

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan 9: GRADE 1 – Skating

Jan 10: SAPA Meeting – 6:30pm via Zoom (Email sapa@st-anns.ca for the link to join)

Jan 11: **EARLY DISMISSAL** - K-3@12:00, 4-7@12:10, 8-12@12:30; bus departs @12:45

Jan 11: Sr. Boys & Girls at BC Catholics

Jan 12: Full School Mass (**MASS DRESS REQUIRED for ALL STUDENTS**) **ALL are welcome to attend!**

Jan 13: **NON-UNIFORM DAY** - Dress down for Alzheimer's (Pattern Panic)

Jan 13: GRADE 5/6 @ Stake Lake

Jan 19: Elementary Pizza Day – **No Munch-a-lunch today**

Jan 19: GRADE 3 - Skating

Jan 20: **NON-UNIFORM DAY** - Crusaderwear

Jan 21-28: Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week

Jan 24: Local School Committee Meeting @ 6:00pm

Jan 26: KINDERGARTEN - Skating

Jan 26: Elementary Assembly @ 1:30

Jan 26: Kindergarten Information Session @ 6:30pm (in Kindergarten Classroom)

Jan 26: Grade 8 Information Session @ 6:30pm (in School Cafeteria)

Jan 27: **NO SCHOOL – Pro D Day**

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb 2: GRADE 2 – Skating

Feb 3: NON-UNIFORM DAY – Crusaderwear

Feb 3: Sr. Girls' Basketball Tournament @ SAA

Feb 5: Catholic Schools Week begins (schedule of CSW events to follow)

Feb 6: GRADE 1 – Skating

Feb 6: KINDERGARTEN – Rivercity Gymnastics

Feb 13 & 14: Talent Show Auditions (Details to follow)

Feb 13: KINDERGARTEN – Rivercity Gymnastics

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

Feb 16: Elementary Pizza Day – **No Munch-a-lunch today**

Feb 16, 17 & 18: Sr. Girls Basketball @ Okanagans

Feb 17: **NO SCHOOL – Pro D Day**
Feb 20: **NO SCHOOL – STAT (Family Day)**
Feb 21: Grad Photo RE-TAKES
Feb 21: Elementary Student Led Conferences (Details to follow)
Feb 22: Ash Wednesday and first day of Lent
Feb 22: Pink Shirt Day
Feb 23, 24 & 25: Sr. Boys Basketball @ Okanagans
Feb 23: GRADE 3 – Rivercity Gymnastics
Feb 24: NON-UNIFORM DAY – Dress down for Heart & Stoke: Red and white
Feb 24: GRADE 1 – Rivercity Gymnastics
Feb 24: Elementary Assembly @ 1:30pm
Feb 27: KINDERGARTEN – Rivercity Gymnastics
Feb 28: NON-UNIFORM DAY – House Spirit Day
Feb 28: Local School Committee Meeting @ 6:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY DISMISSAL – Wednesday, January 11th

A friendly reminder that Wednesday is an Early Dismissal Day. Students in grades K-3 will be dismissed at 12:00, grades 4-7 at 12:10 and grades 8-12 at 12:30. Please remember to come to the LATER pick up time if you have students in different grades. Buses depart at 12:45.

FULL SCHOOL MASS – Thursday, January 12th

All students will be attending mass here in the SAA Gymnasium on Thursday. We are asking parents to **help us, by ensuring that your son or daughter is in proper mass attire (button down mass shirts for boys and girls, including ties for boys)**. Elementary and high school ties are available for purchase at the office at any time: Elementary ties \$20; High School ties \$25. For some time now we were lending out clothing at the office for those who had forgotten mass dress but there has been a huge increase in demand for this and it is no longer feasible for us to do that. We simply cannot outfit 30+ students for every mass day. **On mass days, if students are not in mass dress, they will be calling home to have proper mass dress brought to the school.** We recognize that this is a huge inconvenience to families so we are asking for your cooperation ahead of time to ensure that we don't have to ask you to do this.

ELEMENTARY PIZZA DAY – Thursday, January 19th

Pizza needed to be pre-ordered at the beginning of the year to participate in this program. Please note that there will be **NO MUNCH-A-LUNCH on this day** so if your child isn't receiving pizza you will need to pack a lunch for him or her.

LIBRARY NEWS

UNPLUG & PLAY FAMILY LITERACY WEEK 2023

The 12th annual Interior Savings Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week is taking place from January 21st to 28th, 2023.

This exciting event promotes the message of finding a healthy balance between active family time and recreational screen time. Many free activities, events, and take-home kits will be offered by community partners throughout the week for families to enjoy.

