28<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.

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

*"We cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, knowing that God does not require great achievements but a heart that holds back nothing for self...He who has Jesus has everything."*  
~St. Rose Philippine Duchesne