

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec 9: Full School Mass – **MASS DRESS** for ALL STUDENTS

Dec 10: **Crusaderwear** & SAPA Elementary Fun Day (**HOT DOGS** for Elementary)

Dec 13: Breakfast-for-the-needey

Dec 13: SAA Store Open 2-3:00

Dec 14: SAPA Meeting – 6:30pm via Zoom (Email sapa@st-anns.ca for the link to join)

Dec 15: Christmas Concert Filming (**BEST CONCERT DRESS** for Elementary)

Dec 17: **EARLY DISMISSAL** for Christmas Break - K-3@12:00, 4-7@12:10, 8-12@12:30; bus departs @12:45

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan 4: First Day Back from Christmas Break – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Jan 11: SAPA Meeting – 6:30pm via Zoom (Email sapa@st-anns.ca for the link to join)

Jan 12: **EARLY DISMISSAL** – K-3@12:00, 4-7@12:10, 8-12@12:30; bus departs @12:45

Jan 13: Full School Mass – **MASS DRESS** for ALL STUDENTS

Jan 14: **DRESS-DOWN-for-CHARITY** (Details to follow)

Jan 18: Faith Development Team - Episode 3 of 'The Search' via Zoom (Email officeadmin@st-anns.ca for link to join)

Jan 20: Elementary **Pizza Day**

Jan 21: **Crusaderwear**

Jan 25: Local School Committee Meeting – 6:00pm via Zoom (Email officeadmin@st-anns.ca for link to join)

Jan 27: Kindergarten & Grade 8 Information Night (Details to follow)

Jan 28: **NO SCHOOL** – SAA PRO-D Day

Jan 31: Catholic Schools Week Begins

MISSIONS for MERRITT & HAMPERS

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity for the 'Missions for Merritt' fundraiser! As a result of your donations, we were able to raise **\$2884.72!!!** These funds will be going directly to the Merritt Rotary Club and the Merritt Food Bank to help those affected by the recent floods. If you missed bringing a donation into the school and you would still like to contribute AND receive a tax receipt, the Kamloops Diocese is also collecting for this cause. Please use one of the following options; cheques made payable to: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Kamloops, and in the memo, area put the notation *Merritt Flood Relief Fund* or E-transfers are accepted by sending to giving@rcdk.org. In the memo area please note *Merritt Flood Relief Fund* and a name and address for Tax Receipt purposes. Donations may also be sent to or dropped off at the Chancery Office: **635A Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC V2B 3H5**

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS You are likely already aware that the collection of hamper items for our Christmas hampers has now begun. If you are wondering what is still needed, please contact your son or daughter's elementary teacher or Ms. Spina at dspina@st-anns.ca. Please also see the '[Christmas Hamper Letter](#)' with further details.

Your generosity is so greatly appreciated...particularly at a time of year when you are being asked to give in so many other ways.

"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous to those in need and ready to share" 1 Timothy 6:18

UPCOMING EVENTS

BREAKFAST-TO-GO FOR THE NEEDY – High School Parent Volunteers Needed! We are needing high school parents to help and support our high school students with the "Breakfast-to-Go" on **Monday, December 13th** in the Church Hall of Sacred Heart Cathedral (255 Nicola St). The students will be preparing, packaging and giving out the breakfasts from 8:30am to 10:30 and cleaning after 10:30am. Please email Domenica Spina at dspina@st-anns.ca if you are able to help for part of the morning or all. Thank you!

SAPA Elementary 'Covid-Buster' FUN DAY – SAPA is generously providing our elementary students with a 'Covid-busting Fun Day' on **Friday, December 10th**! Activities will be provided for students in the gym, along with hot dogs for lunch. Thank you SAPA! Note that this is a regularly scheduled school day and it is also a Crusaderwear day so no uniforms for fun day!

SAA STORE – The upcoming dates and times of store hours are as follows: **Monday, Dec. 13th from 2-3:00**. This is a chance to pick up your SAA Crusader wear! Please note that the SAA Store is only for the purchase of Crusader Wear/Spirit Wear and does not sell uniform articles.

FROM THE FAITH CORNER

ADVENT – The season of Advent is upon us and a number of Advent activities have been taking place around St. Ann’s Academy...from our fresh Advent wreaths in each classroom, our Jesse tree and ornaments at the front entrance and our student-led gospel readings and reflections each morning over the PA. What a lovely way to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season and the celebration of the birth of Christ! On the first Monday of Advent we lit the first candle of our wreaths, the purple candle. The purple candle represents the virtue of love. Jesus loves us so much that he became human to be our Saviour, to teach us how to follow him.

This Monday we lit the first and second purple candles. The second purple candle represents the virtue of faith. We thank Jesus for the great gift he has given us through his presence in Holy Communion and his living word in the Bible.

Next Monday, we will light the first and second purple candles *and* the rose coloured candle. The rose coloured candle represents our joy in the fact that Jesus will soon be here.

