



St. Matthew's Elementary School

16065 88th Avenue Surrey, BC V4N 1G3
Telephone: 604-589-7545 Fax: 604-589-7113

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You know the saying, “*April showers bring May flowers*”; I, for one, am quite happy to enjoy any April rain that comes in contrast to the bountiful snow we received in the past few months!

April is quite a busy month for our school with preparations for the great season of Easter, our Speech Arts festival and track season! Please be sure to take time to read over this newsletter carefully as it contains a lot of important information. I wish all St. Matthew's families a wonderful upcoming Easter!

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified!” John 12:23

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

Friday, March 31, 2017	School Mass - Grade 2 9:00 am	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
Tuesday, April 4, 2017	Term 2 Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports Go Home	
Tuesday, April 4 - 6, 2017	Scholastic Bookfair 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm and, 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	<i>School Library</i>
Wednesday, April 5, 2017	In-School Speech Arts Festival (Primary) 10:30 am	<i>School Gym</i>
Thursday, April 6, 2017	In-School Speech Arts Festival (Intermediate) 10:30 am	<i>School Gym</i>
Thursday, April 6, 2017	Mite Boxes due to classroom teachers	
Friday, April 7, 2017	NO REGULAR SCHOOL Student Led Conferences <i>(You and your child have been assigned a particular time for the conference)</i>	
Friday, April 7, 2017	Scholastic Book Fair 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	<i>School Library</i>



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Friday, April 7, 2017	Grade 6 Bottle Drive <i>Bottles accepted between 9:30 am - 4:30 pm</i>	
Saturday, April 8 - Sunday, April 9, 2017	Overnight Confirmation Retreat for Grade 7 students	<i>Loon Lake, Maple Ridge</i>
Sunday, April 9, 2017	Palm Sunday Holy Week Begins	
Monday, April 10, 2017	Pizza Lunch Fundraiser	
Tuesday, April 11, 2017	PEC Meeting 5:00 pm	<i>School Library</i>
Wednesday, April 12, 2017	Grade 2 Sacramental Parent Meeting 6:30 pm	<i>Jubilee Hall</i>
Thursday, April 13, 2017	Holy Thursday Retreat Day for Students 8:40 am - 2:50 pm	
Friday, April 14, 2017	NO SCHOOL Good Friday	
Sunday, April 16, 2017	EASTER SUNDAY!	
Monday, April 17, 2017	NO SCHOOL Easter Monday	
Tuesday, April 18, 2017	School Reopens 8:40 am - 2:50 pm	



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Wednesday, April 19, 2017	Regional Speech Arts Festival at Our Lady of Good Counsel School	
Wednesday, April 19, 2017	Grade 6 Parent Sacramental Meeting 6:30 pm	<i>Jubilee Hall</i>
Thursday, April 20, 2017	Regional Speech Arts Festival at Our Lady of Good Counsel School	
Friday, April 21, 2017	Full Scale Emergency Evacuation Drill <i>Student Pick Up begins @ 2:00 pm</i>	
Saturday, April 22, 2017	Grade 2 Theme Mass 5:30 pm	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
Thursday, April 27, 2017	Non-Uniform Day <i>Jeans Day!</i>	<i>Bring a loonie or twoonie for Aura Humanitus Charity</i>
Friday, April 28, 2017	School Mass - Grade 1 9:00 am	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
Sunday, April 30, 2017	Pancake Breakfast <i>After the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses</i>	<i>School Gym</i>

POLICY UPDATES

At our Annual General Meeting in March it was noted that there have been some changes to our St. Matthew's Parent-Policy handbook; these include the addition of a policy about *Vapour Products on School Property*, an, *Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy* and lastly, a *Water Testing Policy*. The content of these policies can be found on our school's website under the Newsletter tab **and has also been added to our St. Matthew's Parent-Policy Handbook (also available on our school's website).**



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SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR - APRIL 4-7, 2017

Just in time for Easter...It's SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR time!

Stuff their baskets with books!!

Next week, St. Matthew's will be hosting another Scholastic Book Fair in the school library. On April 4th, 5th, and 6th, the book fair will be open at lunch (12:00 – 1:00) and after school (2:45 to 3:45). On Friday, April 7th, the book fair will be open all day, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to allow all parents to stop by before or after their student-led conferences.

Your support of past book fairs has allowed the school to purchase teaching resources and books for each classroom, as well as a shared collection of math and science materials. We thank you for your continued support, and hope to see you at the book fair!

