

St. Patrick's Elementary

Newsletter

JANUARY 2019

Dear Parents...

On behalf of our entire staff, I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Thank you for the many kindnesses that you have extended to us over the past year. We sincerely appreciate your caring concern for the school and parish community. We hope that Christmas will be a special time of blessing for each of you, and that God's grace will fill your homes with the Peace and Joy that are only possible through Him and in Him.

You will recall the story of the *Three Kings*; the Wise Men who traveled from distant places; following a star that eventually led them to a new born king. It has been told and re-told in Christian churches and even movie theatres since before we can remember.

At the beginning of January, we celebrate the Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God and then the feast of the Epiphany; the arrival of the Three Kings in Bethlehem with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Literally translated, the word epiphany means *God revealed*. God chose to reveal himself to the shepherds and wise men in the second person of the Holy Trinity; Our Lord, and Saviour, the Incarnate Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. But the story does not end in Bethlehem.

God chooses to reveal himself to each and every one of His children. Day by day, when we choose to follow Christ, he guides us home to the Father. Our Christmas concert...*In a Galilee Far, Far Away* was a wonderful reminder of the Christmas story.

2019 – 2020 Registration...

We will begin accepting applications for our 2019 - 2020 Kindergarten class and Preschool program in January. If you have family or friends hoping to enroll their children in St. Patrick's School for the coming school year, please encourage them to call the office as early as January 7, 2019 so that they can make arrangements to pick up the application package. We want to remind everyone that registered parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish receive admission priority over applications from Catholic families attending other parishes; and that families with children presently enrolled in St. Patrick's School receive first priority provided they are practicing Catholics registered in St. Patrick's Parish and that their accounts with the school are up to date. Based on our established admission policies, applications will be processed on a first come basis. Please register early!

Parent Participation for 2019-2020

Please note that we will be changing the way we sign up and track hours for the coming school year. Therefore, you will not find a Parent Participation form in your Re-Registration Package in January. More information will be sent out in the new year.

After School Care Program

We anticipate the opening of our after school care program early in the New Year. Space will be limited; so please register soon. Priority will be given to families who need After School Care every day. Drop-in care may be possible on a day-to-day basis if space permits.



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I'm a Gift from God Program...

Parent Meeting, Wednesday, January 9 at 2:30 Pm.

We will begin the *I'm a Gift from God* program with all of our primary families (K – 3) when we return from Christmas holidays. While the primary focus of this program is *child sexual abuse prevention*, it is also an opportunity for teachers to work together with parents as partners. The program provides opportunities for parents and children to talk about some very important topics. As children of God, we are gift and gifted. In our relationship with God through Baptism, we are also related to all of His family; and in communion with the saints we are truly blessed.

As parents we have a covenant with God to care for our children (they are His children too!); day-by-day in our words and actions we teach them to be respectful of themselves and others. It is our hope that *I'm a Gift from God* is only the beginning of a dialogue between parents and children that will endure for a lifetime. The program will begin with a parent/teacher afternoon and proceed through six weeks of home/school instruction. **It is important that at least one parent be in attendance;** both would be preferable if possible.

Christmas Concert

On December 13th our students presented a wonderful Christmas musical...*In a Galilee Far, Far Away*. I'm sure you agree that it was an excellent performance and a wonderful celebration in anticipation of Christmas!

We would like to thank Mrs. Prescilla and the staff for all of their hard work. Special thanks to the parents who helped with props, costumes, decorations, music & backdrop curtains. Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors who donated raffle prizes.

We raised almost \$2,500 for the Chalice Fund & Children's Hospital. Thank you for your generosity.

Weather Alert!



The weather outside could definitely become *frightful* this winter! Regardless, we will do the best we can to keep the school open. Should it become impossible, we will post school closures on our **website; www.spev.ca** and notify **CKNW 980**, and **Global TV** by **7:00 am** at the latest. If you have registered with **Remind**, you will also receive a text reminder directly to your phone. If you hear other schools are closed, but do not hear *St. Patrick's Elementary School in Vancouver* mentioned, please assume that we are open. You may hear St. Patrick's High School or even St. Patrick's in Maple Ridge...please remember that we are not the high school and that we are not in Maple Ridge! If you could avoid calling the school to ask if we are open or not, it would be a great help to us as well as yourself. We may be outside shoveling snow and unable to get to the phone... listen to your radio or check the on-line listing of school closures.



Reminder: Students are asked to come to school dressed according to the weather (coat/jacket, a toque or hat, gloves and boots) as they will be allowed to go outside when it is not raining.



Parking: Please do not park in the undercover parking on school days. This area is reserved for staff. Neither should it be used as a drop-off area.



**SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019.**