

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 4 & 5: NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Interviews

Nov 8: Walkathon – Final Assembly

Nov 9: SAPA Meeting – 6:30pm via Zoom (Email sapa@st-anns.ca for the link to join)

Nov 10: Remembrance Day Service @ 10:50 - MASS DRESS REQUIRED

Nov 11: NO SCHOOL – REMEMBRANCE DAY

Nov 12: NO SCHOOL – Pro-D Day

Nov 15: Scholastic Book Fair – ALL WEEK!

Nov 15: SAA Store Open - 2-3:00pm

Nov 17: Photo Retakes – MASS DRESS for those having Re-takes

Nov 18: Full School Mass – MASS DRESS for ALL STUDENTS

Nov 18: Elementary Pizza Day

Nov 19: Dress Down for Charity Day for 'MAKE-A-WISH' (Blue&Purple and/or Stars)

Nov 23: House Spirit Day – House Shirts with uniform bottoms

Nov 26: Crusaderwear

Nov 29: SAA Store Open – 2-3:00pm

Nov 30: School Committee Meeting – 6:00pm (Email officeadmin@st-anns.ca for link to join)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec 1: EARLY DISMISSAL – K-3@12:00, 4-7@12:10, 8-12@12:30; bus departs @12:45

Dec 3: Dress Down for Charity Day for 'ST. VINCENT de PAUL (Christmas sweater and socks)

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

Dec 9: Elementary Pizza Day

Dec 10: Crusaderwear

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

Dec 17: EARLY DISMISSAL for Christmas Break

UPCOMING EVENTS

WALKATHON ASSEMBLY Monday, November 8 – This will be an exciting day for the students! The Walkathon prizes will be given out and the Walkathon draws will take place!

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE *Students will take part in a Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday, November 10th at 10:50am. Mass dress is required on this day, for the service, and poppies will be provided to the students.*

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." - JOHN 15: 12-13

FALL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR! – Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner! Join us virtually on Monday, November 15th until Monday, November 22nd @ 8:59pm PT to purchase the latest great books! All books sold help our library earn rewards for new resources!! Please follow the link to start browsing! <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5163672> All orders will be shipped directly to the school (that means free shipping for everyone) and orders will be distributed to students once they arrive. The Library appreciates all of your support!

SAA STORE – The upcoming dates and times of store hours are as follows: Monday, Nov. 15th from 2-3:00, Monday, Nov. 29th from 2-3:00. The store will be set up right inside the main doors, just outside the front office. 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.

DRESS FOR CHARITY DAY – November 16th is our next Dress for Charity Day for ALL students! Students are invited to wear blue and purple and/or stars to support the 'Make-a-Wish' Foundation. The Make-A-Wish organization creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Research shows children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness. Make-A-Wish is the world's leading children's wish-granting organization, serving children in every community in Canada, and in more than 50 countries worldwide. Since 1983, Make-A-Wish Canada has granted over 35,000 wishes across the country, over 1,000 last year alone. Visit www.makeawish.ca for more information.

Bring in a loonie or toonie or MORE to support this amazing organization! This is a house challenge so the more you donate, the more points your house will get! Come on **EXNER, CASSIDY, BATES & BLONDIN!** Please note that on non-uniform days, students must still adhere to dress code. Students may wear untorn jeans or khakis, leggings under a skirt, a skirt, or a dress. T-shirts and sweatshirts may have logos or symbols providing they are not offensive.

BREAKFAST-TO-GO FOR THE NEEDY - Parent Volunteers Needed!

We are needing parent volunteers to help and support our students with the "Breakfast-to-Go" on Monday, November 15th in the Church Hall of Sacred Heart Cathedral ([255 Nicola St](#)). The students will be preparing, packaging, 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!

WELCOME MR. BACKMEYER, MRS. WHITWORTH & MS. DURNO

We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Mark Backmeyer and Mrs. Daina Whitworth as our new Grade 2 teachers and Mrs. Barbara Durno as our new Grade 6&7 music/band teacher. We are very grateful that they have agreed to join our St. Ann's Family! Mr. Backmeyer will be in the Grade 2 classroom on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays and Mrs. Whitworth on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs. Whitworth is also our Kindergarten teacher on Fridays. We would like to share with you a bit of information about these very interesting individuals.

FROM MR. BACKMEYER

Salutations,

My name is Mark Backmeyer. I was born in Kamloops 67 years ago. I went to St. Anns from Grade 1 to Grade 10. Back then kindergarten was a new thing and my parents didn't think I needed it. St Ann's high school closed down when I was in Grade 10 so I went to Kam High for Grades 11 and 12. It was a much shorter walk. I Graduated in 1972 and I spent the next three and one half years in seminary. After that I headed off to SFU where I enjoyed university life for too many years, supporting my education habit by fighting forest fires during the summer.

I got married, had my first child and received my teaching degree in that order. My first teaching job was at O.L.P.H. School and it lasted a brief 38 years. I retired with plans to do all those things retired people do but then Co-vid hit and ruined it all. I soon found myself back in the classroom as a TOC.

