

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



Dear Parents,

As we prepare to honour National Truth and Reconciliation Day next Tuesday, 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.

Join us in our Orange Shirt Day assembly on Monday at 9:00 am, as we continue to learn about and share the truth of 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, today and every day. We honour the children who were taken, and we commit to building a future of truth, respect, and reconciliation.



How much should my child raise for Walkathon? - Our Walkathon total last year was **\$95,300**, and we're hoping to beat it this year! Averaged out over our 174 families, that would equal approximately **\$550 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! **12:15 dismissal**. The weather looks like it's going to cooperate! Please ensure your child is wearing comfortable walking shoes, as well as layers to regulate body temperature.

Dress Down Day - Orange Shirt Day – Sept. 29th. Students come out of uniform wearing orange (ideally an orange shirt) in honour of National Truth and Reconciliation Day. (no donation needed as it has already been collected)

Orange Shirt Day Assembly - Staff to lead. Sept. 29th at 9:00 am in the gym.

No School – Tues. Sept. 30th. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

CISVA Cross Country Meet – Oct. 1st.

School Mass – Oct. 2nd. Gr. 3 to lead

Hot Lunch – Oct. 3rd. Fukuroku.

Assembly – Friday, Oct. 3rd. Gr. 7 & Kinder to lead.

St. Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing – Friday, Oct. 3rd at 3:00 pm on the grass field. Families are welcome to bring their pets for a blessing on the grass field after school. All pets must be contained (leash, crate, cage, tank, etc.) 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.

Volleyball and Cross County Schedules – See online calendar.

Taking photos/video during school Masses - We love when parents and grandparents join us for school Masses, however, to keep the focus on the sacredness of the Mass, **we kindly ask parents and grandparents not to take photos or video**. This allows everyone to remain fully present in the reverence of the Mass. It also helps protect the privacy of other students whose families may not wish for them to be photographed.

Calendar Updated! – The 2025/2026 school calendar is now updated with preliminary dates for professional days, dates for school holidays, etc. The calendar can be accessed through the school website at www.stpaulschool.ca. *Please note dates can change, so check often.

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

If your child will be away – A reminder to please email the school (absent@stpaulschool.ca) and the teacher if your child is sick. This needs to be done *each day your child is away*. *This also includes late arrivals and early pick-ups and please email before 8:30 AM*. Thank you.

School Arrivals – Please note that **classes begin at 8:45 AM**. Please 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.



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.

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 x̱məθkʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), and Sk̓wx̓w̓7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

