St. Mary's Catholic School
January 2020 Newsletter

St. Mary's School

- ✓ Academic Excellence
- ✓ Extensive Student Supports
- ✓ Athletic Programs
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Outdoor Education
- ✓ Charming, Connected School Atmosphere
- ✓ Excellent Teachers
- ✓ Excellent Longstanding Reputation
- ✓ On site After School & Daycare Programs

"Refer a Friend"

St. Mary's needs your help increasing enrollment! If you refer a friend who enrols in our school, you will receive December's tuition free!

*If you refer two families, you will receive two months of tuition free! And on and on!

If you do not have children currently enrolled at St. Mary's and you refer a family who enrols, we will grant another family a month's free tuition!

All children welcome!
(Catholic and Non-Catholic)

*This is assuming the family stays enrolled.

St. Mary's Catholic Independent School
stmary@shaw.ca / www.stmarysschool.ca

Tuition savings explained: Although schools like St. Mary's needs to charge tuition, many people are actually unaware of the tax savings families received because we are a registered charity.

Current tuition:

1st child: $250.00, 2nd child: $170.00, 3rd child: $75.00, 4th child: $no charge

School Council has been diligent in keeping tuition rates low. In fact, many of the initiatives the school has in place such as our Daycare, help to retain tuition rates that are enviable to other schools. Below is a sample of comparable first child tuition rates in other Independent schools in BC.

Other Independent Schools	Nelson Waldorf 2018-19	Heritage 2018-19	Kelowna Christian 2018-19	Penticton Christian 2017-18	Willow stone 2018-19	KCA 2018-19	Nelson Christian 2018-19	Kelowna Waldorf 2018-19
1 child	$330	$440	$465	$310	$503	$356	$265	$600

The REAL Tuition Costs: Tuition paid to our Catholic schools is an eligible charitable donation under Canada Revenue Agency guidelines. In 2017 tax receipts were issued for 100% of tuition paid in the year. Most families received a tax credit of 43% on the tuition that they paid during the year, which reduced their overall tax payable.

Example: School family with taxable income up to $200,000 who paid $4,750 in tuition for 3 children attending St. Mary's School, received a donation receipt of $4,750.

Federal charitable donation tax credit:
$30 (15% on the first $200)
$1,319.50 (29% on the remaining $4,550.00)

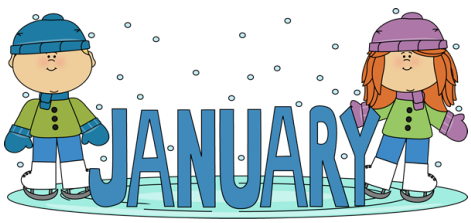
$1,349.50 ($30 + $1319.50) is their total federal tax credit.

Provincial charitable donation tax credit:
$10 (5.06% on the first $200)
$669 (14.7% on the remaining $4,550.00)

$679 ($10 + $669) **is their total provincial tax credit**

$2028.50 ($1,349.50+$679) is their total charitable donation tax credit for 2017 (42.7% of tuition paid). Net tuition paid is $2,721.50 ($4,750-$2,028.50).

****Next council meeting is: Monday, February 3rd at 6:00 P.M.**



Classroom Mission Projects for 2019-2020

Grades 4, 5/6:

- Wrote Christmas cards to Canadian Soldiers stationed overseas

Grade 2/3:

- Made & coloured placements for the Outreach breakfast at Christmas at St. Mary's Church. They also wrote cards of support to the elderly who are ill.

Grades Kindergarten, 1/2:

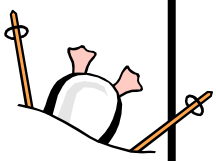
- Made & coloured placements for the Outreach breakfast at Christmas at St. Mary's Church.

Prayer cards for local sick people.

School food items for donation to Outreach Program for homeless and disadvantaged.

Coats for Kids' Program – through Knights of Columbus. The school donated more than 20 winter coats to those in need!

Intermediate Ski Day (Grade 4-6) – Tuesday, January 21st



Grade 4 to 6 students will be going skiing Tuesday, January 21st. **All students must be at St. Mary's at 8:20 A.M.** and drivers will be leaving at approximately 8:30 A.M. Ski day concludes at 3:00 P.M. Drivers will depart the ski hill at 3:30 P.M. and will arrive back at their respective homes by 4:00 P.M. We appreciate no last minute changes for committed drives and supervisors! Thank you!

