



# St. Matthew's Elementary School

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

## NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The redesigned curriculum of B.C. mandates that all educators focus on exploring the First Nations (First Peoples') perspectives. We were very fortunate to have Deacon Rennie Nahanee, a deacon in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and a Squamish Nation elder, come to our school in late February to visit with our children. Deacon Rennie's visit began with a whole school blessing and then he proceeded to visit with each class and teach them about different subjects through the lens of the First Nations' people. Deacon Rennie discussed Science, Socials, Storytelling and of course, our Faith, in fascinating detail! Our school community was definitely blessed with his presence and we are grateful for him spending a whole day with us!



Lent begins this Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Teachers have already begun preparing your children for this season by teaching them some of the traditions associated with the Lenten season: in particular fasting, almsgiving and prayer. You are all welcome to join us for the Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00 am on March 1, 2017. You will also find on the last page of this newsletter some suggested activities families can do together to journey through Lent.

***Lenten prayer: Holy Father, help us to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal. Motivate us to reach a new level of experiencing your grace. Amen.***

### UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

<b>Wednesday, March 1, 2017</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00 am - Lent Begins</b>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
<b>Thursday, March 2, 2017</b>	<b>St. Matthew's Elementary Annual General Meeting (AGM) 6:00 pm</b>	<i>School Gym</i>
<b>Friday, March 3, 2017</b>	<b>School Assembly - Stations of the Cross (Grade 6) 9:00 am</b>	<i>School Gym</i>
<b>Monday, March 6, 2017 - Friday, March 10, 2017</b>	<b>St. Matthew's Literacy Week</b>	
<b>Monday, March 6, 2017</b>	<b>Pizza Lunch Fundraiser</b>	
<b>Tuesday, March 7, 2017</b>	<b>PEC Meeting 5:00 pm</b>	<i>School Library</i>



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<b>Wednesday, March 8, 2017</b>	<b>Non-Uniform Day: Dress Up Like Your Favourite Literary Character</b>	
<b>Wednesday, March 8, 2017</b>	<b>Grade 2 Parent Meeting 6:30 pm</b>	<i>Jubilee Hall</i>
<b>Friday, March 10, 2017</b>	<b>School Mass - Grade 3 9:00 am</b>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
<b>Monday, March 13, 2017-Friday, March 24, 2017</b>	<b>Spring Break NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>	
<b>Monday, March 27, 2017</b>	<b>School Re-opens 8:40 am</b>	
<b>Tuesday, March 28, 2017</b>	<b>Over 18 Documentary Film 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm) Admission by Donation</b>	<i>Holy Cross Regional High School Gym</i>
<b>Wednesday, March 29, 2017</b>	<b>Grade 1 Parent Meeting 6:40 pm</b>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
<b>Thursday, March 30, 2017</b>	<b>In-School Spelling Bee</b>	
<b>Friday, March 31, 2017</b>	<b>School Mass - Grade 2 9:00 am</b>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 2, 2017**

St. Matthew's Elementary Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held this: **Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the school gym.** This is a mandatory meeting where all school families are expected to have at least one parent represented at the meeting - important information about the 2017-2018 school year will be presented as well as re-registration forms will be given out. Re-registration forms can only be picked up by the parent/guardian of the child(ren) currently registered in the school. Thank you.

## **THANK YOU - 5 FOR THE ROAD FUNDRAISING CONCERT**

Thank you to all those who supported the *5 for the Road* fundraising concert on February 17, 2017. It was a great success, with audience members humming along to popular tunes from the 70s, 80s and 90s! A special thank you to Ann Amsing, Katrina Bellosillo and Homer Reyes for overall organization of the



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event and to the St. Matthew's Catholic Women's League (CWL) and St. Matthew's Knights of Columbus for their invaluable help in setting up/taking down and providing coffee and goodies! Also, thank you must go to the Grade 7 students who helped with the concession stand and collection of tickets. Over \$3200 was raised! Thank you!

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (PPP) - DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF HOURS MARCH 15, 2017**

Families: please ensure that you have updated your PPP hours **on-line**, as the deadline for submission of hours for the first half of the school year is on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. Please remember that tracking PPP hours is a **2 step process**:

- (1) Family members need to sign in/log their hours at the school office using the binder provided and,
- (2) Families **also need to** go to the St. Matthew's website and log their hours on-line
- (3) A special note to those families who are on *Special Events* teams and whose hours will not start until the second half the year: your hours will be fulfilled once the school year ends, so you will not be charged for having completed 0 hours as of March 15

## **STAFFING**

It is with deep regret that I announce that the following staff members will not be returning to St. Matthew's after the 2016-2017 school year: Mrs. Rasmussen (Grade 7 teacher); Mrs. Koochin (Grade 2 teacher currently on maternity leave); Mrs. Lisa Cheah (Grade 3 teacher currently on leave); Ms. Lizette Gatlabayan (Special Education Assistant). Mrs. Rasmussen will be moving with her family to Vancouver Island, while Mrs. Koochin and Mrs. Cheah are now devoting their attentions to being full-time moms! (In fact, Mrs. Cheah and her husband are expecting their second child!) Ms. Gatlabayan will now be pursuing further schooling and travel. Fortunately, we still have them with us until June 2017!

