

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



Dear Parents,

The Lenten Season is upon us, a time when we start to prepare for Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. During Lent we observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline. Making God the centre of our life is what the Lenten Season is all about, and when we do this, then we are ready to do His work here on earth. Participating in daily morning Mass is one of many offerings we can do this Lent. St. Paul School is supported by an incredible community, and we must teach our children to live their lives in the footsteps of Jesus – to be humble, to feed the poor, clothe the naked, help the sick. Lent is not as much about “giving up”, but about “giving”.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



“During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.”
Pope Francis



Daily Morning Lenten Masses for Students – Beginning on **Tuesday, Feb. 20th**, all students are asked to attend **daily morning Mass** for the duration of Lent. Mass begins at 8:15 AM. School staff will be present to supervise. Please refer to email sent by Ms. Griffin (Feb. 13th) for further details.

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.

Hot Lunch – Feb. 20th – Triple O's. Feb. 23rd – Fukuroku.

Gr. 2 Family Mass for Sacrament Preparation – No family Mass this weekend.

Gr. 2 Parent Meeting for Sacrament Preparation – Wed. Feb. 21st. 6:45pm in the gym.

School Mass – ****There will be no more Thursday school Masses until after Lent.****

Assembly – Friday, March 1st. 9:15 am. We will welcome Archbishop Miller to our assembly!

No School – Feb. 15th and 16th. Staff will be attending the Catholic Educators' Conference.

No School – Feb. 19th – Family Day holiday.

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 x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), and Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

