

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



Dear Parents,

A note of thanks for your patience and understanding with our closures these past two days. These decisions are not made lightly, and many factors are taken into consideration. Safety and well-being are the priorities, while at the same time recognizing that it's challenging for parents who still have to go to work. Our aim is to give as much notice as possible so families can prepare for various potential scenarios. I hope that you were able to at least enjoy the beauty and quiet that comes with a heavy snowfall, and that the children had an opportunity to play outside; core childhood memories are definitely made on snow days. 😊

We look forward to welcoming those of you who are able to join us on Jan. 25th for our St. Paul Feast Day celebration. Please see the information notice that was sent home on Jan. 9th for all the details. Parents are welcome to join us for Mass at 9:15 am, and for the family lunch in the gym from Noon to 12:45. Please note school will be dismissed at 12:45 pm on this day.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



"Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers."
~Kahlil Gibran



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). **Please do NOT** email the office email address.

No School – Tomorrow. Friday, Jan. 19th. Professional Day.

Gr. 2 Family Mass for Sacrament Preparation – **Cancelled** for this Saturday, Jan. 20th.

Gr. 5 & 6 to Grouse Mountain – Monday, Jan. 22nd.

Gr. 2 Parent Meeting for Sacrament Preparation – Wed. Jan. 24th. 6:45pm in the gym.

St. Paul Feast Day School Mass – Jan. 25th. Gr. 5 to lead. 9:15 am in the church.

St. Paul Feast Day Family Lunch – Parents are welcome to bring your own lunch for you and your child(ren) and join us on Jan. 25th in the gym at noon for a Feast Day lunch. For the full agenda for the day, and all the important details, please see the information notice that was sent home on Tuesday, Jan. 9th. **RSVPs are now due back on Monday, Jan. 22nd.**

12:45 pm Dismissal – Thursday, Jan. 25th. Students will be dismissed for the day following our Feast Day family lunch in the gym.

Assembly – Jan. 26th. Gr. 7 & K to lead. 9:00 in the gym.

Hot Lunch – Jan. 26th. Canella.

New Parent Information Evening – Tuesday, Jan. 30th. Parents who are interested in sending their child to St. Paul School are invited to our parent information evening, beginning at 7:00 pm in the gym. This evening is for adults only.

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 - 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 xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

