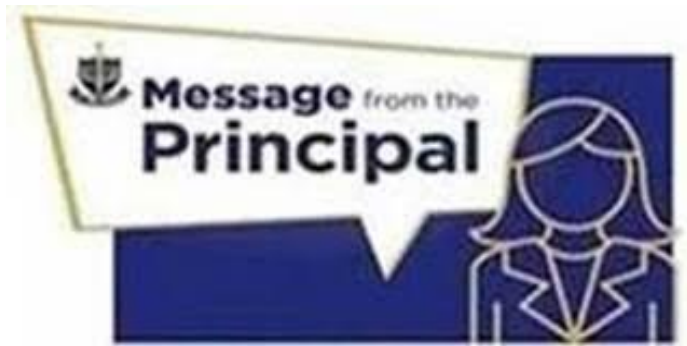


# THURSDAY LETTER



*September 23, 2021*

Dear Parents,

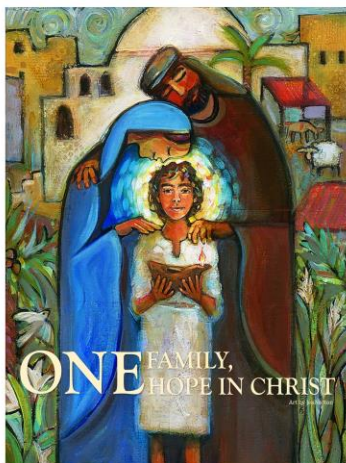
Next Thursday there is no school, as we honour our first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation statutory holiday. This day is to commemorate the history and ongoing trauma caused by residential schools and to honour those who were lost, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to grieve. This dark chapter in our history has been thrust into the spotlight, and Sept. 30th should be an opportunity to solemnly reflect on the past, and what can be done moving forward to work toward healing for Indigenous communities.

On Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> we will have our Orange Shirt Day. Students can come to school out of uniform, wearing orange. If your child does not have an orange shirt, they can wear another article of clothing that is orange. (pants, dress, hat, shoes, etc.) **We will also be collecting \$2.00** from each student on this day. The money collected will be donated to the *Orange Shirt Society* which 'fosters Residential school reconciliation, raising awareness across Canada of the continuing intergenerational impacts of the schools, and the concept of "Every Child Matters."' For more information, please click [here](#).

Let us honour all the children who survived residential schools, as well as honour and recognize those who did not return to their families.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Moorehead  
Principal



***Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you.***  
Psalm 55:22



**Orange Shirt Day – Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Our dress down day this month will be next **Wednesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**. We will be wearing orange to honour the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. Don't forget your \$2.00 donation to be out of uniform!

**Hot Lunch Orders Due** - Wednesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am. **Late orders will not be accepted.**

**No School** – **Thursday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

**Walkathon** – **Friday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** – Time is almost up to collect those pledges for our Walkathon, which is next Friday! Further details will come home in an email tomorrow, as well as next week.

**Does your child arrive to school before 8:30 am?** – Please note that school supervision **begins at 8:30 am** each day. **Any students who arrive before 8:30 am must have a parent/caregiver supervise them until the doors open at 8:30 am.**

**Daily Health Check** – Just a reminder that parents/caregivers are to be administering a daily health check assessment to each child before they come to school every morning. **We ask parents to download the BC K-12 Health Check app through your app store, which is specifically for school-aged students. This is to be done at home each morning before coming to school.**

**Parent Attendance at Assemblies and School Masses:** As mentioned in our back to school information that came home, parents are **not permitted to join us for assemblies in the gym, or school masses in the church**. For assemblies, our gym capacity does not allow for the extra bodies. When it comes to school masses in the church, however, given that COVID numbers are still a concern, and that 90% of our students are unable to be vaccinated yet, we are proceeding with an abundance of caution to keep our students safe by not permitting parents to join us for school masses. This may change in the future, and we will keep you posted. Thank you for understanding. **Save the Date!**– Garry Point Fun Run for Gr. 2 to 7 – **Friday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**. More details to come next week.

**Sweaters for School Masses** – a reminder that students are expected to wear their sweater for school Mass, which means they must be sure to have their sweater **EVERY Thursday.**

**Please drive slowly!** – We had complaints last year from our neighbours about cars using excessive speed on our side roads, and cars have also been observed driving with excessive speed in our parking lots. Please help us out by being responsible and safe, and keeping our neighbours happy.

**Rainy Days** – Like last year, we will continue with students going outside for recess, regardless of inclement weather. 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 website 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** – 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.

