



St. Mary's Catholic School February 2023 Newsletter

stmary@shaw.ca / www.stmarysschool.ca

Learning about Lent

The word **Lent** comes from the Latin word *Quadragesima* which means fortieth. *The celebration of Lent* begins on February 22nd which is known as *Ash Wednesday* and ends 40 days later on Easter Sunday. During Lent, Catholics observe this time as one of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus through prayer, fasting, self-reflection, repentance, and almsgiving. Catholics purposefully 'give something up' during this time in recognition of the sacrifice that our savior made on the cross for us. Each person receives a blessing in the form of a cross on their forehead that serves as a reminder to turn away from sin. We encourage families to discuss Lent and together decide what to 'give up' or sacrifice during this time. Also, some families decide to include a good deed for another throughout this time. Either way, the value lies in thinking of others. Keep in mind that the best lessons are taught through actions not words.



On Ash Wednesday at 11:20 AM, in symbolism of the commencement of Lent, we will serve students a bread and water lunch in the classrooms. Each student will receive at least 2 pieces of bread (gluten free is available). We also initiate this activity with a prayer service lead by our students on the announcements. Students will get their regular snack at recess on this day. We ask all families to respectfully support this symbolic practice. Please be reassured that no one will starve on this day!

Blessings,

Jerelynn MacNeil,
Principal

St. Mary's School will celebrate the start of Lent with our school Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22nd at 11:20 AM. All present are blessed with ashes. The ashes are derived from the palms that are blessed on Palm Sunday. Then we will eat our bread and water lunch and go outside for playtime.

RE-REGISTRATION for 2023-2024:

Re-Registration forms will be sent home **and are due back Thursday, February 23rd.**

Please let the office know if you may not be attending our school next September 2023.

School Council, through the direction of CISND Board of Directors set tuition on January 25, 2023.

Thank you!

Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday,
February 22nd
at 11:20 AM**

Lent begins....

**'ASHES' prayer service
and Bread & H₂O Lunch
for all students!**



Why should my child participate in SPEECH ARTS?

The art of memorizing and public speaking with expression!



St. Mary's School has a strong tradition of supporting the Speech Arts discipline of the annual East Kootenay Performing Arts Festival (EKPAF). This is a unique and important exercise for students and the value in this activity should not be underestimated by parents. It fits in with the Language Arts BC curriculum for oral language learning outcomes.

As a staff, we view this activity as highly important to your child's education. This year, **St. Mary's School will do Speech Arts here at the school. Each class is going to do their own presentation and students are still welcome to also present their own poems either individually or in a small group. Mr. Cameron will adjudicate all participants and each performance will receive a written evaluation. There is no cost. Speech Arts performances will be in the first week of March.**

Students are also welcome to register for the EKPAF which takes place in the community in early April.

Tax receipting:

Because we are a registered charity, we are able to issue tax receipts for tuition and donations. Please pass this on to anyone who may want to enroll. Tax receipts for 2022 will be handed out as soon as we receive them from Kelowna, which should be very soon.

Happy Valentine's Day



February 14th



We need a lunchtime supervisor as soon as possible.

**To apply please email to Mrs. MacNeil,
Principal at: stmprincipal@shaw.ca**

Reminder

to Parents:

NO SCHOOL:

PRO-D Day

Friday, February 3rd

Non-Instructional Day:

Friday, February 17th

Family Day:

Monday, February 20th



EARLY DISMISSAL:

Friday, February 24th



St. Mary's PSG Update – February 2023



Wow! Somehow it's already February! As always, the school year is rushing by.

Hot Lunch for this month will be on **Friday, February 10th** and we will be serving **Taco Time** and **Domino's Pizza**. Don't forget to place your order before midnight on Tuesday, February 7th. Parents of Mrs. Gallina's Grade 5/6 students are asked to help volunteer to serve. Sign up is on the PSG Facebook page. Please arrive at the school kitchen at 12:10pm. We are usually done serving by 12:40pm.

On **January 15, 16, and 17th** St. Mary's PSG partnered with **Canadian 2 For 1 Pizza** for a great fundraiser where \$5 from every large pizza sold was donated back to our school. We managed to raise **\$350** from this delicious fundraiser! Way to go, St. Mary's!

On **Thursday, January 26th** St. Mary's PSG hosted a **movie and pizza night** in the gym and WOW! What a turnout! This was an amazing community event and was great fun for the kids. A big shout-out to **Kyla Cornish** for organizing this event, from setting up the movie to bagging the candy. It was much appreciated!

