

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL



8909 Mary St., Chilliwack, BC V2P 4J4

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*St. Mary's Elementary acknowledges that the land on which we gather, work, learn and play is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Ts'elxwéyeq and Pelólxw Tribes of the Stó:lō people.*



Dear St. Mary's Families,

Chilliwack is so beautiful right now with so many flowering trees around – such a beautiful reminder of the new life that we celebrate at Easter. I am writing this on a very rainy March day and praying that, like the Son, the sun will burst forth as well!

As you will have seen on the calendar, there is a lot happening in April, and we know that May and June will be very busy as well. Please be sure to look at the Weekly Highlights email each week to stay on top of events.

In particular, please note the Student Led Conferences on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance for your child to show you in person what he or she has been doing at school. By making this a drop-in format, we hope to make it easier for ALL families to come to this important event. Your child will appreciate it!

Wishing you a blessed Easter season!

Mrs. Jeanine Sallos  
Principal



## Important Dates

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Easter Monday, **No School**

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.**

School-led Sunday Mass

**Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

In-School Spelling Bee

**Wed., April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

Parish Education Committee Meeting

**Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

Colour Day (non-uniform)  
Drop-In Student-Led Conferences 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Drop-In Student-Led Conferences, 8:00 a.m. – noon  
**NO SCHOOL**

**Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Grade 6 Immunizations

**Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

CISVA Spelling Bee (for winner of in-school Bee)

## School Life

### Spiritual Life

All students in Grades 3 – 7 have had the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during these last days of Lent.

On **Holy Thursday**, each class participated in activities related to the Easter Triduum, culminating in watching a presentation of the **Stations of the Cross** produced by Mrs. Olivares and the Grade 5/6 class.

Our next **school-led Sunday Mass** is April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Lectors and choir members are asked to arrive at 9:15, wearing neat and tidy school uniform. All St. Mary's students are invited to wear their uniforms to Mass that day.

**First Holy Communion** will be on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. **Confirmation** will be on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Archbishop Miller will be here to confer the sacrament on our Grade 7 students.

### School Activities

**Basketball** practices and games for Grade 4/5 boys and girls continue. Please check the [athletic calendar](#) and Weekly Highlights emails for schedules. This is nearly at an end – thank you to the players and coaches!

**Track and Field** practices will be starting soon – keep an eye out for permission forms. This year we are invited to several track meets in Abbotsford and Langley.

Students will be going outside to play even on drizzly days. Please make sure they have access to wet weather gear every day! Those April showers also make students get wet!



## Need Used Uniforms?

Cristine Angue is our used uniform coordinator. If you are looking for a "new to you" sweater, or want to have some shorts on hand for June, please contact her:

[cristine\\_daigan@hotmail.com](mailto:cristine_daigan@hotmail.com)

Let her know the sizes of items that you need, and she will let you know if there is anything available and make arrangements to send the pieces to school.

All used uniform pieces are \$5.

Please make sure to **change the name** in any pieces you acquire so we can get lost items back to the right person!

## Fundraising...past and future!

**Thank you** to all who were able to assist with the Heritage Park **Parking Lot Fundraiser** on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. This event raised \$5542.67 for our school! We thank the coordinators, Kathryn Fehr and Rhonda Sexsmith, as well as the Knights of Columbus who assist us with this fundraiser.

### Save the Dates!

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** marks the return of the **Spring Salad Evening** – a wonderful event that was sidelined by Covid, and is finally returning! There will be parent participation opportunities for this event.



**May 25<sup>th</sup>** is our 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Golf Tournament**. Parent participation opportunities were posted and have now been filled – thank you! If you're not helping out with the tournament itself, consider entering a team. This event has become very popular!



**Many thanks to all who have been supporting our fundraisers this year!**



## Shopping Through Our School

It is never too late to start putting in a standing order for gift cards! Cards are ordered at the beginning and middle of the month. It's a great way to budget for your groceries and gas (and maybe some treats like Starbucks or Tims!).

The company we order through, Progressive Fundraising, is offering a new e-gift card option for some of the suppliers. These gift cards are ordered the same way; however, instead of receiving a physical gift card, you will receive a secure email with your gift card information. Ordering this way allows for a faster turnaround time with delivery direct to your email. To redeem your gift card, simply print out or show it on your phone at the retailer/restaurant! For more information, including participating companies, please contact Mrs. Netzlaw at the office.

