

## ST. HELEN'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | OCT 2024

Principal Waldemar Sambor

Vice Principal Anthony Canosa

### NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

This year, the CISVA team is celebrating our faith, and it is truly a remarkable time for the St. Helen's community as we commemorate a major achievement - the completion of our modular school classrooms in the courtyard!

We've already had two informal celebrations. The first was on Thursday when we received the occupancy permit. The children were filled with joy, and our teachers were moved to tears- it was an incredibly emotional moment. The second celebration happened when Sandra Marshall, and other principals, who are also upgrading their own facilities, visited our school. They were amazed by the quality of our modular school. One principal even remarked, *"Thank you so much for the invitation this morning. Your committee has done an outstanding job- I was honestly speechless. What's even more incredible is seeing how happy the St. Helen's staff and students are. Thank you for the warm reception and the children's wonderful presentation."*

In addition to this, I've received many emails from parents and other committee members, and I truly believe we have exceeded expectations- wonderful news for everyone!

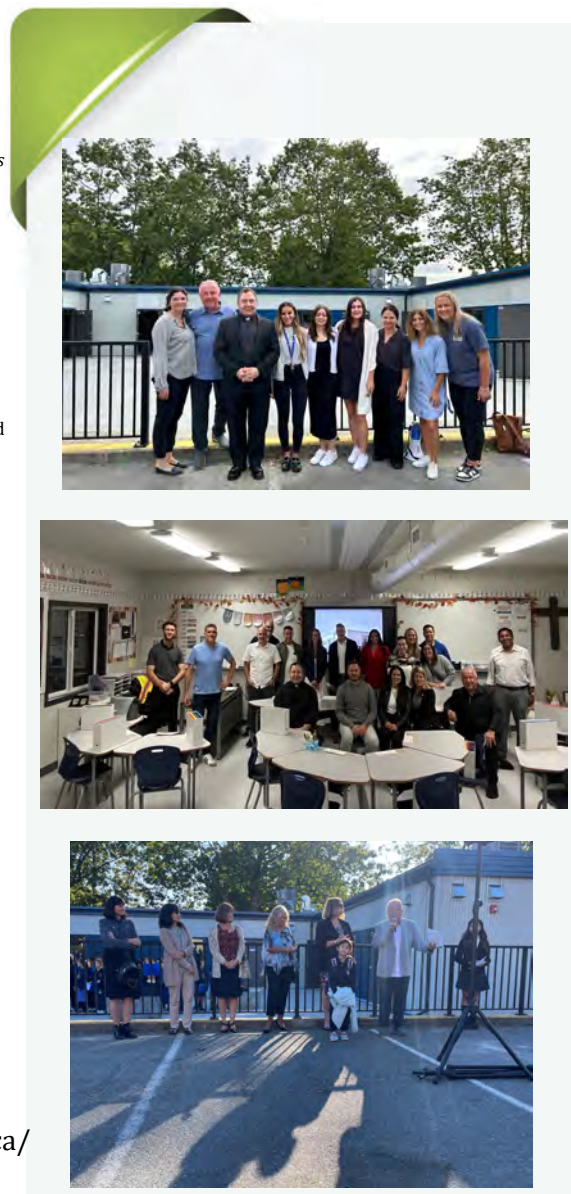
Our next celebration will be the Open House, which is open to the entire parish. I'd like to remind everyone that this special event will take place on Sunday, October 6th. Families, friends, teachers, and students are invited to attend a special Mass. Afterward, you will have the opportunity to meet our teachers, tour the facilities- including the new modular school, Learning Centre, West Wing, and gym- and ask any questions you may have. A small group of teachers will also be available after 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, October 5th and after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses on Sunday, October 6th.

Students are required to be in full uniform for the Mass. Our choir will perform in the river rock area, and members of the welcoming committee will be on hand to greet you. We will also have special brochures available in the courtyard with information on how to contribute to our \$1 million fundraising goal.

Let's make this celebration meaningful, full of spirit, and joyous as it marks a major accomplishment for our parish. The formal blessing of our new facilities by Bishop Miller will take place later in November. We will share more details as the date approaches.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to celebrating with all of you!

