



St. Helen's School Newsletter | November 2023

Principal Waldemar Sambor
Vice Principal Anthony Canosa

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our students and teachers have now completed the first two months of the school year. We have enjoyed a very busy and productive start with a wide range of activities that compliment our classroom and extra-curricular activities. Events and activities such as our school masses and prayer services, walk-a-thon, fieldtrips, choir, outdoor education, Terry Fox Run, student council, and various athletic programs are just a few of the opportunities that have helped engage the students in experiential learning and friendship building. I would also like to thank our grad committee and PAC for fundraising and bringing community spirit to our school. Thank you to all our parents who helped support our Halloween fundraiser.

All Saints Day (Nov. 1st) & All Souls Day (Nov. 2nd) remind us of our relationship with those no longer living on this earth.

On Friday, November 10th, St. Helen's students will lead us in prayer at a special Remembrance day assembly. On these days we remember, celebrate, and pray for those living in heaven and for those souls destined for heaven. This year's theme is "No Stone Left Alone". The Gr. 6 class will honour our fallen soldiers by visiting their cemetery in Vancouver on November 8th. During this month of November, let us also remember all members of our Canadian military, past and present, for whom we owe our gratitude and freedom.

Every Monday, our primary and intermediate teachers have been reviewing content from Sunday Masses. Please be sure to attend Mass regularly in order for our students to complete their Mass homework.

Sincerely in Christ,
Waldemar Sambor
Principal



Above is grade 7 class in their graduation sweatshirts.



Walk-A -Thon (above)
Blessing of the Pets(below)





NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Just a Reminder

Our Centennial Gala is coming up fast. We are proud to announce that Archbishop Michael Miller will be joining us at our Gala. We have extended our sale of Gala tickets until October 31st. Please purchase your tickets at [Find your tickets.](#)

[Please see link for photo of previous years. 1990-2000s Photos](#)

OCT 31—FALL FIESTA ASSEMBLY—PARENTS WELCOME!

PRIMARY@9:15 AM & INTERMEDIATE @ 11 AM
GRAD LUNCH FUNDRAISER (PIZZA)

NOV 1—ALL SAINTS DAY MASS (GR.5B) PARENTS WELCOME!

PICTURE RETAKE (AFTERNOON /BRING PROOFS)

NOV 4 —SPIRIT DAY (GR. 7)

NOV 8 —LAST DAY OF SUMMER UNIFORM

NOV 9 —PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW (NO SCHOOL)

NOV 10—REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY (GR.2)

CENTENNIAL GALA @ ITALIAN CENTRE @ 6 PM

NOV 13—REMEMBRANCE DAY (NO SCHOOL)

NOV 15—GRAD LUNCH FUNDRAISER (SUSHI)

NOV 17—SCHOOL MASS(GR.5)

NOV 18—PARISH CRAFT FAIR

NOV 20-23 —SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

NOV 24—PRO D DAY (NO SCHOOL)



LIVING OUR FAITH

[PLEASE SEE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR UPDATES FIELD](#)

[TRIPS](#)





Halloween Costume Guidance

With the annual Halloween costume day approaching, I am writing to make you aware of some of the discussions and guidance we will be providing to students regarding their Halloween costumes for Tuesday, October 31st. As you are likely aware, students are permitted to wear a “cool for school” costume.

In order to show respect for our diverse student population, we will be discussing the way in which costumes can, inadvertently, hurt or humiliate others. We also view this as an opportunity to highlight the way in which current global issues impact costume choices as this can negatively infringe upon.

our school values related to multiculturalism, inclusivity, safety, respect, and tolerance.

Some questions that students and parents might consider as they are making costume choices:

Does the costume represent a stereotype such as “terrorist”?

- ◆ Does it show a lack of respect for the pandemic and people that have become sick?
- ◆ Does it involve changing the colour of their skin?
- ◆ Does it allude to a culture that is not the child’s own, such as a kimono, a turban, or a feather headdress?
- ◆ Does it “mock” transgender people?
- ◆ Does it show a lack of respect for deceased military or police personnel?
- ◆ Is the costume so gory (fake blood or realistic wounds) that it could scare younger students?
- ◆ Is it based on “tragic or violent historical moments,” such as “slave” or “cowboy” and Indian “role play, or the Holocaust?”

We will also review with students that it would be highly insensitive to arrive at school with a fake gun or weapon as part of their Halloween costumes. We feel it is important to review this explicitly (no guns/weapons) with students as some of them might not necessarily make the connection themselves.

We feel that this is a great opportunity for parents and professionals to engage in age-appropriate open conversation with our children and youth about these issues.

