



# St. Matthew's Elementary School

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

## NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are now in the season of Advent - a wonderful time of waiting as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Students are preparing for this time by focusing on all the sights and symbols of the season. In class students will be creating their own Advent symbols like Jesse Trees and Advent wreaths. This is a great time to mark the season in special ways as a family. Please see the last few pages of this newsletter for Advent and Christmas ideas that you and your children can do together!

*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Tuesday, December 6</b>                  | <b>Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports Go Home</b>             |  |
| <b>Friday, December 9</b>                   | <b>School Assembly - Grade 1<br/>9:00 AM</b>                               | <i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>              |
| <b>Friday, December 9</b>                   | <b>Performance Choir sings at Elim Village<br/>1:45 pm</b>                 | <i>Elim Village</i>                          |
| <b>Saturday, December 10</b>                | <b>Performance Choir sings at Parish Christmas Concert<br/>7:00 pm</b>     | <i>St. Matthew's Church</i>                  |
| <b>Wednesday, December 14</b>               | <b>Christmas Musical Performances<br/>1:30 pm and 7:00 pm</b>              | <i>St. Matthew's School Gym</i>              |
| <b>Thursday, December 15</b>                | <b>Non-Uniform Day - Christmas Colours or Tacky Sweater</b>                | <i>Bring a loonie or twoonie for charity</i> |
| <b>Friday, December 16</b>                  | <b>School Mass 9:00 am</b>   | <i>St. Matthew's Church</i>                  |
| <b>Friday, December 16</b>                  | <b>Last Day of School Before Christmas Break - School Ends at 12:15 pm</b> |  |
| <b>Monday, December 19- January 3, 2017</b> | <b>School CLOSED for Christmas break</b>                                   |  |
| <b>Wednesday, January 4, 2017</b>           | <b>School Re-Opens at 8:40 am<br/>FULL DAY of SCHOOL</b>                   |  |



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| <b>Wednesday, January 4, 2017</b>  | <b>Application Forms available for pick up</b>                                | <i>School Office</i>                   |
| <b>Wednesday, January 4, 2017</b>  | <b>Grade 2 Parent, Child Meeting<br/>6:30 pm</b>                              | <i>St. Matthew's Church</i>            |
| <b>Tuesday, January 10, 2017</b>   | <b>PEC Meeting<br/>5:00 pm</b>  | <i>School library</i>                  |
| <b>Wednesday, January 11, 2017</b> | <b>Grade 7 Parent Meeting<br/>6:30 pm</b>                                     | <i>Jubilee Hall</i>                    |
| <b>Friday, January 13, 2017</b>    | <b>School Mass<br/>9:00 am</b>  | <i>St. Matthew's Church</i>            |
| <b>Monday, January 16, 2017</b>    | <b>Application Forms due by 3:00 pm</b>                                       | <i>School Office</i>                   |
| <b>Wednesday, January 18, 2017</b> | <b>CISVA Sexuality and Your Child Meeting for Grade 4, 5, 6 and 7 Parents</b> | <i>St. Matthew's Elementary School</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:

- December 5 - Grade 3
- December 7 - Grade 4
- December 8 - Grade 5
- December 9 - Grade 6
- December 12 - Grade 7

## **SAVE THE DATE! - JANUARY 7 & 8, 2017 - GRADE 7 FUNDRAISER - BOTTLE DRIVE**

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 January 7 and 8, 2017. All proceeds will go towards fundraising for their Grade 7 Camp experience in September 2017. Please stay tuned for more details about this. Thank you in advance for your support!

## **COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING**

On Tuesday, December 6, 2016 students will be bringing home their Communicating Student Learning Progress Reports (formerly known as Report Cards). You will notice some changes in the format and language of these progress reports and would like your feedback. *In mid-December, after you have*



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*gotten an opportunity to review the reports, we will be sending out a survey in which you can indicate your thoughts on the new format. Thank you in advance for your feedback.*

## **NEW APPLICANT INFORMATION - 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

All families who are interested in applying to St. Matthew's Elementary School for the 2017-2018 school year are asked to pick up an Application Package from the school office. Application forms will be made available starting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. **Application forms must be filled in completely and returned to the school office no later than, Monday, January 16, 2017 at 3:00 pm.** All applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled for mid-January 2017. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 604-589-7545 or [office@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:office@stmatthewselementary.ca)

## **KINDERGARTEN 2017/2018**

We ask that any school family who has a son or daughter that was born in 2012 and will be starting Kindergarten in September 2017 inform Ms. Rossi at the school office. Please phone Ms. Rossi (604-589-7545) or e-mail her at: [office@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto: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 November's event! Please mark your calendars for December 11th -- the school will be hosting a Christmas Pancake Breakfast prior to the school holiday break...more details to follow.

## **POINSETTIA SALE**

The school would like to thank everyone who purchased poinsettias! Flowers will be made available for pickup after school on December 8th in the Fireside Room of the Parish.