Sincerely in Chris,  
Waldemar Sambor  
Principal





## OCT CALENDAR .....

- Oct. 1st - Orange Shirt Day (with uniform bottoms) assembly @ 2:15 pm
- Oct. 2nd - Cross Country Finals at Swanguard Stadium
- Oct. 3th - Blessing of the pets @ 9:15 am
- Oct. 4th - Walk-A-Thon (all day)
- Oct. 5 & 6th - Open House weekend
- Oct. 8th - Britannia Mines Gr 5 field trip
- Oct. 9th - Green Thumb Theater @ 1:30 pm
- Oct. 11th - Pro D Day (no school)
- Oct. 14th - Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)
- Oct. 17th - Gr.2 field trip to Grouse Mountain
- Oct. 18th - School Mass @ 9:15am
- Oct. 21st - Kindergarten field trip (pumpkin patch)
- Oct. 25th - Halloween Family Night
- Oct. 30th - Gr 7 field trip (museum)
- Oct. 31st - Fall Fiesta



Our Cross Country team getting ready for the CISVA Championship taking place on October 2nd.



## COMMUNITY NEWS.....

Be a part of our *journey*



to build the *east wing*



*the story...*

The Jesus Peacemaker Cross, an original, one-of-a-kind piece, was handcrafted by Dominican Sisters, Sister Claire and Sister Magdalene, at the Queen of Peace Monastery.

It was constructed by Diego Campanile from wood taken from the original school building.

The significance of this cross, central to St. Helen's School's educational faith base mission for over 100 years, will carry forward into the new future home of the East Wing.

Valued at \$1 million, this cross is a profound donation toward the construction of the new East Wing, a project we aim to commence as soon as possible.

This very special cross will initiate the funds for our East Wing project which will include the new parish office and new school wing.

### *Blessing of the Pets*

Dear Parents,

On Thursday, October 3rd, the grade 4 classes will be leading the Blessing of the Pets service in honour of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We are inviting all students to bring their pets to this special celebration.

**We are asking parents to bring well-behaved pets to the lower parking area of the school at 9:15 on Thursday, Oct. 3rd.**

The service will be finished by 10:00. Parents will take pets home and students will go back to their classes.

Thank you so much for your cooperation. We are looking forward to seeing all of the beautiful animals in our lives!

God bless,

*Mrs. Kenny and Ms. Martins*



If your pet cannot attend the blessing, please bring a photo of them to the school.



## SEARCHERS INFORMATION.....



### Uniform Information

We have received more information from McCarthy uniforms regarding their materials. *Please read the statement below from the company.*

*"There will be chemicals used in the fabric dying process and printing process, but all are to a Canadian and global safe standard for usage.*

*We don't use PFA's in any of our manufacturing processes, which are the forever chemicals that can be cause for concern – a couple of years ago these were identified in some supplier's uniforms for items that are stain resistant, waterproof or water resistant clothing".*

During our one year transition (2024-2025), students are permitted to wear their yellow gym shirt on gym days, or their centennial gear during the week. Students are permitted to wear their gym strip only on their class's designated gym days, with the exception of special occasions such as field trips, assemblies, Church gatherings, etc. On these special days students must be in their full uniform.

No extension will be given past the one year mark. If you require financial help, we have gently used uniforms and vouchers from McCarthy Uniform. Supply is limited.

For a cotton t-shirt, it would be a navy version of the Gildan t-shirt we previously supplied in gold, in either 100% cotton or in a 50/50 blend. With the printing being front and back, they would be the same price as the dri-fit t-shirts.

***School uniforms in independent schools play a crucial role in fostering unity and instilling a sense of pride and belonging among students. They also help students stay focused on their studies by minimizing distractions.***



## Searchers Personal Best .....

K -Lukas Cheung, Milana Gordic, Milan Mrcic  
1A-Daniel Blyth, Makena Marach, William Wu  
1B-Amelia Cribb, Ally Fung, Mason Sorace  
2A-Nikki Li, Olivia Pineo, Marcus Teoh  
2B-Yasmine Barbaza, Miguel Garcia, Kaya Wang  
3A-Candice Pang, Aaron Shen  
3B-Eliana Utini, Enzo Caballero  
4A-Ashley Fischer, Henry Han  
4B-Alaya Arora, Logan Zhou  
5A-Maxine Lee, Vanessa Chedid  
5B-Talia Landingin, Ethan Zamprogno  
6- Valentina Hirvonen, Mattias Cirillo, Aria Yen  
7A-Hannah Yi Carolo, Liam Lepore, Leanna Seo  
7B-Dante Zen, Eva Mariela, David Badalyan



Ada Secchiati in Grade 5A brought Sammy on vacation in Jesolo, Venice.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, is observed on September 30th in Canada. It honors the survivors, families, and communities affected by the legacy of residential schools, while also remembering those children who never returned home. This day encourages all Canadians to reflect on the historical injustices faced by Indigenous peoples, to listen to their stories, and to commit to reconciliation efforts moving forward. The wearing of orange shirts symbolizes the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children.