Children <u>not</u> picked up by 3:15 P.M. are brought inside to wait for parents...And according to 'policy', given an espresso & a new puppy! Students must be supervised by their parents if they wish to slide on the sliding hill after school.

All students with sleds <u>must wear helmets</u> even after school hours.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS:

Noon Dismissal - Friday, January 17th (Staff Meeting)

NO SCHOOL - Friday, January 31st

'Snow' play expectations at school

As a brief summary, here are the expectations for 'taking care' of each other while outside playing in the snow:

- Do not throw snowballs at people or the building;
- Do not throw snow in other people's faces;
- We do not slide on crazy carpets or sleds in front of the school at any time;
- To slide on the sliding hill at lunch, children must have snow pants, mitts, hats, boots, and helmets;
- Only crazy carpets and saucers are allowed on our hill during school time;
- If children bring their own carpets and saucers to school, they must be stored outside. We do not have storage space for these items in the school. The school is not responsible for items left outside.
- **Our property is used by the school until 5:30 PM daily. For safety reasons, children staying after school to slide on our hill after 3:15 PM MUST be supervised by a parent or guardian. The school does not provide supervision after 3:15 PM.**

School Policy on our Sliding Hill

St. Mary's School has a school policy on the wearing of helmets during sliding activities. All students on the sliding hill **must be wearing a helmet** if they are on a sled. Only crazy carpets and foam toboggans will be allowed on the hill. GT racers, tubes and any **devices that are 'raised or have a steering wheel' will not be allowed on our hill as they** pose an additional safety risk. Although sliding on the hill will always pose a risk it is important that children be allowed to have fun outside while being as safe as possible. Students must have a helmet, snow pants, and mitts to play on the sliding hill. Please discuss this practice around safety with your children at home.

Shrove Tuesday! (Pancake Tuesday)

(Family supper the day before Lent begins)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Christ the Servant Church Hall - 1100 14th Ave South
Time: 4:30 – 7:00 P.M. (Drop In)
Tickets: $7.00 - adult
Children under 6 - free

Pancakes, Hashbrowns & Sausages

Cake Walk at 5:30 P.M.

(St. Mary's School Council Fundraiser)

*** Tickets can be purchased at the school office or at the churches after mass.*

PSG January 2020 Happy New Year from your PSG!!

Our PSG meeting for this month is Thursday, January 16th after Fun Lunch 12:00 PM.

I want to thank all the parents for coming out and volunteer for all the events bake sale, pancake breakfast, and fun lunch.

It is so great being part of such an amazing community and the spirit really becomes part of the kids which is totally awesome.

This spring there will be two last PSG fundraisers.

Meat Draw sales in February. Draw at the Night of the Museum.

Spring Basket Flowers delivery week of May 23rd - order by April 2nd.

Fun Lunch is Thursday, January 16th. We are always looking for Fun Lunch Volunteers!

Cheers!
Michelle Ewers, PSG Chair

Why should my child participate in SPEECH ARTS?

The art of memorizing and public speaking with expression!

St. Mary's School has a strong tradition of supporting the Speech Arts discipline of the annual East Kootenay Performing Arts Festival. This is a unique and important exercise for students and the value in this activity should not be underestimated by parents. It fits in with the Language Arts BC curriculum for oral language learning outcomes.

As a staff, we view this activity as highly important to your child's education. We would like to encourage each student who is comfortable to participate in this activity. Students can present individually or in a group. A poem will be memorized and presented. All participants receive an adjudication and a certificate.

Registration is due by **Saturday, January 25th** and **must be done online!** Late registrations will not be accepted. Information regarding this process will come from your child's classroom teacher. The Speech Arts Festival is Friday, February 21st, and performances are at the Knox Presbyterian Church. The Showcase Gala will be held Wednesday, March 11th.

Thanks, Mrs. Veldman

St. Mary's Senior Choir performance at the Alliance Church Wednesday, December 4th.

Thank you St. Mary's for an awesome Christmas concert!

