



# St. Mary's Catholic School February 2024 Newsletter

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## *Principals Message:*

February is a very busy month at St Mary's school! We kick off the month with a PSG movie night, followed by Catholic Schools Week and then Lent begins on February 14th. This first day of Lent is known as Ash Wednesday. This year Valentine's Day has landed on the same day and because of this we will be celebrating things a bit differently that week. Check out our February calendar!

### What is Lent?

Lent is 40 days before 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 12 NOON, 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 Fr. Rex visiting our school to mark our foreheads with ASH. The ashes are derived from the palms that are blessed on Palm Sunday. 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,

Vanessa Fer,  
Principal

### **RE-REGISTRATION for 2024-2025:**

Re-Registration forms will be sent home **in February.**

**Please let the office know if you may not be attending our school next September 2024.**

Thank you!

### **Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday,  
February 14th  
at 11:30 AM**

Lent begins....

'ASHES' prayer service  
and Bread & H<sub>2</sub>O Lunch  
for all students!





## 1st Term Report Card Honours - correction

**Congratulations to the following students:**

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

GRADE FOUR	GRADE FIVE	GRADE SIX
	Somto Akabogu	Aiden DaSilva
	Amelia Mondin	
	Lily Tait	

### HONOUR ROLL

GRADE FOUR	GRADE FIVE	GRADE SIX
Callie Baldwin	Hannah Gregory	Morgan Burke
	Daniel Shope	Kace Oberle

### EXCELLENCE OF EFFORT

GRADE FOUR	GRADE FIVE	GRADE SIX
Levi Akaeze		Morgan Burke
Declan DaSilva		Aiden DaSilva
Cameron Stanley		Rhett Magro
		Katia Maryniak

## Let's PINK THE RINK !

*St Mary's School families are encouraged to wear pink and represent our school at The Cranbrook Bucks hockey game on February 23rd.*

*This is the day our school will wear pink in support of PINK SHIRT DAY. Then we can all meet at the 7 PM Hockey game that night!*

*Tickets are purchased through the school:*

*Adult \$16*

*Student \$9 (13+)*

*Kids \$1*

*Under 5 FREE*

*Senior \$14*



*Order and pay for your tickets through our school office by February 21st.*

*Our seats will be reserved so we can sit together.*

*If your family holds season tickets, let us know the number of seats so we can add that to our total!*











St Mary's CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

## **"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"**

February 3rd to 9th, 2024

**Saturday 3rd:** Mass @ CTS Parish 5 PM


**Sunday 4th:** Mass @ STM Church 8 AM, Mass @ CTS 9:30 AM and Mass @ STM 11 AM

Come join us for Mass!

School staff and families are encouraged to attend and share why they love St .Mary's School.



### **Monday 5th:**

- ❖ 9:00 AM Opening prayer service for Catholic Schools Week (Hosted by Grade 2/3)
- ❖ After the prayer service we will unveil a special donation to our school chapel. It is a Painted glass mosaic of 
- ❖ Service Project begins for Outreach Program in Cranbrook! (Classrooms to collect items)



### **Tuesday, February 6th:**

- ❖ Buddy BINGO #1 : Gr 1 and 3/4 from 12:45 - 1:15 PM
- ❖ Buddy BINGO #2 : K and Gr 6 from 1:15 – 1:45 PM
- ❖ Buddy BINGO #2 : Gr 2/3 and 4/5 from 1:45 – 2:15 PM
- ❖ Love Project: Grade 3/4 Makes Salt-dough hearts & K will paint them (add string)



### **Wednesday, February 7th:**

- ❖ Grade 6 Used Craft/Toy/Book sale (Send some loonies and toonies to school to support the Gr 6 students who are fundraising for CAMP)



### **Thursday, February 8th:**

- ❖ Mass at 9:00 AM Hosted by the STAFF (Wear St. Mary's t-shirts)
- ❖ WINTER FUN DAY! (1:30 PM-2:50 PM)



### **Friday, February 9th:**

- ❖ 9:00 AM Closing prayer service for Catholic Schools Week (Hosted by Grade 2/3)
- ❖ School wide prayer tree

Afternoon Dance with a Dairy Queen ending!



# St. Mary's Catholic Independent School

## 2023-2024 Annual School Calendar

July 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					

August 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		

September 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

October 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				

November 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		

December 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						

January 2024						
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 2024						
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		

March 2024						
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 2024						
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 2024						
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 2024						
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)



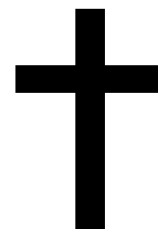
Stat Holidays



Report Cards / Last Day of School



Administrative Days



St. Mary's Catholic Independent School  
2023 – 2024 Annual School Calendar

Start 8:40 AM  
Recess 10:30 – 10:45 AM  
Lunch 11:50 AM – 12:40 PM  
DPA Walking Recess 2:00 – 2:10 PM  
School Ends 3:00 PM

Days in Session 171.6  
Hours of Instruction per Year 901  
Minutes of Instruction per Day 315  
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 5, 2023 9:00 – 11:00 AM**

