

Christine Ong

To: all.families@stpaulschool.ca
Cc: St. Paul Parish Richmond; staff@stpaulschool.ca
Subject: Thursday Letter

Importance: High

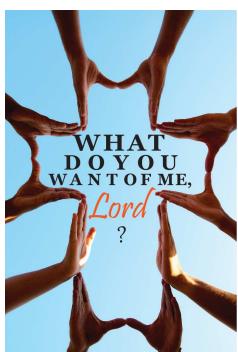


Dear Parents,

Next Wednesday is Pink Day, in support of anti-bullying. I have shared this in my principal's message before, but it is surely worth sharing again. For those who aren't aware, here is how Pink Day came to be: It started in a high school in Nova Scotia, where a new Gr. 9 student was teased by a group of fellow students for wearing a pink t-shirt to school. Two Senior students, Travis Price and David Shepherd, as a result of witnessing the harassment, decided to do something about it. The two youths organized a protest consisting of purchasing 50 pink tank tops, and sending out a message to fellow students that night. The next morning, Travis and David stood in the front foyer of the school and handed out a pink shirt to the students as they arrived. When the bullied boy arrived and saw what was happening, his face spoke volumes. Nationwide, the students of Canada are saying "no" to bullying, and all it took was for two young people to speak out and make a difference. We may be a humble little school in Richmond, but we are doing our part to make a difference as well.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Moorehead
Principal



"Unfortunately, bullying is an "air" that our children often breathe. The remedy is to make them breathe a different air, a healthier and more human one. That's why an alliance with the parents is very important." Pope Francis

Dates to Remember

Please Return Report Cover – Please sign and return your child's CSL report cover by Friday of next week. Thank you.

Assembly Tomorrow – Fri. Feb. 22nd. Staff to lead. 9:00 am in the gym.

Assembly next week – Fri. March 1st. Gr. 6 & K to lead.

Hot lunch Serving – Mon. Feb. 25th.

Dress Down Day – Wed. Feb. 27th. **Pink Shirt Day!** Help bring awareness to anti-bullying. **No donation needed for this dress down day.**

Gr. 2 Family Mass for Sacramental Preparation – Saturday, Feb. 23rd. 5:00 pm

Gr. 2 Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation – Wed. Feb. 27th. 6:45 pm.

Basketball Schedule – See PE blog.

Epi-Pen Reminder - As per our school anaphylaxis policy, a reminder that all students in Gr. 1 to 7 who require the use of an auto-injector (Epi-pen) must carry the Epi-Pen on their body at all times. (Excluding Kindergarten students). The office also requires a second Epi-Pen to be stored there for emergencies. Thank you for helping us keep your child safe.



Dress Shoes only for uniform – It has been noted that some students are wearing black running shoes with their uniform. A reminder that uniform shoes, according to our uniform policy, must be "**Dress shoes with good support. No running shoes, no sandals, no heels.**" Thank you.

“Old” Uniform ends as of June 2019: When we moved to our new uniform company in 2017, Top Marks, it was communicated to all parents that there would be a two year grace period where students could wear the “old” St. Paul uniform (sweaters with yellow arm bands and polo shirts with old school crest.) **A reminder that as of Sept. 2019, ALL students in Gr. K to 6 will be required to wear the “new” Top Marks uniform. (Please note this does NOT apply to tunics and kilts as the old and new are similar enough.)** The ONLY class permitted to wear the “old” uniform next year will be the Gr. 7 class (this year’s Gr. 6 students.) ALL OTHER students will be expected to wear the “new” uniform. **We give you this reminder now so you can think ahead for any new uniform pieces that need to be acquired for next September.**

Planning the school year? – If you are looking for professional days, dates for school holidays, etc., our online calendar is updated to June 2019. The calendar can be accessed through the school web site at www.stpaulschool.com.

When Parents Have Concerns – If at any time you have a concern regarding your child, a school event, a staff member, or an incident that happened, we ask that you **please come and speak with your child's teacher**. The only way that concerns can be effectively resolved is through open communication between home and school, resulting in accurate information being shared, and an informed understanding of your concern.

When your Child is Sick – In anticipation of cold and flu season, we'd like to remind parents to be prudent when it comes to deciding when to keep your child home, or when to send him/her to school if he/she has just recovered from being ill. **Some basic guidelines are as follows:** **24 hours** after temperature returns to normal, or after gastrointestinal illness (**vomiting/diarrhea**); contagious infections such as suspected **pink eye or strep throat**; unexplained **skin rash**; **severe cough and cold** symptoms. Exercising proper hand washing techniques is also crucial to helping prevent the spread of viruses. This will go a long way to keep our student and staff population happy and at school.

Birthday Celebrations – If you wish to have your child share a special treat with the class on his/her birthday, you are welcome to send **a small allergen-free treat** that the teacher can hand out at the end of the day. We now have **30 students** who carry Epi-Pens for food-related allergies, so all treats must be free of allergens according to our school policy on anaphylaxis. Please help us keep all our students safe.

