



St. Matthew's Elementary School

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

NEWSLETTER

August 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has definitely been a very hot and hazy summer this year. The splash of rain we got over the weekend was definitely welcome! I hope that all families are enjoying the season as our thoughts now turn to September. Here are a few important things to note as we near the start of the school year:

SCHOOL REOPENS!

School will resume for students in Kindergarten through Grade 7 on **Tuesday, September 5 at 8:40 am.** Please note that school **ends at 12:15 pm on September 5.** Normal school hours will commence on Wednesday, September 6 (8:40 am - 2:50 pm).

Parents with students entering Kindergarten please refer to the *Gradual Entry* schedule that was mailed to you in early July (your child was assigned a specific time to come in on September 5); if you have any questions please contact the school office at: 604-589-7545 or office@stmatthewselementary.ca beginning Monday, August 21, 2017.

All parents/relatives are welcome to join us for our first school Mass on Tuesday, September 5 at 11:15 am in the church.

St. Matthew's School Staff for 2017-2018:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Principal: | Miss Deborah Welsh |
| Office Administrator: | Ms. Patrizia Rossi |
| Grade 7: | Mrs. Kristina Tzetzos |
| Grade 6: | Mrs. Rosana Do Carmo |
| Grade 5: | Mr. Jesse Kuester |
| Grade 4: | Mrs. Casey Sisk |
| Grade 3: | Ms. Stephanie McGrath |
| Grade 2: | Ms. Stepfanie Sarangelo |
| Grade 1: | Ms. Francesca Baldissera |
| Kindergarten: | Mrs. Jeanine Sallos |
| Learning Support Teachers: | Mrs. Sharri Testani Mrs. Paula Bourassa (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays) |
| Athletic Director/Physical Education: | Mr. Damian Durante |
| Music: | Mrs. Denise Fawcett (Mondays and Wednesdays) |
| Educational Assistants: | Mrs. Linda Potter Ms. Rachel Potter Mrs. Laila Davis Mrs. Sherry Chem Mrs. Marilu Dias Mrs. Vivian Chow Mrs. Roshelle Mehra Mrs. Dorothy Roy |



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SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:

The school office will be open on the following days:

- Monday, August 21 to Friday, August 25, 2017 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- August 28, 29, 30 and September 1 from 9:00 am -3:00 pm.
- **On Thursday, August 31 and Monday, September 4, the office will be closed**

ONVOLUNTEER - PPP MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Each St. Matthew's family will have their own portal to review and view their Parent Participation Program (PPP) assignment. On the school's website there is a link to the portal. **On the last page of this newsletter** you will find instructions on how to login and navigate this system. If you encounter any problems please contact the school office at office@stmatthewselementary.ca or 604-589-7545 beginning Monday, August 21, 2017.

SUPERVISORS' MEETING – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM:

Please note that on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 7:00 pm there will be a **mandatory** meeting for **all** St. Matthew's families regarding supervision. All families are expected to do 4 supervisory shifts this year. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Important supervising guidelines will be reviewed and a supervisor's manual will be given out to all attendees.

MEET THE TEACHER: SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM:

Mark your calendars: On Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 pm we will have our annual, Meet The Teacher Night. This is one of the most important nights of the school year for all our parents and guardians. You will have an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and hear about all the important activities your child will be engaging in this school year. We will first meet in the school gym for opening words and prayer. Then we will have sessions in the classroom, immediately following the session in the gym. See you then!

HEALTHY FOOD GUIDELINES

At St. Matthew's School staff members continually strive to work with parents and guardians to ensure that students are learning about and participating in healthy activities and healthy eating habits. We also want to make sure that we are following the guidelines set by the Ministry regarding food and beverage items in schools.

