



# St. Michael's School Newsletter

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

December 17, 2020

Number 15

Follow us on Twitter @StMichaelsBby

## Our Virtue focus for December – Hope

During the month of December, we celebrate the virtue of **Hope**. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. God has given us the Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

### *A hopeful person is....*

- † Optimistic
- † inspired and inspires others
- † one who sees the good in the world

Sometimes in life, bad things happen to us that we cannot explain. During these times we tend to get mad at God for putting us through so much pain. We forget God is always there for us and He does not want to hurt us. When you feel sad and alone, remember to never lose **HOPE**, pray to Jesus and things will get better.

Let us pray for the grace and courage to be people of hope, people who can see, participate in and contribute to God's goodness emerging around us. Amen

## A MESSAGE FROM FR. ROSSI AND FR. DEPAUL

Dear Students and Parents of St. Michael's School:

Christmas is here. It's so different this year, as we have to avoid so many things that we were accustomed to. No parties, no large family gatherings, no sports activities... especially no possibility of being at Mass, which is the heart of all our celebrations. Still, it's Christmas. Jesus is born, and He is with us. Our personal prayers, our family prayers, our following the livestreamed Mass, our outreach to the poor, help us to keep focused on Jesus, and especially to strengthen our relationship with Him.

I hope you will all be with Fr. DePaul and me in the livestreamed Christmas Masses (midnight Christmas Eve, and 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day). We won't be able to see you, and it will be so hard not to be able to greet you and to wish you a Merry Christmas in person, but you will be in our hearts as we offer the Mass for you and your families.

May you have a very Blessed Christmas, filled with joy by the presence of Jesus.  
May you enjoy a good rest and good family time. Please pray for us, and pray for all who are suffering from Covid-19 or because of it. May God bring it to an end soon, so we can all be healthy and be together again.

We miss you. We love you.

Fr. Bernard Rossi  
Fr. DePaul Doan

## ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISTMAS VIDEO

Here is the link to an advent message from the Archdiocese.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ-kYVrzFkU&list=PLEvGQ4Cmoqmo6dDFjY8n-I48Z2Sr9r-Yk>

### **A MESSAGE FROM MRS. KENNEDY**

As we approach our Christmas break, we would like to let you know how extremely grateful we are to all of you for following our COVID Safety Protocols so carefully and for showing such amazing care for each and every one of our students, staff, and families. As the students and staff prepare for a much needed and anticipated Christmas break, I urge all of you to remain committed to health and safety by continuing to follow all the COVID-19 protocols identified by our health officials.

We believe the season of Advent is a great spiritual gift that will help us to grow in the beautiful theological virtue of hope. Yes, hope...during these challenging times, let us not lose hope. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to bestow upon us the gifts of patience, perseverance and resilience and to give us the grace we need to benefit from them.

As we pray, hope, and wait for Christ's coming, let us prepare in quiet reflection and keep our eyes fixed on Christ, so that the challenges of daily life do not dominate our minds and blot out our remembrance of Christ, the triumphant Saviour.

We are truly grateful for your generosity and Christian Spirit in all that you do. Thank you to all our families for your service, your many donations, and gifts and for your commitment to St. Michael's Parish and School.

Let us keep in our prayers our awesome healthcare workers and all those who have suffered illness and loss due to COVID.

The Staff and I wish all of you a joyful, safe and healthy Christmas and a blessed New Year. We thank all of you for your commitment to the school and for all your support. Although Christmas 2020 will be very different this year with the visiting restrictions, we can still use this time to rest and recharge, even if it's only with our immediate families and even if it's virtually.

Perhaps some of you, like myself, have noticed that without all the hustle and bustle of battling crowds at the mall, or having to host multiple get togethers, that this is a much quieter Christmas, allowing us greater time and serenity to reflect and pray on the very meaning of Christmas – the birth of our savior, Lord Jesus Christ.

Love, Mrs. Kennedy and see you in 2021!

### **RETURN TO WORK**

Mrs. Kennedy is back at work full time, although, there may be times when she will need to adapt her schedule.

Should you have questions or concerns, please continue to contact the appropriate person in charge of a particular area.

#### **Mrs. Bird, our school secretary:**

- Questions about registration, daily administration and general school routines and protocols.
- **Your child's teacher:** classroom procedures, rules and routines, questions about curriculum, homework, social and emotional, general academics.
- **Mr. DaSilva, our Vice-Principal:** all health and safety matters that need immediate attention when Mrs. Kennedy may not in the school building. School contact for parent participation questions; working closely with our Parent Participation Coordinator. School contact for fundraising matters; working closely with our Fundraising Coordinator. Manage the school's website and work with our technology team. School contact for the Outdoor Learning Area. Sacramental programs.
- **Mrs. Roche, our Learning Resource Coordinator:** Oversees all our Education Assistants and manages our designated students.

- **Mrs. Kennedy:** Curriculum matters, ministry matters, central school board matters, teacher matters, student learning and progress, all health and safety matters.
- **COVID-19 related questions:** [covidquestions@smeschool.ca](mailto:covidquestions@smeschool.ca). Please note that we have a doctor who is a parent volunteer reviewing and answering these questions. Please do not send personal information specific to your child.

#### **DESK CLEAN-UP**

All students are asked to bring in a large, sturdy bag **TODAY**. Students will be cleaning out their desks and bringing all items home for the holidays as the janitors need to move the furniture in order to give the classrooms a thorough cleaning and to polish the floors. Students must return the items to school after the holidays.

