

St. Helen's School Newsletter

September 2022

Principal: Waldemar Sambor
Vice Principal: Anthony Canosa



*dove could mean peace, the Holy Spirit, or even remind us of the dove from Noah's ark that went seeking to find safety, refuge, or a place for a new beginning
the Holy Spirit reveals all truth
the cedar branch is a symbol of healing for Indigenous people, it is also an evergreen which is the symbol for life
white can be a symbol of purity or joy
red is the colour for the Holy Spirit, but also for love
pink is another colour for joy
the circle represents God who has no beginning and no end
reconciliation is realized when we are open to the truth and to healing. The Holy Spirit will be instrumental in helping us to reach reconciliation with our neighbours*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the 2022/2023 school year! This year's theme is "Seeking truth and reconciliation". We are excited to see all our new and returning families next week and are committed to providing your children with an excellent faith-based Catholic education. Our teaching team has been busy getting classrooms ready and planning exciting learning tasks for your children.

Taking risks is an important part of learning and I feel very motivated with this new CISVA School Theme, "Seeking truth and reconciliation".

We know our parents make sacrifices to send their children to our school and our staff is working very hard to ensure our programs and clubs provide students with a diverse learning experience. We are always available to discuss your child's learning and growth. By working together, and respecting each other in our words and actions, our students will succeed and we will create a positive atmosphere for learning.

Together at St. Helen's we will seek to build a better world.

Sincerely in Christ,
Waldemar Sambor
Principal

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TEACHERS, & E.A

Principal	Mr. Waldemar Sambor	wsambor@cisva.bc.ca
Grade KA	Mrs. Deanna Canosa	dcanosa@shschool.ca
Grade KB	Mrs. Christina Devlin	cdevlin@shschool.ca
Grade 1A	Mrs. Debbie Jussinoja	djussinoja@shschool.ca
Grade 1B	Ms. Renata Bayardo	rbayardo@shschool.ca
Grade 2A/Curriculum Director	Mrs. Sandra Drlje	sdrlje@shschool.ca
Grade 2B	Mrs. Angela Rakic	arakic@shschool.ca
Grade 3A	Mrs. Donna Perrotta	dperrotta@shschool.ca
	Mrs. Claudia Martinelli	cmartinelli@shschool.ca
Grade 3B	Ms. Corrina Ialungo	cialungo@shschool.ca
Grade 4	Mrs. Jackie Kenny	jkenny@shschool.ca
Grade 5A	Mrs. Raffaella Brini	rbrini@shschool.ca
	Mr. Anthony Belmonte	anthony.belmonte@shschool.ca
Grade 5B	Ms. Sydney Martins	smartins@shschool.ca
Grade 6	Ms. Jasmine Bean	jbean@shschool.ca
Grade 7A/ Vice Principal	Mr. Anthony Canosa	acanosa@shschool.ca
Grade 7B	Mr. Lindsay Mincieli	lmincieli@shschool.ca
Library	Ms. Daniella Trevisan	dtrevisan@shschool.ca
LAC/Special Ed Director	Mrs. Teresa Utini	tutini@shschool.ca
P.E./Athletic Director	Mr. Enrico Perrotta	eperrotta@shschool.ca
Music/Fine Arts Director	Mrs. Melina Ivanovic	mivanovic@shschool.ca
French	Mrs. Donata Vitucci	dvitucci@shschool.ca
E.A.	Mrs. Annarita Elm	aelm@shschool.ca
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E.A.	Mrs. Mac Santalucia	msantalucia@shschool.ca
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E.A.	Ms. Erica Busto	erica.busto@shschool.ca
E.A.	Mrs. Gina Zivkovic	gzivkovic@shschool.ca
E.A.	Mrs. Anastasia Zdravkovic	azdravkovic@shschool.ca
E.A.	Mr. Nick Belmonte, Miss. Jenna Mobilio, Mrs. Katelyn Grippi, Miss. Alessia Giammaria, Miss. Nicola Ricci, Miss. Vanessa Paccani, Daniella Di Spirito	

SUPPORT STAFF

Office Manager	Ms. Nancy Ginnetti	office.shel@cisva.bc.ca
Secretary	Mrs. Laura DeFazio	secretary@shschool.ca
Bookkeeper	Mrs. Linda Spitale	lspitalehs@hotmail.com
Payroll	Mrs. Karen Paulyn	kpaulyn@shschool.ca
Maintenance	Mr. Paul Mobilio, Llyod Villota	office.shel@cisva.bc.ca

Note: Please note all staff emails are posted on the school website.

