



St. Michael's School Newsletter

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Number 3

Our Virtue focus for September – FAITH

To begin the new school year, we focus our attention on the first of our virtues - **Faith**. Faith is the great virtue of believing in God and trusting that God is with us. A *faithful person* believes that we are created, guided by and destined to be reunited with God. A *faithful person* believes that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe, especially at school.

A Faithful person...

- Prays regularly and reverently
- Learns from Scripture stories
- Honors people's God-given names
- Assumes that there is good in everyone
- Accepts the God-given worth of themselves and others

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of faith, people who can truly believe that God's plan for us includes the right to be safe at school. Amen

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Our annual Meet the Teacher Night will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. This is a wonderful opportunity for our families to meet the staff and get to know your child's teacher(s).

We are excited to invite our families back to an in-person Meet The Teacher Night beginning in the school gym at 7pm. There will also be an optional Parent Participation Meet at 6pm to learn about volunteer opportunities and meet category managers.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PICTURES

Picture Day is Tuesday, September 13th.

Students will need to come in full uniform for picture day. For those students who have gym on picture day, they will only need to change into their runners for PE. After Picture Day, order pictures on www.mylifetouch.ca using your Portrait ID and Access Code which can be found on your Picture Day order form.

CHOCOLATE SALES

Our Annual Chocolate Sale Fundraiser is underway! Thank you to the parents who helped organize the boxes for each grade. Your child(ren) has been given a box containing 20 Purdy's milk chocolate bars to sell. Families with more than two children in the school have been given 2 boxes (given to the 2 oldest children in the family). Additional boxes can be requested by filling out the form attached to your child's box and returning it to your child's classroom teacher. The Chocolate Sale Fundraising Campaign will run for three weeks, ending on Thursday, September 29th. This is one of our most popular fundraisers of the year and we encourage everyone to go out and sell those chocolates! Money raised will go towards a new gym floor.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Student absences should be reported to the office **no later than** 9:00 am each weekday morning. If you leave a message on our voicemail, please indicate the reason your child is absent. Upon return from absence, an absentee note should be sent to the office stating the nature of the absence, dates, and your child's full name, and should be signed by the parent. Any extended absence, i.e. family vacation, requires parents to complete a "Leave of Absence" form. These forms are available from the office and are also on our website under 'forms' <http://www.stmichaelschool.ca/forms/>

LEARNING IN DEPTH (LiD) CEREMONY

Our LiD ceremony will take place on Friday, September 16th at 2:00 pm. At this ceremony all new students (including our Kindergarten students) will be assigned a random topic to study in depth. Our ceremony will be held in each individual classroom.

Learning in Depth – FAQ

Q. Won't students become bored with the same topic for twelve years?

A. Boredom is a product of ignorance; generally, the more we know about something, the more interesting it becomes. An underlying principle of the LiD project is that "everything is wonderful, if only we know enough about it."

Q. The random assignment of topics is absurd. Why not let students choose their topic?

A. Children's interests at age five tend to change quite often. A particular topic may be stimulated by a recent movie and change in a week; even the dinosaurs so loved by typical five year old commonly lose their appeal after a few years.

Q. Why would you force a student to learn so much about a limited and possibly useless topic for years?

A. To learn the pleasure of learning. Only by learning in depth can one come to understand the greatest pleasures of learning. And it's hardly "forcing". Students routinely say that LiD is their favourite activity in school.

Q. What is the research basis for this project?

A. Nearly all questions of educational importance are matters of value and meaning, and these are beyond the reach of the dominant forms of research methods we currently have available. What research basis is there for including Social Studies in the curriculum?

Q. Aren't many of these topics developmentally inappropriate for the ages at which they are to begin?

A. We have always liked, and agreed with, Jerome Bruner's argument that "any subject can be taught effectively in some intellectually honest form to a child at any stage of development" (1966, p. 33).

Q. Will the "depth" knowledge transfer to other curriculum areas?

A. We suspect that it will transfer unstoppably. The kind of expert knowledge and layered understanding, and the skills developed in learning, that will be built up over the years cannot fail to affect how students deal with other subjects and topics in the curriculum. Remember, we have never had anyone—anyone—go through such a program. Our suspicion, and hope, is that it will transform students' experience of schooling and our sense of what schooling can be.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

We would like to inform you that Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer are starting next Monday Sept 12th until Oct 25th (tentative end date). For updates about games and practices subscribe to the [Athletic Calendar](#).

The schedule is as follows:

- Gr 4/5 Girls Volleyball Monday 7:45am till 8:30 am and Thursday 3:00pm till 4:00pm in the school
- Gr 6 Girls Volleyball Monday from 3:00 till 4:00 pm and Wednesday From 12:00 till 12:40 pm in the school
- Gr 7 Girls Volleyball Monday from 12:00 till 12:40 and Wednesday 7:45 till 8:30 am in the school
- Gr 6/7 Boys Soccer Monday/Wednesday 7:00am till 8:00am at New Westminster high school.
- Gr 4/5 Boys Soccer Tuesday 3:00 till 4:00pm and Thursday From 12:00 till 12:40 pm in the school.

Saturday Sports Clubs:

We are so happy to inform you that St. Michaels' sports camp is growing and we are ready to launch the 2022/23 sports camp email with more detail is sent home.

Schedule term 1 as detailed below:

From Sept 17th until Dec 3rd every Saturday (10 sessions) **excluding Sept 24th and October 29th, 2022.**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sports</u>
<u>From 10 am to 11:30 am</u>	<u>5 to 12</u>	<u>Soccer</u>
<u>From 10 am to 11:30 am</u>	<u>5 to 12</u>	<u>Basketball</u>
<u>From 11:30 am to 1 pm</u>	<u>7 to 12</u>	<u>Volleyball</u>

On September 8th, we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us pray today in her honour for all Mothers.

There is but one and only one,

Whose love will fail you never.

One who lives from sun to sun,

With constant fond endeavor.

There is but one and only one

On earth there is no other.

In heaven a noble work was done

When God gave us a Mother.