Finally, in the last week of Advent we will light *all* of the candles. The fourth candle represents our confident hope in Jesus, who has overcome the darkness of death and sin in the world.

Our Advent Wreath Prayer:

“We gather around this Advent wreath to celebrate the beginning of the holy season of Advent. The word advent means “coming”. We join with the Church throughout the world to prepare for the three-fold coming of Jesus Christ. First, he comes to us as a baby in Bethlehem at Christmas. Second, he comes to us in our hearts in Holy Communion. Finally, he comes to us at the end of this world. Bless this Advent Wreath, God, and help us to joyfully prepare to celebrate the birthday of your son, Jesus, at Christmas.”

ADVENT ACTIVITIES & TRADITIONS

What to do, what NOT to do...if you want some ideas for your family for Advent please see the link below. Hopefully you can find an activity that will help you to DO SOMETHING in your home for Advent. Something. Set this season apart from the rest of the year and differentiate it from the Christmas season in a way that’s clear to you and your kids.

<https://catholicallyear.com/blog/seven-catholic-advent-traditions-and-which-ones-will-work-for-your-family/>

1st HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

If your son or daughter is in Grade 2 or Grade 7 and he or she is planning to receive First Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please ensure that Fr. Derrick is aware of your wishes and that you have contacted him at frderrickc@gmail.com. Please keep these students in your prayers as they journey this year to prepare to receive these sacraments. This is a very special time for these students and their families!

NEWS FROM THE SAA OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – REMINDER FOR ATTENDANCE

At the beginning of the new school year in September the start time for school was changed from 8:30 am to 8:25 am. This means students should be arriving at 8:20 am at the latest in order to be present in their classes by 8:25. If students are arriving after 8:25 am they will need to stop by the office for a late slip so they are not marked absent. Thank you all for making this necessary adjustment in your schedules.

Reporting a student absence Thank you to our parents for diligently reporting their child's absence(s). A friendly reminder that we have a number of ways to report a student's absence. Parents may:

- use the school app
- use the website attendance notification feature on the website (st-anns.ca)
- email attendance@st-anns.ca
- call the school office at 250-372-5452 (ext 118)

BUSES – A reminder that if your son or daughter only rides the bus occasionally, he or she MUST have a bus pass from the school office. The bus passes are \$3.50 and they must be shown to the driver or the student will not be permitted to ride the bus that day. Please also note that even if bus usage is only occasional, students must be pre-registered to ride that particular bus, as space is limited.

CANTEEN – Did you know that EVERYthing that Ms. Lorraine makes for us in the canteen is **HOMEMADE??** From the homemade pastry for the meat pies and chicken pot pie, the delicious and ginormous muffins, and other baked goods, and *all* the salad dressings. She even roasts the chicken herself for all the chicken dishes! What an absolute treat this is for our students (and for us in the office who often get these treats sent our way!) Thank you Ms. Lorraine for these nourishing and healthy meals for our St. Ann's Family! Our December Canteen Menu is attached below. Please note that the canteen menus are also available on the SAA Website as well as on the SAA Calendar.

ELEMENTARY PIZZA DAYS – Our next elementary pizza day will be in January (Thursday, January 20th). Please note that even if you haven't ordered yet pizza for the upcoming months you are still able to do so. Your son or daughter should have brought home a monthly order form from their classroom teacher but here is the link to also print more forms, for your convenience. Please also note that our pizza day that was missed in November, because of the road closures, will still take place at some point later in the year. <https://st-anns.ca/wp-content/uploads/Monthly-Elementary-Pizza-Order-Form.pdf>

SCHOOL PICK-UP – As the temperatures have dropped we just want to remind parents that students need to be dressed for the conditions. We have noticed a few elementary students looking a little chilly while waiting for a pickup. Also, a reminder again to please not arrive before your pickup window. Our pickup staff have noticed people arriving as early as 2:00! This stalls movement of the line and therefore you may be asked to leave the line and come back if you are arriving too early.

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE SAA APP FROM THE APP STORE? Download it today for quick access to school information!

NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Basketball season has begun! High school basketball is already underway and Elementary basketball tryouts are taking place this week and next. If your son or daughter in elementary is interested in playing basketball, please see the tryout schedule posted below. Mr. Pearce is also in need of some coaches for elementary basketball so if you are interested in coaching, please email him directly at dpearce@st-anns.ca.

ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Grade 6 & 7 Boys: Tues, December 6th & Tues, December 14th from 3-4:00 pm

Grade 5 Boys & Girls: Wed, December 7th & Wed, December 15th from 3-4:00 pm

Grade 6 & 7 Girls: Thurs, December 8th & Thurs, December 16th from 3-4:00 pm

NOTE: Unfortunately, extracurricular basketball will not be offered this year for grades below Grade 5. Because of Covid limiting play last year, our grade 4s are just now learning basic basketball skills. However, Mr. Pearce is working hard with them in class to learn these skills so that they will be ready for game play next year!