



## St. Helen's School Newsletter | December 2023

Principal Waldemar Sambor  
Vice Principal Anthony Canosa

### **NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

As we commence Advent on Sunday, December 3rd, a season of anticipation for the birth of Christ, I'm reminded of the abundant talents and gifts within our blessed community. Let's unite in fostering a spirit of peace and sharing throughout this season. The commitment to Catholic Education from both our dedicated faculty and devoted parents has consistently impressed me. Choosing a Catholic School requires a unique dedication, and I firmly believe that the education provided at St. Helen's is of the utmost quality, rooted in Catholic faith and values. With gratitude for a century of tradition, our school joyfully upholds the Catholic faith through annual Christmas Mass concerts. Sister Nancy Brown, our school's founder in 1923, expressed her delight during the Gala, underscoring our enduring commitment to this cherished tradition.

Mass homework is given to all students each Friday. Please ensure that you are taking your children to Church as it is very important for students to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.

*On behalf of the entire staff and my family,  
I would like to extend to you and your  
families the love, joy and hope that comes  
with this season, as we celebrate the  
birth of Christ*

Sincerely in Christ,  
Waldemar Sambor  
Principal

### Please see below for Mass Schedule at St. Helen's Parish

Dec 24th - 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 4:00 PM and 12:00 AM  
(4th week of Advent)

Dec 25th - 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Dec 31st - 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM (Holy Family)

Jan 1st - 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM (Holy Mother of God)

### The Student Council Promoting Peace





## DECEMBER CALENDAR

DEC 3RD-ADVENT BEGINS

DEC 4TH- ADVENT PARALIT GR. 2 (PARENTS WELCOME)

DEC 6TH- GRAD LUNCH (WHITESPOT)

- TERM 1 REPORT CARDS

DEC 11TH- ADVENT PARALIT GR. 3A (PARENTS WELCOME)

DEC 18TH- ADVENT PARALIT GR. 3B (PARENTS WELCOME)

DEC 20TH- CHRISTMAS CONCERT @1 PM

DEC 21ST- CHRISTMAS CONCERT @ 1 PM& 7 PM

DEC 22TH- GRAD LUNCH?

- WHOLE SCHOOL MASS GR. 4B (PARENTS WELCOME)

- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

DEC 25TH- JAN 7TH CHRISTMAS

BREAK JAN 8TH- SCHOOL REOPENS

As we reach the midpoint this month (less than four weeks 'til Christmas), I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your dedication to our mission of providing a nurturing and faith-filled education to the 16,000+ students entrusted to our care. Two events from this past week – the 'No Stone Left Alone' service at Mountain View Cemetery with four of our schools and the St. Helen's Centennial Gala were visible reminders of the values that define our Catholic education system, from providing learning experiences that will impact the lives of your students to celebrating the legacy of our schools and the heroes/heroines who preceded us. May the remainder of the month be filled with moments of inspiration, collaboration, and joy!

Sandra Marshall, Superintendent CISVA

We are currently in the middle of flu season and our school is doing our best to encourage students to wash their hands. We have hand sanitizers in all areas of our buildings and I highly encourage parents to keep students home if they are sick. Please see the [link](#) below from Fraser Health.

PLEASE SEE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR

UPDATES FIELD TRIPS





## SEARCHER NEWS.....

### ONLINE REPORT CARDS

You should be receiving an email directly from MyEducation BC on December 6th when report cards are published and ready for viewing. Please avoid smart phones when accessing your child(ren)'s report cards. It is recommended to login using a laptop or desktop computer. If you have forgotten your password, please click "forgot password" and a temporary password will be e-mailed to you. **Please remember to save your child's report card to your computer after viewing.**

### Lost & Found

We have many items that have not been claimed in the garage. You are more than welcome to check out our lost and found if you are missing any items. Please label all your child's clothing.

### KINDERGARTEN 2024/2025 INTERVIEWS

Kindergarten interviews will be held on December 7th. Please note that siblings do not need to be interviewed. **Applications are available on the school website.**

### IN CASE OF SNOW

In the event of severe snowfall, St. Helen's school may be closed and the school bus may be cancelled. It is important that parents visit the school **website** calendar & download our school App. Going forward, school closures will be announced on the CKNW 980 radio station as well. It is the parents decision to bring their child to school. We encourage you to do what is best for the safety of you and your family in these types of conditions.

### HOW TO DRESS FOR THE SEASON

Thank you to all the parents who have dressed their children appropriately for the weather. Please ensure that children come to school with winter jackets, gloves, toques etc.





## Searchers Information

We raised from our Walk- A- Thon \$ 34,387! We had our Walk-A-Thon assembly Wednesday, November 22nd. See below for our winners of our assembly:

WINNER OF CLASS LUNCH: Primary - KA, Intermediate - 4A

TEACHER FOR A DAY WINNER: Makena Marach - KA, Samia Kugelk - 1A, Nicolas Silva - 4A, Lukas Tabako - 4A, Gianluca Tinaburri - 4A, Matteo Tinaburri - 7

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY: Samia Kugel - 1A

K- 2 BIKE WINNER: Jayden Shen - 2B

3-5 BIKE WINNER: Aria Yen-Gr 5

6-7 ELECTRIC SCOOTER WINNER: Eli Luketic - 7



LIVING OUR FAITH



The Grade 4 class had field trip where they had a chance to make art form the environment. This was inspired by the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy.





## Searchers Personal Best

- KA:** Daisy Baianu, Jude George, Sophia Oliveira Tributino
- KB:** Amelia Cribb, Vivana Jukic
- 1A:** Kingston Cheng, Nikki Li, Humphrey Lore
- 1B:** Thinuth Fernando, Inara Soni
- 2A:** Gia Baruffa, Marcus Kung, Elodie Ngo
- 2B:** Rebecca Van Woerden, Noah Torrealba, Annabel Leung
- 3A:** Nate Luu, Sasha Hilton-Carranza Salazar
- 3B:** Chloe An, Sierra Garcia
- 4A:** Nicolas Silva, Ada Secchiati
- 4B:** Hudson Poersch, Ellie Park
- 5:** Amanda Igboanugo, Noah Mohan, Ondre Oulovsky, Rachel Cheung
- 6A:** Hannah Yi Carolo, Liam Lepore, Eden Lee
- 6B:** Davit Badalyan, Luca Artuso, Mateo Arbulic
- 7:** Logan Autcher, Noa Baricevac, Ella Chung



We would like **thank Sponsors** for the Gala. Please see video for more details. Please **see both links** from our Gala.

Sister Nancy Brown provided relics and statue of the patron Elizabeth Ann Seton



We would like to welcome children from Grades 3 to 7 to altar serve for the celebration of our Saturday 4:00 PM Mass, Sunday 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM (Italian) Masses. Fr. Alessandro will hold a first meeting with those interested in serving on **Tuesday, November 28th at 9:15 AM** (during their religion class). A basic orientation and training will be given to the kids who come. In the future, we will be holding additional training sessions as well as explanations of the Mass parts and how to better participate in this great prayer. Mr. Agostino Pizzolato is the new Altar Servers Coordinator at St. Helen's Parish; he can be reached at [apizzolato33@gmail.com](mailto:apizzolato33@gmail.com)

Please contact him to confirm that your child would like to learn how to serve. Thank you.





## Searcher News.....

I had Principal 's evaluation took place this year and on Tuesday, November 21st which went extremely well!



Our staff participating in the Pro-d on Friday, November 24th to learn how to better support our students and parent with their mental health.



LIVING OUR FAITH

Grade 5 at Britannia Mine Museum

