

Christine Ong

To: all.families@stpaulschool.ca; s
Cc: School Staff; Parish St. Paul (Richmond)
Subject: Thursday Letter
Importance: High



Dear Parents,

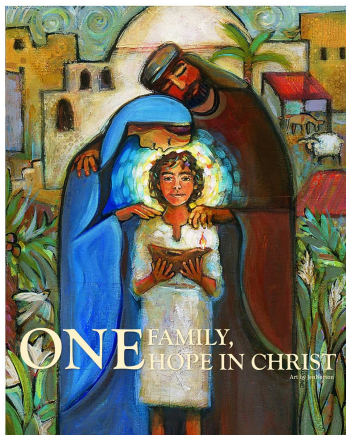
Yesterday we began the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service in the church. The service was particularly meaningful as we were able to gather together with the parish community (while still respecting the 50% capacity limit!) to receive ashes, worship, and reflect. Father Smith talked about the importance of receiving God's love, and absorbing it with "hearts of sponge" rather than hearts of stone. Then in this morning's Mass, Father Smith went further to introduce his theme for Lent of "building the house of God", and how the first and most important thing to building a house is the foundation – which is Jesus.

It was wonderful to see such a great student turnout for the first morning of our Lenten Masses today. For those that didn't make it, we hope that you will make this part of your morning routine for the duration of Lent. As a parent of three children myself, I know what it takes to get the family out the door on time in the morning. Mine are young adults now, but those memories of taking them all to work with me at Sacred Heart are not too far off. The wonderful showing of students this morning tells me that St. Paul School is a community whose spirituality is of vital importance, and whose parents can pride themselves in making their family faith life a priority.

The staff of St. Paul's looks forward to making this Lenten journey with your children.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Moorehead
Principal



"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to Heaven."

St. Rose of Lima



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**. You can find the link [here](#).

Rapid Test Kits for School Families – Rapid Test kits were distributed to families yesterday. If you did not pick yours up, an adult must come to the office to collect it. We are not able to send it home with your child. Thank you.

Daily Lenten Mass – Daily morning Mass for students and staff began today at the adjusted time of **8:15 am**. **Students sit with staff in the first rows of the church.** All students are asked to attend throughout Lent. Mass is finished in time for the start of school at 8:45 AM.

Mite boxes coming home today - Today your child will bring home their Mite box. This box is for the collection of coins over the Lenten Season in support of our seminarians who are studying for the priesthood. Your child is encouraged to fill the box with coins as an act of almsgiving. Boxes will be called back to school during Holy Week.

St. Paul Summer Camp is BACK! – Next week will be sending home this year's brochure, which will detail all the exciting summer program options we will be offering. Stay tuned for all the exciting details!!

Gr. 5 & 6 to Grouse Mountain – Tomorrow.

Gr. 7 Spirit Day – This Saturday, March 5th..

Hot Lunch Serving – Tomorrow. Fukuroku.. March 7th – Nova. March 10th – White Spot.

Follow us on Twitter! @StPaulSchoolRmd. With limited access for parents to school activities, we are doing our best to post daily happenings of life during the school day. Check in and see what goes on around school.

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.**

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.**



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.

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.

St. Paul School acknowledges that the land on which we work, learn, and play is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

