



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Dear Parents,

We did it. Yes, we did.

What a monumental task it has been ensuring our students were able to keep on track with their learning despite having to deal with Covid19 restrictions and protocols. This year has been quite a journey and with all that we have been through, we still were successful at achieving many of our goals. I am proud of our efforts as a school community.

While reflecting on the many challenges we faced together, I came across the following bible verse taken from Romans 5:3-4 which encapsulates the feeling that we are hopeful we are seeing the light at the end of a dark tunnel.

"We will rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Struggling through a pandemic tested our resilience. But our suffering has produced endurance, and that endurance has produced character and that character has produced hope.

Throughout, we worked hard to find ways to unite and work together. We certainly have come to an understanding of how important in-school learning is for both staff and students. Even with all the restrictions, being together in school is so important for our social and emotional well-being. I know all too well that how we respond to life's challenges, makes us stronger and builds our confidence and resilience.

Everyone that is a part of St. Michael's School should be extremely proud that we made the best of all the challenges. Our school is a special place. Our teachers and staff made it a mission to ensure that no matter what, we were going to educate your children to the best of our abilities, each and every day. They succeeded; and so, did our students. The students learned to adapt – an important life lesson – and I am certain they will all remember this year when they look back on their education.

I must confess that I felt apprehensive and even somewhat scared about the adaptations we would have to undertake starting last August during our planning sessions. I should not have been surprised that all would be fine, as the children and teachers never met a task they were not able to overcome. Without fail, our teachers and students rose to meet every challenge and for that they must be congratulated.

I wish you all a happy, safe, and enjoyable summer. To those families and staff members, especially Mrs. Benes, who are not returning to our school, you will continue to be in our prayers as you journey on to new places.

In closing, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Roder for his many years of dedicated service to Catholic Education, in particular, for all his years of service at St. Michael's School. Bravo Mr. Roder, Bravo.

Congratulations to Mrs. Bird, who will be entering a much-deserved retirement. Congratulations to Mr. Patzer, who is also entering a much-deserved retirement. I am sure these three will meet up on the golf course at some point; well at least I know Mr. Patzer and Mr. Roder will certainly be on the golf course! You will be incredibly missed!

God bless you all.
Mrs. C. Kennedy

NON-UNIFORM TODAY

Today, June 24th is our last non-uniform day before summer break and the theme is Summer Fun!
To participate students are asked to bring a \$2 donation for charity.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

This is a reminder that the last day of school for students is **Tuesday, June 29th**. Our final school Mass will be live streamed. The students will be participating in all the traditional last day activities; however, unfortunately, these events are not open to the public.

Students will be dismissed at 11:30 am and we will have our **farewell parade** between 11:30 am and 12:00 pm.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BECAUSE OF THE PARADE THE DRIVEWAY WILL BE BACKED UP
CONSIDERABLY! THIS WILL BE OUR TIME TO SAY OUR GOOD-BYES TO MR. RODER, MRS. BIRD,
MR. PATZER AND MRS. BENES.**

SCHOOL OPENING

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 7th at 8:40 am** (**This will be the regular school start time moving forward!**). All students will be dismissed at **12:00 pm** on **September 7th**.

Kindergarten Schedule

New Kindergarten students' first day of school is **Wednesday, September 8th from 8:45 to 11:00 am**.

September 9 & 10 – No Regular Kindergarten Classes (Kindergarten Assessments)

September 13th – 8:40 am – 1:00 pm

September 14th – 8:40 am – 1:00 pm

September 15th – 8:40 am – 1:00 pm

September 16th – Kindergarten begins full day

TUITION FEE PAYMENTS

The first tuition payment for the 2021-2022 academic year is due on **August 1st** and the last tuition payment will be taken on **May 1st**. No payment is taken in June. Please remember that the first month's tuition (August 1st) is **non-refundable** if written notice of withdrawal for the upcoming school year is not received **prior to July 1st**.

ADDITIONAL FEES

If you recall at the time of registration, you received a form entitled "2021-2022 Additional Fees Due Upon Registration" and at the bottom of the form there was written:

****PLEASE NOTE****

We have not asked for additional cheques for activities such as: First Communion, Confirmation, Spirit Day, Victoria Day Trip, etc. as we have done in prior years, as we are not sure if these co-curricular activities will take place due to COVID restrictions. We will ask for these cheques if and when then these activities resume.

As we anticipate a full opening of the school in September, we will be sending home a sheet with a list of additional fees which need to be paid for the various activities.

We will send this form home on tomorrow, Friday, June 25th so that you can plan accordingly. **NO PAYMENT IS DUE NOW!**

We ask that you kindly submit the appropriately dated cheques upon our return by September 15th.
THANK YOU!

SCHOOL UNIFORMS – ALERT!!

As you are shopping for uniform items for next year, please note that high top runner/shoes are **not** permitted as part of the approved uniform footwear. Please ensure that when you begin your search for new school shoes, you adhere to the uniform policy. No white soles or coloured markings of any kind will be allowed. Please note that socks are to be all blue for the winter uniform and all white for the spring uniform.

Socks should not have patterns or frills on them; they should be smooth.

We encourage parents to purchase a St. Michael's Track Suit (these are to be ordered through Neat Uniforms) so that IF students need to wear their gym strip to school on days they have gym, they ALL are in the same attire. Other track suits will NOT be permitted. This is meant to ensure that there is uniformity with the uniform.

FUNDRAISING THANK YOU!

The St. Michael's Parish Education Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers, school families, staff, parishioners, and friends who were involved with this year's school and parish fundraisers. In a year that was filled with uncertainty and many restrictions, our fundraising teams managed to find new and innovative ways to keep our fundraisers going and were able to raise an amazing \$43,230.59 collectively for the school and parish this year in spite of the many restrictions in place!

In particular, we would like to thank the following volunteers for their dedication and leadership this year in making our fundraisers a success:

- Chocolate Sales: Yolanda Lavorata
- Apple Sales: Anita and Andrew Riddell
- Auction: Nicole Rozinbaum and Cicy Zhang
- Walkathon: Teo Nechita and Simona Cartina
- Coffee Sales: Andrea Piccolo
- Chicken Sales: Mrs. Roche

To all those who volunteered their time, donated items, and purchased items for sale - thank you for your time, efforts, and generosity - none of this would be possible without you. We hope the coming year will bring with it the opportunity to reconnect in person as a school and parish community through our various fundraising initiatives.

LOST & FOUND

Contents of the lost & found box will be emptied out on **Monday, June 28th**. Any unclaimed uniforms will be donated to the Used Uniform Store, while all other articles will be donated to a charitable cause.

PLEASE RETURN BORROWED SCHOOL MATERIALS

Please check at home if you have any school library and/or textbooks and return all books to the school before the summer.

BC SUMMER READING CLUB

A reminder to sign up for the BC Summer Reading Club (BC SRC). For 30 years, this club has helped motivate children to continue reading and learning during the summer months. This is a free program and children ages 5-14 register through their local public library (in person or online). All reading counts – kids can read whatever they want, in whatever language they feel most comfortable. They can also listen to someone else read or tell stories. Be sure to check out the different weekly activities, quizzes, and contests at your library throughout the summer.

This year 's theme is "Crack the Case" featuring illustrations by B.C. artist Zoe Si. BC SRC has partnered with Green Thumb Theatre to bring an exclusive mystery play to kids all over the province. You can try your hand at becoming a mystery playwright and complete the ending to **Misadventure at the Lighthouse** - read the story, follow the clues and then decide how the characters will crack the case!

Online registration began **June 14** at the **BC Summer Reading Club website**. Participants can also visit their local library to register and learn more about the BC SRC programs being offered in their community.

Here are your local library websites:

Burnaby <https://bpl.bc.ca/people-help/bpl-for-kids/summer-reading-club>

New West <https://www.nwpl.ca/youth/summer-reading-club/>

Coquitlam <https://www.coqlibrary.ca/summer-reading>

Happy reading!

MEDICATION TO BE RETURNED

For those parents who have children with medication stored at the school (e.g. epi-pen, puffers, etc.) any **expired medication will be sent home with your son/daughter on the last day of school.** As well, copies of your child's medical alert information will be sent home with new blank forms. The forms must be reviewed by a doctor over the summer. If there are any changes to your child's medical plan, the new forms must be completed. If no changes are required, then the school will continue using the forms we have on file.

In addition, please ensure that any new medication (e.g. epi-pen, puffers Benadryl) is brought to the school the **first day you return in September.** Please remember that no medication can be stored or administered without the appropriate forms **signed by your doctor.** We want to ensure that the school has all required medications and forms on the first day your child returns to school.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Da Silva (adasilva@smeschool.ca).

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC) ELECTIONS

As directed by the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese, the Parish Education Committee Election will be held on **Sunday Sept. 26th, 2021.**

There will be 4 PEC positions up for election. Thus far, the nominees include:

- Mrs. Anita Manalo – Currently in the role of Chairperson
- Mr. Steven Han – Currently in the role of Parent Participation Coordinator
- Mrs. Jenny Finnegan – Currently in the role of Secretary and Vice Chairperson

If you are interested in running for a position with the PEC, you must:

- Be an active member of St. Michael's Parish who is committed to Catholic schools and to the fostering of the Christian community in their parish. (*C/ISVA Governance Policy 107*).
 - Obtain and complete a nomination form from the Parish Office.
- Return the nomination form to the Parish Office by 5pm on Sept. 15th, 2021.

Questions can be directed to the PEC Nomination Committee:

- Mrs. Golding – sarahgoldstar@hotmail.com
- Mr. Blasiak - martin.blasiak@gmail.com

Parent Participation Hours Deadline THIS WEEK!

