

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



Parents,

It was lovely to see everyone at the AGM/Meet the Teacher evening earlier this week. Hopefully you have a good idea of what lies ahead this year, and how best to support your child and your child's teacher(s).

One more week to collect those pledges! Thank you for all the work you have been doing so far; we can do this! Please pray for a dry day on the 29th! Thank you to all those who have sent in Walkathon volunteer forms; we couldn't hold this event without your helping hands.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

Maya Angelou



How much should my child aim to collect in pledges for Walkathon? - Our Walkathon total last year was **\$69,653.00**, and we're hoping to beat it this year! Averaged out over our 180 families, that would equal approximately **\$385 worth of pledges per family**. Students are encouraged to ask family members, relatives, family friends, and neighbours, all with parent permission and supervision. We can do this!

School Mass - Thursday Sept. 28th. 9:15 am. Gr. 4 to lead.

Assembly - Friday, Sept. 22nd. 9:00 am in the gym. Gr. 1 & 5 to lead.

Hot Lunch Orders Due – Friday, Sept. 22nd at 9am.

Walkathon - Fri. Sept. 29th - ****1:00 pm dismissal****

Volleyball and Cross Country Schedule - see PE blog.

No School - Monday Oct. 2nd (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)

No School - Monday, Oct. 9th (Thanksgiving)

Blessing of Family Pets! - Oct. 4th is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and to celebrate, we will be having an opportunity for family pets to receive a blessing from Fr. Sajj. The blessing will take place at dismissal time - **2:00 pm, Wednesday, Oct 4th** - on the grass field. **All pets must be contained (leash, crate/cage/tank) in order to participate. Participating pets must be brought to the property only at dismissal time, and parents/guardians are responsible for their own pets.**

Lost Clothing already! With the warm weather, students are removing their sweaters and jackets and leaving them on the playground when the bell goes. If there is a name on the article of clothing, we bring it back to the child. If there's no name, it goes unclaimed in our Lost and Found. PLEASE ensure that ALL of your child's clothing is labelled with their name, including jackets. Thank you.

Please use the Crosswalk - If you park on the church side of the front parking lot, please ensure you cross at the **designated crosswalk** to make your way to the covered area. Between the drop off lane and parishioners leaving after Mass lets out, it can be a very busy traffic area.

Follow us on Instagram! - [st.paul.school.richmond](https://www.instagram.com/st.paul.school.richmond).

2023/2024 School Calendar Updated - This year's online calendar has been updated. If you are looking for professional days, dates for school holidays, etc., our online calendar is updated to June 2024. The calendar can be accessed through the school website at www.stpaulschool.com.

If your child will be away – A reminder to please email the office and the teacher if your child is sick. This needs to be done each day your child is away, and please email before 8:30 AM. Thank you.

Late Arrivals to School – Please note that **instruction in the classroom begins at 8:45 AM**. We have a number of students arriving late to school on a daily basis, so we ask our families to make an effort to have your child arrive to school in time to be settled in the classroom by 8:45 and ready to learn. Thank you.

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.

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 Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