Friday, September 29, 2023  
Monday, October 9, 2023  
Friday, November 10, 2023  
Sunday, December 3, 2023  
Monday, December 25, 2023 – Friday, January 5, 2024  
Monday, January 8, 2024  
Monday, February 19, 2024  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
Monday, March 18 – 28, 2024  
Friday, March 29, 2024  
Monday, April 1, 2024  
Monday, May 20, 2024

**Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**

Monday, October 16 – 26, 2023  
Monday, March 11 – 14, 2024  
Friday, December 8, 2023  
Friday, January 26, 2024  
Friday, May 10, 2024  
Friday, June 14, 2024

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			
October 27 (in lieu)			October 20	
			November 24	
		December 8		December 1
		January 26		
			February 2	
March 17 (in lieu)			March 1	March 8
			April 19	
May 17		May 10		
	June 20	June 14	June 7	June 19

### Save-On Foods

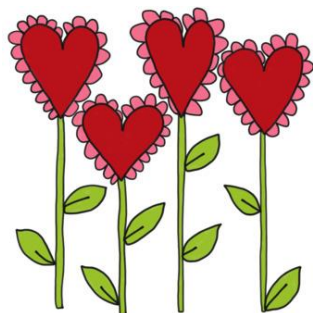
If you buy your groceries at Save-On Foods, please tell the cashier that you are from St. Mary's School and they will record your total sales in a binder. The school receives a percentage of all sales quarterly!

Thanks for supporting our school!



### 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 2023 will be handed out as soon as we receive them from Kelowna, which should be very soon.



## Reminder

to Parents:

**NO SCHOOL:**

**PRO-D Day**

Friday, February 2nd

**Non-Instructional Day:**

Friday, February 16th

**Family Day:**

Monday, February 19th



**Happy Valentine's Day!  
WEAR PINK & RED on  
Tuesday, February 13th**

**PSG will serve Valentine Pancakes  
on this day because it is also  
"SHROVE Tuesday"**

## Kindergarten

registration for **September 2024** is now open!

Please call or email the school office to put your name on our list.



## **St. Mary's PSG Update – February 2024**



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

**Hot Lunch** for this month will be on **Thursday, February 15th** and we will be serving **Taco Time** and **Domino's Pizza**. Don't forget to place your order before midnight on Monday, February 12th. Kindergarten parents 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 **Thursday, February 1st** St. Mary's PSG will host a **movie and pizza night** in the school gym. This is an amazing community get-together and is great fun for the kids. A big shout-out to **Ashley Roberts** for getting all the treats for the special event. It is much appreciated!

On **Tuesday, February 13th** St. Mary's School will be celebrating **Shrove Tuesday**, (also referred to as Pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday). This is a traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. To mark the occasion, PSG will be hosting a **Pancake Lunch** in the school gym during the noon hour. This is not actually breakfast – please feed your kids before school and pack them a substantial snack for them to have along with the pancakes.

Are you curious as to where all the money raised from PSG fundraisers goes? Over the last two years, PSG has purchased brand new computers for the school's Computer Lab at an approximate cost of \$17,000, as well as provided the funds for various field trips and Outdoor Ed equipment.

We will be hosting another **Starbucks School Morning Coffee Time on Friday, February 23rd**. 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 20th at 6:30pm**. As always, we love to see both new and familiar faces.

**Courtney Magro**  
**PSG Chair**



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!





## **Did you know that our school library has a wish list?**

Mrs. Quinn started the year very busy weeding out damaged and very old books. The school then bought many new books that are now in circulation.

There are still more on the student wish list. 🍌

If you would like to donate, we accept gift cards to Huckleberry, Indigo or Amazon for Mrs. Quinn to purchase Wishlist books. We also accept new copies and like-new copies of any Wishlist book that you may have at home. Each book donated or purchased will have a little donation sticker with your family's name inside.

## **Here are some series and titles from Student Library Wishlist:**

- **Dogman series**
- **Fly Guy series**
- **The Bad Guys series**
- **Narwhal and Jelly books**
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid #10-18**
- **New Baby-sitters Club #7+**
- **More Big Nate Books**
- **Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Series**
- **How to Train Your Dragon Series**
- **Mercy Watson's Something Wonky This Way Comes**
- **Tales from Deckawoo Drive (#3-6)**
- **Hockey Super Stars 2023/2024**
- **Soccer World Records 2023/2024**
- **Guinness Book of World Records**

## St Mary's School Catholic Schools Week Service Project 2024

In the spirit of Catholic Schools Week, we are asking our St Mary's School families to donate the following items (see below). These items will be given to the local Outreach Program to distribute to those who need them most.

If you would prefer to make a cash donation, St Mary's will purchase these items and add them to our collection. Please hand the money to your child's classroom teacher or straight to the office by Feb 9th.

Small Kleenex packs  
Small hand wipe packs  
Can openers (handheld ones)  
Small flashlights, with some batteries  
Small boxes of cereal (camp style)  
Canned soup  
Coffee grinds (small packs)  
Instant coffee packs

Thank you!  
St Mary's School Staff

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250.426.7999 (Beachcomber Hot Tubs)  
250.426.7912 (Flaman Fitness)  
250.426.5900 (Fax)

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