



# St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Number 17

Dear families,

We have reached the joyous season of Christmas. As I think back on this term, my heart feels full. I cannot say enough about this wonderful community. Your children are friendly, kind, compassionate, and honest. As a parent community, you are welcoming, generous, and supportive. The culture you have built here is one of faith and community. St. Michaels truly is a special place.

Thank you to our Pastor, Monsignor Rossi for his steadfast leadership and guidance. To Father DuPaul who visits our classrooms and spreads joy in our hallways. To our staff, who give of themselves to support each and every one of our students, and to all of you, for entrusting us with the care and education of your children. We are very blessed.

As Christmas approaches, our days are joy-filled, yet busy. Occasionally, we get distracted from the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that as you gather as a family over the break, you feel God's loving embrace and are blessed with His grace. I hope you can take some extra time to pray together and feel God close to you amid the busy preparations. Christmas Day is the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and is a Holy Day of Obligation. We encourage you to join us at the 8:30 AM Mass, where our school choir will lead us in song.

May you and your loved ones be filled with the Joy of Christ this Christmas and I wish you all a blessed, happy, and healthy New Year.

Mrs. Grant

## **CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS**

Our Christmas Family Mass is the 8:30AM Christmas Day Mass. We encourage as many of our families as possible to join this special celebration. Our choir will lead us in song as we come together to rejoice. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Sunday Offering Envelopes**

The church collection envelopes for the new year can be picked up from the church. Please pick up your envelopes when you attend Mass this weekend.

## **PARENTS ASSOCIATION THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to our wonderful Parents Association for sponsoring our skating party this week and for hosting a special staff Christmas luncheon in the gym on Thursday. We are forever grateful for the countless hours you put into our school. If you are interested in supporting the Parents Association or their events, please contact [sme.parentassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sme.parentassociation@gmail.com).

### GYM FLOOR UPDATE

We are well on our way to replacing our gym floor and hope to complete this project as soon as possible. Thank you to all of our parents, our fundraising committee, and our parents association for your continued efforts in working towards our \$40 000 goal.

We are so blessed to have raised \$22 000 through our Parents Association over the past few years. Added to this was our incredible chocolate sale fundraiser which raised just over \$11 000 giving us a total of \$33 000. We are almost there! Thank you again for all of your kind generosity and support in this project.

### READING CLUB

Congratulations to the 64 students in Grades 1-7 who read and completed their calendars for this term! We hope they enjoyed their special Christmas treats for their efforts. Stay tuned for next term's calendar, which will be given out when we return in January.

### CHRISTMAS STORY PODCAST

Mrs. Roche has prepared a Christmas story podcast for your children to enjoy over the holidays. Have fun listening to the story and guessing which staff members are our narrators!

[Christmas Story Podcast](#)

### REGISTRATION

Registration for new students for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. If you have a child at St. Michaels and have a sibling entering in September, please contact Mrs. DeJulius to ensure we have their name added to our sibling list.

Registration forms for new families can be found on our school website

<https://www.stmichaelschool.ca/how-to-apply/>

### AUCTION NEWS

The annual Auction is St. Michael's School's largest fundraiser of the year, and we're gearing up for another great event. This year's theme is: **Fun in the Sun!**

#### Start Collecting Those Bottles

The Annual General Meeting is coming up on Feb. 8, and it's a tradition for school parents to bring bottles of wine and fine spirits to the meeting to support the Auction. So when you're stocking up for the holiday season, maybe pick up an extra bottle or two for the Auction!

#### We Need You!

Looking for opportunities to fill your 60 participation hours? Volunteer for the Auction! Some current members will be leaving the school in the next year, so we're looking for fresh faces to keep the Auction going. And if you join now, you'll be able to learn from some of our veteran members.

We have opportunities available in these roles: Co-chair, secretary, treasurer, marketing/communications, donation cataloguing, corporate donations, TUPS (child-minding service), online auction setup, live auction setup, and auction closing.

If you're interested in any of these roles, or want to help out in a different way, please email [stmichaels.auctioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaels.auctioncommittee@gmail.com). You can get more info by joining our next meeting, which will be held over Zoom on Jan. 16 at 7pm.

### Donation Ideas

The holiday sales are in full swing so it's the perfect time to get great deals on exciting items you can donate to the Auction!

#### **Some popular donation ideas are:**

- Electronics
- Bottles of wine and fine spirits
- New items that can be sold
- Hotel and spa gift cards
- Sports tickets
- Gift cards in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100

If you're eyeing an item that's out of your budget, team up with friends or fellow parents so you can all pitch in and get something awesome! Donations can be dropped off at the school office or in the church.

### Big Boxes Needed

If you end up giving (or getting) a large item for Christmas (like a TV, major appliance, or furniture), don't dispose of the cardboard box! The Auction decorating crew would love to take those boxes and transform them into decorations for Auction night. If you have a box you'd like to donate, please text Maria at 778-881-0922.

Check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsauction/>

### **UPCOMING DATES**

December 25th	Family Mass with school choir 8:30AM
January 1st	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 3rd	<b>Return to School</b> ; Confession for Grade 4; Basketball practices begin
January 6th	Feast of the Epiphany; School Mass 9AM; Used uniform store 3 - 3:30PM
January 8th	Family Mass with school choir 8:30AM
January 10th	Confession for Gr. 3; Gr. 4 Ski Day
January 13th	9AM School Mass
January 20th	Pro-D Day <b>No School</b>

*God, thank You for this glorious season and for the love shared by all of St. Michael's Parish community.*

*We remain eternally grateful for the gift of Jesus into our world, and we pray that our eyes be opened to the ways in which He continues to be active in our lives, blessing us each and every day.*

*Amen.*