In addition to encouraging healthy eating options we also have several students in our school with serious allergic reactions to certain foods. Therefore, **we are asking that for special days such as birthdays and other events like Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day, Easter, Year-End, etc. that no food treats are brought to class.** If you wish, instead of food items you are welcomed and encouraged to:

- (1) Purchase a book or a game for your child's classroom or,



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(2) Bring a special pencil or pen for each child in the classroom

Please note this is ENTIRELY OPTIONAL

There may be times that the classrooms have prearranged celebrations and when this occurs, teachers will oversee the types of food items brought in. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If food items are brought in, teachers will be sending them back home with the child or parent who brought them in.

UNIFORM

Please review the uniform expectations for all students; please also note our policy regarding jewelry and hair and hair accessories.

Boys:

Navy dress pants (double knee) – no cords, cotton pants, or jeans
White polo shirt with St. Matthew's name
Navy socks with black dress shoes (not runners)
Pullover sweater or V-neck vest are mandatory. (One or the other)

Summer Uniform (optional): Blue-walking shorts (in effect from September 5 to October 16 and then again from May 15 to the end of June)

Girls:

Tartan tunic - not more than 3" above the knee or 1" below the knee (Primary - Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3)
Tartan kilt - not more than 3" above the knee or 1" below the knee
(Intermediate – Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6 and Grade 7)

White polo shirt with St. Matthew's name
Navy knee-high socks or navy tights or leotards
Black dress shoes (heels no higher than 1 1/2 inches and no ankle boots).

School cardigan sweater is mandatory.



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Gym Strip:

Crested mesh navy shorts

Grey crested t-shirt and indoor runners (non- scuff).

White athletic socks are optional (for P.E. only)

Accessories:

Only navy, green, white or discreet hair coloured hair bands, barrettes and accessories are acceptable. No jewelry except for simple watches and small earrings (girls only) and small simple chain necklaces are permitted. Nail polish and make-up are not permitted.

Hair colour must be natural. Girls' and boys' hair must be neat and tidy. Boys' hair must be kept short and neat, above the collar and eyes and ears must be visible. Extreme styles are not acceptable.

LABELLING OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS:

Please ensure that every item your child wears or brings to school is carefully labeled. May we please suggest you stitch your child's name into the sweater label as ink wears off with use and washing. Unlabeled items that remain in the Lost and Found will be donated at the end of each term.

We look for your continued support in doing your utmost to ensure your children are dressed appropriately each day and to communicate to the school if you have any questions or concerns.



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UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

- subject to minor changes

| AUGUST 2017 | |
|---|---|
| Monday, August 21, 2017 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | <i>School Office Re-Opens</i> |
| Wednesday, August 23, 2017 7:00 pm | <i>Supervisors Orientation Meeting</i> |
| SEPTEMBER 2017 | |
| Tuesday, September 5, 2017 8:40 am - 12:15 pm | <i>School Re-Opens for <u>all</u>* students *Parents of Kindergarten students have already received separate <u>gradual</u> entry schedule*</i> |
| Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:40 am - 2:50 pm | <i>Regular School Schedule Begins</i> |
| Wednesday, September 6, 2017 6:00 pm | <i>Meet the Teacher Night</i> |
| Wednesday, September 20 - Friday, September 22, 2017 | <i>Grade 7 class at Stillwood Camp</i> |
| Thursday, September 28, 2017 | <i>Terry Fox Run Day</i> |
| OCTOBER 2017 | |
| Monday, October 9, 2017 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday</i> |
| Friday, October 20, 2017 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Provincial Professional Development Day</i> |
| NOVEMBER 2017 | |
| Friday, November 3, 2017 | <i>3 Way Conferences – No Regular School for Students</i> |
| Monday, November 13, 2017 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Remembrance Day</i> |



