



"Forming Leaders of Tomorrow"



St. Anthony of Padua School – December 2018 Newsletter

January Highlights

School re-opens	Monday, January 7 @ 8:45am
School Mass	Tuesday, January 8 @ 9:00am
School Open House	Wednesday, January 16 @ 12:30 – 3:00pm
NO SCHOOL	Monday, January 21 – Staff Retreat
Grades 4-7 Parent Meeting	Thursday, January 24 @ 7:00 pm
Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Wednesday, January 30 @ 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Message from the Principal

On behalf of the staff of St. Anthony of Padua School and parish, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

Earlier this week, we finished our Christmas concert with the words "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King." Jesus comes to the world at Christmas as a bearer of joy. He offers this joy to each of us, and we experience it by accepting it in our hearts as a gift. This gift is essentially spiritual. It is about being reunited with God because "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." (2Cor. 5:19).

G.K. Chesterton, for whom Christmas was an occasion of great joy, expressed the matter thus: "If my children wake up on Christmas morning and have someone to thank for putting candy in their stocking, have I no one to thank for putting two feet in mine?" Generosity should breed gratitude, as well as more generosity.

This Christmas season, may we all experience the joy and gratitude that comes from our faith in the mystery of the Incarnation.

Let us all also continue to pray for those who are "away" from the church that God will give them the grace to come home and us the courage to invite them to mass this Christmas.

When we return to school on January 7, we will still be in the Christmas season, so join us for our school Mass on Tuesday, January 8 at 9:00 am to continue the celebration of this great feast.



Focus on the Liturgy

Christmastide extends from First Vespers on Christmas Eve (December 24) to the Baptism of Our Lord, which usually falls on the Sunday after Epiphany (January 13). The mystery of the Incarnate God is one so marvelous that Holy Mother Church celebrates it for eight days, each day of the Octave being considered a “little Christmas”. For the Eucharistic Liturgy, the Church is exultant in her finest vestments of white or gold vestments, making use of incense, as well as extra flowers and candles to underscore the festal observance of the Lord’s Nativity. The Gloria – that Christmas hymn of the angels – is sung once again. With uncontainable joy the faithful raise their voices in numerous carols; and with humble gratitude, they bend their knees during the Creed at the mention of the Incarnation. It is fitting that the Christmas Octave closes and the civil year begins with the celebration of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary under her most exalted title - the Mother of God (January 1). Other feasts celebrated within the Octave include: the feast of the Holy Family on Sunday (Dec. 30), the feasts of St. John the Apostle (Dec. 27), the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28) and St. Sylvester (Dec. 31), and, in vestments of red, the feasts of the martyrs St. Stephen (Dec. 26) and St. Thomas Becket (Dec. 29).

The magnificent feast of Epiphany (January 6) is celebrated with the same degree of solemnity as Christmas. However, the Feast is not a repetition of the Christmas mystery, but rather the manifestation of Christ, the light to the nations. On this feast the Church proclaims the date of Easter thereby connecting and orientating all feasts to the greatest Christian Solemnity. With the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Theophany - January 13) the season of Christmastide comes to a close. From: <http://www.catholicculture.org/liturgicalyear/>



Sexuality and Your Child Parent Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2019 @ 7-8:30pm

Church Hall

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN GRADES 4, 5, 6 & 7

The purpose of this **mandatory** parent meeting is to **support parents as the first and primary educators to transmit the truth and meaning of human sexuality to their children.** This program is mandated by Archbishop Michael Miller and is designed to help parents meet the challenges they will face both now and in the future, particularly in the teen years and will help parents to gain confidence in their own ability to communicate the truth and meaning of human sexuality to their children.

We have invited several guest speakers from the organization Signal Hill (www.thesignalhill.com/) who are experienced at speaking to parents and I know you will enjoy and benefit from their expertise. The evening will begin with a general session for all parents, followed by breakout sessions for Grade 4,5, 6 and 7 parents individually. Sessions will be finished by 8:30 pm. The session for parents of Grade 5 students will cover social media and online issues. Many themes will be covered including the influences of the media, Internet and social media use and the problems that are particularly encountered by 9 through 12-year-olds as they move into the teen years. It is very important that parents talk about these issues together so that we are all on the same page when dealing with problems.

All parents are welcome to attend. Because we will be covering curricular areas and parents need to do a part of this program at home, one on one with their child, **this session is required for all parents of Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7 students.**

Speech Arts Festival

The Speech Arts Festival is coming on February 19. The purpose of the Festival is to give students an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, exposure to the rich tradition of poetry in the English language and to better meet our curriculum goals in Language Arts. Each class from Grades K—7 will be preparing a poem for group presentation.

There are also opportunities for individual presentations. The categories for Primary students (grade K – 3) are: Poetry Recitation, Prepared Bible Reading and Prose Recitation. The categories for Intermediate students are: Poetry Recitation, Prepared Bible Reading and Persuasive Speech.

All students from Grades 2—7 will be required to choose and present a poem or bible reading for the individual category. All students from Grades K—7 are invited to compete in any individual category they wish, however, it would fall on the student with parent help at home to prepare for this. Each class will have a mini festival sometime before February 19 where up to 3 students in each category will be chosen to take part in the School Festival on February 19.

The students will benefit greatly from this opportunity and we are very much looking forward to hearing their presentations.

More information as well as resources for parents to help students at home are [available at this link](#). (If clicking on this link doesn't work, right click on it, choose copy hyperlink, and paste that in your web browser's address bar).