Our book fair coordinators, Mrs. Bourassa and Mrs. Testani are looking for a few more parents to help out; if you are able to assist please contact either Mrs. Bourassa (bourassa@stmatthewselementary.ca) or Mrs. Testani (testani@stmatthewselementary.ca). Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017 - FULL SCALE EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL

This year on Friday, April 21, 2017 our entire school population will engage in a Full Scale Emergency Evacuation Drill. Each year our school, in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, conducts regular Fire, Earthquake and Lockdown drills. However, during this special drill, staff and students will extend the practice by:

- Grouping our student population into pre-determined “Colour Groups”,
- Taking out our emergency “Comfort Kits” (kits that contain food, a blanket, and other necessities),
- Setting up Command and Release Posts
- Sending home students from the Release Post

In order to facilitate the smooth operation of this drill, **we are asking for parents to start picking up their child(ren) from 2:00 pm onwards on Friday, April 21, 2017**. Please note that this process will take time as each child will have to be signed out from our “Release Post” (which will be located by the “Blue gate” adjacent to the priests’ rectory). Patience and understanding will be needed as we engage in this necessary drill for the first time. Below is a list of *Parent Responsibilities* that will need to be adhered to during this time. If you have any questions/concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca or 604-589-7545.

Full Scale Emergency Evacuation Drill

Parents - Description of Roles and Responsibilities

After an earthquake, fire, or any emergency requiring evacuation of the school, these procedures should be followed:

DO NOT attempt to phone the school. If the phone lines are open, they may be needed for emergencies.



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When you (or an alternate caregiver) arrive at the school to pick up children, you will find them assembled in the playground or in the school.

If on the playground, you must report to the Release Station at the blue gate (next to the rectory).

If we have re-entered the school, report to the Release Station in the front entrance of the school (lobby).

BE PATIENT AND CALM - RELEASING STUDENTS WILL TAKE TIME. WE WILL ALL BE ANXIOUS AND IF WE WORK TOGETHER EVERYONE WILL BE SAFE.

When we get to the Release Station, report (one at a time) to Ms. Patrizia Rossi or Mrs. Linda Potter. They will send a runner to bring your child(ren) to you.

PARENTS WILL NOT ENTER THE BLUE GATE UNLESS THEIR CHILD IS INJURED.

In the case of an injured child, the parent will be taken to that child. Your other children will stay in their team assembly area until you are ready to leave.

When your child is brought to the Release Station, Ms. Patrizia Rossi or Mrs. Linda Potter will have you sign a Master Release Form and then you may be on your way.

REMINDER - LENTEN MASSES

During the season of Lent we ask students in Grades 3 - 7 to make an extra effort to attend 8:00 am morning Mass at St. Matthew's. Students are asked to arrive at the church no later than 7:55 am and meet their teacher and classmates. Below is a schedule of the Masses:

Monday, April 3 - Grades 3 and 4
Wednesday, April 5 - Grades 5 and 6
Thursday, April 7 - Grade 7

Monday, April 10 - Grades 3, 4 and 5
Wednesday, April 12 - Grades 6 and 7

MITE BOXES

Mite boxes are due back to the school by April 6, 2017. Thank you.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES - FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

Please note that this is **not a regular day of school** for students. Students will come to school, **dressed in their school uniform**, with their parent/guardian at the time scheduled for them and show demonstrations of their learning. The conference typically takes about half an hour.



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BOTTLE DRIVE - FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

Save your bottles! On Friday, April 7, 2017 the Grade 6 class will hold another fundraising bottle drive. Plastic and glass recyclable bottles and cans can be dropped off between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm on Friday, April 7, 2017. Thank you in advance for your support of this important fundraiser - all proceeds go towards defraying the cost of attending Outdoor Education in September 2017.

SACRAMENTAL MEETINGS

There are several important sacramental meetings coming up. Please note the following dates:

- Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2017 - Overnight Loon Lake Retreat for **Grade 7 students**
- Wednesday, April 12, 2017 - Meeting for **Grade 2 Parents** at 6:30 pm in Jubilee Hall
- Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Meeting for **Grade 6 Parents** at 6:30 pm in Jubilee Hall

WALKATHON 2017

On Friday, May 5, 2017 our annual school Walkathon will take place. Our goal this year is to raise: \$15 000!

Our Walkathon will take place at Fleetwood Park (15802 - 80 Avenue, Surrey) between 10:00 am and 12 noon. This year we are challenging our Grade 5, 6 and 7 students to walk to and from Fleetwood Park!

Please note that WALKATHON 2017 Pledge forms will be sent out the week of April 3, 2017.

Details for this year:

- *Only 1 form will be sent home PER FAMILY*
- *No money is to be handed in until the **FIRST WEEK OF MAY***
- *Prizes will be given for : most number of listed pledges
: total amount of dollars raised*
- *More details will be sent soon*

Please note: In order to ensure the safety of our children as they walk to and from the park, additional parent helpers (walkers) will be needed. If you are interested in being a walker with the Grade 5, 6 and 7 classes please email the school office at: office@stmatthewselementary.ca Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

One of the charities that our school has supported this year is, *Good Shepherd Ministries*. They are a group of volunteers who help hand out socks, gift cards and necessities to people who live on the downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Below is a link to a video produced by this ministry which shows pictures of the work they are able to do through the support of organizations such as our school!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxeZk82EMFs&t=1s>

Sincerely in Christ,
Deborah Welsh, Principal



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