



St. Matthew's Elementary School

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

NEWSLETTER


December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This Sunday, December 3, 2017 will mark the first Sunday of Advent. This is an especially significant time of the year as we prepare for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. At school your children will partake in many Advent activities throughout this month; your family is also encouraged to take time to mark this season of waiting by engaging in Advent activities as a family. There is a list of suggested family Advent activities on the last page of this newsletter. Enjoy!

“Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 40:4-5





UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

Friday, December 1, 2017	School Advent Assembly 9:00 am	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>
Sunday, December 3, 2017	Advent Begins	
Sunday, December 3, 2017	Parish Brunch and Raffle <i>School Choir sings at Raffle</i>	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>
Tuesday, December 5, 2017	Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports Go Home	
Tuesday, December 5, 2017	Christmas Plant Fundraiser Pick Up	<i>Fireside Room of St. Matthew's Church</i>
Wednesday, December 6, 2017	Performance Choir sings at Elim Seniors' Village 1:30 pm	<i>Elim Seniors' Village</i>
Friday, December 8, 2017	School Mass Grades 1 and 4 9:00 am <i>Bring a non-perishable item for the St. Matthew's St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers</i>	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>



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Saturday, December 9, 2017	Performance Choir sings at Parish Christmas Concert 7:00 pm	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i> <i>Happy 2nd week of Advent!</i> 
Tuesday, December 12, 2017	Performance Choir sings for St. Matthew's Seniors' Group 1:30 pm	<i>Jubilee Hall</i>
Wednesday, December 13, 2017	Non-Uniform Day Christmas Colours (Red, Green) or Tacky Sweater	<i>Bring a toonie to help support SMES sponsor a child through the Chalice organization</i>
Sunday, December 17, 2017	Pancake Breakfast <i>After the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses</i>	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i> 
Monday, December 18, 2017	Grade 6 Pizza Lunch Fundraiser	
Tuesday, December 19, 2017	PEC Meeting 5:30 pm	<i>School Library</i>
Tuesday, December 19, 2017	Head Checks	
Wednesday, December 20, 2017	School Christmas Concert <i>The First Christmas Concert</i> 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm shows Please bring a non perishable food item	<i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i> 
Friday, December 22, 2017	School Mass Kindergarten and Grade 5 9:00 am	 <i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
Friday, December 22, 2017	Last day of School before Christmas break School Ends at <u>12:15 pm</u>	



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Saturday, January 6, 2017	Grade 6 Fundraising Bottle Drive 12:00 noon - 4:30 pm	<i>Drop off bottles in the St. Matthew's Church parking lot</i>
Tuesday, January 9, 2018	School Re-Opens at 8:40 am FULL DAY of SCHOOL	
Wednesday, January 10, 2018	Application Forms available for pick up (for NEW FAMILIES) 9:00 am - 3:30 pm	<i>School Office</i>
Wednesday, January 10, 2018	Grade 2 Parent, Child Meeting 6:30 pm	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
Friday, January 12, 2018	School Mass Grade 7 9:00 am	<i>St. Matthew's Church</i>
Wednesday, January 17, 2017	NEW FAMILIES Application Forms due by 3:00 pm	<i>School Office</i>

MORNING MASS DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Traditionally at St. Matthew's during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent our older grades attend morning Mass. We are encouraging students to attend the **8:00 am Mass** with their classmates on the following dates during the season of Advent:

Wednesday, December 6: **Grades 3, 4 and 5**

Thursday, December 7: **Grades 6 and 7**

Wednesday, December 13: **Grades 3, 4 and 5**

Thursday, December 14: **Grades 6 and 7**

Monday, December 18: **Grades 5, 6 and 7**

Wednesday, December 20: **Grades 3 and 4**

SAVE THE DATE! - SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018 - GRADE 6 FUNDRAISER - BOTTLE DRIVE



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Save your bottles (glass and plastic), juice boxes, and cans! Our current Grade 6 class will be holding a Bottle Drive in St. Matthew's parking lot on Saturday, January 6, 2018 between 12:00 noon and 4:30 pm. All proceeds will go towards fundraising for their Grade 7 Camp experience in September 2018. Please stay tuned for more details about this. Thank you in advance for your support!

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 students will be bringing home their Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports (formerly known as Report Cards).

NEW APPLICANT INFORMATION - 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

All **NEW FAMILIES** who are interested in applying to St. Matthew's Elementary School for the 2018-2019 school year are asked to **pick up an Application Package from the school office.** Application forms will be made available starting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. **Application forms must be filled in completely and returned to the school office no later than, Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 3:00 pm.** All applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled for mid to late January 2018. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 604-589-7545 or office@stmatthewselementary.ca

KINDERGARTEN 2018/2019

We ask that any school family who has a son or daughter that was born in 2013 and will be starting Kindergarten in September 2018 inform Ms. Rossi at the school office. Please phone Ms. Rossi (604-589-7545) or e-mail her at: office@stmatthewselementary.ca and provide her with your child's name and date of birth.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Many thanks to all who supported the elementary school by attending our November event! Please mark your calendars for December 17, 2017; that is the date of our next Pancake Breakfast. More details will be forthcoming soon!

CHRISTMAS PLANT SALE PICK UP - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

The school would like to thank everyone who purchased Christmas plants! Flowers will be made available for pickup after school on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017** in the Fireside Room of the Parish.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

Save the date: on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 students will perform, "*The First Christmas Story*". There will be 2 shows: 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm. Admission is by donation of a non-perishable food item for our St. Matthew's St. Vincent de Paul Society. Your child's teacher will be sending home information soon about the particular clothing/costume they are to wear for the performance and dress rehearsal days. Thank you.

NON-UNIFORM DAY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

Our next non-uniform day will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. Students are asked to dress up in either: Christmas colours (i.e.: red and green) OR they can wear a, "tacky Christmas sweater". If students "dress up" we ask that they bring a **toonie** (or more) to help SMES sponsor a child through the Chalice organization. Chalice is a Catholic charity that helps children and families in needy countries. Donations allow children to go to school, access clean water and have enough food to survive each day.



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Please go to chalice.ca to learn more about this worthwhile charity. **Please note that if students choose not to dress up then they are required to wear their regular school uniform.**



THANK YOU FROM AGAPE STREET MINISTRIES

On behalf of Agape Street Ministries I would like to thank all St. Matthew's families who donated Halloween Candy and chocolate. Your generosity filled a whole trunk with candies for the needy - THANK YOU!

Sincerely in Christ,
Deborah Welsh
Principal



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Advent Acts of Kindness and Giving

- Deliver cookies to someone special or a community helper
- Donate food items to your local pantry
- Collect old towels and blankets to bring to the animal shelter
- Do some Random Acts of Kindness
- Choose outgrown toys and donate to a local charity
- Donate winter coats, hats or mittens to a shelter
- Sign up to ring bells as a family
- Sing carols at a local nursing home

Christmas Activities in the Kitchen and Beyond!

- Light an Advent candle before dinner each night
- Bake cookies together
- Make hot cocoa and add your favorite toppings
- 'Bake' a holiday mix that will make the house smell yummy
- Decorate Gingerbread Houses
- Make snowman pancakes or Rudolph pancakes
- Cut out paper snowflakes and hang them on your windows
- Draw a picture for out-of-town relatives

