



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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

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Number 21

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OUR VIRTUE FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY—EMPATHY

In February, we celebrate the virtue of **empathy**. God wants us to understand and care about others. God has given us the ability to form connections with each other - to live together. **Empathy** helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

An empathetic person...

- listens when people speak
- notices when someone is upset and tries to help
 - can name his/her feelings
- can see a situation from another person's point of view
- accepts that others have different perspectives

***"Life's most urgent question is:
what are you doing for others?"***

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

OUR DAILY PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

*Let us pray for the virtue of empathy so that we may view everyone the way You, Jesus, see them.
Amen*

COVID UPDATE

Based on the latest evidence and a review of school exposures to date in B.C., the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) have updated their public health guidance for K-12 schools to address several key areas.

Updates include:

- Strengthened mask guidelines for middle and secondary students and K-12 staff in schools
 - Specific guidance for Physical Education and music classes
- More detailed protocols regarding staff-only spaces and gatherings

The school already had these updates in place.

You are reminded of the following:

- 1) Complete a daily health screening for your children.
- 2) Masks are to be worn by students in the morning once they are dropped off and as they enter the school building and when putting away their belongings in the hallway. Masks are to be worn at dismissal time when students are retrieving their items in the hallway and when they are leaving the school building to go home.

Masks are to be worn in the hallways and in washrooms at all times.

Masks are to be worn when physical distancing is not possible in the classroom, i.e. centres' time. Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks when working at their desks if they are able to tolerate them.

Students do not wear masks when they are eating or drinking at their desks.

Students do not need to wear a mask when playing outside during recess and lunch or when participating in PE. When transitioning from the classroom to the gymnasium, the students will be

supervised by a teacher to ensure proper physical distancing and, therefore, no masks are needed.

3) Parents must stay 6 feet apart when waiting to pick up their children. If an older sibling is picking up a brother or sister, he or she must wear a mask and must stay 6 feet apart.

Since school exposures are a reflection of community transmission, we strongly encourage everyone to follow the current public health orders.

This includes:

- Not gathering with anyone outside of your immediate household.
 - Only travelling for essential purposes.
 - Wearing a mask in all indoor public settings.

GREAT NEWS!

Thank you for all your prayers for Mr. Roder. His surgery was very successful and is healing well. He should be back with us after Spring Break!

NO SCHOOL

The school will be closed **TODAY, Thursday February 11th, Friday, February 12th and Monday, February 15th**. The staff is attending the Catholic Educator's Conference on Thursday, February 11th and Friday, February 12th. **Monday, February 15th is Family Day.**

CLASS AND TEAM PHOTO DATE CHANGED!

Lifetouch Photography has changed the date of our class and team photos. **Lifetouch will be at the school on Tuesday, February 16th** for the class and team photos. Please ensure that your child is in **complete** winter uniform. We will be following COVID safety protocols.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Students will watch the 8:00 am live streamed **Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00 am** in their classrooms. Father Rossi will then come over to the school at 9:30 am and distribute ashes to the students in the gym, one cohort at a time.

ANNUAL PARENT INFORMATION MEETING - VIRTUAL

The Annual Parent Information Meeting for St. Michael's School will be held on **Thursday, February 18th, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM**. At this meeting there will be a presentation by our PEC treasurer, Maddalena Florescu, our Participation coordinator, Steve Han and Mrs. Kennedy. We will also be reviewing the re-registration process. A separate link will be sent to you.

We ask that only one device in the home log into zoom.

IMPORTANT RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Re-Registration packages will be sent home with your **youngest or only child on February 18th**. Please ask your child for the package. **ALL re-registration packages are due back to the school no later than March 5th**. Due to COVID, your child can return the completed package to the school any time on or before March 5th.

* **With the exception of the current Grade 7 students, if you are NOT planning to return to St. Michael's School, please inform the office, in writing, no later than March 5th, 2021.**

2020 Tuition Tax receipts will be included in your child's re-registration package.

If you have a child entering Kindergarten in September 2021, registration forms will be included in the re-registration package. If you *do not* receive forms for your Kindergarten child, please speak with Mrs. Bird ASAP.

PARENT PARTICIPATION HOURS REMINDER

Please don't forget to submit this school year's participated hours on ParticipationHours.com. It is each family's own responsibility to keep track of participation hours and submit the participated hours on the participation hours website. Participation Hours submission deadline for this school year is on **June 27th** and **no late participation hours submission will be accepted after June 27th, 2021.**

Parent Participation Hours Support Contact

All Parent Participation inquiries & ParticipationHours.com technical-user support via e-mail: ParticipationHours@gmail.com

Parent Participation Opportunities

Here is a list of current available Parent Participation Opportunities. Please contact below category managers or contact ParticipationHours@gmail.com if you are interested.

Crossing Guard Supervision
School Cleaning
Playground Maintenance
Parent Participation Hours Communication
Technology Support – Live Streaming Mass Support

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR THE LIBRARY

We are in need of a parent volunteer to help scan in and check out books on Saturday mornings from 10-11. This is a weekly commitment for participation hours until the end of the school year. If you are able to help, please contact Steve Han at stevehan.ca@gmail.com

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Thursday, March 4th**, between **9:00 am and 5:00 pm**. No regular classes are scheduled for that day. Students are required to wear their St. Michael's School Uniform while attending their online conference.

This year the student led conferences will look a little different. We will not be able to have the students showcase their learning in the classroom like in the past; however, the students will continue to experience the three-part process: in-class preparation, the student-led conference (including goal setting), and an evaluation of the process.

The biggest difference will be that the students will showcase their learning at home PRIOR to the online conference with the teacher.

The primary students will bring home a student-led guide to review and the intermediate students will share their learning in the form of a google slide show.


What will stay the same is that the process continues to be an opportunity to let your child shine and take an active part in his/her education.

A letter will be sent home with more information in a couple of weeks.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE -- ONLINE APPOINTMENTS PARENT INSTRUCTIONS

On-line appointments open on **Thursday, February 11, 2020 at 9:00 am** and will close at **10:00 pm on Thursday, February 25th**. Register early to get your best time!

Student-Led 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"

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 or on our website 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.

All emails will be made by 8:00 am.

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 then the school is open.

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...

