



# December Newsletter

## Christmas Concerts

Our Elementary school and High School music programs have been working very hard to develop their talents this fall. Come see our Elementary students perform their concert, *JESUS MEANS CHRISTMAS TO ME* on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm or 6:00pm (or maybe both)!

Our High School will be presenting their Coffeehouse on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00pm. In addition to the music and entertainment the High School Coffeehouse will also include coffee, tea, goodies, refreshments, and a silent auction!

**For unto us  
a child is born!**

**December 14, 2023**  
**1:00pm & 6:00pm**  
St. Ann's Academy  
Bishop Jennings Auditorium  
205 Columbia Street Kamloops BC  
Please RSVP to 250-372-5452 or  
officeadmin@st-anns.ca

**Elementary  
Concert**

PLEASE  
JOIN US FOR THE  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Christmas*  
COFFEEHOUSE

MONDAY | **18** | 6:00 PM  
DEC

ST. ANN'S ACADEMY - BISHOP JENNINGS  
AUDITORIUM  
205 COLUMBIA STREET KAMLOOPS BC  
RVSP TO +250-372-5452 OR  
OFFICEADMIN@ST-ANNS.CA

*It's Christmas time!*

## Cold Weather

With the weather getting colder we would like to take a moment to remind our families about our Cold Weather Guidelines (page 23 of our [Parent Handbook](#)). We will be going outside even in the winter weather and strongly suggest that parents help their students dress in weather appropriate clothing, including but not limited to:

**warm coat, gloves/mittens, head/ear coverings, boots, and waterproof snow pants as needed.**

## News From the SAA Office

### **St. Ann's Academy Homecoming Get your tickets!!**

We are holding our first-ever St. Ann's Academy Homecoming on Saturday, February 10th, 2024. St. Ann's Academy is hoping to strengthen our SAA community with alumni events throughout the year to create opportunities for alumni to reconnect and keep our school spirit alive and well.

We are hoping to see anyone who has attended, graduated, taught, or had children attend St. Ann's Academy. Our school has been incredibly fortunate to have had so many wonderful people walk through the halls for so many years and we are hoping to see as many of those faces as we can again.

It will be an evening full of fun, reconnection with old friends, and live entertainment. A night where you can enjoy the company of friends and indulge in our delicious appetizers, charcuterie, and desserts, all while sipping on your favorite beverage.

The Grade 12 seniors will be offering tours of the school, so you can see the things that have changed and the things that remain the same. Our live entertainment will keep you on your feet, dancing the night away. You might even be the lucky winner of one of our many door prizes! Or you can take your chances with our 50/50 draws or bid on some amazing items at our silent auction.

This is a night you won't want to miss! So gather your friends, family, and loved ones, and join us for an unforgettable evening filled with connection, fun, and entertainment.

Click on the link below and reserve your tickets now!

<https://buytickets.at/stannsacademy/1059761>



## Feeding our Futures grant

From the [Ministry of Education](#): “More children and youth will have access to healthy meals and snacks at school through the Province’s new Feeding Futures funding, which invests in building and expanding local school food programs.”

“As busy parents deal with global inflation, school food programs can help reduce the pressure on their wallets while tackling student hunger,” said Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care. “Working with local schools to make sure our kids are fed and ready to learn will make a real difference for families and communities.”

St. Ann’s Academy has received a grant from the Ministry of Education **with the intention of assisting families who need help to reduce the challenges of rising food costs**. If you would like to self-identify as needing assistance, please fill out the survey found [here](#).

## SURVEY FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & CHILD CARE

**Please see below direct from the Ministry of Education & Child Care**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, we are sharing the survey information below to help inform the Province’s [ChildCareBC](#) initiatives: We know that many families depend on school-age child care to ensure their children have a quality, affordable, and inclusive place to be during a parent’s full work day. That is why the Province’s [ChildCareBC plan](#) is working to expand access to child care for all families that want and need it. The Ministry of Education and Child Care is conducting a parent survey to better understand the regional and provincial demand for school age child care. While we know there is unmet demand for school-aged child care, there is no current provincial or regional data quantifying the demand. Your participation will help the Province plan for future school-aged child care expansions. This survey is intended for all parents, regardless of the type of child care you currently use or even if you are not using any child care at all.

