



Weekly Update –September 9

It's great to be back! ☀️

What a joy it was to see you and your children out front yesterday morning and throughout our hallways and classrooms this week! The energy has been so uplifting!

The greetings have been genuine as students reconnect with school friends and previous teachers, while excitedly meeting their new teachers and EAs. Let's continue in this spirit of goodwill, kindness, and community! ❤️



Parking, Drop-Off & Pick-Up Safety Reminders

Please help us keep our students safe by following these important guidelines:

- 🕒 Morning drop-off area: The area near the baseball backstop is for 5-minute drop-offs only. Please drop off and move along so others can use the space.
- 🅑 Kindergarten families: Please park in the lot near Arcola by Tim Hortons.
- 🅑 Additional parking: The large parking lot across from the rectory always has space available.
- 🚫 Alleys: Alleys are out of bounds for drop-off, pick-up, and parking—even when it rains.



Thank you for showing your children that their safety matters, rules are for everyone, and we all have a responsibility to follow them at all times.

OnVolunteer Platform Difficulties

We are aware that parents are currently unable to register for volunteer positions and are working to improve this very important problem. Please stay tuned, as we will notify you once the situation is resolved.



AGM & Meet the Teacher Night (first reminder)

- All parents are invited to our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Meet the Teacher Night**
- 📅 **Thursday, September 17**
- 📍 **School Gym**
- 🕒 Doors open at **6:00 p.m.**
- 🎤 Presentations begin at **6:30 p.m.**, followed by classroom teacher presentations
- Hear updates from the **Parish Education Committee (PEC)**, learn about this year's goals, and review **parent commitment expectations**
- 👤 **Adults only** — the evening will conclude at approximately **8:30 p**

Contacting Teachers

Please be aware that our teachers are busy throughout the school day with teaching responsibilities and extracurricular activities.

- Teachers check their email before school begins and again after 3:05 p.m.
- They may not be able to check or respond to emails during the school day.
-  If your message is urgent, please contact the school office so we can ensure it reaches the teacher promptly.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping our teachers stay focused on their students throughout the school day

First Week – Punctuality Matters!

- Please plan your morning routine so your children **arrive on time**
- Ideally, students should arrive by **8:30 a.m.** so they have time to socialize and reconnect with classmates
-  **Orange cones** will mark each class's lineup area outside the front doors

Attendance Reminders

- Please notify the **school office** if your child will be absent
- Absence forms must be submitted **[online](#) only**
- Thank you for your cooperation!

Before & After School Care

- Before and After School Care begins **Monday, September 14**

School Maintenance – Summer Update

Mr. Bencze and Mr. Timbang have been working hard over the summer to **maintain, clean, and improve our school facilities**. Here's what has been accomplished:

Cleaning & Maintenance

- All linoleum floors in the school and portable were **rewaxed**
- All school and portable **windows were cleaned**
- Window screens were **removed, washed, and reinstalled**
- All school carpets were **shampooed**
- All blinds in the school and portable were **cleaned**

Painting & Improvements

- Grade 1 classroom bathrooms were **painted**
- Grade 1 cubbies were **painted**
- Cubbies in the lower and upper classroom hallways received **touch-ups**
- Cement bases around the boys' washroom urinals were **repainted**
- New ceiling tiles were installed in the **lower gym boys' and girls' washrooms**
- 💡 Gym lights were replaced with **new, brighter lights**

- Hillcrest Plumbing installed the **two new water fountains** scheduled last June

Equipment & Safety

- Filters in all **13 projectors** throughout the school and preschool were removed and cleaned
- Emergency and fire equipment in the portable building received its **annual inspection**
- Surrey Mechanical completed the **annual inspection and cleaning of both boilers**
- The Hood Dr. completed the **annual cleaning of the gym kitchen exhaust hood**, as requested by the City of Burnaby.
- Urban Plumbing tested all **backflow prevention devices** in the school and portable building

🙏 **Thank you to our Mr. Bencze and Mr. Timbang for all their hard work keeping our school clean, safe, and ready for another great year!**

🏛️ **Mass on Wednesdays:** You are **always invited** to join us at **9:15 a.m.!**

🙏 Come celebrate with us and show our students and staff how **rooted in faith** our school community is.

- Students will sit in the **front pews**.
- Families are welcome to find a seat in the **back half of the church**.

We would love to see you there!

 **Mark Your Calendars – Knights of Columbus Dinner & Dance!** 

• The SFDS Parish Knights of Columbus are planning a dinner and dance on **Saturday,**

September 26

- 👥 All ages welcome!
- 🔗 Details are coming soon — click the link on our [website](#) to learn more
- We hope to see you there!

- We are looking for parent volunteers to set up and clean up that evening! Details include:
 - all the volunteer positions will be the day-of (Sat 26) and break down as follows:
 - Setup (3h, 3 people): Likely in the mid-morning to afternoon.
 - Cleanup (2h, 3 people): After the event, so most likely starting at 10pm.
 - Entrance, and 50/50 draw (2h each, 2 people).

FOR NOW, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER.

Summer Uniforms

Let's take pride in our appearance as a way of showing engagement with and pride in our school community!

Hot Lunch

Hot lunch **resumes in October**. Stay tuned for more details as they become available!

Walkathon 2026!

We're excited to be in the planning stages of our **first and very important fundraiser of the school year!**

A huge thank you to our dynamic duo, **Carlo Sayo and Denise Valdecantos**, who have once again come up with an excellent theme idea—your children will learn all about it next week! 🎉

-  **Pledge sheets** will come home next Friday so you can get started over the weekend.
-  **Volunteer opportunities:** Once we've ironed out a few glitches with our OnVolunteer sign-up platform, you'll be able to sign up to support the event.
-  **More information** will be shared at the AGM next Thursday.

Thank you in advance for helping us make **Walkathon 2026** a great success!

Women's Retreat

All women are invited! Consider taking this opportunity to grow in your own faith life so you can better walk alongside your child in their sacramental journey.

This retreat may be especially meaningful for mothers of students in **Grades 2 and 7**, as they prepare to receive:

-  First Confession
-  First Holy Communion
-  Confirmation

 **Saturday, October 24 | 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

The **St. Francis de Sales CWL** invites you to join them for this special day of faith, reflection, and community.

More information will be shared at our **AGM next Thursday**.

Sports Report

Permission forms and practice schedules will be coming home this week for students interested in participating in:

-  **Cross Country** — Boys & Girls, Grades 3–7
-  **Girls Volleyball** — Grades 5–7
-  **Boys Soccer** — Grades 4–7

Please watch for the information coming home this week

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Sept. 16  PEC Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17  AGM & Meet the Teacher, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18  Terry Fox Walk/Run, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23  Primary Choir Begins

Monday, September 28  Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m. & Popcorn Sale

Thursday, Sept. 24  Intermediate Choir Begins

Saturday, Sept. 26  Knights of Columbus Dinner/Dance

Sept. 28–Oct. 1  Grade 7 Camp Latona

Monday, Sept. 28  Orange Shirt Day School Assembly

Tuesday, Sept. 29  St. Mary's Cross Country Meet (*Grade 7 away*)

Wednesday, Sept. 30  No School: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Friday, Oct. 9  **School Walkathon**

Saturday, Oct. 24  **Women's Retreat**

-  The complete school calendar is available on our website
- Major events will also be added to the website throughout the year
-  Please note that some dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances

 The following dates are confirmed and will not change:

- Christmas Holidays  Dec. 21–Jan. 1
- Spring Break  March 8–19
- Easter Break  March 26–29
- Last Day of School  June 29