Elementary students will be bringing home Unplug & Play Student Challenges which includes all the information about Unplug & Play Week. Students are encouraged to reduce recreational screen time for the week and reflect on their experience. **Students who hand in their Unplug and Play Challenges by Friday, February 3rd will be entered in a draw to win prizes!**

Elementary Birthday Book Club

Elementary students are encouraged to be a part of the SAA Birthday Book Club. All NEW book donations (valued under \$15.00 - please no board books) must be handed into the Library by Friday, June 9th, 2023. Thank you for your generosity!

High School Study Sessions

The Library is open at lunch for High School students, on the following days:

Tuesdays - Grade 8's and 9's

Thursdays - Grade 10's, 11's, and 12's

Bring your lunch and enjoy a quiet place to work or study!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CANTEEN HELPERS - If you have an hour a day to spare around lunchtime to help deliver our elementary lunch meals to the classrooms, please email Mrs. Costa at acosta@st-anns.ca.

FROM THE FAITH CORNER

GIFTS & CLOTHING for SACRAMENTS – St. Joseph’s Christian Book & Gift Supply Store carries an assortment of faith-based books and gifts but did you know that you can also order First Communion and Confirmation dresses and attire from them? Visit the store in person at 256 Nicola St, across from the Cathedral, or call Garry and Marcella at (778) 471-6100.

LINK TO HALLOW APP – Free!!!

Here is the link for parents to try Hallow for free: hallow.com/ciskd/stannacademy

SAA FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEAM – The St. Ann’s Faith Development Team is a small group of parents and staff who support the discovery and deepening of the Catholic Faith in our school community. We do this with the help of “Faith Reps”, parents who are open to sharing and fostering our faith in the parent community, helping link other parents to school and parish resources. We also host faith-based activities within the school. If you are interested in a role with our Faith Development Team, please email fdt@st-anns.ca.

FAITH-BASED SERIES – The Faith Development Team will be hosting an evening event once a month. We will gather @ 7:00pm on the first Thursday of every month to watch a short faith-based series, followed by fellowship and conversation.

PRAYER SESSIONS– A member from the Faith Development Team will be in the school chapel on Tuesday mornings from 8-8:30am, leading prayer for our school community and families. All our welcome to join us!

NEWS FROM THE SAA OFFICE

NEW FACE in the OFFICE

Arlene, Stephanie and I are looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Jennifer Wallace to our office team, beginning on Monday, January 9th! Jennifer will be replacing me when I leave St. Ann’s in June but until then, we will work alongside one another. Jennifer has a daughter in Kindergarten and a son in Grade 3 here at St. Ann’s and we know she will be a wonderful addition to our team. Please join us in welcoming her!

PAYMENTS by E-TRANSFER

Please note that when paying by e-transfer, you can combine amounts and send just as one e-transfer. There is no need to send 4 separate e-transfers for different things. You just need to include who and what the payment is for in the message section. Email address for e-transfers is payments@st-anns.ca

MUNCH-A-LUNCH

Our high school students can order directly at the canteen, however our orders for elementary students are done through a program called, Munch-a-Lunch. Each month there is an “ordering window” to place your orders for the following month. We will try VERY hard to make sure that you know when these ordering windows are open. We will continue to send out reminder emails marked ***TIME SENSITIVE***. We sincerely apologize but we simply cannot accept late orders this year so we hope these additional methods are helpful to you. Please send payments for munch-a-lunch to payments@st-anns.ca and to indicate who and what it is for in the message section. Please also find the links below for your convenience.

NEW Parents - <https://munchalunch.com/schools/StAnns>

RETURNING Parents - <https://munchalunch.com/login>

NOTE: Munch-a-Lunch will not be available on Elementary Pizza Days.

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). Please note that it is very important for student absences to be reported and for students to check in at the office if they're coming late or leaving early. In the event of something such as a fire drill (or worse an actual fire!), we have to ensure that *every* student is accounted for. Your children's safety is important to us :) 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 – The updated canteen menus are available on the [SAA Website](#).

Please feel free to direct general office questions to officestaff@st-anns.ca and your email will come to all three of us here in the office.

ATHLETICS

Sr. Boy's Basketball @ SAA – St. Ann's is hosting the Crusader Invitational this Friday and Saturday. You can find the tournament schedule on the SAA Facebook page or Athletics page on the SAA website. Come out and cheer on our Crusaders!!!

ATHLETICS PAGE on www.st-anns.ca - If you haven't had a chance to view this page, I strongly encourage you to do so! Mrs. Mallais has spent a lot of hours adding and updating "all things athletic" to that page! You can find practice times for all teams, tournament schedules, photos of athletic events, 'Crusaders in the News' and much more! Check it out!