

Walk with Jesus, our living hope!

Dear Parents,

Thank you to our volunteers: Tanya Vandolder, Frank Chay, Samantha Coletta. Mrs. Vandolder has very kindly been working in our preschool/kindergarten gardens to tidy them up and ready them for winter; Mr. Chay has returned to help set up our library despite no longer having children in our school as they are now in high school. Thank you to all the parents who demonstrate our core values of: #LEARN, #ACHIEVE, #MERCY, #ENGAGE, #SERVE

We want to acknowledge and thank the classroom fundraising leads that have volunteered so far:

1. Mrs. Sam Coletta for Grade 7
2. Mrs. Hanna Critoph for Grade 6B
3. Mrs. Emma Tones for Grade 4
4. Mrs. Denise Valdecantos-Sayo for Grade 2

Please forward any fundraising ideas you have with your class representatives who will be coordinating with the PEC on your behalf. If you have any ideas you wish to share but do not have a class representative yet, please send it to participation.sfds@gmail.com

We are still in need of representatives from Grade 6A, 5, 3, 1 and K.

*Each grade is expected to put forward a plan to our PEC subcommittee.

Donuts - Please be sure to honor the ordering deadlines on the information form that went home to the oldest and only students on Monday. **We accept cash or cheques made out to SFDS Parish (not school).** Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative intended to help us advance toward our goal of achieving \$30 000 in fundraising dollars.

Photo Day Reminder - This takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 13, the day after we get back from the Thanksgiving Day long weekend. For your information, 3 to 5 Days after Photo Day, parents will receive an email with their children's access codes.

Virtue of the Month - This month, as part of the *Virtues in Practice* program, we are focusing on STUDIOUSNESS! We are defining it as 'seeking knowledge to grow closer to Truth'. We are conveying to the students that the virtue of STUDIOUSNESS helps us curb our desire to know things that would lead us *away* from God and to choose to know the things that bring us *closer* to God. When we fill our minds with unimportant information or with popular news and gossip, we do not leave room or energy to seek to know Truth. There is a vice that we like to pretend that is like studiousness, but is actually its opposite: *curiosity*. While curiosity is not always a bad thing, when we spend hours mindlessly playing on the computer or on our phones, flipping through TV channels, scanning Instagram and Facebook, we're giving in to the vice of curiosity, acquiring superficial knowledge about people, places, things or ideas that either is not necessary or is actually evil.

CHALLENGE: Can you and your family take up the challenge of more consciously noticing how you spend time? Can you make a point of recognizing your children when they display the virtue of studiousness?

To help grow in understanding, students are learning about various saints and how they demonstrate studiousness:

Kindergarten, Grade One and Grade Two - St. Albert the Great
Grades 3, 4, and 5 - St. Thomas Aquinas
Grades 6 and 7 - St. Edith Stein

Ask your child/ren what they've learned so far!

End of the day procedures - Once you have collected your children, please make your way back to your vehicles right away, rather than lingering and socializing. We love that you care about each other, but it's important for the students to see that we take physical distancing among people not in our cohorts seriously. Thank you to everyone who is respecting the expectation that parents avoid parking in the church lot in the morning, and for those of you who are using the drop off zone correctly and modelling how using the crosswalk ensures safety.

Individual Education Plan Meetings - IEP dates will be November 2, 3, 4, 5. Parents with students on an IEP will **not** need to attend Parent Teacher Conferences on October 26-27th.

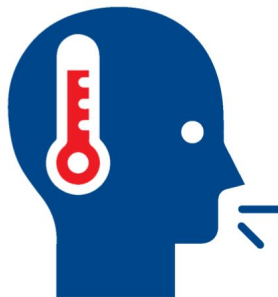
Daily Health Checks/Student Absence - Please be sure to submit these **DAILY in the morning before school**. When notifying the office that your child is absent for the day, it is critical that you include the reason as it may affect our government grant. As you may know, we get audited near the end of the school year and are required to provide evidence of why students are absent from school. Thanks for your diligence in helping us with this process.

Please continue to be on the lookout for these symptoms before sending children to school. *Note that a runny nose is no longer classified as a symptom that would prevent students from attending school, unless they are unable to independently manage wiping their nose, or if they can't stop themselves from sneezing on others.*

COVID-19 is a **respiratory** illness caused by a novel coronavirus.

Key symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting



Terry Fox Thank You's - We are so grateful to those of you who sacrificed part of your earnings to support the Terry Fox Foundation. Check out our [website](#) for details. #corevalues #achieve #mercy #engage #service

New faces in the building - We are blessed to be able to be part of the training of Vancouver Vancouver Career College; students completing the final part of their practicums will be placed in Kindergarten, Grade 1, 5, and 6 classes. Rest assured that these ladies are fully trained in the safety protocols and will be closely supervised to make sure they continue to follow what's expected at SFDS School including masks, hand sanitization, signing in/out to ensure contact tracing can happen should it need be, and not reporting to our school if any symptoms manifest. (These students have completed 1183 hours of comprehensive course instruction during the last 10 months. They are motivated to find a place to help a school community through the challenges and additional duties of COVID while meeting their program requirements.)