



St. Mary's Catholic School December 2019 Newsletter

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"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."

Mother Teresa

Explaining the season of Advent

The season of Advent is celebrated by Christians all over the world. Advent encompasses the four weeks leading up to December 25 when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is a time of waiting and of reflection. The symbol of advent is the advent wreath. This is a circular garland of evergreen branches that represents eternity or eternal life. The wreath has four candles including three purple and one pink. Each Sunday of Advent a new candle is lit, with each representing a different aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Advent Wreath Candles

Set within the center of the branches of the wreath is a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the 'Prophecy' candle in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday the second purple candle is lit. This candle represents peace. This is known as the 'Bethlehem' candle as it symbolizes Christ's manger.

On the third Sunday the pink candle, known as the 'Shepherd's' candle is lit. This candle represents joy.

On the fourth Sunday, the last purple candle is lit. This candle is known as the 'Angel's' candle. This candle represents love.

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the 'Christ' candle and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity.

We would encourage families to celebrate this liturgical season with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas. It is a great way for children learn that Christmas is much more than the commercialization we are surrounded with in today's society at this time of year. It is a great way to initiate a discussion on the true meaning of Christmas. In our classrooms at St. Mary's School, our students lead Advent celebrations each week in the gym. Please feel welcome to join us. Merry Christmas and may you be blessed with love, peace, and health.



In Faith,

Jerelynn MacNeil,
Principal





Brady McCulloch & Walter
on Rock Star Day



Save-On Foods

If you buy your groceries at Save-On Foods please tell the cashier that you are from St. Mary's School and they will record your total sales in a binder. The school receives a percentage of all sales quarterly!

Thanks for supporting our school!



Advent Wreath Lighting



Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 9:30 A.M. – Mrs. Gallina's Grade 5/6 Class

Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 9:30 A.M. – Mrs. Merz's Grade 2/3 Class

Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 9:30 A.M. – Mrs. Merz's Grade 2/3 Class

Wednesday, Dec. 18th at 9:30 A.M. – Mrs. Gallina's Grade 5/6 Class

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Mrs. Gallina is delighted that **Senior Choir** is well underway. Their performance is at the district choir concert at the **Alliance Church** on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 7:00 P.M.



FRESH BREAD & BAKED GOODS –

Buy your Christmas Baking here!

The deadline for orders will be Friday, December 6th before 3:00 PM and the orders will be delivered to the school December 17th.



St. Mary's PSG Poinsettia & Wreath Fundraiserthe winner of the draw was the Maryniak Family:



to Barbara Koch for organizing this fundraiser. It was a big success!



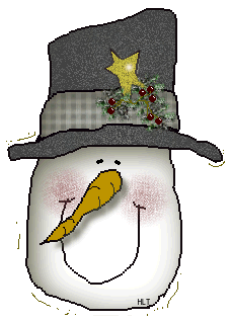
ESCAPE BOX RENTAL

Families wanting a challenge, have an opportunity to rent the ESCAPE BOX that was used to find "Mrs. MacNeil's watch." It is a fun activity for families. Please ask at the office to sign up.

St. Mary's School Staff would like to welcome:

Ms. Cara Carmelo in Kindergarten

Mrs. Roxanne McIntosh in Grade 2/3



Thank you to The Rotary Club of Cranbrook for providing dictionaries to the Grade 3 students.

FAMILY PIZZA & NIGHT



Thanks to all the families who attended this fun night!



L to R: Jerelynn MacNeil, Principal of St. Mary's School, Zack Gareau, Talon Johnson, Beckett Murtack, Shanna Pailande, Gerry Giles, Grand Knight, Richard Poelman (School Council Member)
Missing from photo: Jim Watson Campaign Chairman of Coats for Kids

This is the local Knights of Columbus (St. Eugene Council #1406) annual "Coats for Kids" campaign. St. Mary's School students pictured above are modelling some of the coats that will be given to those in need.



Purdy's Chocolates

Thank you to all families who sold Purdy's Chocolates....it was a huge success. We made a profit of \$3,001.16!

TOP SELLERS:

Primary: Zackary Watson (Kindergarten)

Intermediate: Emma Blackwell (Grade 4)

TOP FAMILIES:

Rhett & Ryder Magro

Gabby & Luca Fiorentino

Malia Lescanec

Hannah & William Gregory

Daniel Shope



PSG News for December 2019



We need your help!



We have a few events that we need help/donations. Kids Bake Sale - **Friday, December 6th**. We need items. Please leave your nut free items in the kitchen after school drop off in the morning. This is a huge event for the kids each and every year. Items are \$1 each and the kids have a blast! If we have items left they will be available for purchase to parents at the end of the school day by the front office! Also, volunteers need to help with set up.