The survey is now available online at:

<https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull3/minofed/main/SchoolAgeParents.asp?SchoolNumber=1591>

and is available in 18 languages. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete and is available starting November 21. Please only complete the survey once. The link is intended especially for you. Please do not share the link with anyone else. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [ChildCareBC.Engagement@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ChildCareBC.Engagement@gov.bc.ca). If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the web survey provider (AWIS) at [support@awinfosys.com](mailto:support@awinfosys.com).

We greatly appreciate your input and thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely, Ministry of Education and Child Care

## **BUSES**

If your child needs to ride the bus occasionally, they **MUST** have a bus pass from the school office. Bus passes are \$7.50 and must be shown to the driver. Unfortunately, the student will not be permitted to ride the bus that day unless they have a ticket.

If you pay monthly please note that your December payment is now due.

## **PAYMENTS by E-TRANSFER**

Please note that when paying by e-transfer, **you can combine amounts** and send just one e-transfer. There is no need to send separate e-transfers for different things. Within the description, please label as: **Family Name, Description of Payment** . The email address for e-transfers is [payments@st-anns.ca](mailto:payments@st-anns.ca)

## **Library**

### **HOLIDAY REMINDER**

Just like we all like to be together with the ones we love over the holidays, our books like to be all back together to share the holidays! We are asking that all library books be returned during your students library block the week of December 11, 2023. If you come across any SAA Library books please make sure they are all returned by December 15, 2023.

### **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Fall Scholastic Book Fair. A total of just over \$4500 in sales was made which earns our library 50% in rewards! Thank you very much to the volunteers who helped throughout the week making the Book Fair a HUGE success!! Can't wait to see you all at the next Scholastic Book Fair which will take place in the Spring. Dates and details to be announced in the new year.

## **The St. Ann's Players**

The St. Ann's Players continue to look for students to help with production and publicity of the production in March 2024. Please drop by Mr. Beliveau's classroom before Christmas and leave your name and what areas you are keen on helping out with.

The Players are also beginning to look for suitable mid-century furniture pieces to borrow or "take off your hands" permanently: sofas, arm chairs, side tables, area rugs, lamps, bric-a-brac, framed paintings, etc. If you might have anything you are willing to loan or donate please take a quick photo and email Mr. Beliveau ([kbeliveau@st-anns.ca](mailto:kbeliveau@st-anns.ca)) as soon as possible.

## [Athletics](#)

Basketball season is starting! Parents and students please check out the [High School Athletics Website](#) for practice and game times.

Navigate the top tabs for the Athletics Calendar, tournament information, league game information for each team, Crusaders In the News and much more.

## [Breakfast for the Needy](#)

We are offering the Breakfast for the Needy program again this year as part of our campus ministry. This will be SAA's 7th year participating in this program! It is a great way for our students and families to engage and support those in need in our community. While students do most of the cooking and cleaning, we are in need of parent volunteers to assist with the program. The breakfast is hosted the third Tuesday of each month from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Come for an hour or stay for the whole event! Thank you for all your support in advance. - Ms.Spina

### [Breakfast for the Needy Volunteer Dates](#)

December 19

February 20

May 21

January 16

April 16

June 18

## [Yearbook](#)

Do you have photos of events around our school that you would like to share with the yearbook team? You can submit them online at [hjeshare.com](https://hjeshare.com). If you'd like to frequently contribute, you can also download the HJ eShare app! Use our school code, stanns2024, to login and start sharing your photos. Remember to look out for your shots in our next yearbook!

## [From the Faith Corner](#)

**JOIN US!** Parents, students, and Staff are invited to join us on **Tuesday mornings from 8-8:25 am in the Chapel** as we pray intentionally for our St Ann's community. Come for a minute, or stay the whole time - all are welcome!

