



## Principal's Message:

Bonne année 2022! My prayer for your family for this new year:

### New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking beef from your heart; Not  
by granting you unbroken sunshine, But

by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you, when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

- Anonymous

From our school family to your family, Happy New Year 2022 et  
bonne santé à tous!

Mme Mykyte

## THIS MONTH:

**Jan 13:** Fr. Miguel's Birthday!

**Jan 17:** Grade 7 Grad Photos

**Jan. 17:** Kindergarten Registration  
deadline (extended)

**Jan. 18:** Black Shirt Day (optional) –  
with or without uniform – for Black  
Excellence Day

**Jan. 23-30:** Family Literacy Week

**Jan. 31:** Last day to access Term 1  
report cards on MyEd

## COMING UP:

**Feb 2:** Re-registration for returning  
families for 2022-2023 School Year  
available.

**Feb 15:** Re-registration for returning  
families deadline

**Feb 17 & 18:** NO SCHOOL

**Feb 21:** NO SCHOOL (Family Day)

**Feb 23:** Pink Shirt Day (optional)



## COVID UPDATE

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- BC schools are open because they are an essential service and support health and wellness for a large segment of our society. The Omicron variant is highly transmissible and will exist within schools and within the wider community. Most, if not all, people will be exposed at some point to Omicron, and public health has identified strategies that are aimed at reducing the speed of its spread and the severity of its health outcomes (vaccinations, daily health checks, stay home when sick, wash your hands, wear a mask...)
- Public health is moving towards managing the Omicron virus as they would other similar viral illnesses (the flu). Therefore, testing to confirm an Omicron infection provides little public health benefit, as does contact tracing of each confirmed case. This means schools will no longer be receiving exposure notifications from our local health authority or requests for additional information to support contact tracing. Every family is asked to continue to self-monitor for symptoms as you have been since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The MoE and PH are meeting this week to establish the role Rapid Antigen Tests may play within BC schools. I expect the K-12 sector will receive more information on these tests soon
- The MoE and PH are aware that differing guidance is being provided on official channels (Thrive App, BCCDC, news conferences) regarding self-isolation instructions for people who are close/intimate contacts. Synchronization is underway.
- Coming out of isolation for kids? For children, who are Not fully vaccinated: At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms started, or from the day you tested positive if you did not have symptoms. (From BCCDC)  
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>
- How to isolate:
 

Vaccinated household contact - Self-monitor	Vaccinated case - Self-isolate for 5 days
Partially vaccinated household contact - Self-monitor	Partially vaccinated case - Self-isolate for 10 days
Unvaccinated household contact - Self-isolate for 10 days	Unvaccinated case - Self-isolate for 10 days

### Important links for reference:

BCCDC: "If You Have COVID-19" instructions page: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>  
 Positive Result Reporting Form: <https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/>  
 Self Isolation and Self Monitoring Instructions: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>

## ABSENCE NOTES & COVID

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Absences should specify if they are related to illness, appointments, travel, or something else. Students and staff do not need to disclose if the absence is Covid related, however, those who test positive for COVID-19 should be diligent in ensuring our school is aware that the child's absence is illness-related.

*Please complete a [daily health check](#) prior to coming to school, monitor for symptoms of illness and stay home when sick.*



## KINDERGARTEN 2022-2023

Registration is open to all children entering kindergarten in September 2022. Visit our school website to [download a registration package](#). Deadline has been extended to January 17, 2022.



## BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Mme Gabriella Lau, who has served for many years at ESS as Educational Assistant and Before/ After School Care, will be on Mat leave starting the end of January. We wish her the best with her bundle of joy! We welcome Mme Yolla Bathani to our Staff team as EA and Before School Care supervisor. We also welcome new supervisors to our AFTER SCHOOL CLUB team who have joined us starting January. We introduce you to Mme Doreen, Mme Cindy, and M. Basile.



## FROM THE LIBRARY

Family Literacy Week Activities  
(January 23-30, 2022)

1. Mystery Readers: We are inviting parents and/or family members to be mystery readers and read a story to your child's class via Zoom. Please contact your classroom teacher if you'd like to be a mystery reader.
2. Favourite Book Poster: Last year we received some amazing posters of student's favourite books. We'd like to decorate our hallways once again this year with a poster of your family's favourite book. Please have posters in by January 28th or sooner.
3. Family Poetry: Families are invited to write a poem together in either French or English. These poems will be shared at school throughout the week. Please send in poems starting January 24th
4. Check out the virtual programs for children and teens at the Vancouver Public Library. Also many resources and activities on the Decoda website.



Happy Birthday  
FR. MIGUEL!





## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PROGRAM AT ESS

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Our Positive Behaviour Support program (PBS) is now in its fourth year. Our mascot is a chouette which means “owl” in French but also “cool” or “great”. As part of our curriculum, this year we will be incorporating First Nations Principles and linking them with the Catholic Worldview.

Some of the First Peoples Principles of Learning, as stated in the BC curriculum, are that “learning supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.” It “involves recognizing the consequences of one’s actions” and “requires the exploration of one’s identity”

In many Indigenous cultures, animals have great spiritual significance since they teach humans how to live close to the earth; therefore, we have chosen spirit animals that best represent the qualities and values that we are working on as a school.

Each month, we will focus on a different moral principle along with the spirit animal that it represents. In November, we focused on responsibility, symbolized by the squirrel. During Advent, we emphasized the importance of reverence and prayer which is symbolized by the eagle. The eagle represents many things, one of which is “messenger of prayers to the creator” (Spirit of the West Coast, n.d.).

This month our symbol is the beaver, le castor. He reminds us to be productive and to be persistent. He helps us to understand that working together we can accomplish anything.

During the week, teachers recognize five students who demonstrate the qualities we are working on and add their names to their “chouette” box. From those names, five names are chosen and on Mondays, one name is drawn from each class. These students will have their names on the bulletin board and receive a small prize. They will also colour a letter of the value we are practicing on our bulletin board. Once all the letters are coloured the school will be rewarded with a prize. Last month, the children dressed in Christmas decorations and colours. This month, the school will have a jersey-day.

Please help us by continuing to instil the importance of the values of school themes at home. We will be sharing them with you every month.

Thank you for your support. We greatly appreciate it.



## Purdy's Easter Chocolates

You can now order your Purdy's chocolates in time for Easter! Chocolates will arrive on April 4th. Feel free to share [this link](#) with family and friends!



## MUNCH A LUNCH

Our Hot Lunch (Munch a Lunch) dates have changed to Mondays and Fridays.



## MORNING STREET TRAFFIC PATROL

Check our [OnVolunteers](#) portal for morning patrol volunteer opportunities! Each class has an assigned month:

**December:** gr. 5

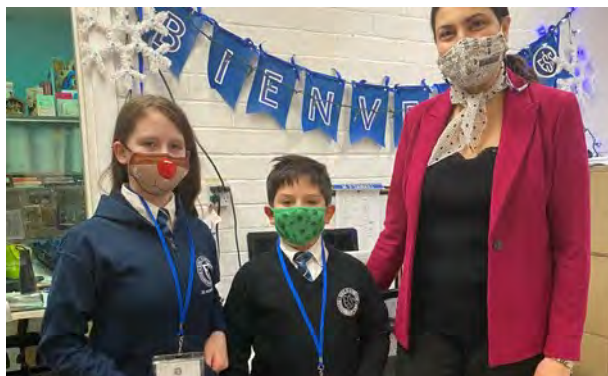
**April:** gr. 2

**January/February:** gr. 4

**May:** gr. 1

**February/March:** gr. 3

**June:** Kindergarten



## PRINCIPALS FOR THE DAY

Congratulations to Arianne (7) and Zachary (5)



## DECEMBER PIERROTS

Congratulations to the following students:

Maternelle: Helena

4e: Parker

1e: Noah

5e: Vivienne

2e: Curtis

6e: Emma

3e: Damian

7e: Sara Victoria



# Merci

Thank you to M. Diaz and Mr. Coutts for clearing our courtyard!



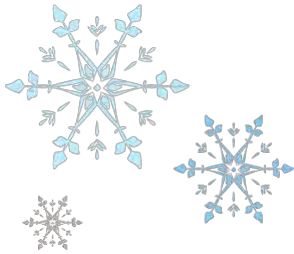


## ESS FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Our school collected over 1000 food items for our local food bank. Bravo ESS! Thank you to everyone who donated! Your family made a difference for many in need.















Archdiocese of Vancouver  
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

Sabah Dar (Xlithin the Ocrnvc of rhe Namril)-  
December 30, 2021

Mrs. Reine Mykyte  
Blessed Sacrament Elementary School  
3020 Heather Street  
Vancouver BC V5V 3K3

Dear Mrs. Mykyte:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks to the students of Blessed Sacrament Elementary School who took the time to prepare the beautiful spiritual bouquet for the Christmas season. Do convey my thanks to the teachers and the staff. Their prayers are a source of strength and inspiration for my ministry, and for this I am very grateful to all of you.

With cordial greetings and the assurance of my prayers for you and for all the staff, students, and families of Blessed Sacrament that the New Year will be filled with many blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ.

*t-fv a;J*

Archbishop of Vancouver

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