

# ST. HELEN'S NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2022



Principal : Waldemar Sambor  
Vice Principal : Anthony Canosa  
Website: [www.sthelensschool.ca](http://www.sthelensschool.ca)



<https://youtu.be/8-j3wAyouYA>—You Tube link for tonight's concert 7 PM

Dear Parents,

I would like to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope your "Holy" days are filled with wonderful memories of family, friends, and good health! Thank you for the support you've shown the students and teachers for their efforts in performing for our annual Christmas concert. On behalf of the staff, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank students and parents for their many Christmas wishes.

As we move into the New Year, we continue with our focus on our academics, physical activities and fine arts. There never seems to be a "down-time" in an elementary school, but may we always remember to enjoy each other and God's blessings. Thank you for raising such wonderful, responsible children, and sharing them with us each day.

May God bless you and your family in the New Year as we grow in our knowledge and love of Him.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Waldemar Sambor  
*Principal*

# ***SEARCHERS*** NEWS



[Covenant House 2021](#)



[Gr. 2 Canada Fields Trip](#)



[Grade 4 Field Trip](#)



[Celebrating with s'mores](#)





# ***JANUARY CALENDAR***

JANUARY 3RD	NO SCHOOL—STAT HOLIDAY
JANUARY 4TH	NO SCHOOL—PRO D DAY
JANUARY 5TH	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
JANUARY 7TH	SCHOOL MASS—GR. 5 ( <i>FULL UNIFORM REQUIRED</i> )
JANUARY 11TH	GR. 6'S GO SNOWSHOEING ( <i>MT. SEYMOUR</i> )
JANUARY 12TH	GR. 7'S GO SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING ( <i>MT. SEYMOUR</i> )
JANUARY 20TH	SISTINE CHAPEL EXHIBIT—FIELD TRIP ( <i>GR. 7'S</i> )

We are in the process of getting ready for our AGM which will take place on Feb 2nd. If you already know that you will not be returning next school year, please notify the office as soon as possible.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND SCHOOL & RAPID TEST INFO**

With international borders now open to non-essential travel, ensure you know the requirements and restrictions for students and staff travelling outside of Canada, including the United States and Mexico, as they pertain to returning to school.

With Covid numbers on the rise here are a few ways to stay safe over the holidays:

1. Keep wearing your masks indoors.
2. Good ventilation. If you are taking your masks off, open a window and/or use a heap filter.
3. Consider using a Rapid Antigen Test before visiting vulnerable family members.

They are 75-80% effective for detecting covid in asymptomatic or mild symptoms. Maybe useful in those situations when there is not enough symptoms to get tested. They are not perfect but they can pick up some asymptomatic cases before a family get together. Another tool in the toolbox

<https://rapidtestandtrace.ca/>

## **COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 5-11**

COVID-19 vaccination is now authorized by Health Canada for children five and older. Getting young people vaccinated helps protect them and the people around them. **Principals are expected to support families to receive trusted information about vaccines** by printing the [BCCDC COVID-19 Vaccination for children 5-11 years old resource](#) and distributing it to families of students aged 5-11. Please also see this week's [COVID-19 update](#) for more information and resources on this topic.

# ***SEARCHERS*** NEWS



I would like to announce that after 35 years of service at St. Helen's School, Mr. Merandi has informed us of his retirement. Mr. Merandi is a very responsible and dependable employee who takes care of our facilities with high standards and dedication. He is a big part of our maintenance team and keeps our buildings in great shape. He is known to also keep his eye out for the safety of the children and as a result is very well respected in the St. Helen's community at large. His artistic ability is evident and is recognized widely by the staff and students. His carved crosses are distributed to every retiree which has created a legacy here. He is also an amazing painter and his work is displayed in our office and staff room. His woodwork and restoration projects have been placed in many areas of our school. He has worked for both our school and parish and understands that St. Helen's is one big community. Cheers to a gentleman with a big heart and many talents. We wish him nothing but the best in his future!