## From the Parish Education Committee

### Parish Education Committee Elections

PEC members are elected or appointed for a two-year term and may serve on the Committee for a maximum of 8 years (not necessarily consecutive). This year there are **three positions open for election** and one for appointment. Current members whose 8 years are not up may choose to stand for re-election, but the nominating process is now open for new members.

To serve on the PEC one must be:

- a practising Catholic, eligible to vote in this parish
- over the age of 21
- nominated by 2 people who also fit the above criteria
- approved by the pastor

There are some exceptions, and a notice with further detail is attached to this newsletter.

If more than three nominations are received, PEC elections will be held on the weekend of May 25/26, with voting taking place after each Mass. We hope that all eligible members of the parish/school community will prayerfully consider if this might be an opportunity for them to serve the parish and school for the next two years. We welcome members who bring experience in all kinds of areas, including experience at other schools.

### Student Led Conferences

Each year our school is mandated to have five formal opportunities to communicate student learning to parents and guardians, in addition to any informal communication between teachers and families. This year we have issued two formal written reports (December and March) and held Parent-Teacher Interviews in October. A final written report will be issued on the last day of school in June.

The Student-Led Conference is an opportunity for students to showcase their own learning. Many families find this to be the most enjoyable reporting opportunity as the students can really demonstrate what they have been doing at school.

In the past, we have scheduled families into specific timeslots; however, this year it will be a drop-in event. Conferences will take place on **Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**, and on **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to noon** (regular classes will not be held that day). You are welcome to come at any time on that evening or morning.

Please be aware that other families will be in the room with you, and this is not the time for a 1:1 interview with the teacher. If there are concerns, a separate appointment should be made.

## PEC Member Contact Info

**Chair – Dale Wagner**

[pecchair@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:pecchair@saintmarysschool.ca)

**Vice-Chair – Giorgia Quadrelli**

[pecvice@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:pecvice@saintmarysschool.ca)

**Treasurer – Sheldon Pimenta**

[pectreasurer@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:pectreasurer@saintmarysschool.ca)

**Fundraising – Elaine Monteiro**

[fundraising@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:fundraising@saintmarysschool.ca)

**Maintenance – Dave Homme**

[maintenance@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:maintenance@saintmarysschool.ca)

**Parent Participation – Alphonsine Shamavu**

[parentparticipation@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:parentparticipation@saintmarysschool.ca)

**Delegate to CISVA – Melissa Godbout**

[Pecdelegate@saintmarysschool.ca](mailto:Pecdelegate@saintmarysschool.ca)



## **Are You Interested in Joining the Parish Education Committee?**

Nomination forms are now being accepted. Forms are available from the school or parish office. Dave Homme is the PEC contact person for the election and is available to answer questions at [maintenance@saintmaryschool.ca](mailto:maintenance@saintmaryschool.ca). Completed forms can be dropped off at the school or parish office. Please note that each nomination must be approved by the pastor.

PEC Elections will be held after Masses on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>/Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> if there are more than three candidates nominated.

### **ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION (HOLD OFFICE):**

Those eligible to hold office as a member of a Parish Education Committee or to represent the parish on a Regional Education Committee or are Regional Representatives (elected) are practicing Catholics, approved by the Pastor, who are eligible to vote in that parish and have reached the age of twenty-one (21), with the following exceptions:

- all employees of the CISVA or any CISVA Affiliate School;
- anyone who is part of the governance structure of any other CISVA School or CISVA Affiliate School;
- past employees of the CISVA or any CISVA affiliated school until three full calendar years have passed since the termination of employment;
- employees of the parish; and
- spouses, children, parents, brothers and sisters of persons covered as above.

### **PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC) 2023/24**

The Parish Education Committee (PEC) is a group of elected and appointed St. Mary's Parishioners who work with the Principal and Pastor in the running of the school. The PEC represents the Board of Directors of the CISVA at the local level, implements the Archdiocesan policies and sets local policies for St. Mary's School.

PEC positions and meeting dates for the year will be decided once the new committee has been formed (this year, meetings were generally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month). Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. In camera sessions are for PEC members only.

If you wish to bring an item to the PEC, it must be presented to the Chairperson, in writing, 10 days in advance of the meeting.