



St. Matthew's Elementary School

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

NEWSLETTER

August 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I trust that your summer has been a good one so far! I have been fortunate enough to watch another production of Bard on the Beach this year and saw the newest version of *The Lion King* with my cousins. It brought back many good memories! I also indulged in a, *Granville Island* food tour (highly recommended, especially sampling one of *Lee's Donuts* and eating fresh, maple glazed salmon!) Please take a few minutes out of your day to carefully read over the information below - it will prepare you and your children for the first few weeks back to school!

SCHOOL REOPENS!

School will resume for students in Grades 1 through Grade 7 on **Tuesday, September 3 at 8:40 am.** Please note that school **ends at 12:15 pm on September 3, 2019.** Regular school hours will commence on Wednesday, September 4 (8:40 am - 2:50 pm).

Parents with students entering **Kindergarten** please refer to the *Gradual Entry* schedule that was given to you in late May during our *Kindergarten Orientation Meeting* (your child was assigned a specific time to come in on September 3); if you have any questions please contact the school office at: 604-589-7545 or office@stmatthewselementary.ca beginning Monday, August 19, 2019.

All parents/relatives are welcome to join us for our first school Mass on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 11:15 am in the church.

St. Matthew's School Staff for 2019-2020

Principal:	Miss Deborah Welsh
Office Administrator:	Ms. Patrizia Rossi
Grade 7:	Mrs. Casey Sisk
Grade 6:	Mrs. Kerry Drozdik
Grade 5:	Mr. Jesse Kuester
Grade 4:	Mrs. Rosana Do Carmo
Grade 3:	Mrs. Arlene Casenas and Mrs. Lisa Saharchuk
Grade 2:	Ms. Michelle Haughian
Grade 1:	Mrs. Stephanie Dignan
Kindergarten:	Ms. Francesca Baldissera
Learning Support Teachers:	Mrs. Sharri Testani Mrs. Giselle Mouro
Athletic Director/Physical Education:	Mr. Damian Durante
Music:	Mrs. Denise Fawcett
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Linda Potter Ms. Rachel Potter Mrs. Sherry Chem Mrs. Marilu Dias Mrs. Vivian Cebrero Mrs. Roshelle Mehra Mrs. Dorothy Roy Ms. Kari Cermak



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SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:

The school office will be open on the following days:

- Monday, August 19 to Friday, August 23, 2019 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- August 26, 27, 30 from 9:00 am -3:00 pm
- **On Wednesday, August 28, Thursday, August 29 and Monday, September 2 the office will be closed**

MEET THE TEACHER: SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM:

Mark your calendars: On Wednesday, September 4, 2019 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. We will first meet in the school gym for prayer and opening words. 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,
- (2) Bring a special pencil or pen for each child in the classroom

Please note bringing an item(s) for the classroom is ENTIRELY OPTIONAL

There may be times that the classrooms have pre-arranged 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 send them back home with the child or parent.



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UNIFORM

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

Boys:

Navy dress pants *purchased from Neat Uniforms* (double knee) – no cords, cotton pants, or jeans
White polo shirt with St. Matthew's name *purchased from Neat Uniforms*
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 3 to October 18 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)

Navy dress pants *purchased from Neat Uniforms* (optional) - no cords, cotton pants, or jeans
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 *purchased from Neat Uniforms*
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.



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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.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING 2019-2020

B.C.'s Ministry of Education expects all schools to communicate out to parents their children's progress at school at least five times a year.

With the recent changes to the BC Curriculum the emphasis is now on more authentic and timely representations of your children's learning. Therefore, this year the five formal times that your child's learning will be communicated will be as follows:

Thursday, November 7, 2019	<i>Parent Teacher Conferences (Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2) 3 Way Conferences (Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7)</i>
Tuesday, December 10, 2019	<i>Written Progress Report</i>
Friday, February 7, 2020	<i>Celebration of Learning Evening (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)</i>
Friday, April 24, 2020	<i>Student Led Conferences</i>
Thursday, June 25, 2020	<i>Written Progress Report</i>



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DRESS EXPECTATIONS FOR NON-UNIFORM DAYS

Typically once a month we have non-uniform days. On those days students are encouraged to dress according to the month's theme (i.e.: on *Orange Day* students would dress in as much orange as possible). Please note that while dressing according to the theme there are certain guidelines that need to be adhered to:

- Any *shorts* worn must be at least mid-thigh
- *Skirts/dresses* must be no higher than just above the knee
- No bare shoulder or off shoulder shirts
- No low-cut shirts or midriff baring outfits
- Pants must sit on the waist

Students not adhering to these guidelines will be asked to change into their regular uniforms.

LATEST SCHOOL NEWS:

Please remember: for the **most up-to-date information** regarding upcoming events please check the school's *Events Calendar* on the school's website (www.stmatthewselementary.ca) and be sure to read the weekly *Friday Update* emails that are sent out each Friday (Thursday, if there is no school on Friday). If you are not receiving the weekly *Friday Update* emails please contact the office (office@stmatthewselementary.ca) or 604-589-7545 to let us know. *Friday Updates will begin on Friday, September 6, 2019.*

Sincerely in Christ,

Deborah Welsh

Deborah Welsh, Principal

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

- subject to minor changes

September 2019	
Tuesday, September 3	School Opens 8:40 am - 12:15 pm
Saturday, September 21	Feast of St. Matthew
October 2019	
Monday, October 14	No School - Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday, October 18	No School - Professional Development



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November 2019	
Friday, November 1	All Saints Mass - 9:00 am
Thursday, November 7	Parent Teacher Conferences/3 Way Conferences (no regular school)
Friday, November 8	No School - Professional Development
Monday, November 11	No School - Remembrance Day Holiday
December 2019	
Sunday, December 1	Advent Begins
Tuesday, December 10	Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports Term 1 Go Home
Thursday, December 12	Christmas Presentation
Friday, December 20	Last Day of School before Christmas Break <i>School Ends 12:15 pm</i>
January 2020	
Tuesday, January 7	School Resumes after Christmas Break
February 2020	
Friday, February 7	Celebration of Learning Evening (5:00 pm -7:00 pm)
Thursday, February 13 and Friday, February 14	No School - Catholic Educators' Conference
Monday, February 17	No School - Family Day Holiday
Thursday, February 20	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, February 26	Ash Wednesday Mass - 9:30 am



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March 2020	
Friday, March 13	Last Day before Spring Break
Monday, March 30	School Reopens
April 2020	
Friday, April 10	No School - Good Friday Holiday
Monday, April 13	No School - Easter Monday Holiday
Friday, April 24	Student Led Conferences
May 2020	
Friday, May 1	Walkathon (School ends 12:15 pm)
Sunday, May 3	First Holy Communion
Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day
Friday, May 15	No School - Professional Development
Monday, May 18	No School - Victoria Day Holiday
June 2020	
Friday, June 5	No School - Staff Planning Day
Friday, June 12	Talent Show
Friday, June 19	Fun Day - School Ends at 12:15 pm
Tuesday, June 23	Grade 7 Farewell Mass and Celebration (starting at 5:30 pm)
Thursday, June 25	Last Day of School - School Ends at 12:15 pm Communicating Student Learning (CSL) Progress Reports Go Home