December 13th - PSG Hot Lunch. We need parents to help out with handing out food and with prep. Anyone can help! Please arrive at the kitchen at 11:30ish to help, we are done serving by 12:15 P.M.

December 18th – Last day of school pancake breakfast. This is another big popular event. We need at least 8 volunteers to cook and serve to make this its regular success. We also need to borrow a few griddles and crockpots. Please contact a PSG member if you can help.

Do you know we have a PSG group on Facebook? Please join! It's a great resource!
St Mary's PSG Info Board

Our next PSG meeting is on Thursday, January 16th at 12:15 P.M. after hot lunch clean up. Everyone is welcome! We will be discussing the meat draw fundraiser and more!

Thank you to Barb Koch for organizing the Poinsettias & Holiday Wreath Fundraiser. We raised over **\$2,000.00!**



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!

~ PSG



Advent Fundraiser: St. Mary's School / CTS Outreach Program

Every year, St. Mary's School picks a worthy cause to help during the Advent Season. This year we have decided to partner with the Catholic Churches for their Christmas Outreach Program for the needy people of Cranbrook.

- Kindergarten, Grade 1/2, Grade 2/3, and Grade 4 will be colouring placemats
- Grade 5/6 will be laminating the placemats
- Computer Class will be making advertising posters for the school

Items for donation:



Ladies or Mens mittens, gloves or socks (no toques)
Rice, Canned Sardines, Smoked Oysters, Margarine
Dry soup mix (Knorr rice and noodle or vegetable are best)
Hot chocolate mix, Instant Coffee
Muffin mix in a bag....just add water type
Boxes of Crackers, Small Cheeses boxed or netted



We will have a collection box at the front of the school. Donations are due Friday, December 13th.
Thank you so much for your donations!



1st Term Report Card Honours Congratulations to the following students:

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

GRADE FOUR	GRADE SIX
Johnny Baci	Kaila Koch
Zoe Baci	Brooke Niedermayer
	Kayte Wik

HONOUR ROLL

GRADE FOUR	GRADE SIX
Brynn MacLeod	Brylie James
Daxton Pukas	

EXCELLENCE OF EFFORT

GRADE FOUR	GRADE SIX
Johnny Baci	Kaila Koch
Zoe Baci	Brooke Nledermayer
Evan Jerke	Kayte Wik
Sydney Koch	
Malia Lescanec	
Brynn MacLeod	
Kaleb Oberle	

THIS CHRISTMAS

Mend a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten friend.
Write a love letter.
Share some treasure.
Give a soft answer.
Encourage a young person.
Keep a promise.
Find the time.
Forgive an enemy.
Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong.



...Thoughts during Christmas:

What is that gift worth? The hardworking middle-class family had 6 amazing children. What they lacked in finances, they made up for in family life. Good parents and a loving home is what their children enjoyed. Ray was 11 and had recently found a new friend in classmate Billy. Billy was a boy from a broken home with lots of freedom.

Through this friendship Ray learned many things he otherwise would not have been exposed to. One morning in the kitchen, Ray found himself alone with his mother. "Oh no, here it comes", he thought. Ray braced himself for an inevitable lecture about Billy. "Your friend Billy doesn't have a lot does he Ray? Billy doesn't seem to have any rules. I think his parents may not be able to spend much time with him," pondered his mother. "That's true", said Ray. "Well," said Mom, "I want you to go and tell Billy that he is welcome in our house anytime. You see Ray, we have been blessed with a wonderful family and we have a responsibility to share this with others who, through no fault of their own, do not have the same".

This story is true. It happened in the late 1930's. It is a gift that lasted a lifetime...well beyond the life of Ray's mother... as it was keynote speaker, Father Ray Carey, who told the story to a group of educators at a recent meeting.

Will your gifts this Christmas create Shalom in the years ahead? Or will your gifts seek to instill entitlement and division between the have's and the have not's? Could one small, seemingly simple action or gesture bring Shalom to your descendants? The power of the spoken word is awesome.

"In a happy family you don't receive in proportion to your input. You receive in relation to your needs." – Desmond Tutu



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250.426.5900 (Fax)
Email: murray.cbf@shaw.ca



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1125 Industrial Road #3, Cranbrook BC
www.return-it.ca

**St. Mary's Catholic School
Family Christmas Concert Night**

Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 P.M.



This year's play is entitled: **"A Christmas Message"**
Inspired by the play A Christmas Special Deliver)
By Mrs. Veldman



Christmas Masses:

Tuesday, December 24th - 4:00 P.M. - Christ the Servant Church
8:00 P.M. - St. Mary's Church
10:00 P.M. - St. Eugene's Church

Wednesday, December 25th - 10:00 A.M. - St. Mary's Church

Wednesday, January 1st - 10:00 A.M. - St. Mary's Church