Grade 2 Parent Meeting

Tuesday January 15, 6:00-7:00pm meeting for parents of students making their first Confession. (Church Hall)

Open House and Re-registration

On Wednesday, January 16, from 12:30 – 2:45 pm we will hold our annual Open House. This is primarily for new families, but all are welcome. Open House will begin in the Church Hall with an informational talk by Mr. Perry, followed by escorted tours of the school by our Grade 7 students. Visitors will be able to observe the school in session and visit the classrooms.

If you have a child entering Kindergarten next September, be sure you let the office know and your child will be added to the class list.

If you know of a family that might be interested in a Catholic education for their children, be sure to invite them to the Open House. Did you know that you can receive a tuition credit of \$250 if you refer a family who enrolls at St. Anthony? A form to claim this credit is included in re-registration packages that will be sent home on January 23. Re-registration forms are to be returned either on Monday, February 11 from 6:00 – 8:00pm or Tuesday February 12 from 8:15am – 4:15 pm.

AGM

Mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting, which takes place on Wednesday January 30 at 6:30 pm. Our Parish Education Committee will be hosting this meeting in which we will have presentations on the state of our fundraising campaign and plans for building a gym and Parish Center, school finances, and mission and vision. It is also a time for parents to engage in discussion about the future direction of the school and make suggestions for school improvement. This is our parish school, and all are invited to play a role in making it the best it can be.

Parent Participation Program (PPP)

Blessings in a Box - We are collecting donation items for Catholic Men's Hostel in downtown east side in mid January. Please donate deodorant, disposable razors, bar soap, shaving cream, combs, Men's socks, underwear, gloves, toques and gently used clothing. Our parent helpers will pack and deliver the donation on January 22, Tuesday.

We care about our students' safety. We are urgently looking for **parent helpers to volunteer in Playground Supervision February - June**. If you can help out in one of the following shifts weekly, please let us know.

8:15am - 8:45am (45 min PPP volunteer time)

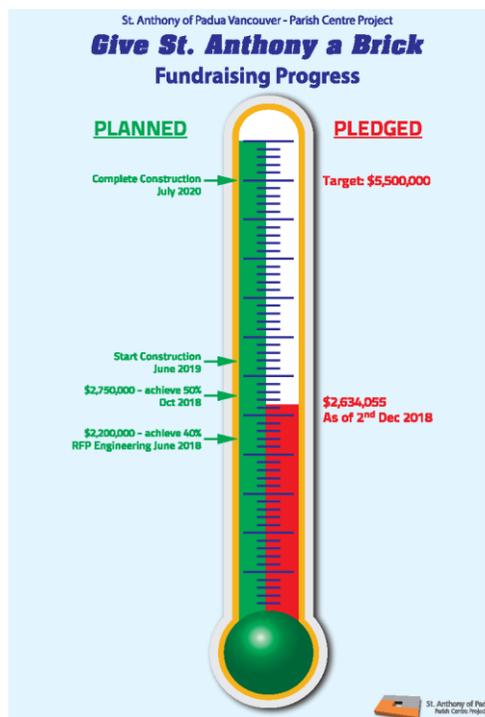
10:15am - 10:45am (45 min PPP volunteer time)

11:55am - 12:55pm (60 min PPP volunteer time)

Please **track your Volunteer hours** regularly at <http://vanbc.org/stanthony> . It is parents' responsibility to find school volunteer opportunities and track volunteer hours to fulfill the Parent Participation Program (40 volunteer hours + TWO out of four Parent Talks). If you decide to opt out the PPP, please submit your opt-out cheque to School Office.

Should you have any question, please feel free to contact Ivy Chan (sap.ppp2018@gmail.com)

School Gym/Parish Centre



Information about the project and how to donate are available at https://buildstanthony.com/news_update/

Dress-Up Day (Jan 11 & Jan 25) - Bring a Toonie

Friday – January 11: Dress up in **School Colours** (for Chalice)

Friday – January 25: Dress as **Favourite Hero** (for Sisters of Charity)

Upcoming February Events – Mark Your Calendar!

Mon, Feb 11

Tues, Feb 12

Wed, Feb 13

Thu & Fri, Feb 14 – 15

Mon, Feb 18

Tues, Feb 19

Wed, Feb 20

Thu, Feb 21

Fri, Feb 22

Submission of Re-registration Forms (6:00 – 8:00pm)

Submission of Re-registration Forms (8:15 – 4:15pm)

Grandparents Tea at Church Hall (9:30 – 10:30am)

No School (Catholic Educators' Conference)

No School (Family Day)

Gr. 2 Parent First Communion Meeting (6:00pm)

Parent Enrichment Talk (7:00 – 9:00pm)

Student-Led Conference (3:30 – 8:00pm)

No School - Student-Led Conference (8:45am – 12:15pm)

Christmas and New Year Mass schedule

Please come and join us in Christmas and New Year's mass. Everybody is welcome!

Christmas 2018 Parish Schedule



Penitential Service
Sunday, December 23, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve
Mass: Monday, December 24, 5:00 pm
Carols in the Church: 11:15 pm
Midnight Mass: 12:00 am

Christmas Day
Masses: Tuesday, December 25
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

New Year's Eve
Mass: Monday, December 31, 5:00 pm
Holy Hour & Gaudeamus: 11:00 pm

New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Masses: Tuesday, January 1, 2019
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Photo Gallery

AGAPE PHOTOS



THE PURDY'S TEAM



THE SATURDAY MAINTENANCE CREW



THE DOOR IS OPEN PHOTOS



THANK YOU TO ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS