



# 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)

February 25, 2021

Number 23

Follow us on Twitter @StMichaelsBby

## Our Virtue Focus for the month of March - Kindness

During the month of March, we will focus on the virtue of kindness. God wants us to be kind to everyone we meet. Being kind is about more than just pretending to be nice. It is about helping and playing with others because we want to and not because we feel we have to. God helps us to be kind to our family and friends because by being kind we are able to see God in everyone we meet.  
*Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. ~Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama*

### *A kind person...*

- † gives his/her time to help others
- † stands by his/her friends in time of need
- † shares with his/her friends
- † is polite
- † cares about other people's feelings

## OUR DAILY PRAYER FOR MARCH

Let us now pray...for the virtue of kindness so that everyone we meet will feel like we are looking out for their good. ~ Amen  
*"Be kind and compassionate to one another." Ephesians 4:32*

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parents,

We realize this is a difficult time for parents and for staff as we receive information of the potential exposures in the school. Let me explain a few things:

First, we are bound by **CONFIDENTIALITY** by Public Health Procedures. As we must notify all those in an exposure event to monitor for symptoms, that does not mean they were all in **direct contact with the infected individuals**. Each infected individual is called by Public Health and contact traced. Anyone within the direct contact group is notified and isolated. All others who are not in direct contact or are deemed a low risk (as they wear masks or were not directly interacting during the infectious period) are only to monitor for symptoms and to go for testing if a symptom arises. Please refrain from spreading rumors or speculating on what has happened as only the contact tracers really know, and even then, it is difficult to know for sure how this virus spreads throughout all cases. There may be asymmetric or pre-symptomatic exposures that we are unaware of and that is why we follow the recommendations of public health to maintain and stop the spread of COVID-19. Cases are continuing around BC, Canada and the rest of the world and we **MUST** all do our part to stay safe.

Our primary defense of exposure has been to complete daily screening for all students and staff. Our secondary defense is even if someone is asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, the school follows all safety protocols. Hand washing, masking, cleaning common areas 2x daily, and staying in cohorts. Our school follows all cleaning protocols carefully.

The biggest risk factor of spread is sick children coming to school. So far, most spreading, whether asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, is droplet based and within a direct contact. Our staff is daily screened, wear masks and are constantly wiping and disinfecting. Our school has and will continue to do all it can to minimize risks and keep all classrooms and children touch areas clean. Students also wash hands regularly and are asked to keep apart and wear masks (**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT MASKS FIT PROPERLY**) according to our protocols.

All we can do at this point is to continue to be careful, monitor for symptoms, follow all recommendations of washing our hands, masking, keeping our distance, stop social gatherings, and continue to monitor our children for illness. Please seek testing as per the protocols listed below.

Unfortunately, we all have daily risk factors in and outside of our home, work, schools, stores, recreation, and neighbourhoods. No matter how careful, the longer COVID is active and before we are vaccinated, any of us or our families may be affected. We work extremely hard at minimizing COVID risks. We ask parents to do the same, that is to follow all Public Health Guidelines and take all illness seriously. Stay home if you feel there is a risk.

The exposures are a result of some illness entering the school and affecting some individuals. Those individuals are all home and isolating. We are taking all safety precautions as we have done for the last 11 months.

The exposures have been isolated to one classroom and it is **NOT** throughout all grades of the school. All cohorts are kept separate and all common staff take extra precautions. If your child or family or staff was in direct contact, they have been notified by Fraser Health and parents would have been told to get tested or follow the recommendations of the exposure notification.

Again, we are dealing with these exposure events as quickly as possible, we are informing you parents so you can also make the best decisions for the safety of your own families and we continue to follow the direction of Fraser Health. Please feel free to email the school if you have any other questions.

Let us pray these exposure events end quickly, and safely and that all our families will stay healthy until we finish the year.

### **KEEP CALM, BE KIND AND BE SAFE**

#### **COVID PROTOCOLS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TESTING?**

- Use the B.C. [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to be tested for COVID-19
- A COVID-19 test is recommended if:
  - you had a contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and have **any one** of the symptoms below.
  - you are experiencing symptoms as described below.
- If you feel unwell and are unsure about your symptoms, contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

A close contact is generally someone who has been near a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes when health and safety measures were not in place or were insufficient. This includes up to two days before someone develops symptoms.

For more information on close contacts go to the [close contacts page](#) of the BCCDC website.

#### **Symptoms that require testing...**

For people who do not know if they had a contact with someone with COVID-19, you need a COVID-19 test if you have **new or worsening symptoms**.

If you have **1 or more** of these key symptoms, seek testing as soon as possible:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

If you have **2 or more** of the symptoms below for more than 24 hours, and they are not related to any other pre-existing conditions, seek testing.

These symptoms are:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite

- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have only one of these symptoms, or a symptom that is not on this list and you are able to manage the symptoms at home, stay home until you feel better. If you have any questions, or the symptoms don't go away contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

**Children have similar but milder symptoms to adults.**

### **MARCH CALENDAR**

March calendar is available on the school website  
<http://www.stmichaelschool.ca/march-calendar/>

### **GRADE 7 CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

This is a reminder to all Grade 7 parents and students that the Grade 7 Confirmation Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The retreat is mandatory for all Grade 7 students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Due to COVID, the retreat will only include the class cohort and will be held in the gym with masks and physical distancing.

### **IMPORTANT RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

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

**\* 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

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

### **PARTICIPATION JOB!**

Do you like to cut and glue?? Then we need you! We are looking for parents to cut and glue 132 crosses for our Holy Thursday retreat. If we have 4 parents, each can do 30 crosses. Please call the school office if you can help. We will take the first 4.

### **PARTICIPATION HOURS FOR GENERAL MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Thank you for attending our school Parent General Meeting last week. **The families who have attended the meeting will receive the 1.5 parent participation hours of credit on our ParticipationHours.com website accounts** by end of March 2021. The general meeting hours do not need to be submitted by families.

### **Parent Participation Hours Reminder**

This is a reminder that last day to submit 2020-2021 School Year's Parent Participation Hours will be on **June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Late participation hours submissions will not be accepted. All Parent Participation Hours must be submitted to ParticipationHours.com website only before or by the deadline.

Please email [ParticipationHours@gmail.com](mailto:ParticipationHours@gmail.com) if you have any Parent Participation inquiries or in need of ParticipationHours.com technical support.

### **Parent Participation Opportunities**

Please contact below parent participation category managers or email [ParticipationHours@gmail.com](mailto:ParticipationHours@gmail.com) to sign up!

Crossing Guard – Yard Supervision  
School Cleaning (Weekday Evening)  
Parent Participation Hours Communication  
Outdoor Learning Area  
Auction  
Walkathon  
Technology Support – Live Streaming Mass Support

### **STUDENT LED CONFERENCES**

**An information letter was sent home to all grades on Monday regarding Student Led Conference. Please ensure that you review the letter.**

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

### **STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE -- ONLINE APPOINTMENTS PARENT INSTRUCTIONS**

**On-line appointments will close today at 10:00 pm.**

#### **Student-Led Conference – Online School Appointments**

##### **Parent Instructions:**

1. Go to our school appointments web site: [www.stmichaels.schoolappointments.com](http://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...***

“God is saying to you tonight:

The pain will end.

The tears will stop.

The doors will open.

A season of Miracles and blessings are on the horizon.

Don't give up.”

Amen