Teacher emails are for general communication purposes. This form of communication is **not** a replacement for parent-teacher conferences. **For all absentee notes, please submit the absentee form on our school app by 9 am.**

PEC MEMBERS 2022/2023

Ms. Gerardina Trasolini	Chairperson	Mrs. Misty Troisi	Participation
Mrs. Angela Coelho	Vice Chairperson	Mr. Chris Cheung	Participation
Mr. Nick Corea	Treasurer	Mr. Marco Holzer	Maintenance
Mr. Gavin D'Souza	Secretary	Fr. Alessandro Lovato	Pastor

SEPTEMBER News & Calendar

SEPT 6TH—FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (FULL DAY FOR ALL)
SEPT 7TH—GRADES 4-7 LEAVE FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION
SEPT 12TH—INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY / FULL UNIFORM & BUS BEGINS
SEPT 23RD—TERRY FOX RUN
SEPT 27TH—ST. MARY'S X COUNTRY MEET
SEPT 29TH—ORANGE SHIRT DAY—NON UNIFORM
SEPT 30TH—NO SCHOOL—TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION STAT

THANK YOU

All of you are fully aware that we are in the process of having our Main Building evaluated. You will receive the third update this Friday. I would like to thank all the community members, building committee, PEC, Archdiocese reps, and superintendent reps for their patience, understanding, cooperation and hard work as we navigate this challenging chapter. We were able to open our school on time with amazing resources and safe facilities for our students. I would also like to remind families that all our programs will continue to run as scheduled.

It meant a lot to me when Archbishop Michael Miller shook my hand to thank me and the community at large for all the wonderful work we do for our children in order to have our school open and running on time. Fr. Lovato has also expressed the same gratitude to me and our staff, recognizing our hard work for going above and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS

Congratulations to Christina Henderson on her marriage! Her new last name will now be Mrs. Devlin.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE

I would like to recognize a few staff members who worked along side me all summer without any breaks to provide proper facilities for our students. These people are Mr. Mobilio and Ms. Ginnetti.

I would also like to thank Steven Cirotto and his crew who donated over \$30,000 worth of flooring for our outdoor tents.

The floors in the gym were recently refinished.

New resources for our STEM room (we are in the process of providing additional instructors for Grades 4-7).

SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE HOURS

8:00 am—Supervision
8:55 am— Morning bell
10:15-10:30 am—Primary recess
10:30-10:45 am—Intermediate recess
12:00- 12:45 pm- Primary lunch
12:30-1:15 pm—Intermediate lunch
3:00 pm—Dismissal bell
3:20 pm—Supervision ends

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ST. HELEN'S SCHOOL APP

Our school app, which can be downloaded onto your smartphone, gives parents and students access to information regarding the upcoming school year. To submit an absentee letter on the app click the '*School Info*' tab then '*Absence Form*', pick your child's grade, fill form and submit. Please note that all notes must be submitted by 9 am daily.

If your child arrives late to school after 9 am, it is the parents responsibility to check them into the office and walk their child to the church basement.

This will directly notify both the office staff and teacher of your child's absence.

EDU-PAC SCHOOL SUPPLIES

In an effort to ensure that all students are prepared for the school year, we have purchased school supplies for all students from Edu-Pac in bulk. No further supplies are necessary from parents.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT

Tuition payments made through the pre-authorized debit service must be kept updated. If your chequing account changes please notify the office asap.

HEADLICE

With the end of summer vacation and the start to the new school year, we would like parents to take a pro-active approach this year to head lice. Please examine your child's hair today and on a regular basis. If head lice is found, please start treatment immediately and notify the school office.

REMINDERS

- ◆ No lunch drop offs during school hours.
- ◆ Please ensure to communicate with your child before school regarding playdates and pickups. Please do not contact the school to pass along messages to your children unless it is an emergency.

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STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT: SEE BODY OF THE E-MAIL

Students are expected to arrive punctually, attend regularly, and behave appropriately by:

- Preparing for lessons and having the appropriate books, materials and assignments ready for class,
- Showing consideration for others: the rights of peers, staff and visitors,
- Making a sincere, concentrated effort to do well in studies,
- Wearing the correct uniform at all times,
- Respecting and complying with school regulations,
- Participating attentively in all religious observances.

In addition to the above, a pleasant co-operative attitude is expected of each student. This is to be shown both to peers and staff. We believe that the display of good manners reflects proper home training including "Please" and "Thank you", "Excuse me", "I'm Sorry", and other such expressions. Gestures and behavior should also show proper manners. Consistent courtesy will encourage mutual respect and continue to build a caring community.

INTERMEDIATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION SCHEDULE : GR.4-7

The outdoor administration has notified us that parents will not be permitted to attend or visit camp. Parents are able to attend the Mass on Thursday, Sept 8th at 4:00 pm.

Students from Grades 4 to 7 will be attending Outdoor Education starting Wednesday, September 7th. Please ensure that students are at school by 7:15 am.