Don't know where the Chapel is? Ask our friendly office staff, or try these directions: straight past the cafeteria, over the walkway, down the stairs and through the doorway straight ahead, then left down the hallway to the second-last door on your right! (We'll be praying you find the way 😊)

During Advent, students will be learning about the Jesse Tree at our school. Why not set one up at home, too, and share in the grace of the Advent Season? Learn about the Jesse Tree on FORMED:

Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree this Advent

For families with young children (Primary), learn together about Advent with Brother Francis:

Brother Francis: The Days of Advent



[Rooted  
watch.formed.org](http://watch.formed.org)



[Brother Francis: The Days of Advent  
watch.formed.org](http://watch.formed.org)

DID YOU KNOW? **FORMED is an online platform** that provides the very best Catholic content to help parishes, families and individuals explore the Catholic faith anywhere. **As a St Ann's family, you have access to FORMED on your mobile device or computer, for free!** To check it out, download the FORMED app, or visit [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org). Click on the "SIGN UP" button, click on "SIGN UP AS A PARISHIONER", type in "SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL KAMLOOPS", click on the link for the parish and click "NEXT", and enter your NAME and EMAIL to set up your account (Phew. It's a lot - but it's worth it!). You can access great resources to prepare for Christmas!

## [Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal](#)

Please see [attached poster](#) with QR codes on the poster for families to scan on their cell phones and purchase tickets at their leisure before December 16, 2023.

## [Metis Family Connections Opportunity](#)

Métis Family Connections – Secondary Years was developed by Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) for families with Métis children ages 13-18. Métis Family Connections – Secondary Years is focused on connecting families with community, culture, and opportunities to access relevant programs and services that support healthy transitions to post-secondary education, skills training, and the workforce.

The specialized Secondary Years Navigators will round out our Métis Family Connections team, ensuring that MNBC can walk alongside our Métis learners and their families as they navigate their final years of the K-12 Education system right up to graduation.

Why Should You Enroll Your Child in Métis Family Connections - Secondary Years?

- To learn more about Métis identity and the Métis Nation.
- To be up to date on what secondary years services are available in your community, how to access them, and
- Be aware of services offered to MNBC citizens such as the STEPS program, and other valuable services offered by the Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Children and Families, Ministry of Housing, and Ministry of Health.
- To be connected to other Métis families.
- To have support for your child in a healthy transition into adulthood and the workforce.

- Opportunities to attend Métis family gathering events with your children.

Ready to Enroll? Access the Métis Family Connections – Secondary Years here: [Enrollment Form](#)

It is my pleasure to introduce myself formally. I am your Secondary Years Navigator. I come to MNBC from SD23 in the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Peoples where I served as an Indigenous Student Advocate. I also have formal training in Mediation and with that I am passionate about supporting our Indigenous learners through my knowledge of Education Systems and Equity building. I will be supporting the Region 3 – Thompson & Okanagan, and Region 4 – Kootenay regions. Please let me know how we can further support the amazing work being done in your district in the new year. We recognize that every district's needs are different, and hope that in the coming weeks we can come together to explore what supports we can offer you.

I can be reached at [kmccaffrey@mNBC.ca](mailto:kmccaffrey@mNBC.ca) for individual student supports. For all Education Committee or events, I ask that you share them with Lauren at [lpetersen@mNBC.ca](mailto:lpetersen@mNBC.ca) for the time being.

We look forward to connecting with you soon!

Maarsii,  
Kelene McCaffrey

## **Important Calendar Dates**

### **December Highlights:**

- Dec 4: Pro-D Day
- Dec 7: Elementary Pizza Day for those students who pre-ordered
- Dec 8: Crusaders Wear Day!
- Dec 14: Afternoon Elementary Concert 1pm  
Evening Elementary Concert 6pm
- Dec 18: High School Coffeehouse evening
- Dec 19: Grad Photos
- Dec 21: Full School Mass - Mass Dress required for ALL Students
- Dec 22: Early Dismissal  
Red & Green Day  
Report Card Day  
Last day before Christmas Break

**Have a Blessed and Restful Christmas Season! We will see you on Monday January 8, 2024.**