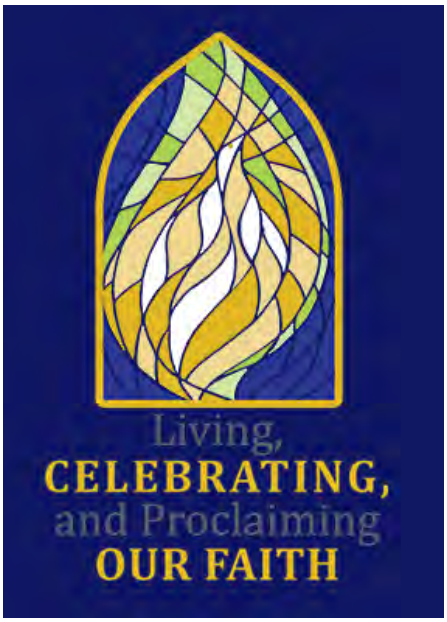
St. Helen's School Newsletter | September 2024

Principal Waldemar Sambor
Vice Principal Anthony Canosa



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! For me, it was one of the best yet—filled with hiking, spending time with family, and enjoying the beauty of our province, especially the beaches of Vancouver Island. I am thrilled to share that after two years of planning and navigating city permits, we have successfully set up our modular school. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am deeply grateful for your support. A special thank you to our Pastor, Father Al Lovato, our Project Manager, the Building Committee, PEC, and our dedicated staff. Our new facility is stunning, featuring six brand-new classrooms. We are currently in the process of furnishing them, including installing touch screens to create a modern learning environment. The plaza between the classrooms, adorned with rocks from Squamish will be a beautiful focal point for celebrating our faith this year. On the subject of faith, I am especially excited about the addition of wooden crosses throughout our school. These crosses are powerful reminders of our identity as a Catholic school—rooted in faith and our relationship with Jesus. Let's continue to pray, attend church, and uphold our Catholic values together. I am looking forward to an outstanding year ahead in 2024, seeing all the children and families healthy, eager to learn, and thriving in our enriched learning environment.

Please note: We are still awaiting the final inspection by the City of Vancouver. We will inform you as soon as we receive the occupancy permit. In the meantime, our teachers are busy preparing the new classrooms with resources and desks. Procedures regarding the use of washrooms will be provided by homeroom teachers, as we will be using the existing washrooms in the lower part of the church. Kindergarten and Grade 1 will remain in their classrooms downstairs.

Sincerely in Christ,

Waldemar Sambor

Principal

Searcher News

LIVING OUR FAITH

TEACHERS, &EA'S

Principal	Mr. Waldemar Sambor
Grade K	Mrs. Deanna Canosa
Grade 1A	Mrs. Melina Ivanovic
Grade 1B	Mrs. Debbie Jussinoja
Grade 2A	Mrs. Sandra Drlje
Grade 2B	Mrs. Angela Rakic
Grade 3A	Ms. Corrina Ialungo
Grade 3B	Mrs. Donna Perrotta
Grade 3B	Mrs. Claudia Martinelli
Grade 4A	Mrs. Jackie Kenny
Grade 4B	Ms. Sydney Martins
Grade 5A	Mrs. Michelle Milan
Grade 5B	Mr. Anthony Canosa
Grade 6	Mrs. Antonella Zaharija
Grade 7A	Mr. Anthony Belmonte
Grade 7B	Mrs. Lindsay Mincieli

LAC/Special Ed Director	Mrs. Teresa Utini
P.E./Athletic Director	Mr. Enrico Perrotta
Music/Fine Arts Director French	Ms. Jasmine Bean
E.A/French	Mrs. Donata Vitucci
E.A/Library	Mrs. Linda Zen
E.A	Mrs. Mac Santalucia
E.A	Miss. Erica Busto
E.A	Mrs. Gina Zivkovic
E.A	Ms. Jenna Mobilio
E.A	Mrs. Christina Devlin
E.A	Ms. Anna Guzzo
E.A/secretary	Mrs. Rosa Dente

Office Manager/ International Student Coordinator	Ms. Nancy Ginnetti
Secretary	Mrs. Laura DeFazio
Bookkeeper	Mrs. Linda Spitale
Payroll	Mrs. Andrea Quattrer
Facility Maintenance Manager	Mr. Paul Mobilio
Maintenance	Mr. Llyod Villota

wsambor@cisva.bc.ca	
dcanosa@shschool.ca	
mivanovic@shschool.ca	
djussinoja@shschool.ca	
sdrlje@shschool.ca	
arakic@shschool.ca	
cialungo@shschool.ca	
dperrotta@shschool.ca	
cmartinelli@shschool.ca	
jkenny@shschool.ca	
smartins@shschool.ca	
michelle.milan@shschool.ca	
acanosashs@shschool.ca	
azaharija@shschool.ca	
anthony.belmonte@shschool.ca	
lmincieli@shschool.ca	

tutini@shschool.ca	
eperrotta@shschool.ca	
jbean@shschool.ca	
dvitucci@shschool.ca	
lzen@shschool.ca	
msantalucia@shschool.ca	
erica.busto@shschool.ca	
gzivkovic@shschool.ca	
jenna.mobilio@shschool.ca	
cdevlin@shschool.ca	
anna.guzzo@shschool.ca	
rosa.dente@shschool.ca	

office.shel@cisva.bc.ca	
secretary@shschool.ca	
lspitaleshs@hotmail.com	
office.shel@cisva.bc.ca	
office.shel@cisva.bc.ca	
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 2024/2025

Mr. Gavin D'Souza	Chairperson	Mr. Chris Cheung	Participation
Mrs. Stefania Bogdanovic	Vice Chairperson	Mrs. Nikolina Grauer	Participation
Mr. Nick Corea	Treasurer	Ms. Monica Alvarez	Maintenance
Ms. Lana Piovesan	Secretary	Fr. Alessandro Lovato	Father

CALENDAR NEWS.....

