



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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

November 5, 2020

Number 9

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.

MRS. KENNEDY

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I have increased my days and hours at work and have moved to three days at the school.

COVID PROTOCOL REMINDERS

As Principal of St. Michael's School, but also as a parent myself, I, like most of you, are concerned about what I hear during the daily news briefings presented by Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. We seemed to be turning a corner in flattening the curve in the number of positive cases of COVID-19, when suddenly there is a rapid acceleration, or spike, in the number of individuals testing positive for the virus. Now is not a time to panic, but rather to reassess our adherence to our COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan. While our plan is very effective in halting the spread of COVID-19, it is only successful if we all follow it and not become lax in our behaviours, both here at St. Michael's School and in the St. Michael's community. Each of us as to do everything we can to ensure not only our own safety, but the safety of those around us.

There are a number of things that EVERYONE can do to support St. Michael's during this challenging time:

- Complete the Daily Health Check prior to coming to school each morning (and report any concerning changes). Staff or students who exhibit any of the symptoms listed or feel unwell, should not come to school.
 - Please be mindful at gatherings with family and friends when you are not at school.
- Limit your bubble outside school. Keep your inner circle small. Remember your safe six.
- While we can do our best at school to implement health and safety protocols, we are all at risk of inadvertently exposing ourselves to COVID-19 through work, socializing, and sports/arts activities. **Be mindful in limiting these engagements as much as possible and take all precautions that you can.**
- Continue to remind your children about the Health & Safety Protocols that we should all be following (i.e. physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing masks where and when required, and most notably, stay home when sick). As a parent, I know there is always push-back (Mom & Dad are nagging again), but as parents our children will always be our first priority.
- Restrictions placed on community sports and fine arts programs are not at the same level as they are at St. Michael's. Schools have had far more strict requirements placed upon them in terms of the size, composition, and the mixing of their learning groups for contact tracing purposes. We are all well aware that our students may practice or play on the same outside teams and clubs outside of school which is why we have to be all the more vigilant here at St. Michael's. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask. You may also send COVID related questions to covidquestions@smeschool.ca

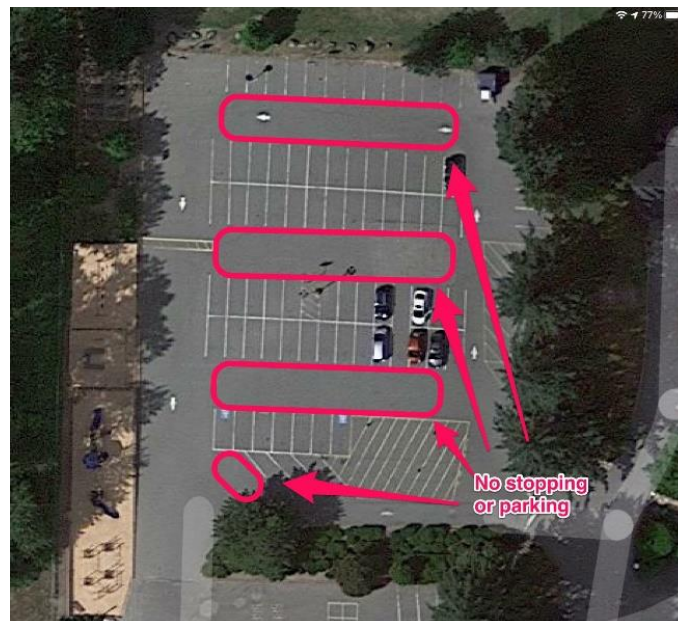
PARKING LOT SAFETY DURING AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

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's 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!



WINTER UNIFORM

Students should be in winter uniform. Students may still wear their gym strip to school on days they have gym. **PLEASE NOTE: BLUE SOCKS ARE WORN WITH WINTER UNIFORM**

GIRLS

- White school golf shirt*
- Tunic* (K – Gr. 3)
- Tunic* OR skirt* (Gr. 4 – 7)
- Navy blue school cardigan*
- Navy blue school vest* (optional)
- Navy blue knee-high socks OR leotards
- **All-black** shoes (either **all** black runners or **all** black dress shoes)

BOYS

- White school golf shirt*
- Navy blue dress pants*
- Navy blue school sweater*
- Navy blue school vest* (optional)
- Navy blue socks
- **All-black** shoes (either **all** black runners or **all** black dress shoes)

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.**

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Due to COVID-19 and all the protocols we have in place to keep our students and staff safe, we will not be inviting families to attend our Remembrance Day Service this year.

We will be sending home a link to our online Remembrance Day service, for your viewing pleasure.

We will miss seeing you this year!

We have poppies for sale at the school. Students can bring a minimum of \$2 for a poppy.

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

GRADE 2 PARENTS MEETING & ENROLMENT MASS

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, November 25th 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

SCHOOL CLOSURES

On **Wednesday, November 11th**, the school will be closed for Remembrance Day. School is also closed on **Friday, November 20th** as it is a Professional Development Day.

COAT DRIVE - THANK YOU

"On behalf of Edmond's Community School families, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for coats donation from St. Michael's School. Due to the generosity of St. Michael's community, the children in Edmond's community are able to have the coats to keep them warm in the winter months.

We received Coat for Kids from Rotary Coats every year, unfortunately during this pandemic only kids at school get the jackets from them. Due to the pandemic, a lot of siblings from Edmond's Community School did not get the jackets. The coats donated from St. Michael's School has made it possible to help those children in basic needs of jackets. Our gratitude also goes to all the donors who dropped off the coats, all the volunteers to make the coat drive happen. We send our heartfelt thank-you for supporting Edmond's Community, to support the basic needs of the children, families and individuals. Sincerely, John Nanson"

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - VIRTUAL

Dear St. Michael's Families,

Mark your calendars! The fun and excitement of a Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! To adapt to our changing needs, Scholastic has developed a **Virtual Book Fair** to provide an opportunity for our students and families to experience the joy of reading together. The **Virtual Book Fair** is a fantastic way to continue to give our students access to the books they want to read. We're excited that you will be able to shop together, selecting the books that inspire your readers, from the comfort of your home. Don't 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's time to shop, visit our school's **Virtual Book Fair** site using this link:

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

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

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: www.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.
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"

Thought of the week...

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pas from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

~Matthew 26:39

"We all struggle. But did you ever think that perhaps God may be using your struggles to change you? To shape you? Even to heal you? For two years I have been asking God to remove the pain in my writing hand. Even as I write these words, I feel stiffness in my thumb, fingers, forearm, and shoulder. The doctors chalk it up to 30 plus books written in longhand. Over the decades the repeated motion has restricted my movement, rendering the simplest of tasks writing a sentence on a sheet of paper difficult. So, I do my part. I stretch my fingers. A therapist massages the muscles. I avoid the golf course. I even go to yoga. But most of all I pray. Better said, I argue. Shouldn't God heal my hand? My pen is my tool. Writing is my assignment. So far he hasn't healed me. Or has he? These days I pray more as I write. Not eloquent prayers but honest ones. Lord, I need help....Father, my hand is stiff. The discomfort humbles me. I'm not Max, the author. I am Max, the guy whose hand is wearing out. I want God to heal my hand. Thus far he has used my hand to heal my heart. So that thing you are struggling with, that you have prayed about over and over and over again could it be that God is using it to heal your heart?"

~God is With You Every day - Max Lucado