## **HEALTHY LUNCH PROGRAM**

Please note that the final lunch service before Christmas break will be on December 14th. As a result, a new menu will be made available for Term 2 (Jan/17 - Mar/2017). Details and ordering information will be sent out shortly.

## **CHRISTMAS MUSICAL - THE BETHLEHEM PROJECT - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14**

Your children have been preparing enthusiastically for our upcoming Christmas musical which will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. 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 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

Our next non-uniform day will be on Thursday, December 15, 2016. Students are asked to dress up in either: Christmas colours (red, green, gold, silver) OR they can wear a, "tacky Christmas sweater". If students "dress up" we ask that they bring a loonie or twoonie for our charity, Aura Humanitus.

## **REMINDER! GRADE 4, 5, 6, 7 PARENT IN-SERVICE - CISVA SEXUALITY AND YOUR CHILD EVENING - JANUARY 18 2016**

Parents of children in Grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 - please mark your calendars: On Wednesday, January 18, 2016 we will have workshop tailored specifically for you! Topics that will be covered include: *Puberty* -



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Grade 4; *Social Media* - Grade 5; *How to Engage with Your Child* - Grade 6 *Love and Life* - Grade 7. **It is important that at least one parent attends this evening as it covers learning outcomes prescribed by the Ministry of Education.** Archbishop Michael Miller has requested that all parents of students in Grades 4-7 attend this evening; it will be one focused on teaching your children the beauty of human life and God's purpose for our life, through a Catholic worldview. A letter from Archbishop Miller was sent home in mid-November that explained the rationale behind this important evening in detail. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Miss Welsh at: [welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca](mailto:welsh@stmatthewselementary.ca) or 604-589-7545.

## **REMINDER! ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY - JANUARY 3, 2017**

All CISVA schools will be adding an additional professional development day to their school calendars so that teachers can continue to explore how to best use the ReDesigned Curriculum to meet the needs of your children. At St. Matthew's our next Professional Development Day will be on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. There will be NO SCHOOL for students on this day. School will resume after the Christmas break on, **Wednesday, January 4, 2016.**

## **DATE CHANGE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 2, 2016**

Due to a scheduling conflict we have had to change the St. Matthew's School's Annual General Meeting to **Thursday, March 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm.** This is a mandatory meeting where all school families are expected to have at least one parent represented at the meeting. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely in Christ,

***Deborah Welsh***

Principal

## **THE ULTIMATE LIST OF FAMILY ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

- Visit an elderly home and hand out homemade cookies.
- Take a few small gifts to a shelter for women and children.
- Drive to a store that has a Salvation Army bell ringer just to donate (without going into the store to buy anything!).
- Buy a small gift for a child in the long-term care wing of the children's ward, and bring a bouquet of flowers for his/her mother.
- Serve a meal together as a family at a local homeless shelter.
- Clean out your toy boxes and donate good quality items to an opportunity store.
- Raid the pantry for canned goods to donate to a charity.
- Take a plate of cookies and a homemade Christmas card to your doctor's office, library, church office, and/or dentist office.
- Anonymously pay for the Santa photos of the person behind you in line at the mall.
- Wear Santa hats and take some doggie treats to your local shelter.
- Wear Santa hats and take a garbage bag to clean up garbage from your neighborhood.



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## **IN THE KITCHEN:**

- Make Christmas cookies.
- Serve a red and green themed meal.
- Make homemade caramel corn.
- Make chocolate-dipped pretzels with red and green sprinkles.
- Eat “reindeer droppings” for breakfast (donut holes!).
- Make gingerbread cookies.
- Make edible Christmas trees out of upside-down ice cream cones, green frosting, and sprinkles.
- Make snickerdoodles.
- Decorate a gingerbread (or graham cracker) house.
- Invite a few friends over for a cookie decorating party.
- Melt chocolate into Christmas molds.

## **FAITH-BASED ACTIVITIES:**

- Go to a candlelight church service.
- Read the Christmas story in the Bible.
- Make and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus.
- Spend time on your bellies playing with the family nativity scene and acting out the story.
- Cut your lunch sandwiches into the shape of stars and talk about the original Christmas star.
- Write a letter to Jesus, thanking him for the gifts you received throughout the year.
- Attend Christmas Eve Mass at the cathedral.
- Make a manger with twigs you collect from outside and talk about Baby Jesus and the type of place he was born into.
- Make paper crowns and talk about the wise men and the gifts they brought Jesus.
- Visit a local farm and talk about what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to have a baby in a stable.

## **DECORATING:**

- Decorate the tree.
- Deck the halls with boughs of holly.
- String a popcorn garland for the tree.
- Make origami ornaments for the tree.
- Decorate a wreath together.
- Hang some mistletoe and give out kisses.
- Make a paper garland to hang on the tree, over a door, or in the kids bedroom.
- Decorate the windows with spray snow.