

## Christine Ong

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



Dear Parents,

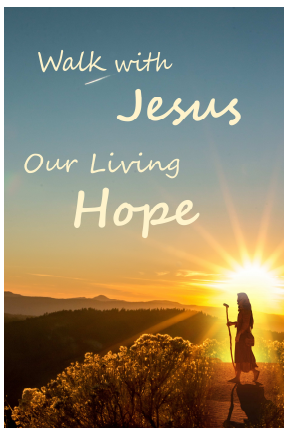
In my last Principal's Message of 2020, I want to take this opportunity to extend my deep appreciation and admiration for this amazing community. The last nine months have tested all of us, both professionally and personally. With the combination of a respected school Safety Plan, parents and staff making good personal safety choices, and the good fortune of zero confirmed COVID-19 cases within our student or staff population, our school has successfully navigated the pandemic thus far. But it hasn't been without its challenges, and we are certainly not through it yet. Hope is on the horizon, however.

When looking ahead to January, please think of our school community when celebrating the holidays. Since school exposures are a reflection of community transmission, I strongly encourage everyone to follow the current public health orders over the winter break. This includes: not gathering with anyone outside of your immediate household; only travelling for essential purposes; and wearing a mask in all indoor public settings. Whatever the new year holds, we will face it together as a community of faith.

The staff of St. Paul School wishes all of our families a most blessed Christmas, and a brighter and hopeful 2021.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Moorehead  
Principal



*"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."* Pope Francis



**Hampers of Hope Advent Fundraiser** – What a success! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your wonderful generosity. Our grand total for needy local families is **\$3540!** These funds will be joined with funds raised in the parish, and will help many families have a brighter Christmas this year.

**Dress Down Day – Tomorrow!** – Ugly Christmas Sweater day! No donation required.

**\*\*Noon Dismissal\*\*** – Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. The first group will be dismissed at 11:45 AM, and the second group will dismiss at Noon.

**First day Back to School** – Monday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Fukuroku Hot Lunch Serving** – Friday, January 08, 2021.

**Some traffic reminders:**

- When waiting in the front parking lot line up, please pull up close to the car in front of you so the line doesn't extend out onto St. Albans Rd.
- Please do not pull out of the line early unless directed to do so by Ms. Moorehead or Mrs. Jew. Sometimes it's only a few more seconds before the car in front of you is ready to leave, and then the line of cars can leave safely and in procession.
- Please turn off your car engine when waiting at pick-up.

**Rainy Days** – A reminder to ensure your child is dressed for the possibility of wet weather every day, as they go outside for recess rain or shine. Extra socks are handy to have in the backpack.



**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.

**Planning the school year?** – If you are looking for professional days, dates for school holidays, etc., our online calendar is updated to June 2021. The calendar can be accessed through the school web site at [www.stpaulschool.ca](http://www.stpaulschool.ca).

**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** – A reminder that birthday celebrations (treats, give-aways and gifts) are NOT permitted until further notice.

