

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



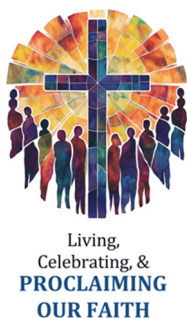
Dear Parents,

Next week is Catholic Schools Week in CISVA. This week provides a special opportunity to celebrate the gift of Catholic education in our province, and to give thanks for the faith-filled communities that make our schools so special. Our Catholic schools partner with families and parishes to nurture the whole child, while forming young people who are compassionate, resilient, and committed to serving others. Often these same young people come back to teach in the CISVA. Ten of our own staff members are alumni of CISVA schools! A beautiful testament to the lasting impact of Catholic education.

We invite the St. Paul community to join us in prayer and gratitude for our students, staff, families, and parish members who journey together each day through learning, service, and love.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



“Social Media fuels the insecurity of adolescence – already a period where there is immense concern about the possibility of ostracism.”

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



Wear your uniform to Mass this weekend! – To kick off Catholic Schools week, all students are asked to proudly wear their school uniform to Mass this weekend.

Gr. 2 Family Mass for Sacrament preparation – Saturday, Jan. 31st. 5:00 pm.

Gr. 2 Parent Meeting for Sacrament Preparation – Feb. 4th. 6:45 in the gym.

Hot Lunch – Jan. 30th – Triple O's. Feb. 2nd – Yummy Pizza. Feb. 4th – PCK. Feb. 6th – Fukuroku.

Dress Down Spirit Day – Wed. Feb. 4th. Dress like a teacher day!

School Mass – Thursday, Feb. 5th. 9:15 AM. Gr. 5 to lead.

Assembly – Tomorrow. Gr. 6 & 3 to lead. 9:00 AM in the gym.

No School – Feb. 12th, 13th, and 16th. Catholic Educators' Conference, and Family Day

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.

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.

