



St. Mary's Catholic School November 2020 Newsletter



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Sunday, November 1 is known as **ALL SAINT'S DAY** in the Catholic Church. It is a day set aside to commemorate all the people who have been canonized by the church as saints who are recognized for the manner in which they lived their lives. For example, St. Anthony is the patron saint of Lost and Stolen things. If you lose something, ask him to help get it returned. If he does not respond right away it is because he is helping all the middle-aged folks find their car keys and glasses. St. Jude is another good one to know about. St. Jude is the patron saint of hopeless and desperate cases and lost causes. This is a reason many children hospitals are named St. Jude's. Pray to St. Jude when you have no where else to turn.

Monday, November 2 is the day known as **All Souls' Day**, also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead. On this day we remember our loved ones who have passed. It is a time to pray and remember the souls of those who have died which is observed by the Catholic Church and many other Christian faiths. Some families have traditions on this day such as having special meals or going to a place that was significant to a loved one, visiting a cemetery, doing an act of kindness for another, donating to a cause in memory of a loved one, or simply having a family discussion about the person in a way that children can come to know how important that person was to their family.

Our school creates a **Wall of Remembrance** each year. Each student may fill out a sheet honoring someone what has passed in their family. The activity is optional. We post all these sheets in the gym and leave it there for about a week. This ties into our Remembrance Day celebration as we honor our Service men and women who gave or risked their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

We encourage everyone to participate. You may fill out as many sheets as you wish. If pictures are included with the Memory sheet we will return them to you after the fact.

I play my bagpipes every year in the gym - when I am alone - with all the pictures of your loved ones. I play tunes in their memory. It matters not that I knew them. What matters is that they are remembered in good faith and that someone took the time to commemorate them with the sheet on the wall and for that moment in time they are honored and the people they left behind carry them in their hearts.

In faith,

Jerelynn MacNeil, Principal



Keeping the Peace at school and home...thoughts on Shalom environments

Shalom! Children are amazing psychologists. They instinctively know where to find peace: at home, in a classroom, at a neighbor's, or in a favorite sport or activity. They know when adults are too busy for them. They gravitate toward those who listen, those who make time, and those who are less judgemental. They are drawn to those who have time for them. As children get older, friends will fill the above job description if adults fail to nurture these precious relationships. Sometimes we do not let children have adequate independence, preferring instead to micromanage every detail of their day. As the blessing of raising a child is for a very short moment in time, the following may be helpful in deciding how to handle life's challenges:

*Discipline toward a child delivered **without** RESPECT = **Rebellion...no Shalom***

*Discipline toward a child delivered **with** RESPECT = **Relationship...Shalom***



Children will make mistakes and challenge authority. They will test the balance of powers in the home. Every family establishes its own discipline and Shalom in the home. What is paramount is that no matter what, strive to maintain a Shalom *Relationship* with your child...we love our children...sometimes we just do not agree with their actions. At the end of the day, everyone seeks to be loved...even when mistakes are made.

Research now shows that there is less bullying behaviors in a shalom environment.

Who was the Shalom throughout your life?

Purdy's Chocolates

It's the St. Mary's School

'PURDY'S CHOCOLATE CLASSROOM CHALLENGE'

This challenge ends November 12th! Orders will arrive before Christmas!

St. Mary's School is fundraising with Purdys Chocolatier, just in time for Christmas! If you'd like to support us through purchasing some very sweet Christmas gifts for friends, family and yourself, please click the link below:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1011942-78367>

After you've signed in you can buy our amazing chocolates or invite others to join and support our Fundraising Campaign.

Every class is challenged to have each family buy at least ONE box of Purdy's Chocolates to help support our school. This fundraiser helps us keep tuition affordable!

✚ There will also be prizes for the top 2 sellers for intermediate & primary grades!

Thank you so much!



St. Mary's PSG Update – November 2020



October was another great month at St. Mary's School! We ran the Poinsettia and Wreath fundraiser. Many thanks to Barb Koch who did an awesome job organizing it. We will post the total amount raised as well as the top selling classroom winners on the PSG Facebook page very soon.

PSG once again hosted our McCafe School Morning Coffee Time on October 8th. Thanks to all the parents who stopped by for a chit-chat and a cup of java! Please join us for the next one on **Friday, November 13th starting at 8:20am** (weather permitting). We love having the chance to connect with St. Mary's parents.

PSG will be sending home order forms for school apparel, including hoodies, sweatpants and toques. The items will be emblazoned with our school's name and logo. Like all of our fundraisers, this initiative is completely voluntary. However, these items would make awesome Christmas presents for St. Mary's students (and parents! And grandparents!!). **Order forms are due back to the school by Wednesday, November 4th.** Thank you to PSG Vice-Chair Ashley Roberts for organizing!

Speaking of fundraising, perhaps you wonder where all of our fundraising dollars go? PSG supports many school initiatives, including field trips to the Railway Museum and new computers for the computer lab. We recently provided the funds for the intermediate grades to have a Zoom workshop with former New York Times cartoonist Fred Curatolo. As well, Jess Dance is returning to St. Mary's School for a **dance workshop with all grades on November 26th and 27th.**

Coming up in November, PSG will be participating in the 5th Annual Christmas Village at the Cranbrook History Centre from Wednesday, November 25th until Saturday, November 28th. This magical event is popular within our community and raises money for participating elementary schools. Each St. Mary's class will be creating a gift basket to be auctioned off at the event. We will also be looking for volunteers representing St. Mary's School to help at the Village. More information to come on the PSG Facebook page.

Hot lunch has been going great. It was fun watching so many kids enjoy their Booster Juice smoothies at October's session! Our next hot lunch date is **Friday, November 27th with Taco Time and Domino's Pizza** as our vendors.

Our next PSG meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00pm at McDonald's Restaurant.** All parents are welcome and encouraged to come!

Courtney Magro
PSG Chair





Grade 5/6 worked with Dr. Robert Stauffer at Nasria Academy for Gifted Children in Las Vegas to calculate the circumference of the earth. We both measured the sun's shadow at the exact time and used the measurements to calculate. We were very accurate and calculated with only a 32 mile difference of earth's actual circumference!

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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!



Daycare are collecting clean
4 litre milk jugs. Please drop them
off at the office.
They are using these to
build an igloo!



*"Don't worry about anything;
Instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need,
And thank him for all he has done.*

*If you do this,
You will experience God's peace."*

-Philippians 4:6

A word on **fundraising**: Our school runs several fundraisers. The PSG do so in order to raise additional funds to enhance student activities that fall outside the school budget. School Council runs Purdy's and one other fundraiser in order to meet the school budget and to keep tuition affordable. If you participate in these fundraisers then we thank you kindly; however, if you simply cannot participate that is okay as well. We try to do fundraisers that align with what people may be buying anyway.