



February 2024 Newsletter



Principal: Karen Wilkinson
Secretary: Kristal Beauvais

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

This week your children will receive their reports for Term 1. What an excellent time to sit down and have a conversation with your child. Ask them what they like about school, what they find challenging and where they think they might be able to improve or work harder? What are they proud of? What would they like to see change?

It is also a wonderful time to set goals with your children. Review your expectations for them. Have them tell you what they like to work on and what they might need your help with. Some helpful tips include: setting a regular routine for homework and keeping to a regular bedtime routine. Sleep and nutrition are direct influences on a child's ability to learn. This might also mean the family sits together at the kitchen table while everyone works on something, and the TV and video games are off. The latest research shows how detrimental too much screen time is for all of us but especially harmful to children and their developing brains as well as being distracting to us as parents. Consider a time where everyone puts down their phones, devices or other technology.

Regular attendance at school is very important - a student's overall growth increases significantly over time when they attend regularly/on time and have strong connections to all aspects of classroom and school learning. Research demonstrates there is a powerful link between successful learning and regular school attendance.

Thank you for your continued support. It is in working together that we all truly are successful. Thank you for choosing Catholic education.

Karen Wilkinson

Principal

St. Mary's Catholic School

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WORKING TOGETHER IN THE PARKING LOT

Student safety is a priority for all of us at St. Mary's School. Our school buses bring over 85% of our students to school. They drop students off from 8:35-8:50 as well as come to pick them up at the end of the day. We all have to work together to ensure the safety of students walking in the parking lot onto the school yard or as they board/offload from their bus.

Parents **MUST NOT** park and exit their vehicle in our student drop off/pick up area. There is **no parking in the respective traffic/bus lanes**. If you wish to walk your child onto our school yard, you must park your car in the designated parking area. Please wait for buses to load/unload and leave prior to moving your vehicle.

Please extend co-operation and courtesy when you need to use the parking lot. As our parking lot is used by our school buses, parents and church goers, please note that it is also vitally important that speed limits are maintained for safety in the parking lot.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

What does this mean for families when there is inclement weather.

- when transportation is cancelled in **ZONE 2** due to inclement weather and road conditions, schools and school facilities are closed to students and staff. Asynchronous learning activities will be provided via Brightspace
- when transportation is cancelled due to extreme cold weather which makes the operation of busses difficult and the wait times for students for the bus problematic. In this situation, schools and school facilities would remain open to staff and students.

Information regarding school closures will be communicated via twitter, website, school messenger call/email as well as through community media partners.

MORNING SUPERVISION

Just a reminder that there is only supervision at St. Mary's School from 8:35-8:50. Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:35 as there is no supervision provided prior to that time.

LATE TO SCHOOL?

School begins at 8:50 am. Since returning from Christmas Break, we have been experiencing a high number of students who are late for school and are asking for parents/guardians to ensure that students are in the classroom and ready for the day at 8:50 am. When students arrive late to school they are missing important curriculum areas and concepts. Please call the school to let us know if your child will be late or absent. Thanks for your cooperation

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register for Kindergarten next year! Students who will turn 4 years of age by Dec. 31, 2024 are eligible for JK, while students who will turn 5 are eligible for SK.

If you know of families in our area who have children of this age, please pass this information along to them. Registration is completed online. If assistance is required, contact the school at 905 768 5151.

ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS INFORMATION

Please be aware that we have students who are allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, pistachios, sesame seeds. It is requested that parents of all students do not pack any foods or send food items containing any of these. .

If your child has anaphylaxis and you have not yet made us aware of this, please contact us immediately. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

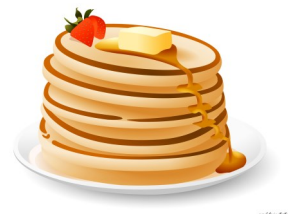
VALENTINES DAY AT ST. MARY'S!

We will be celebrating this special day on February 13th wear Valentine's colours (red/pink/white)! More information will be coming about this event from our Spirit Squad!



Shrove Tuesday

On Feb.13th we are having a Pancake Lunch. It will be pancakes, sausage and fruit from Personalized Catering. Please check on School Cash Online for Payment.



Pizza and Milk

New pizza orders are due by Feb. 15th on School Cash Online.

New milk orders are due by Feb 14th on School Cash Online.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 5: Reports Home- Digitally
- Feb 13: Pancake Lunch- Valentines Day
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday -School Mass 9:15
- Feb 19: Family Day (No School)
- Feb. 29: It is a leap year.

LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENTS?

A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must come to the office to sign the student out. All students must be picked up at the office. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all of our students. If a student returns from an appt, they must come to the office and sign in.

PARENTS/VISITORS MUST REPORT TO OFFICE

We encourage and welcome visits from parents. Please be sure to report to the office so we can welcome you. All visitors must sign in and wear appropriate identification. . All visitors must come to the office and enter the building through the front door. No entry is permitted through the kindergarten doors.

ALL
VISITORS
MUST
SIGN IN
AT OFFICE

All through February we will be acknowledging Black History Month! Ask your Knight about what they are learning about the incredible lives and contributions of Black Canadians!

