



CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

.....

Grade 7 - Term 2!

St. Matthew's Elementary School

New Year Resolutions ~ The Pope Francis List

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh.'
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord.'
10. Be happy. (The Joy of the Gospel).

by [Angelique Rasmussen](#)

Our Grade 7 community has truly come together as a cohesive unit. Anytime that anyone is missing, their absence is sorely felt by the group as a whole. Students are genuinely aware of one another's individual challenges, and cherish each one's strengths. They include one another in activities, and cheer each other's successes. This group of students is in a unique situation as the oldest in our school since we began in 2012. As such, they are in a unique position of leadership and they truly live up to this role. An overarching concept is that of 'legacy' and how this class sets traditions that will be followed for years to come. Every day, students bring great ideas and energy to our class. They never cease to amaze me with their kindness, curiosity and creativity! Each and every one of them truly belongs here. It is a daily source of joy for me to be with them!



CONFIRMATION

Upcoming Parent Meetings are scheduled as follows - attendance is mandatory:

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:30 FOR PARENTS (sponsors welcome) Guest Speakers

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:30 CISVA Sexuality and Your Child Evening

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 6:30 FOR SPONSORS. PARENTS and STUDENTS

Student Masses are scheduled for:

Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 5:30 - ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND

Confirmation Retreat at Loon Lake on April 8-9, 2017

We still do not have our date for Confirmation, but you will be advised as soon as we receive it.

The Catechism required for Confirmation will be a focus for Grade 7 this term, so that students have what they need to be ready. We have also begun our Theology of the Body For Teens Curriculum. Students thoroughly enjoyed painting icons of their saints with guest artist Chris Kielesinski. Individual Saint projects will be completed in Term Two.



Please also support your son or daughter in completing weekly Mass Journals. The template is on the Grade 7 Google docs page. Students are also given a copy of the anticipated Gospel for each week, along with comprehension activities to promote understanding. You are encouraged to read the Gospel together with your child ahead of time, and review the activities prior to going to Mass. The most important part of the Mass Journal is the section that requires students to reflect upon what the Gospel/Homily each week means to them individually.

ACADEMICS

In addition to Religion, we will also be focusing on the following areas of study in the second term:

- Listing and describing aspects of current Canadian laws and government structures that have evolved from ancient civilizations (including social, political, legal, governmental, and economic systems and structures, and at least one indigenous to the Americas).
- Elements (consisting of one type of atom) and compounds (consisting of atoms of different elements) and how they are chemically combined.
- Computational fluency and flexibility with numerical operations involving integers and decimals.
- Reciprocally discussing simple interests in French.

Further aspects of language arts, arts education, applied design skills and technology are woven throughout curriculum and instruction.

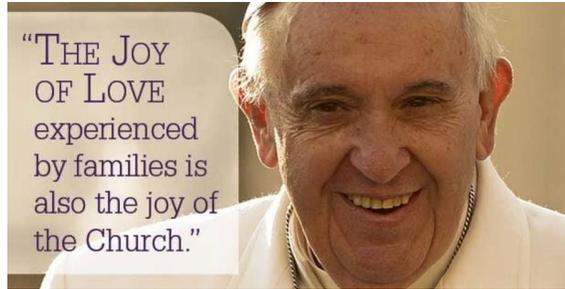


Students will be taking part in the BC Ministry of Education Foundation Skills Assessment this term. Part of this assessment is conducted online, and part is done through written work; all FSA work will be done during class time. Parents will receive a breakdown of student performance after all marking is completed. Please be advised that FSA scores are not considered as part of Communicating Student

Learning for term two. Further information about FSAs will be communicated to you via Remind, and a more complete explanation of the assessment will be attached to individual student marks when they are sent home.



Our growing friendship with our Holy Cross buddies continues in term two. We have an activity planned every month to combine grade 7 students with their grade 10 and 11 buddies, and further develop relationships. Students from both schools enjoy the time we spend together making friends and building community!



If you have not already done so, please send a follow request to our class instagram: **smesg7**. Please send an email first rasmussen@stmatthewselementary.ca to let me know what your handle is, so that I can approve you. This is a private account.



We also have a Grade 7 Remind account. This is a free app that you may wish to install, if you have not already done so. Remind is useful for keeping current with things happening that relate to our class. Find our page at <https://www.remind.com/join/mrsarasm>



Feel free to also contact me at rasmussen@stmatthewselementary.ca anytime with questions or concerns, or if you'd like to schedule a meeting with me.



Our Grade 7 staff team includes [Mrs. Davies](#), [Mrs. Chem](#) and [Mrs. Potter](#) as Educational Assistants, [Mrs. Testani](#) for Learning Support, [Mr. Durante](#) for Physical Education, and [Ms. Fawcett](#) for Music. We also continue receiving regular and ongoing visits from [Fr. Tran](#), [Fr. Nixon](#) and [Deacon Giovanni](#).

