

**To:** all.families@stpaulschool.ca  
**Cc:** staff@stpaulschool.ca; parish.stpaulr@rcav.org  
**Subject:** Thursday Letter  
**Attachments:** Walkathon 2022-2023.pdf; Walkathon 2022 Pledge Sheet.pdf; Walk-a-thon Challenge 2022-2023.pdf



Dear Parents,

On behalf of all the staff at St. Paul School, as well as Father Smith and Father Felix, we welcome you to a new school year! It continues to be a sincere pleasure and honour to serve another year as your Principal. And we are definitely excited for the year ahead! With the start of the school year, we return to pre-pandemic operations at school, with a continued focus on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, and optional wearing of masks. The BCCDC notes that *“transmission within K-12 school settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases, even amongst students and staff. Moreover, with high immunization rates in BC and treatment options for people at higher risk of serious disease, public health advises that COVID-19 can be managed as are other serious respiratory infections in the community.”* With this reassurance, we can confidently move forward!

And finally, as we continue on our journey in *Seeking Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation* with this year’s Archdiocesan theme, I recall Pope Francis’ words from his recent trip to Canada this summer: *“Our own efforts are not enough to achieve healing and reconciliation: we need God’s grace. We need the quiet and powerful wisdom of the Spirit, the tender love of the Comforter. May he bring to fulfilment the deepest expectations of our hearts. May he take us by the hand and enable us to advance together on our journey.”* Let us walk, pray, and work together.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Moorehead  
Principal



***Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;  
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.*** –  
Winston Churchill



**Daily Health Check** – We will continue to ask families to perform a daily health check each morning before coming to school. You can find the health check link [here](#). **This is to be done at home each morning before coming to school.**

**First Day of School** – Tuesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. 8:45 AM to **\*\*Noon\*\***. Please note the early dismissal on this day.

**Gr. 7 Leadership Assembly and Walkathon Kickoff** – Wed. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm in the gym.

**Walkathon Forms attached!** Please find attached everything you need to begin fundraising for our Walkathon! **Start collecting those pledges!**

**School Mass** – Thursday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. 9:15 AM. Staff to lead.

**Gr. 7 Outdoor Education Trip** – Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Arrival and Dismissal Procedures** – The doors will open at 8:30 each day to welcome students, and instruction will begin promptly at 8:45 AM. **Student supervision begins at 8:30 AM, so if your child arrives to school before 8:30, they must have an adult stay with them until the doors open at 8:30 AM.**

**Parking** – Both the front and back parking lots may be used. **If you park in the front lot, you MUST use the designated crosswalk to cross the parking lot.**

**Pick up/drop off lane:** We will return to our original pick up/drop off lane in the front parking lot by the music portable. **Older students** may be picked up and dropped off in this lane. Students must be able to independently exit/enter the car, and to watch for their car at the end of the day. School staff will **NOT** be escorting students to and from this area, and will **NOT** be directing/managing the flow of traffic.

**Meet the Teacher Night/AGM: Tuesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.** We are happy to return to holding our AGM/Meet the Teacher night in person on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in the gym for the AGM at 6:30 PM, and then teacher presentations will take place in the classrooms afterwards. Each teacher will present for 30 mins. Specific times and further details will be sent home next week.

**Welcome New Staff Members!** – We are pleased to welcome three new members to our staff: Ms. Kim Vu (Gr. 6), Mrs. Liesl Knoll (Learning Support), and Ms. Analia Rimland (Education Assistant). I'm sure you will join us in welcoming them to our school!

**Full steam ahead with Walkathon 2022/2023!** We will hold our annual school Walkathon on **THURSDAY, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**, and we will be walking to Garden City Park. More details to come!

**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.

*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 xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), and Skw̓xw̓7mesh (Squamish) Nations.*