We would appreciate your help by providing a consistent message at home and ensuring that your child’s costume meets these guidelines. Our joint efforts to make our students increasingly aware of and sensitive to local, national, and world events are important for promoting empathy and respect for others. If you have any questions

Contact: Primary Mrs. Drlje sdrlje@shschool.ca and Intermediate Ms. Jazz jbean@shschool.ca

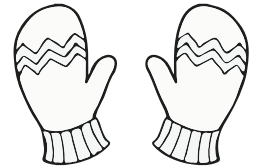




Searchers Information

WALK-A-THON

If you have not already done so, please contribute towards our walkathon by donating online. You may also submit your walk-a-thon pledge form as they are due November 3rd. Proceeds from this event will go towards Outdoor Education/ Building Fund. Our goal is 100% participation so please contribute as best as you can. Please see [link](#) to donate.



BE READY FOR COOL WEATHER!

We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful coastal rainforests on the planet! As we have entered the glorious months of autumn, please remember to send your children to school with warm jackets, hats, gloves and boots (with school shoes packed in their backpacks). Be sure to label all articles of clothing!

Kindergarten Applications



[Kindergarten applications](#) are now being accepted. If you have a sibling born in 2019 and going into Kindergarten 2024/2025 school year, please fill out an application form on our school website and submit with your child's birth and baptism certificates.

Please e-mail it to Ms. Paulyne at secretary.shel@bc.ca

LIVING OUR FAITH



Searchers Personal Best

- KA- Matteo Barichello Julia Davis, Ariana Tumanon
- KB- Ally Fung, Sofia An
- 1A-Steve Sanish, Valentina Villagra, Juan Lancheros Gomez
- 1B-Yasmine Barbaza, Caleb Batten, Ella Mrcic
- 2A-Rebecca Cheung, Matteo Iannicello, James Tan
- 2B-Enzo Caballero, Adrian Sainz-Trapaga Figueroa, Victoria Canto Valenzuela
- 3A- Henry Han, Ashley Fischer
- 3B- Olivia Borthistle, Lorenzo Mincieli, Logan Zhou
- 4A-Angela Yong, Salvatore Mauro
- 4B- Steven Kim, Roman Calderon
- 5-Milania Russo, Gabriel Cruz, Haysten Lore
- 6A-Benjamin Li, Emilia Damy, June Chang
- 6B-Eva Mariella, Anthony Barichello, George Chouinard
- 7- Rachel Lee, Leah Lee, Myles Jacobucci



Modular Building Update

Our Building Committee has been working hard behind the scenes with the Archdiocese, and the City of Burnaby with the goal of completing the installation of modular buildings in advance of the 2024 school year.

Below, please find the current schedule that will be regularly updated to keep you informed of our progress.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our parents and community for your support. Our walkathon fundraising efforts are shaping up to be our best yet as is our Annual Family Halloween Party. These efforts are raising important funds for this project.

This is an exceptionally promising and thrilling time for St. Helen's, and we wholeheartedly extend our heartfelt gratitude to all parents and parishioners for their unwavering support and patience during every exciting phase of this capital project. Your positivity and dedication drive us forward and we can't wait to see the amazing transformations and that lie ahead!

SCHEDULE (updated Oct 17, 2023)

Stage 1 – Preliminary Project Design and Approvals – COMPLETED

Review and refine project budget/tender modular buildings

- Approval to proceed from the Archdiocese Building Commission and Father Alessandro Lovato
- Demo Application to City of Burnaby
- PPA Drawings Prepared and Application to City of Burnaby, Submitted to City

Stage 2 – Demolition & Removal of Old School – COMPLETE

- Old School Stabilization
- Old School Hazmat removal, demolition and site clearing

Stage 3 – Planning, Permitting and Approvals – Currently Underway

- Bylaw amendment by City of Burnaby re: Temporary vs. Permanent Structure. The current City bylaw only refers to "Public Schools" and needs to be changed to include "Private Schools".
 - First Reading (September 25th, 2023) - Completed
 - Public Hearing (October 31st, 2023)
 - Second Reading (November 6th, 2023)
 - Third and Final Reading (November 20th, 2023)
- Building Permit Drawings Prepared
- Engage modular company to commence design, engineering and ordering process
- Building Permit Application to City of Burnaby
- Building Permit comments from the City of Burnaby
- Building Permit issued

Stage 4 – Construction – expected completion August 2024

- Construction
 - Portable delivery and installation
 - Portable skirting, stairs, ramps, landscaping
 - Testing, inspection & Occupancy



Sammy the Searcher

Grade 4/5 Girls Volleyball Team



Vanessa in 3A enjoying taking Sammy the Searcher for a dirt bike ride in Tappen, B.C.



Grade 6A and 6B attending a workshop called Entrepreneur by UBC.



Grade 6/7 Girls Volleyball Team



Grade 6/7 Soccer Team



LIVING OUR FAITH