We would like to thank our Gr.3 student, Xavier Soligo, for notifying the office when one of the members of our Parish tripped on the sidewalk and was injured badly, unable to call for help. Xavier, without hesitation, ran to the school office to grab the secretary. Xavier was walking outside delivering hot lunches when he saw a woman on the ground. An ambulance quickly arrived to take her to the hospital after we were able to call for help. It is amazing to see such compassion and a sense of urgency at such a young age. We are proud of you, Xavier!

# ***SEARCHERS NEWS***

## ***PROJECT ADVANCE***

Thank you to the **149 families** who have made a gift to this year's Project Advance. Our parish has **currently raised \$45,440.00; Archdiocesan Goal is \$41,500.00** (plus administration expenses about \$5,000.00); **Parish Goal is \$65,000.00 and all funds collected over the archdiocesan goal will be used to collect funds for building a new parish office.** You can donate by calling parish's office, 604-298-4144, in-person at our parish's office or online at Project Advance website at <https://support.rcav.org/pa2021/>

## ***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENVELOPES***

Fundraising envelopes to build new parish office are available in the church lobby. Donations are tax deductible. You can donate by placing your donation in the envelope and dropping it off in the Sunday collection basket; bringing it to the office during business hours; by credit card by calling the parish office, 604-298-4144, or online <https://sthelen.ca/giving> and choose Capital Campaign option.

We recently celebrated the burning of the West Wing school mortgage which was a great achievement for our parish community. The next phase of our development is to construct our new parish office and to seismically upgrade the Learning Center. This would pave the way for the final project of building the other wing of our school. This year's project advance goal is to raise funds for the new office which would better serve our community. Since we have already met our diocesan goal any money now collected will go directly to this project. We are currently in the process of rezoning and already have a preliminary design for the building. We hope to give this project a good push so that, as we approach our school's hundredth anniversary, we can start to plan for the completion of our new school facilities.

"The Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Christ, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) What are we looking for this Christmas? The deep desires of our hearts long for fulfillment - they long for love, for communion, and for peace. They lead us, as the shining star led the Magi, to the Christ Child who is born for us. The Angel makes clear that Jesus is born for each of us in a personal way. God is not a distant God but He is here amongst us, He is Immanuel - "God with us". Two thousand years ago the Lord was born into a broken world and He comes again today into a world that is hurting and fearful. God's message to us through the Angel sounds perhaps more clearly than ever today in a world that is paralyzed with fear - "Do not be afraid". Jesus, the Light of the World, was born to dispel the darkness and fear which steal the gift of freedom and joy He has given to us. Let us make haste with the shepherds to see the Christ Child this Christmas and to receive from the King of Kings the gift which only He can give us - the gift of true freedom and joy.

I warmly invite you to Christmas Mass and on behalf of all of the staff here at St. Helen's Parish I wish you and all your loved ones a blessed Christmas!