What does handwriting have to do with learning? *~ Source: "The Brain that Changes Itself (Norman Doidge)*

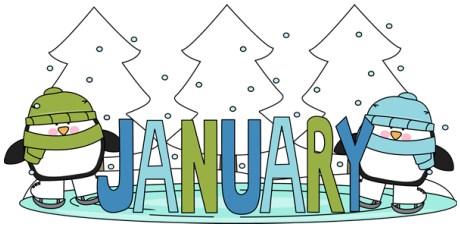
In the age of technology it seems like everyone has an opinion on handwriting. So where do <u>you</u> stand in the current educational debate of the relevance, or lack thereof, for children learning to handwrite? Should we be teaching handwriting? Should everyone learn to handwrite or are there exceptions? Is an adult who cannot <u>read</u> handwriting literate or illiterate? If you cannot sign your name are you truly literate? There's more to it than meets the eye. Here is a bit of the history:

For hundreds of years educators recognized that children's brains had to be built up through exercises of increasing difficulty that strengthened brain functions. Up through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries a classical education often included rote memorization of long poems in foreign languages, which strengthened the auditory memory (hence thinking in language) and an almost fanatical attention to handwriting, which probably helped strengthen motor capacities and thus not only helped handwriting but added speed and fluency to reading and speaking.

Then in the 1960s educators dropped such traditional exercises from the curriculum, because they were too rigid, boring, and "not relevant." But the loss of these drills has been costly; they may have been the only opportunity that many students had to systematically exercise the brain function that gives us fluency and grace with symbols.

In the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 the debaters would comfortably speak for an hour or more without notes, in extended memorized paragraphs; today many of the most learned among us, raised in our most elite schools since the 1960s, prefer the omnipresent PowerPoint presentation – the ultimate compensation for a weak premotor cortex.

So why does your child learn and apply handwriting in grades 3 - 6? We teach handwriting at St. Mary's for the reasons above, and also because the skill of reading handwriting is a component of being a literate person in today's society. Also, this may be the only time your child will learn handwriting in school. However, for some students, it is not appropriate to learn such a skill. Sometimes dysgraphia (extreme difficulty with handwriting) or particular learning disabilities will dictate that learning to handwrite is an exercise in frustration whereby the benefits are outweighed by the challenges. In these situations, we do not insist on a student learning to handwrite.



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Hats Off to Dr. Seuss™

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."
Dr. Seuss

Save-On Foods

If you buy your groceries at Save-On Foods, please tell the cashier that you are from St. Mary's School and they will record your total sales in a binder. The school receives a percentage of all sales quarterly!

Thanks for supporting our school!

Kindergarten registration for **September 2020** is now open! Please call or email the school office to put your name on our list.

FAMILY PIZZA , BINGO & CAKE WALK NIGHT

Come enjoy a night of Bingo at St. Mary's School!

St. Mary's School is hosting a Family Pizza, Bingo & Cake Walk night on Tuesday, January 28th. Please pre-order your pizza and you can drop by at 5:15 P.M. to eat supper in the gymnasium. Bingo is from 5:45 to approx.7:00 P.M.

Bingo Callers will be chosen from a hat of interested students for our three rounds of Bingo. Interested students may submit their names.

Prize Table: We need prizes for our prize table! If you have gently used toys and other items, we would be glad to accept your donation prior to January 28th.

Please bring a nut free **baked item** for the **Prize Table** (one per participant). You could win your pick of any of the Yummy Goodies!!!! Gluten free is welcome as well!

Bingo cards are $2.00 each, 3 for $5.00 or 9 for $12.00. Water, pop and popcorn for $2.00 while supplies last.

This is the last family bingo/cake walk fundraiser for this school year!

Family Bingo Night at St. Mary's School

Family Name: _____ Number of Guests: _____

My student (s) is interested in being a Bingo Caller: Yes No

Yes (student name): _____

(student name): _____

St. Mary's Pizza Order Form

Bingo Night – Tuesday, January 28th

Please return completed form with payment by Friday, January 24th.
(cash exact please OR cheques payable to St. Mary's School)

**** We will have extra pizza slices to purchase but it's better to pre-order as we can't guarantee there will be any of your choice!**

Family Name _____

	MEAL	PRICE
	FOR PIZZA SAKE – Panago Pizza 2 slices of pizza ~ handmade dough & 100% real cheese **beverage included**. (Bigger slices)	**$ 6.00**

CHEESE: _____ **X $6.00 = Total $**_____

HAWAIIAN: _____ **X $6.00 = Total $**_____

PEPPERONI: _____ **X $6.00 = Total $**_____

FINAL Total: $ _____