Wednesday, Sept 7th —Gr. 7A/7B Camp Summit

Wednesday, Sept 7th—Gr. 4, 5A,5B, & 6 Evans Lake

Students will return on Friday, September 9th between 3-3:30 pm

SCHOOL UNIFORM BEGINS SEPT 12TH

Students are expected to be in full uniform by Monday, September 12th. Students may wear the summer uniform until Thanksgiving long weekend. Please remember shoes must be **black** or **navy blue** and the height of the heel must not exceed 3.5 cm or 1.5 inches. September 6th-9th is a non uniform week, students may wear appropriate summer clothes. The policy regarding hair colour/haircuts and accessories will be in effect from Sep. 6th (including all intermediate students going to Camp).

During P.E days, students in Gr. K-3 are permitted to wear their St. Helen's Gym strip. Please note that during Mass Fridays (once a month) students are expected to be in their full uniform. Teachers will provide a changing facility for students to change if they need to.

We understand that Neat Uniforms can have backorders so please ensure that your children wear similar colours to our St. Helen's uniform until your uniform arrives.

Used Uniforms - If you have any used uniform pieces in good condition that you wish to donate, please bring your donation to the school office.

SCHOOL BUS & MORNING SUPERVISION:

Our bus service will begin on **Monday, September 12th** (\$45.00 monthly one way, \$50.00 monthly round trip). You will receive an e-mail regarding the finalized pick up and drop off times. We do our best to accommodate everyone but our time is limited to one hour on the road. **Finalized bus schedules will be sent out during the first week of September to all the bus families.**

SUPERVISION

Before school : begins at **8am**.

Afterschool: ends at **3:20pm**.



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LATE OR ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

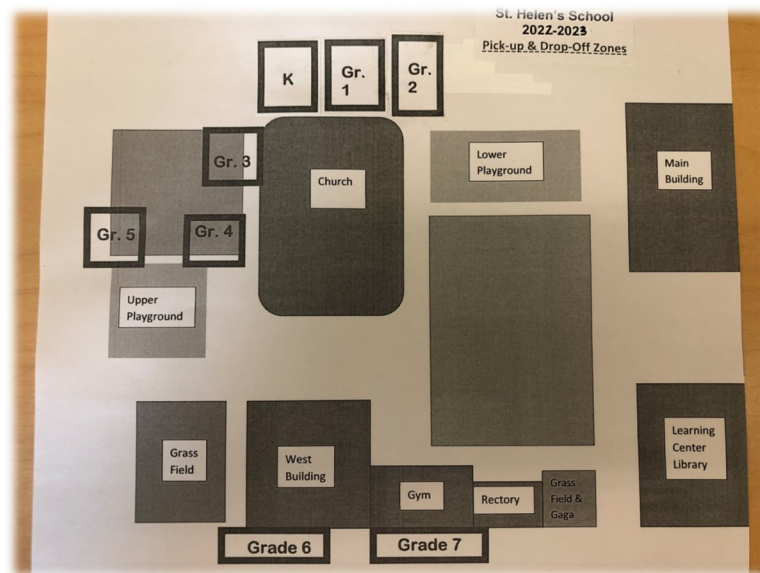
If your child is absent or late from school, you need to submit a note through our School App by **9:00 am**.

It is important that your children arrive to school on time so that they begin the day with everyone in their class for morning prayer. **Notes are required by the Ministry of Education.**

- ◆ Please advise the school office of any change of address, phone numbers, email, chequing account information or emergency contact information that has changed since registration by emailing the office or by phone

604-299-2234

DROP OFF AND PICK UP LOCATIONS



Gr. 6 & 7:

- will use Southside of the West Wing Building (Pandora Street)

- Parents will not get out of their vehicles as students will get out and go to their designated marked pylons on the playground

- Gr. K-5:

- Gr. K, 1, & 2 will be dropped off on Triumph Street in front of the Church

- Gr. 3, 4 & 5 will be dropped off on the west side parking lot of the Church

- Parents are not to get out of their vehicles as only students will get out and go to their marked pylons

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

All students will line up at their designated area by grade and proceed to the Church.

FRIDAY SCHOOL MASSES

The liturgy is a wonderful way to come together as a faith and learning community and give thanks to God for our many blessings. We welcome you to join us for Mass once a month on Friday's (when we are in session) at 9:15 am in the Church.

Searchers Spirit

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KakhFsrd42hiFfL6>



Here is a sample of our new facilities in the lower part of our Church and marquee tents. Every grade will have a homeroom permanently set up in the lower part of the church. Tents are alternative options for certain subjects and one tent will be shared per grade. One tent for KA/KB, one tent for 1A/1B, one tent for 2A/2B, one tent for 3A/3B and one tent for 4. By doing this we are providing students with a creative option for learning, introducing them to outdoor learning and providing them with fresh air and natural light. Tents will be equipped with lights and heating.

SEARCHERS History

Only 12 months left!

Here is a sample of a rough draft from our centennial book which will be published soon.

If you would like to be a major sponsor of this book, which will be distributed to every library in the lower mainland, we still have room so contact the office. Cost is \$5000. This book is being published with the input of students and staff and has been written by a professional writer and illustrator.