Please submit all participated Parent Participation Hours for the 2020-2021 School Year before/by **June 27th, 2021** on ParticipationHours.com.

Families must submit all parent participation hours to our parent participation website (ParticipationHours.com) in order to receive parent participation hours approved for this school year.

Category manager's log book(s) or hard copy notes will not be accepted as approved Parent Participation Hours.

Participation Hours website technical support and inquiry contact: participationhours@gmail.com

YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR HOURS. SCHOOL STAFF WILL NOT DO THIS FOR YOU. IF YOU COMPLETED A JOB FOR SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS THEY WILL APPROVE THE HOURS ONCE YOU HAVE SUBMITTED THEM. THANK YOU!

SUMMER HELP NEEDED – PARTICIPATION HOURS GIVEN

If you wish to get a head start to earning participation hours for 2021-2022, **HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY!** The school is in need of help during the first two weeks of July and the two weeks **prior** to the start of the new school year.

Examples of jobs that need to be done:

- Packing up classrooms to get them ready for summer cleaning ▪ scrubbing desks (inside and out) ▪ outdoor clean up ▪ rubbish removal ▪ prepping surfaces for painting ▪ delivering supplies to classrooms ▪ power washing

If you are interested in helping with any of the above jobs, please leave your name and contact information with Martin Blasiak at martin.blasiak@gmail.com.

Parent Participation Hours Website Summer Maintenance

Parent Participation Hours Website will be closing for maintenance from June 29th, 2021 to September 6, 2021.

For the **Summer Help** participation hours submission, please keep personal digital or hard copy log until the participation hours submission is available on the participationhours.com website in September 2021.

SEPTEMBER REOPENING

Be prepared for a complete opening of the schools in September. Below you can read the outlook of the Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Schools for the 2021-2022 School Year. It looks like we will STILL need to incorporate a number of safety measures.

Please note that we will go back to the regular pick up and drop off routines which were in place before COVID; however, this is subject to change depending on what guidelines we receive in August.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MORNING SCHOOL BELL WILL RING AT 8:40 AM. STUDENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED LATE IF THEY ARE NOT IN THEIR CLASSROOMS READY TO LEARN AT 8:45 AM.

CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR THE 2021-2022 CALENDAR WHICH WILL BE POSTED IN MID JULY.

Outlook of the Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools: 2021-22 School Year

Public Health Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Vaccine: A significant proportion of the adult and youth (aged 12-17) population will have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone eligible will be encouraged to get two doses for long-term protection against COVID-19. Public Health Case Management: Public health will continue to monitor cases of COVID-19 and determine if actions should be taken to prevent or control spread. Schools should continue to maintain accurate attendance records and class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing. Provincial Recommendations: Public health (including the Provincial Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control) will continue to offer individual and community guidance and recommendations to manage the risk of COVID-19 in B.C. Regional Variation: Medical Health Officers continue to be able to place local Public Health Orders requiring additional health and safety measures beyond this guidance.
Environmental Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning and Disinfection: Since the risk of COVID-19 transmission from surfaces is low, it is anticipated that transitioning to sector-specific cleaning practices will be recommended. Ventilation and Air Exchange: Continue to ensure all mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are working properly. Open windows when the weather permits.
Administrative Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings and Events: It is anticipated that most gatherings and events will be able to take place by school start. Types and size of gatherings and events should align with those permitted as per related public health recommendations and Orders. Cohorts & Physical Distancing: Cohorts will not be recommended. It is anticipated that physical distancing of two metres will not be recommended¹; however, schools will continue to be encouraged to spread people out within available space and to prevent crowding in indoor common spaces (e.g. entrances, hallways, etc.) as practical. Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips: It is anticipated that all extracurricular activities and field trips, including inter-school sports, arts events and special-interest activities (e.g. overnight trips) will be able to take place by school start. These should be aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders. Community Use of Schools: Continue to ensure use is aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders. Visitors: Visitors should follow a school's health and safety plan, including completing a daily health check and not entering the school if they are sick. Food Services: It is anticipated that food services (e.g. meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.) can return to regular operational and food safety practices.
Personal Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a Daily Health Check and Stay Home When Sick: Everyone should continue to complete a daily health check and stay home when they are sick. Hand Hygiene: Hand hygiene should continue to be practiced regularly, in line with guidance from BCCDC.

A full update to the Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools is expected in August 2021. It may differ from what is included here based on changes in serious outcomes from COVID-19. **Additional guidance for topics not covered here, including but not limited to personal protective equipment (including masks), staff-only spaces and transportation will be addressed in the August update.**

¹*Current guidance for K-12 recommends ensuring there is 2 metres of space available between people from different cohorts/learning groups.*

Thought of the week...

A Summer Prayer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen.