



St. Patrick's Elementary School

*December 2018
Newsletter*

Advent

Dear Parents,

The First Sunday in Advent, (December 2) marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. The Feast of Christ the King is the last feast that we celebrate in the liturgical year. In a sense, we are at the alpha and the omega of our liturgical calendar. If we do not understand the celebration of Christ the King, we may never really understand the true story of Christmas.

Advent's purpose is actually two-fold: a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming (the alpha) is remembered; and also a season when that same remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming (the omega) at the end of time.

The season of Advent was first celebrated near the end of the fifth century. By that time the season of Lent was well established. It is important to know that each had, and continues to have, its own grace-filled orientation. The celebration of Advent was never intended to be the same as Lent.

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for, by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His Second Coming"(CCC #524).

Just as we look forward to Christmas with great anticipation, we long for; and await Christ at the end of time. This really is the meaning of Advent!

May God bless you and your family throughout Advent, and the coming Christmas season; and may the wondrous joy of the Incarnation be made fully visible in our lives.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation/Penitential Services will be scheduled before Christmas holidays for our Grades 3 through 7 students. Parents should check the parish bulletin for scheduled evening services as well as other parish Christmas celebrations that are scheduled. This is a very special time of year to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation and prepare ourselves for Christmas!

Students with Anaphylaxis

We would like to remind everyone that St. Pat's is (to the best of our ability) a "peanut-free" school. Please do not send any food to school that contains nuts. **Parents please keep the school informed of any medical conditions that your child may have.** Parents of students who require an Epi-pen are to provide the school office with one immediately if you have not already done so; and to insure that it is replaced before the expiry date.

Notes are necessary

 when students are absent for any reason

We certainly appreciate parents calling or using the Remind app when your child is away, but we also need a written note for each time a child is away or needs to leave early. Our accountants audit these notes when they calculate the attendance as part of our government grant application. If you have not sent notes up to this time, please do your best to follow-up with notes when you read this. Thank You!

Winter Weather Conditions

Students are asked to come to school dressed appropriately for winter weather (coat/jacket, a toque or hat, gloves or mittens; and boots) as they will be expected to go outside when it is not raining. Outside play time assists us in meeting the requirements of *Daily Physical Activity*.

In case of severe winter weather, please listen to **CKNW 980 AM**. If school closure is anticipated we will advise the radio station prior to 6:30 am. You can also check the school website @ **www.spev.ca**. If by 7:30 am you have not heard **St. Patrick's Elementary School Vancouver** is closed, you can be reasonably certain that school is open.

Notifications will also be on the school Remind101. Please make sure you are signed up.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Volleyball teams. Juvenile Girls won silver & Senior Boys won gold medals at the CISVA Volleyball Championships. Congratulations to all of our teams; and thank you to our coaches for their commitment throughout the season.

A very special thank you to our parents for your enthusiastic support!

Important Dates:

Advent Assemblies are scheduled for December 3, 10, 17 & 21.

Parents are most welcome to attend any of our special assemblies throughout the school year.

Poinsettia Sale – A reminder that orders are due in the office by December 3rd and plants must be picked-up on December 14th. Please be sure to arrange your day so that you can take them home on Friday the 14th.

Thursday, December 13, 2018: Christmas Concert @ 7pm. Children to arrive at 6:30pm

A reminder that all donations are given to Children's Hospital as a gift from our kids. Please be generous in your support!

Friday, December 14, 2018:

Late Start – 10:30 am

Friday, December 21, 2018: Dismissal for Christmas Holidays - 1:00 pm

Monday, January 7, 2019: School re-opens at 8:45 am.

Wednesday, January 9, 2019:

I'm a Gift from God Meeting for all Primary Parents @ 2:30pm. This is an important meeting for all parents. We ask that at least one parent from each family be in attendance. Thank you

Christmas Concert: In a Galilee Far, Far Away

Thursday, December 13, 2018 - Christmas Concert! Please mark your calendars today!

Our final dress rehearsal is scheduled for 1pm. This will be the only time where video cameras and still photography (without flash) are permitted! Parents are most welcome to bring grand-parents and younger children to this performance.

The evening performance begins at 7 p.m. Students will be expected in their classrooms no later than 6:30pm. *In a Galilee Far, Far Away* is a copy written theatrical property. Our performance license is limited and does not permit us to record the entire performance. We trust that parents can understand that the same rules apply to our Christmas Concert as a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. At the conclusion of the evening performance, we will provide an opportunity for parents to take pictures of the cast members and class choirs while they are still in costume. We trust that every family will be respectful of this request.

General seating begins at 6:15pm when parents and family arrives. We must discourage the practice of saving seats for latecomers.

Admission will be by 'free-will offering' (Suggested donation: Adults \$5, Siblings \$2) with all proceeds going to Children's Hospital as a gift from the students of St. Patrick's School.

There will also be a Christmas Raffle at the Concert with proceeds going to our Chalice Mission Fund to help adopt two young students for the year. Raffle tickets for this draw can also be purchased in the school office during the week of December 10th.

Reminder:

Due to the late performance, school will not begin until 10:30 am on Fri., Dec. 14th.