Great news – PSG's Burger & Bevvly Night is back and will take place on Monday, March 6th! More info to follow!

On **Thursday, March 16th** St. Mary's PSG will be handing out Rice Krispie treats to all students.

Similar to our **Christmas Wreath & Poinsettia** fundraiser, PSG will also be selling gorgeous spring flower baskets. Order information will be sent out shortly and delivery will be in mid-May. These make an awesome Mother's Day Gift so stay tuned! We will also be doing another **Purdy's Chocolates fundraiser** in conjunction with Easter – so make sure to buy your chocolate bunnies through St. Mary's! **It is the same code and website as the Purdys Christmas Fundraiser.**

Are you curious as to where all the money raised from PSG fundraisers goes? Over the last year and a half, PSG has purchased brand new computers for the school's Computer Lab at an approximate cost of \$15,000, new track & field pinnies for all intermediates, as well as provided the funds for our new playground shelter for Outdoor Ed and Daycare students.

We will be hosting another **Starbucks School Morning Coffee Time** on **Friday, February 24th**. Please come join us for some coffee and a sweet before you head out on your day! Our next **PSG meeting** will be on **Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30pm**. As always, we love to see both new and familiar faces.

Courtney Magro
PSG Chair



Purdys Chocolates



Deadline to order Tuesday, February 28th

Orders will arrive Wednesday, March 15th

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

fundraising.purdys.com –

click on **JOIN CAMPAIGN** – 46629 (Customer Number)

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

Thank you so much!

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!

**COME PLAY CANADA'S
NATIONAL
SUMMER
SPORT**



Lacrosse registration is now open!

Register online at cranbrooklacrosse.com
or facebook.com/cranbrookminorlacrosse

Register before February 28th for an early bird discount!



Join us on our St. Mary's School PSG Facebook page:

St Mary's PSG Info Board

Imminent school info and reminders are posted on this site first!



Cranbrook Canadian 2 for 1 Pizza and St. Mary's Catholic Independent School teamed up for a fantastic Family Pizza fundraiser last week. \$5 from every large pizza sold to supporters of St. Mary School was then donated back the school.

A total of 63 large pizzas were sold and the owners topped up the donation to \$350!

Funds will be used to help with outdoor education and artists in schools for St. Mary's. Huge thank you to Canadian 2 for 1 Pizza!



Thank you PSG for the great family movie night!
Well done!



What does handwriting have to do with learning? ~ Source: "The Brain that Changes Itself"
(Norman Doidge)

In the age of technology it seems like everyone has an opinion on handwriting. So where do you stand in the current educational debate of the relevance, or lack thereof, for children learning to handwrite? Should we be teaching handwriting? Should everyone learn to handwrite or are there exceptions? Is an adult who cannot read handwriting literate or illiterate? If you cannot sign your name are you truly literate? There's more to it than meets the eye. Here is a bit of the history:

For hundreds of years educators recognized that children's brains had to be built up through exercises of increasing difficulty that strengthened brain functions. Up through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries a classical education often included rote memorization of long poems in foreign languages, which strengthened the auditory memory (hence thinking in language) and an almost fanatical attention to handwriting, which probably helped strengthen motor capacities and thus not only helped handwriting but added speed and fluency to reading and speaking.

Then in the 1960s educators dropped such traditional exercises from the curriculum, because they were too rigid, boring, and "not relevant." But the loss of these drills has been costly; they may have been the only opportunity that many students had to systematically exercise the brain function that gives us fluency and grace with symbols.

In the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 the debaters would comfortably speak for an hour or more without notes, in extended memorized paragraphs; today many of the most learned among us, raised in our most elite schools since the 1960s, prefer the omnipresent PowerPoint presentation – the ultimate compensation for a weak premotor cortex.

So why does your child learn and apply handwriting in grades 3 - 6? We teach handwriting at St. Mary's for the reasons above, and also because the skill of reading handwriting is a component of being a literate person in today's society. Also, this may be the only time your child will learn handwriting in school. However, for some students, it is not appropriate to learn such a skill. Sometimes dysgraphia (extreme difficulty with handwriting) or particular learning disabilities will dictate that learning to handwrite is an exercise in frustration whereby the benefits are outweighed by the challenges. In these situations, we do not insist on a student learning to handwrite.