SEPTEMBER 2ND- LABOUR DAY (NO SCHOOL)

SEPTMBER 3RD-FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL (FULL DAY K-7)

SEPTEMBER 4TH-6TH - NO UNIFORM, BUS OR ONLINE LUNCH

SEPTEMBER 4TH-6TH-OUTDOOR EDUCATION GRADE 4-7

SEPTEMBER 5TH-MASS AT EVANS LAKE AT 4:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 9TH- FULL FORMAL UNIFORM BEGINS

SEPTEMBER 12TH- INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS & FULL FORMAL UNIFORM

SEPTEMBER 26TH - OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 27TH - TERRY FOX RUN 1:15PM-2:45PM

SEPTEMBER 30TH- TRUTH AND RECONCILAITION DAY (NO SCHOOL)

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S!

To our Pastor, Fr. Lovato, our building committee chair, Derek Bosa and Luca Tinaburri, Crystal Roche and our PEC chair Gavin Dsouza for working with their committees as a team and providing our outstanding modular classrooms! To Diego Campanile for making our crosses, Dennis Bruschetta for making our aluminum fence around the modular school, Frank Artuso for volunteering during our construction, Mike and Barry Moscone for landscaping our modular school, Luciano DeMarchi and Victor Meira for taking care of the internet, PA system and alarm, Domenic Merenda for donating toward the playground electronic gate, thank you! Another big thank you to Mr. Paul Mobilio for spending many hours during the summer to help the contractors prepare the school in time. Thank you to all others for their time and commitment especially to the CISVA and RCAV offices.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE

Our old school was demolished and modular classrooms have arrived. Our Gym floors were revarnished and we purchased new resources. We had our West Wing deep cleaned as well as the lower level of the Church.

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– 12:30 pm– Primary lunch
12:30-1:00 pm—Intermediate lunch
3:00 pm—Dismissal bell
3:30 pm—Supervision ends

Searchers Information

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.

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

If your child arrives late to school after 9 am, it is the parents responsibility to check them into the office and we will walk the child to the their classroom if needed.

LIVING OUR FAITH

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. This program was implemented to help our parents during these difficult times.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT

REMINDER TUITION WILL COME OUT THE 1ST OF EVERY MONTH (SEPT-MAY)
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.

COMMUNICATION

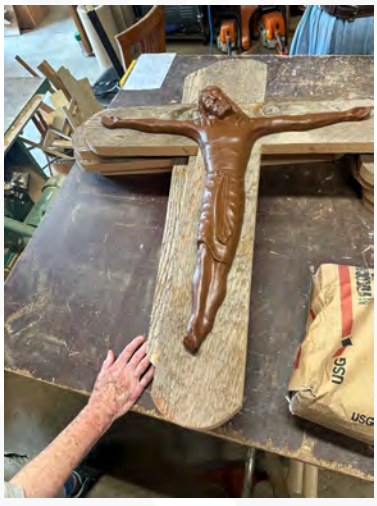
No lunch drop offs during school hours. Please ensure to communicate with your child before school regarding playdates and pickups. Please do not contact the school to pass along messages to your children unless it is an emergency.

Searchers News

Over the summer, I collaborated with Sister Magdalen and Sister Claire to create crosses for the new modular school, using large beams salvaged from the old school. Sister Magdalen meticulously handcrafted the figures of Jesus for each cross, while Mr. Diego Campanile cut the beams and assembled the crosses. We now have two additional crosses available for auction, with proceeds dedicated to furnishing the new facility. These crosses, made from 100-year-old wood, hold deep significance in our Catholic school community. Crafted by the sisters and principal, they represent a strong connection to our faith, honoring Catholic traditions throughout the school year. By placing these crosses in the new modular classrooms, we pay tribute to the continuity of our Catholic values and education, linking the past to the future of our school's spiritual journey.

We have six modular classrooms, and we would like to recognize every student and their family by engraving the student or family's name on the back of a cross. We are requesting donations, with a recommended amount of $100. All contributions will go toward furniture and resources for the new classrooms, such as touchscreens, shelving, and an outdoor classroom area between the modular buildings. More information will be provided by your homeroom teachers.

The cross is present in every aspect of our daily life - in sickness, poverty, tiredness, tensions with others, professional challenges. Through the cross, Jesus has taught us to turn our pain into glory.



Choir members needed

Our church choir is currently looking for more members. If any parents or highschool students are interested in joining, please contact Agnes Wan at the Parish office 604-298-4144