

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



Dear Parents,

We have several unique events happening in February, most notably the beginning of daily Lenten Masses beginning on Thursday, Feb. 19th. For the season of Lent, students are asked to join the morning Mass community in the church for daily Mass. Mass start time will be 8:15 AM, after which we go straight over to the school to start our day. Students are asked to sit together in the front pews and will be under the supervision of staff. Families, of course, are also invited to join Mass, and are asked to sit behind the rows reserved for the students.

More information will come closer to the date. I just wanted to mention it early so accommodations can be made, if needed, to arrive to school for 8:15. We look forward to a reflective and solemn Lenten season.

Yours in faith,

Maureen Griffin
Principal



“The psychological immune system – the ability of a child to handle, process, and get past frustrations, minor accidents, teasing, exclusion, and normal conflicts without falling prey to inner turmoil.”

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



Gr. 2 Family Mass for Sacrament preparation – Saturday, Feb. 7th. 5:00 pm.

Hot Lunch – Feb. 6th – Fukuroku. Feb. 9th – Pasta. Feb. 11th – PCK.

Valentine's Dress Down Day – Wed. Feb. 11th. Students may come out of uniform wearing red, pink, and/or white.

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

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

Assembly – *There will be no more Friday morning assemblies until after Lent.

Ash Wednesday Mass – Feb. 18th. 11:00 AM.

Daily Lenten Mass – begins Thursday, Feb. 19th. 8:15 AM in the church.

No School – Friday, Feb. 27th. Professional 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](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 xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

