



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Number 16

Dear Families,

This week, we enter the 3rd week of Advent.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice," and on this day, we light the 3rd candle of the Advent wreath which is rose pink signifying joy. Joy is more than happiness, it is deep within our heart and spirit. We find joy by loving God with our whole heart and our neighbor as yourself.

My prayer for you this week is that through acts of gratitude, kindness, and compassion, you feel joyful as we approach the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Mrs. Grant

FAMILY MASS

Our December family Mass will take place this Sunday, December 11th, at 8:30AM. Choir members are encouraged to come and lead us in song and all families of the school are invited. Mass will be followed by a special pancake breakfast with St. Nicholas.

The school choir will also be singing Christmas morning mass at 8:30am. Students do not need to wear their uniform this special day, but instead can wear their Christmas formal clothes.

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.

SKATING PARTY

Thank you for sending in your permission forms for our Parent Association Skating Party. A reminder that this will take place on Tuesday, December 13th for Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5 in the morning and Grades K, 1, 6 & 7 in the afternoon. Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from Bill Copeland Arena.

Students in Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5 can go directly to the rink in the morning. Their ice time starts at 9:30AM and finishes at 11AM. Students should be collected at the rink **no later than 11:15AM**.

Students in Grades K, 1, 6, & 7 will leave the school at 12:15PM for their 1PM ice time. They should be collected from the rink **no later than 2:45PM**.

We thank our Parent Association for sponsoring and organizing this event for our students.

CHOIR AT LOUGHEED MALL

The choir from grades 3-7 will be singing at Lougheed Town Centre for their annual 'Christmas In Song' event. The students will be performing from 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm in front of London Drugs.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

The Student Leadership Team will be hosting a non-uniform day on Thursday, December 15th. The theme is Christmas. Let's spread our Christmas cheer by decking ourselves out in the most outrageous Christmas-themed items we can find! Please bring a minimum of \$2 to support our Christmas outreach initiatives, and please consider adding a food bank donation too so we can support our local families in need during this season.

LAST DAY OF TERM

Our last day of term before the break will be **Friday, December 16th**. Dismissal will be at 12PM.

PARKING REMINDERS

We appreciate that parking at the school is limited and we are placed in a difficult area by a very busy road. It is, therefore, imperative that we follow the measures put in place by the school community in collaboration with the RCMP.

Please take careful note of the following:

1. The area on Holmes Street outside the library door is for **pick up and drop off only**. Parents **should not** leave their cars in this area.
2. There is a **"no stopping" section at the intersection of Holmes and 10th** near the crosswalks. Cars may not stop **at any time** in this section as it impedes the view of pedestrians and makes turning at the intersection dangerous.
3. Park only in designated spots within our parking lot.
4. **Never** block the fire lane (marked with yellow lines) in our parking lot.
5. Take care to walk children to and from the playground and school **using designated crossing areas** (cross walks on Holmes and the yellow crosswalk by the swings in our parking lot).
6. Follow the directions of our supervisors and **show kindness and consideration** when they ask you to follow the above rules. Remember we are a community and by working together, we can ensure the safety of our children and families.

LIBRARY BOOKS

A reminder that all library books need to be returned before Christmas break. We will check books out again in the new year.

READING CLUB

Please hand in your Reading Club calendar by Monday, Dec. 12 in order to get your prize for this term. The calendar for next term will be given out when we return to school in January. Keep reading over the holidays!

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. Stay tuned for the unveiling of this year's theme!

Early Bird Prize Winner

The Early Bird prize winner was determined through a random draw, and the winner is: Isaac Wong in Grade 4! Congratulations Isaac! His family won 2 tickets with reserved front row seating for the Christmas Concert (evening).

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 some 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, 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. You can get more info by joining our next meeting, which will be held over Zoom on Dec. 12 at 7pm.

Donation Ideas

Black Friday is over, but there are still plenty of sales going on 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
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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!

Check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

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

INSTAGRAM

Our Instagram account is being updated weekly celebrating learning and activities here at St. Michael's school. Please take a look for [@stmichaelsbby](https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelsbby) and follow us! [If you have requested to follow us and have not been added yet, please email Mr. Da Silva, as it is a private account and we will only add those we know.](#)

UPCOMING DATES

December 11th	8:30AM Family Mass with school choir; Pancake Breakfast
December 13th	Confession for Gr. 6 PA Skating Party
December 14th	School Choir Caroling
December 15th	Non-Uniform Day: Christmas
December 16th	12 Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break
December 25th	8:30AM Christmas Morning Family Mass
January 1st	Feast Day of the Holy Family
January 3rd	Return to School; Confession for Grade 4
January 6th	Feast of the Epiphany; School Mass 9AM; Used uniform store 3 - 3:30PM

[Pope Francis' Prayer for Immaculate Conception](#)

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother,

On your feast day I come to you,

And I come not alone:

I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me,

In this city of Rome and in the entire world,

That you may bless them and preserve them from harm.

I bring to you, Mother, children,

Especially those who are alone, abandoned,

And for this reason are tricked and exploited.

I bring to you, Mother, families,

Who carry forward life and society

With their daily and hidden efforts;

In a special way the families who struggle the most

For their many internal and external problems.

I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women,

And I entrust to you especially those who, out of need,

*Are forced to work in an unworthy profession
And those who have lost work or are unable to find it.
We are in need of your immaculate gaze,
To rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things
With respect and awareness,
Without egotistical or hypocritical interests.
We are in need of your immaculate heart,
To love freely,
Without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other,
With simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks.
We are in need of your immaculate hands,
To caress with tenderness,
To touch the flesh of Jesus
In our poor, sick, or despised brethren,
To raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver.
We are in need of your immaculate feet,
To go toward those who know not how to make the first step,
To walk on the paths of those who are lost,
To find those who feel alone.
We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!*