

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



Dear Parents,

We are coming to the second of the four Sundays that make up the Advent Season. A time for us to prepare for all the traditions of Christmas: gifts, trees, lights and time away from school. It is also the time to prepare for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, with prayer, fasting, penance and giving. Christmas brings hope and joy to all of us.

Yesterday was the Feast of St. Nicholas. Good ol' Saint Nicholas, a Bishop and Saint from the year 350 A.D. who spent his life giving to the poor and needy. Why do we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6th? To recognize his actions, and his giving to the needy. God gave us His only Son and we celebrate the season with hope and joy that we too can be like St. Nicholas as he knew "It is better to give than to receive."

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.

Pope Francis



Donations for Luke 15 House due by Monday – Please be sure to send it your child’s assigned donation by Monday. School staff will be packing the 30 gift bags on Tuesday of next week, so every child’s item is needed to ensure each resident of Luke 15 House receives the same gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

Reporting an Absence – a reminder that if your child will be away, please send an email to absent@stpaulschool.ca (as well as the teacher). This includes late arrivals and early pickups. **Please do NOT email the office email address.**

School Mass – Dec. 14th. Gr. 1 to lead. 9:15 am in the church.

Assembly – Tomorrow. Gr. 7 & Kinder to lead. 9:00 am in the gym.

Hot Lunch – Tomorrow – Canella. Dec. 11th – White Spot. Dec. 15th – Fukuroku.

Save the Date! – Our Christmas Concert will take place on **Tuesday, Dec. 19th**. We will have two performances – 1:00 pm matinee and a 6:45 pm evening show. More details to come!

Noon dismissal – Please note that students will be dismissed at Noon on **Dec. 22nd**.

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 - 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 Sḵw̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