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| DECEMBER 2017 | |
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| Sunday, December 3, 2017 | <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> |
| Tuesday, December 5, 2017 | <i>First Term Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports go home</i> |
| Wednesday, December 20, 2017 | <i>School Christmas Musical</i> |
| Friday, December 22, 2017 | <i>Last Day of School before the Break</i> |
| Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 8, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break</i> |
| JANUARY 2018 | |
| Tuesday, January 9, 2018 8:40 am - 2:50 pm | <i>School Re-Opens</i> |
| Friday, January 26, 2018 | <i>Student Led Conferences (No regular school for students)</i> |
| FEBRUARY 2018 | |
| Sunday, February 4 - February 9, 2018 | <i>Catholic Schools' Week</i> |
| Thursday, February 8 - Friday, February 9, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Catholic Educators' Conference</i> |
| Monday, February 12, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Family Day Holiday</i> |
| Wednesday, February 14, 2018 | <i>Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins</i> |
| Thursday, February 22, 2018 6:00 pm | <i>Annual General Meeting</i> |
| MARCH 2018 | |
| Monday, March 12 - 23, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Spring Break</i> |



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| Monday, March 26, 2018 8:40 am - 2:50 pm | <i>School Re-Opens</i> |
| Friday, March 30, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL – Good Friday Holiday</i> |
| Monday, April 2, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL – Easter Monday Holiday</i> |
| APRIL 2018 | |
| Tuesday, April 3, 2018 | <i>Second Term Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports Go Home</i> |
| Thursday, April 19, 2018 | <i>School Spring Presentation</i> |
| MAY 2018 | |
| Friday, May 4, 2018 8:40 am – 12:15 pm | <i>Walkathon (school ends at 12:15 pm)</i> |
| Sunday, May 6, 2018 | <i>First Holy Communion</i> |
| Friday, May 18, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day</i> |
| Monday, May 21, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Victoria Day Holiday</i> |
| JUNE 2018 | |
| Friday, June 8, 2018 | <i>NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day</i> |
| Friday, June 15, 2018 8:40 am - 12:15 pm | <i>Fun Day - School ends at 12:15 pm</i> |
| Friday, June 22, 2018 1:30 pm Show | <i>Talent Show</i> |
| Tuesday, June 26, 2018 | <i>Grade 7 Farewell Mass and Ceremony</i> |
| Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:40 am - 12:15 pm | <i>Last Day of School - School ends at 12:15 pm</i> |



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ONVOLUNTEER - PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

August 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The St. Matthew's School Parent Participation Volunteer Program is a cornerstone of our school community. As this program plays such an important role in our school community, we have decided to take steps to help make the process easier for everyone involved, for parents, the volunteer team, and school staff alike.

New Online Volunteer System

We will be moving to a new online software system to make it easy for parents to participate in the volunteer program. The new system automates and simplifies the volunteer process. There is no fee for parents to use this system.

Each family will have their own unique password-protected website, aka 'volunteer portal'. From within your own portal, you will be able to:

- Easily view the volunteer tasks your family has been assigned and also sign up for other volunteer tasks (where applicable).
- Automatically track the volunteer tasks and associated service hours you have been assigned, or signed up for.
- Know your real-time service hours total, any time.
- Receive/send messages from and to the Volunteer team regarding volunteer-related matters, all from within your private portal.



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You can login to your parent website at the following url:

<http://sms.sry.onvolunteers.com>

Username: Parent/Guardian's email address

Password: stm12345

The first time you log in, you will see a 'Start Guide' screen, this has 4 short videos that will familiarize you with your volunteer portal. We recommend that you watch at least the 1st video, the Introduction video. This video will show you how to **personalize your password** (which we strongly recommend you do, for security purposes).

The website is easy to use, if you can surf the Web, then you'll easily be able to use your volunteer portal. Along with the Start Guide, there are other videos in the 'How-To' area, link on the upper right inside your portal.

In case you forget your username and/or password, please use the '[Forgot your password](#)' function on the login page; enter the email address you registered with the school and the system will email you your username and password.

If you have any questions about our new volunteer process, please feel free to contact us at: office@stmatthewselementary.ca or ppp@stmatthewselementary.ca

Thank you again for your continuous support of our volunteer program.

Sincerely,

St. Matthew's Elementary School