

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



Dear Parents,

As we honour National Truth and Reconciliation Day this weekend, we recognize the injustice and suffering endured by Indigenous peoples. We honour their resilience, culture, and wisdom, and humbly pray for a collective commitment to healing, equity, and unity for all Canadians.

Our school theme last year was Seeking Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation, but just because we have a new theme this year, does not mean we stop learning about and sharing the truth of the role of the Catholic Church in the Indian Residential Schools, and take clear steps to move toward healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin  
Principal



*Every Child Matters.*

# WALK A THON



**Use of Adoration Chapel Washroom** - If parents/caregivers need to use the washroom during the day, please use the washrooms in the parish centre, NOT the Adoration Chapel. Please pass this information on to all the adults who come to school for your child. Thank you.

**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!

**Walkathon tomorrow!!** It looks like the weather will cooperate, and we should have a lovely opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy some fresh air and exercise. Students do not need to come in uniform, and are encouraged to dress for the weather and with comfortable walking shoes. Thank you to all our students and their families who have worked hard to collect pledges over the last month; let's hope we reach our goal! **\*\*12:30 pm dismissal\*\*** **(Please note the dismissal time of 1:00 pm in last week's Thursday letter was incorrect.)**

**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. Saja. 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.**

**School Mass** - Thursday Oct. 5th. 9:15 am. Gr. 3 to lead.

**Assembly** - Friday, Oct. 13th. 9:00 am in the gym. Gr. 7 & K to lead.

**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)

**CISVA Cross Country Meet** - Wed. Oct. 4th. See PE blog for details.

**Garry Point Fun Run** - Friday, Oct. 6th. See PE blog for details.

**Hot Lunch Serving** - Friday, Oct. 6th. Fukuroku.

**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.

**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](http://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](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 x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

# National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

September 30