In Christ,

Fr. Alessandro Lovato

*Pastor*

# *SEARCHERS* *PERSONAL BEST*



**KA**

**Maria Hogan**  
**Marcus Kung**

**KB**

**Charlie Tse**  
**Annabel Leung**

**1A**

**Tim Dae**  
**Max Kim**

**1B**

**Jayden Hall**  
**Logan Zhou**

**2A**

**Nicolas Silva**  
**Maxine Lee**

**2B**

**Roman Calderon**  
**Malia Quashie**

**3**

**Harrison Barnard**  
**Joey Skoko**  
**Alessandra Bogdanovich**

**4A**

**Mia Bastante**  
**Alexis Ross**

**4B**

**Elijah Landingin**  
**Isla Wong**

**5**

**Logan Auchter**  
**Hadley Barnard**  
**Tommaso Bocca**  
**Ella Chung**

**6A**

**Isaac Parrotta**  
**Calista De Zen**

**6B**

**Alessandra Barichello**  
**Ella Green**

**7A**

**Victoria M**  
**Daria Jung**  
**Christian Shaback**

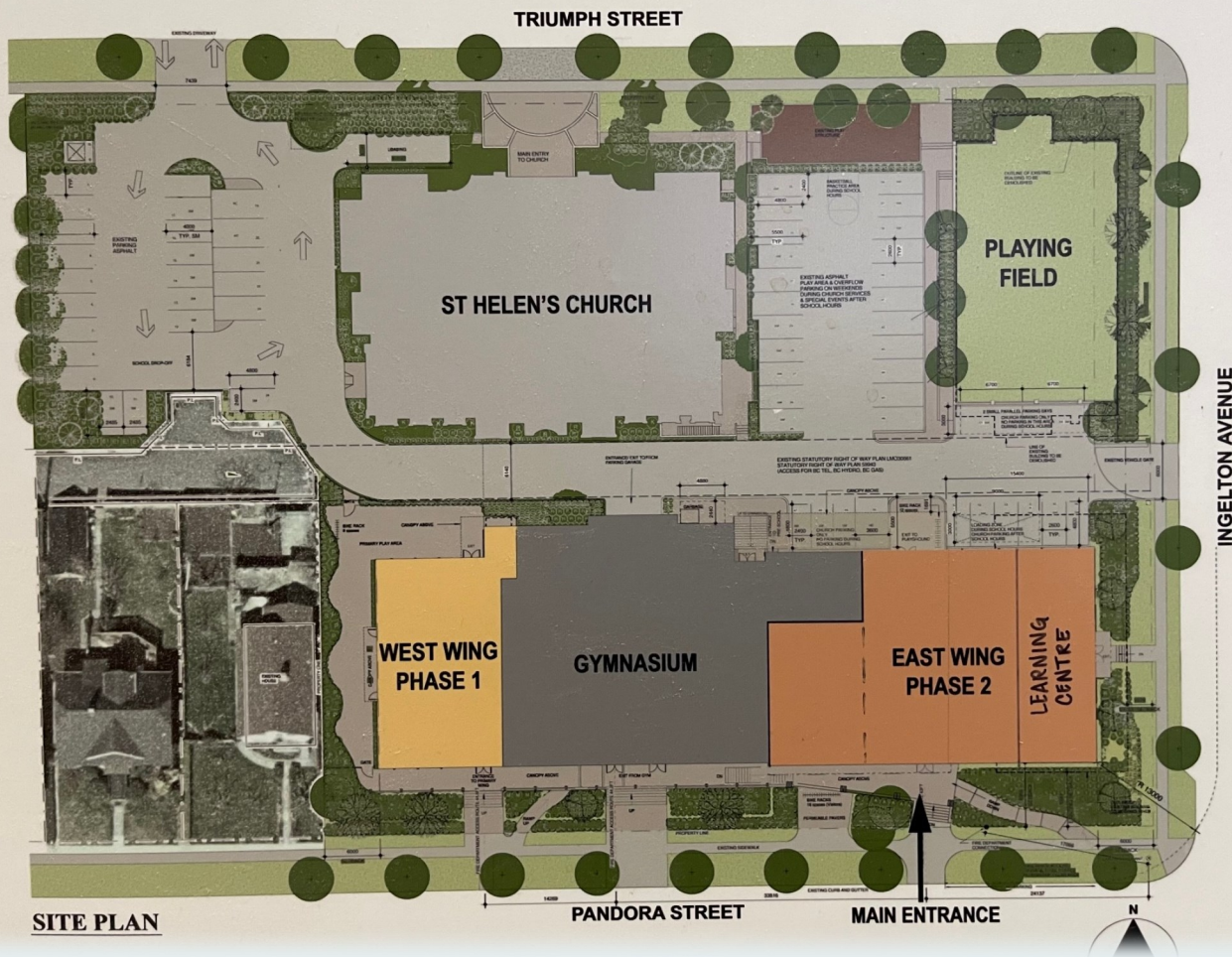
**7B**

**Sophia Santorelli**  
**Francis Chen**  
**Sienna Bosa**



# ***SEARCHERS** COMMUNITY*

*ONLY 19 MONTHS LEFT UNTIL OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!*



We recently celebrated the burning of the West Wing school mortgage which was a great achievement for our parish community. The next phase of our development is to construct our new parish office and to seismically upgrade the Learning Center. Please preview the link here from the Burning of the mortgage.

<https://youtu.be/NVl6Qu4jBP4>