## **LITERACY WEEK - MARCH 6-10, 2017**

Quick! Can you name your favourite book? Books, books and more books will be the theme for our Literacy Week beginning on Monday, March 6, 2017. Each day of this week will be filled with reading fun! Highlights include:

- Dress Like Your Favourite Literary Character (Wednesday, March 8, 2017)
- Stop and Read! (Students will carry a book with them all day long and when an announcement comes on they will stop what they are doing and read!) AND,
- Doing a fun project focused on their favourite book

## **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, March 6 - Grades 3 and 4  
Wednesday, March 8 - Grades 5 and 6  
Thursday, March 9 - Grade 7

Monday, March 27 - Grades 3 and 4  
Wednesday, March 29 - Grades 5 and 6  
Thursday, March 30 - Grade 7



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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**

One Lenten tradition we have observed annually at St. Matthew's is using Mite boxes. Students will be bringing home their Mite boxes tomorrow (March 1) along with a prayer card featuring a local seminarian. All students are encouraged to pray for their seminarian and to fill their Mite boxes with any extra change they have or may earn. All monies collected will go towards supporting the seminarians in our Archdiocese. Mite boxes are due back to the school by April 6, 2017. Thank you.

## **OVER 18 DOCUMENTARY - TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017 - 7:00 PM - HOLY CROSS HIGH**

Pornography addiction is endemic in our society; especially amongst our young people. Research has found that first exposure to pornography (through the internet, magazines, TV) occurs as young as 11 years old. Recently some local filmmakers created a powerful documentary regarding the far-reaching nature of this industry and Holy Cross High school will be hosting a viewing of this; please see details below:

**Holy Cross High school would like to invite everyone at every parish and Catholic school in the area and anyone you can think to invite to a showing of *Over 18 A Documentary on Porn*. It is so powerful that we feel very strongly about sharing its message with anyone and everyone who has responsibility and contact with children.**

# OVER 18

## A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT PORN

- When:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
- Where:** Holy Cross Regional High School Gymnasium (16193 - 88th Avenue, Surrey, BC)
- Cost:** By donation
- Who:** Parents, grandparents, teachers, anyone who works with children and youth

*Please watch and share the trailer at [www.over18doc.com](http://www.over18doc.com).*

***Babysitting will be provided on site.***

## **INTERNET SAFETY**

If you are interested in learning more about protecting your children from inappropriate material on the internet through the use of filters/apps please contact me at [welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca) There is a family at our school who have knowledge of several resources that can help in this area. Thank you.



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## **SACRAMENTAL MEETINGS**

There are several important sacramental meetings coming up for our Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 6 and Grade 7 parents and students. Please note the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - Meeting for **Grade 2 Parents** at 6:30 pm in Jubilee Hall
- Wednesday, March 29, 2017 - Meeting for **Grade 1 Parents** at 6:40 pm in the Church
- Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2017 - Overnight Loon Lake Retreat for **Grade 7 students**
- Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - Meeting for **Grade 6 Parents** at 6:30 pm in Jubilee Hall

## **STUDENT LED CONFERENCES - FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017**

Forms for student led conferences were sent home this past Monday. Copies will also be made available on the school's website under the, "Newsletter" tab. 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.

## **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.

## **WALKATHON 2017**

On Friday, May 5, 2017 our annual school Walkathon will take place. Our Walkathon takes 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. 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](mailto:office@stmatthewselementary.ca) Thank you!

## **CONFIRMATION 2017**

Our students from Grade 7 along with the students from St. Matthew's Parish PREP program will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from His Grace, Archbishop Michael Miller on Sunday, May 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The Confirmation Rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, May 24 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the church. Each student, their sponsor and at least one parent, must attend the rehearsal. Please be sure to mark your calendars now for these two very important dates.

Sincerely in Christ,

***Deborah Welsh***



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## **LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES**

### **Lenten Family Mealtime**

In addition to “Friday fish day,” designate one evening a week to prepare a meal together. Assign a different dish or task to each family member. Before starting, discuss how each family member is giving to the others—giving time, effort, and care to nourish the entire family to go out and do God’s will. Begin with a prayer of thanks and petition.

### **Family Lenten Reading**

Prominently display the Bible and other books that feature topics such as the following: Lent, forgiveness, prayer, Scripture, generosity, social justice and service for others.

### **Family Kindness and Sharing**

On slips of paper, write random acts of kindness, such as give a compliment, say hi to an old friend, carry someone’s heavy load. Present each family member with a slip of paper as he or she leaves in the morning. Invite each family member to perform the kindness without seeking recognition. Afterward, talk together about what happened. Pray with one another that your kindnesses will be passed on throughout Lent and beyond.

### **Giving to Charities**

Ask each family member to find three to five high-quality, useful items that would be appreciated by those who are less fortunate. Donate the items to a favorite charity. Pray together for those who will receive them.

*-ideas from Loyola Press*