#### **NON-UNIFORM DAY**

**TODAY, Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** is our **“Crazy Christmas Cheer” Non-Uniform Day**. Remember to dress up in your most festive Christmas colours and bring in non-perishable food for our food bank. Thank you for your continued support.

#### **PICK YOUR COFFEE UP TODAY!!!**

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 - 3:30 outside the church.**

The same time and location as your chicken pick-up.  
Please **wear a mask** and **wait in your vehicle** until you are in the "Pick Up Spot" directly in front of the church.

#### **PICK YOUR CHICKEN UP TODAY!!!**

**If you ordered chicken, please pickup TODAY, Thursday Dec. 17 from 1:30 – 3:30, in the church driveway.** Safety protocols will be followed; please wear a mask and make sure to prepare your vehicle **BEFORE ARRIVING** (ex. Make space in the trunk and lay down newspapers or garbage bags).

#### **COFFEE FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

A HUGE **"Thank you"** to all of the families who purchased coffee!  
The school raised **\$1609.50** with your amazing support.

#### **CHRISTMAS BREAK**

Students will be dismissed for the Christmas holidays **tomorrow, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon**. **Thank you for making arrangements to have your child(ren) picked up at that time.** School will reopen on **Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

#### **THANK YOU TO OUR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION!**

Thank you to our Parents' Association who organized a Christmas treat craft for the students to do this week! I was fortunate to be able to join the Grade 2s while they were doing their craft and was delighted to hear a student say: "This is the best day EVER!"

#### **AUCTION THANK YOU**

Thank you to all families who participated in our Mini Online Auction. With your support, we were able to raise \$2,723. The reserved parking spot went to Byun Family who will be using it starting January 4<sup>th</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more news in the new year.

The Auction Committee

**SCHOLASTIC WEEKLY ORDER REMINDER – RC249384**

Reminder Scholastic Orders are now completed online!  
 Sign up for emails with Scholastic to receive digi-flyers/email promotions directly.  
 November paper flyers will be distributed for K-Gr7.  
 Remember orders can be completed at any time in the month from both the November and  
 December flyer.

Quick summary to order Scholastics:

Go to [scholastic.ca/clubshop](http://scholastic.ca/clubshop)

Create an account or log in to existing account, place order.

Very Important! Enter school code **during checkout** (RC249384).

Orders will ship direct to your home to reduce handling.

Shipping is free when you spend over \$35 and enter the school code!

Orders may be received prior to Christmas if ordered soon; however, there are no guarantees.

Thanks for your support of this school program!

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

The January calendar is posted on the school website.

**BASKETBALL PRACTICE SCHEDULE 2021**

Basketball season begins January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please find the basketball practice schedule.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45 - 8:30 am					
12:15 - 12:50 pm	Grade 5 Girls	Gr. 5 Boys	Gr. 6/7 Girls	Grade 5 Girls/Boys	
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Grade 6/7 Girls	Grade 6/7 Boys		Grade 6/7 Boys	

**MAKING SENSE OF ANXIETY IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Location: Online

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, weekly until Jan. 27, 2021 on Wednesdays

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

A Dr. Gordon Neufeld video course with discussion facilitated by Kevin Bredeman, M.A.

The escalating level of anxiety in our children begs for an explanation as well as a solution. Dr. Neufeld sheds light on this age-old problem, paving the way for natural interventions that can actually get to the root causes as opposed to just managing symptoms. Although the focus is on children, this enlightening material will benefit anyone suffering from anxiety.

Dr. Gordon Neufeld's revolutionary yet science specific approach turns parenting right-side up, restoring natural intuition to parenting and putting parents back in the driver's seat. This video-course takes the best that science has to offer and renders it readily accessible to parents of children of all ages.

Kevin Bredeman is a husband, father, and Canadian Certified Counsellor who obtained his M.A. in Counselling Psychology from Trinity Western University. He has worked for 13 years in the mental health field and currently coordinates a therapist working with youth and families. Kevin has trained through the Vancouver-based Neufeld Institute to be able to facilitate several courses developed by renowned child development expert and best-selling author, Dr. Gordon Neufeld.

Register at: <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/making-sense-of-anxiety-in-children-and-youth#register>

### **WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS**

With the cold days of winter upon us, please remind your child(ren) to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, (**i.e. boots, warm jacket, mitts, toques**). If weather conditions are reasonable, students will go outside to get some fresh air during recess and lunch breaks.

In the event of inclement weather, such as snow, tune in to **CKNW AM 980 on the radio** for information regarding any school closure. Information can also be found on their web site, [www.cknw.com](http://www.cknw.com) or on our website [www.stmichaelschool.ca](http://www.stmichaelschool.ca). In the case of inclement weather in the morning, closures are usually reported every ten to fifteen minutes.

### **You will receive an email to let you know if the school is closed.**

Please do not tie up the school and parish telephone lines by trying to call these offices. The radio station WILL NOT announce if the school is open; therefore, if you DO NOT hear the name of the school then the school is open. Likewise, if you do not receive an email from your school administration email [allparents@smeschool.ca](mailto:allparents@smeschool.ca) then the school is open.

**All emails will be made by 8:00 am.**

**As traveling conditions vary depending on where you live, please use your own judgment regarding sending your child(ren) to school. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.**

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

“God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.”