



# St. Matthew's Elementary School

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

## NEWSLETTER

September 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In September we celebrate new beginnings - the new school year, new friends, and a different season (Autumn). I trust that the information contained in this newsletter will help smooth the transition into the new school year! There is a lot of important information contained in this month's newsletter - please take time to read it carefully.

*God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us!*

*2 Corinthians 5:19*

### UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

<b>Tuesday, September 6</b>	<b>School Starts 8:40 am - 12:15 pm</b>	<i>School Ends at 12:15 pm</i>
<b>Tuesday, September 6</b>	<b>School Mass 11:15 am</b>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
<b>Wednesday, September 7</b>	<b>Regular School Hours begin (Grades 1-7) 8:40 am - 2:50 pm</b>	
<b>Wednesday, September 7</b>	<b>Meet the Teacher Night 6:00 pm</b>	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>
<b>September 12, 13, 14</b>	<b>Grade 7 students at Camp Timberline</b>	<i>Timberline Ranch, Maple Ridge</i>
<b>Friday, September 16</b>	<b>School Assembly - led by Grade 5 9:00 am</b>	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>
<b>Tuesday, September 20</b>	<b>Individual School Photos</b>	
<b>Tuesday, September 20</b>	<b>Head Checks</b>	
<b>Wednesday, September 21</b>	<b>Terry Fox Run Day</b>	
<b>Friday, September 23</b>	<b>School Mass - led by Grade 7 9:00 am</b>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
<b>Monday, September 26</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - Professional Development Day</b>	
<b>Wednesday, September 28</b>	<b>Non-Uniform Day - Fall Colours (Orange, Brown and Red)</b>	<i>Bring a loonie or twonie for charity</i>
<b>Friday, September 30</b>	<b>School Assembly - led by Grade 5 9:00 am</b>	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>

### THANK YOU

Mrs. Flora Kuku would like to extend her sincere thanks to all families in the St. Matthew's community who helped her and her children during the passing of her husband Mr. Kuku Esegemu Fossung. Mrs.



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Kuku is grateful for all the prayers, love, support and sense of community that was offered during this very difficult time. May God bless you all for your support.

## **GRASS FIELD**

Please note that the grass field is off limits to all students until we receive word that it is ready to be used as a playing field.

## **SCHOOL MASS**

Our first school Mass will take place our first day back at 11:15 am. All parents and family members are most welcome to attend this Mass and any other future school Masses. We are asking, as in previous years, for students to bring a non-perishable food item whenever there is a school Mass to help support the St. Matthew's St. Vincent de Paul Society. The food collected goes to needy families in our local community.

## **TUITION FEE INFORMATION**

Please note that in order to be placed in Category 1 for monthly tuition fees your family needs to fulfil the following requirements:

- (1) Be a registered member of the parish
- (2) Be an *active* parishioner; ***active means that you and your family attend Mass each Sunday and use the envelopes provided to you at each Sunday Mass; there is no minimum amount that you have to contribute in the envelopes***
- (3) If you are not able to attend Mass at St. Matthew's then you are permitted to use your St. Matthew's envelope at another church you attend within the Archdiocese of Vancouver; the envelope will make its' way back to St. Matthew's parish

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Principal, PEC Chairperson or the parish office for clarification. Thank you.

## **PARISH RAFFLE TICKETS**

A message from the parish: Parents are reminded to please pick up your *Parish Raffle Tickets* by the Fireside Room. If you have any questions about the raffle tickets or require more booklets please contact the parish at: 604-589-2448.

## **MEET THE TEACHER: SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM:**

On Wednesday, September 7 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!



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## **ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH INTERNATIONAL BRUNCH**

### *Event*

Coinciding with St. Matthew's Feast Day, the infamous International Brunch event will be taking place on Sunday Sept. 18th in the school gym from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This year's event will not disappoint with the many delicious foods that will be served from representatives of our diverse community. Tickets to the event will be sold after the Masses in the coming weeks -- \$12/ticket will get you an opportunity to feast on 10 meal samplings of your choosing.

This year, SMES will be represented at the event with their very own table serving pizza slices and homemade mac and cheese. Make sure you drop by the school table!

### *Raffle Basket Donations*

The elementary school will be a more active participant in the roll out of this event. Each grade will be contributing a completed basket(s) to be raffled off during the brunch. All proceeds raised from Basket Raffle will go directly to the school and its needs. We are asking that each student/grade bring one food-specific item as per the below list, so gift baskets can be filled with delicacies and treats from around the world: \*please bring in all foods by Sept. 14\*

Kindergarten/Grade 1 - Asian theme (noodles, sauces/marinades, etc.)

Grade 2/3 - Italian theme (pasta, sauces, cookies, seasonings, etc.)

Grade 4/5 - Coffee/Tea theme (various coffees/teas, biscuits, jams, etc.)

Grade 6/7 - Wine/Cheese theme (various crackers, cheese, wines, etc.)

## **HEALTHY LUNCH PROGRAM**

The first hot lunch service will begin on Wednesday Oct. 5th. Further information and registration details will soon be provided separately.

## **SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS**

If you have not yet had the opportunity, please go to the school's website ([www.stmatthewselementary.ca](http://www.stmatthewselementary.ca)) to sign up to receive St. Matthew's E-News. Important reminder messages and the copy of our monthly newsletters are sent through St. Matthew's E-News. You will find the tab for the E-News sign up on the right, middle side of our school's website.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (PPP)**

Thank you to all parents who are committed to participating in our PPP. Your involvement is essential to the operation of our school. Please take a moment to review some key information about PPP this year:

(1) We are still looking for a family (or families) to sign up for our "Morning Cone" set-up. This job involves setting up the signs and cones for our morning drop off zone. Work is to be completed by 7:45 am. We will need families for each day of the school week. Interested? Contact our PPP coordinator: [ppp@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:ppp@stmatthewselementary.ca)



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(2) Please remember that once you have completed a shift then you need to (a) sign in, in our binder (located at the school office) **and also, (b)** log in your hours, on-line. Go to [www.stmatthewselementary.ca](http://www.stmatthewselementary.ca) and navigate to the top right hand corner to login your hours (click on the PPP tab). There is also a laptop available at the school office for families to login hours directly, online. Just ask Ms. Rossi, our school secretary, and she will make the laptop available for your use.

## **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,
- (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)



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Summer Uniform (optional): Blue-walking shorts (in effect from the beginning of September to October 14 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.

## **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.