

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



Dear Parents,

Tomorrow is our Feast Day celebration in honour of St. Paul. As a young man, Paul was known as Saul and fiercely persecuted any followers of Jesus. On the road to Damascus, Saul was struck down in a blinding light, and in the confusion around him he heard a voice...., *"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"* Saul answered, *"Who are you, Sir?"* The only answer that came was, *"I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting."* After his conversion, Saul became Paul and launched a tireless missionary career that took him all over the Middle East, and ultimately to Rome.

God calls each of us in our daily lives, the same way he called Paul. He wants us to *"Go out to all the world and tell the Good News."* (Mk 16:15) In order to respond to such a call, we, like St. Paul, need to listen with our hearts and ask, *"What must I do?"*

A reminder we have a Noon dismissal tomorrow, and there is no school on Monday due to a professional day.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin  
Principal



*"Children need a great deal of free play to thrive. The small-scale challenges and setbacks that happen during play are like an inoculation that prepares children to face much larger challenges later."*

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

# Here's What's Happening!

**St. Paul Feast Day** – Tomorrow! Mass at 9:15 AM. Gr. 3 to lead. Drum Café in the gym at 10:45 am. Drum Café is an *“interactive event – each individual is not a spectator, but a performer who is involved at the same level as his/her peer, enforcing a cooperative, non-competitive relationship amongst the group.”* We are excited for a wonderful morning of community and character building, and of course drum playing! **\*\*Noon dismissal\*\***

**No School** – Monday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Professional Day.

**Gr. 2 Family Mass for Sacrament preparation** – Saturday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. 5:00 pm.

**Gr. 2 Parent Meeting for Sacrament Preparation** – Jan. 28th. 6:45 in the gym.

**Hot Lunch** – Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fukuroku. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> – PCK. (Premier Central Kitchen). Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> – Triple O’s.

**School Mass** – Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. 9:15 AM. Kindergarten G to lead.

**Assembly** – Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.stpaulschool.ca). \*Please note dates can change, so check often.

**Follow us on Instagram!** - [st.paul.school.richmond](http://st.paul.school.richmond).

**If your child will be away** – A reminder to please email the school ([absent@stpaulschool.ca](mailto: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 xʷməθkʷəy̕əm (Musqueam), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

