

St. Patrick's Elementary School

October 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

"Thanks be to God!" I wonder how often we've heard these words, and in fact spoken them...but have we ever truly lived them? Thanksgiving is coming. For what and to whom are we giving thanks this year?

Christ's invitation to God's children to follow Him, pray with Him and encounter Him in the Sacraments; especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, is a way for us to live in Him and to be with God.

Pope Benedict told us that; "Each celebration of the Eucharist makes sacramentally present the gift that the crucified Lord made of his life, for us and for the whole world. *"On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread and gave his father thanks and praise."*

How much more thankful should we be for His gift of eternal salvation? Holy Mass is our celebration of praise and thanksgiving to God, our Father; through Jesus Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit. It is good for us to be able to celebrate mass and to receive the sacraments as often as possible.

The Gospel invites all God's faithful into a most intimate relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... Hopefully the mass opens our hearts, minds, bodies and souls to God's love in ways that encourage, inspire, and animate each of us to love others as He loves us. Our response to the final blessing at the end of mass is *Thanks be to God!*

May this Thanksgiving be a special time of blessing for all of our families; and may we always give thanks for the awesome gift of Creation through our prayers and care for everyone in our common home.



Monday, October 1, 2018 - Individual Picture Day!

Our school photographer will be here to take individual student portrait pictures. Please be sure that your children are in their full school uniforms and that they are neatly groomed. If they need haircuts, this weekend would be your best opportunity before picture day.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 – School Mass at 9:15am. Parents are most welcome to join us.

Friday, October 5, 2018 – School Walkathon! (First Friday)

We will celebrate Mass at 8:15am in the Church and then begin our annual school walkathon. Hopefully many of our parents will join us for Mass and then stay to help with walkathon. **The kids will be dismissed at 1pm.**

Students will walk from the school to Queen Elizabeth Park. As part of your commitment to fundraising, we are asking that all students collect at least \$100.00 in pledges. Thank you in advance for your outstanding community spirit!

Parents are reminded that students who earn enough in pledges (\$100.00) to receive a 2018 walkathon t-shirt may wear it as part of their PE uniform for the remainder of the school year. T-shirt's will not be handed out on Walkathon Day.

Monday, October 8, 2018 – Thanksgiving Holiday!

There are no classes scheduled and the school will be closed.

Wednesday, October 18, 2018 @ 10:18 – ‘Shake Out BC’ Provincial Earthquake Preparedness Drill

Last year hundreds of thousands of people in BC took part in this province-wide ‘**Shake-Out**’...This year organizers are anticipating even more participation. Parents are encouraged to check out the website at shakeoutbc.ca; and plan your own safety drill at home on this day.

Book Fair October 22 – 26, 2018; 8:15 am – 3:30 pm

On Tuesday, October 23rd the book fair will also be open from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.



Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – Open House! 3:00 – 5:00pm & 6:00 – 8:00pm

Open House is a chance for parents to visit their child's classroom and to see how the beginning of the year has gone. Hopefully, everyone is settled into their studies and parents are able to see some of the good work their children have been producing to date.

Wednesday, October 31, 2018 – Halloween

We will celebrate Halloween with our annual Carnival. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Holy Childhood Association on behalf of our students. Children may wear their costumes to school this year; but please do not send your child to school with any accessories (props) resembling weapons (real or imaginary); and please limit the amount of make-up you use. It may be harmful to children's skin if it's on too long. Parents are most welcome to bring their younger children to school for the carnival. **Students will be dismissed at 1pm.**

Friday Morning Masses

We celebrate Holy Mass every Friday at 8:15am and remind parents that you are always welcome to join us if your schedule permits. **Please remember** that your child is

required to attend 8:15 am mass on Fridays. We claim the time component from these masses as part of your tuition tax receipts. We are morally and legally bound to have the children present. School begins on Fridays at 8:15 am. **Please don't be late!**

Birthday Parties

In our efforts to ensure more nutritional diets and lunches, we no longer allow elaborate birthday celebrations in the classrooms. If you like, you may drop off cupcakes or cookies (no cakes or other food such as pizza). The teachers will give them out during lunch or after school. Keep in mind that a number of our students have *nut allergies* so please ensure that **all cupcakes or cookies are nut free**. Also, please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.

Food Allergies

Recent staff training in responding to the needs of children who have serious food allergies advises that one of the best practices for schools in preventing serious allergic reactions is establishing a practice of '*no sharing*' of food and snacks at recess, lunch and after school. This is particularly important for younger students; as older students with food allergies are more able to self-monitor and avoid exposure to foods that they may be allergic to.

Personal Water Bottles

With cold & flu season coming and going all year long, we do not encourage children sharing each other's water bottles. **Students are most welcome to have their own water bottles.** Water is the healthiest drink for all of us; and our water here in the Lower Mainland is the best in the world. There is no reason for us to be buying retail water from Costco or Walmart; or other retail outlets. If we use our own water bottles, there is no need to worry about recycling the plastic ones. It just makes more sense! We had all our water outlets tested last year and the results were excellent.

REMINDER: All parents and visitors must enter through the front door at all times of the day. Parents are not to go to the classrooms at any time without first reporting to the office.