I have been married 36 years, have four grown children and four granddaughters. I have moved three blocks from where I grew up and my oldest son now lives in my parents' house. I still play hockey and badminton, collect stamps and postcards and enjoy spending time at our cabin on Hyas Lake.

Please feel free to email Mr. Backmeyer at mbackmeyer@st-anns.ca.

FROM MRS. WHITWORTH

Hello Parents,

To start, I wanted to tell you a little bit about me. I was born in Pemberton, British Columbia. I grew up on a horse ranch spending my days outside with my cousins, riding horses, building tree forts, playing at the river that runs behind my parents' house and when I wasn't outside I was playing sports. I was dedicated to playing basketball and volleyball. After graduating high school I moved to Kamloops where I obtained both my Bachelor of Arts Degree and my Bachelor of Education. I met my husband and we moved to his hometown, Langley. Shortly after moving to Langley, we picked up and moved to Busan in South Korea to teach. After returning to Langley for six years my husband and I moved to Boston Massachusetts for four years so he could complete his Post Doctorate at MIT. Our time in Boston was an exciting and incredible adventure and I hope to visit there again to see our favourite spots including an amazing Thai restaurant, Plum Island beach that went on for miles, the Museum of Science, and the Boston harbor which was bursting with history and charm.

Over the years we have always been open to new adventures. As we moved around I taught in Langley for three years, taught ESL in Busan, South Korea, volunteered at a school in Somerville, Massachusetts and this is my second year teaching in Kamloops. I have also coached basketball at the elementary level. I did take some years off of teaching to take care of my family and be home for

my kids. I have two boys that I absolutely adore. My husband and I spend our evenings and weekends taking them to their practices, games and activities. Between soccer, biking, basketball, volleyball and snowboarding we are a very busy family. We also make time for board games, camping and are currently building a cabin in Williams Lake.

I am very happy to be joining the staff at St. Ann's Academy. I am eager to get started in the classroom and am excited to get to know your children and for them to get to know me. I have put together some fun and vibrant art projects, a social studies unit exploring life in Canada, a writing Centre and more. I know this has been a challenging start to the year and I want to make this transition as smooth as possible. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns you might have at dwhitworth@st-anns.ca.

FROM MRS. DURNO

Greetings St. Ann's Academy,

My name is Barbara Durno and I will be teaching grade 6/7 band. My husband and I recently moved to your beautiful city from the lower mainland where I taught music at Meadowridge School for 22 years. Here are some facts about me; a) I have a B Mus degree in performance trombone as well as a B Ed degree in music. b) I am a marimba specialist and build marimbas for schools and for personal/performance use. My marimbas have been shipped as far away as Sitka, Alaska. I have been asked to do marimba building workshops for Lee Valley Ltd. and you can see my marimba tuning video on the Empire Music website. c) I lived in Nairobi, Kenya, for a short while where I studied Kenyan percussion with Raymond Matawali MacKenzie from the University of Kenyatta. My book, Marimba Building 101, is used as a course syllabus at the university. d) I teach at KISSM during the summer. e) One of my favourite pastimes is to sit down at my drum kit and play along to old rock and roll tunes.

I look forward to teaching at your school.

Cheers,

Mrs. Durno

FROM THE FAITH CORNER

SAA FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEAM – The Faith Development Team of SAAs invites you to join them on the FOURTH Tuesday of the month, via ZOOM, as they continue the 7-part series 'The Search'. The Search is a groundbreaking series that tackles the key questions of every human heart: "Why are we here?", "What's life all about?", "What happens when we die?" In this series, Chris Stefanick and experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. Whether you're a practiced inquirer or a jaded skeptic, 'The Search' will speak to you. You may be reassured by some parts and challenged by others. Either way, you'll find a lot here to think about! Email officeadmin@st-anns.ca or the Zoom link to join us for the second session, on Tuesday, November 23rd. Note that it is not necessary to do all parts of the series...join us for one or for all! Please find below, the link to the last session, Session 1, if you would like to view it at your own convenience. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0kl7LV84ro>

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 frderrick@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
- the website attendance notification feature on St. Ann's website – [Report an Absence](#)
- 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 – [November Canteen Menu](#) is available on the [SAA Website](#) & the [SAA Calendar](#).

ELEMENTARY PIZZA DAYS – Our next elementary pizza day is Thursday, November 18th. Please note that even if you haven't ordered yet pizza for the upcoming months you are still able to do so. Pizza orders for this upcoming pizza day can be taken until Wednesday, November 10th. 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. <https://st-anns.ca/wp-content/uploads/Monthly-Elementary-Pizza-Order-Form.pdf>

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE SAA APP FROM THE APP STORE?

Download it today for quick access to school information!

SCHOOL PICK-UP – As the temperatures are dropping and the weather is getting a bit wetter, 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 and wet 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.

NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Basketball season is about to begin! Students between grades 8-12 are to contact Mrs. Mallais if they are interested in playing basketball this season.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Huge congratulations to our Senior Boys Soccer team! The boys finished provincials with 3 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie to finish 9th in the PROVINCE and they completed the year with 13 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie. They also won the 'Most Sportsmanlike/Fair Play Award' at provincials. What a way to represent St. Ann's Academy! Great job boys!