January 2023

Field trip Requirements for Driver's of St. Mary's Catholic School
Reference CISND POLICY#5200

When volunteer drivers are driving for school field trips, the following documentation must be on file in the school office 2 days before the trip. Kindly scan and send proof of the following to stmary@shaw.ca or the secretary will copy it at the school office for you. Your information will be confidentially retained until the end of the school year when it will then be shredded.

Required proof of the following include:

1. Drivers \$3,000,000 Insurance Liability:
2. Valid Driver's License Driver Abstract: See below
3. Valid Drivers's License: Copy on file at the school
4. Valid Criminal Record Check – CRC's are processed free of charge when completed online.
To complete this process, insert the following link in your browser and follow the directions. <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/> ACCESS CODE: 8RJ8BJCMYC
(Only CRC's processed directly through our school are valid for school purposes).
5. Safe Environment Training – Sign up at the office if you have not completed this training.
The principal usually does SEP training at 8AM. (If you have completed #4 and #5 the school has it on file).

***Request a Driver's License abstract as follows:**

<https://onlinebusiness.icbc.com/cli/> Copy and paste this into your web browser

- >Enter your information
- >Click "*Personal Driving Record*" on the options page
- >Enter your personal email
- >Submit

You must forward a copy to the school office or bring it in and we will copy it and retain it on file.

Final Steps:

- Forward email results to stmary@shaw.ca, OR
- Print and provide a copy to the school office, OR
- Screen Shot and email to stmary@shaw.ca

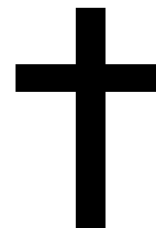
**Driver's Abstract's are usually returned to your email within a few hours and are very fast to complete online*

Thank you for your due diligence. It is appreciated.



St. Mary's Catholic Independent School

2022-2023 Annual School Calendar



July 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



NI Day (School not in session) (time in lieu)



Noon Dismissal - Staff Meetings (School closed at 12 noon)



Spring, Christmas Break & Easter Monday



PRO-D Days (School closed all day)



Stat Holidays



Report Cards / Last Day of School (First Report Card Friday, November 25, 2022)



Administrative Days

St. Mary's Catholic Independent School
2022 – 2023 Annual School Calendar

Start 8:40 AM
Recess 10:30 – 10:45 AM
Lunch 11:52 AM – 12:40 PM
DPA Walking Recess 2:00 – 2:10 PM
School Ends 3:00 PM

Days in Session 170.6
Hours of Instruction per Year 901
Minutes of Instruction per Day 317
Professional Development Days 6
Spiritual Staff Development Day 2
Non-Instructional Day 2

School Open

Truth & Reconciliation Day (school closed)
Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
Remembrance Day (school closed)
Advent begins
Christmas Vacation Period (school closed)
School re-opens after Christmas vacation
Family Day (school closed)
Ash Wednesday (school in session)
Spring Vacation Period (school closed)
Good Friday (school closed)
Easter Monday (school closed)
Victoria Day (school closed)

Last day of school for students

Administrative Day for Staff only

Parent, Teacher, Student Interviews

Early Dismissal Days at 11:50 AM



Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Friday, September 30, 2022
Monday, October 10, 2022
Friday, November 11, 2022
Sunday, November 27, 2022
Monday, December 19, 2022 – Monday, January 2, 2023
Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Monday, February 20, 2023
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Monday, March 20 – 31, 2023
Friday, April 7, 2023
Monday, April 10, 2023
Monday, May 22, 2023

Friday, June 23, 2023

Monday, June 26, 2023

Monday, October 17 – Friday, October 21, 2022
Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17, 2023
Friday, November 25, 2022
Friday, January 27, 2023
Friday, February 24, 2023
Friday, April 28, 2023
Friday, May 12, 2023
Friday, June 16, 2023

School Not in Session Days (NI) OR (time in lieu)	Administration Days (Staff Only)	Staff Meetings / (Early Dismissal)	PRO-D Days	Report Cards
	August 30 & 31		September 29	
October 7 (in lieu)				
		November 25	November 10 & 18	November 25
		January 27		
February 17		February 24	February 3	
March 17 (in lieu)			March 3	March 10
		April 28		
May 19		May 12		
	June 26	June 16	June 2	June 23



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www.return-it.ca




FEBRUARY



Kindergarten

registration for **September 2023**
is now open! Please call or email the school office to
put your name on our list.

