

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



Dear Parents,

"Why is the candle pink?" If I had a dollar for the number of times I have heard this question over my 31 years in education, I could retire early! As we enter the third week of Advent, we light the rose candle, a symbol of joy in the midst of our waiting. This week reminds us that even as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, we are called to recognize the blessings already present in our lives and in our school community. May this time fill your homes with hope, joy, and the reassurance of God's loving presence as we journey together toward Christmas.

So, the simple answer is, the pink candle means joy, as we shift from quiet reflection to joyful anticipation of baby Jesus!

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



"Unsupervised outdoor play teaches children how to handle risks and challenges of many kinds. By building physical, psychological, and social competence, it gives kids confidence that they can face new situations, which is an inoculation against anxiety."

~ Jonathan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*.



Thank you! – We can't thank you enough for your support of our charity drive for Luke 15 House. If you follow us on Instagram you can see a little bit of our visit there yesterday. The men were very grateful to receive their care packages, and we had a lovely visit with Christmas crafts, carol singing, and a delicious meal together. Thank you again for helping us share the joy of Advent with these deserving men.

Hot Lunch – Tomorrow – Triple O's.

Learning Update Covers – Please sign and return your child's report cover before Christmas break.

School Mass – Thurs. Dec. 18th. 9:15 AM. Kindergarten (Mrs. Kelly's Class) to lead.

Christmas Concert – Tuesday, Dec. 16th - Matinee – 1:00 pm. Evening show – 6:45 pm. *Please note all students are expected at both the matinee and evening performances and are required to stay in the evening until the show has ended.* More show details to come tomorrow!

Spirit Dress Down Day – Wed. Dec. 17th. Cozy pajama day.

Christmas Sweater Day – Fri. Dec. 19th. Students may come out of uniform wearing an (ugly!) Christmas sweater.

Assembly – Dec. 19th. Gr. 6 & 3 to lead.

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 updated with 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/stpaulschoolrichmond).

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

