

# October Newsletter

2024



## Mary Fix Catholic Elementary School

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## A Thanksgiving Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be And bless these gifts Bestowed by Thee. And bless our loved ones everywhere, And keep them in Your loving care. For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends.



**Principal's Message**

October with its vibrant colours, is one of the most beautiful months of the year. It seems appropriate to thank God at this time for the many blessings we receive. As a Catholic community of learners, we know that every person who we encounter is created in the image and likeness of God and deserving of dignity and respect. At Mary Fix Catholic School we believe that every student should be provided with the opportunities to develop all gifts and talents bestowed to them. September was a very busy yet rewarding month as we welcomed back families and welcomed new ones to the Mary Fix Community. We are thankful and blessed to have a community of parents/guardians that support a learning environment that is rooted in faith, is inclusive, just and respectful.

Yours in Catholic Education  
C. Sforza, Principal

**PA DAY REMINDER**

There will be a professional activity day on Friday, October 11th, 2024. There is no school for students on this day.

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## October Virtue – Empathy

This month we will celebrate the virtue of EMPATHY.

### A person with *empathy*...

- Listens attentively
- Understands other's feelings and difficulties
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Is able to share in the joy of others
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other—to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in a safe, caring, inclusive community. We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in a faith community we are nothing without relationships. Relationships that grow in a spirit of communion—and understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. An empathetic person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

## Virtue Winners of FAITH

**FDK A** - Diego B.C & Leonardo T.

**FDK B** - Carlos D., Khristyna M. & Krista R.

**Grade 1/2 A** - Jaime A. & Sophia H.

**Grade 1/2 B** - Landon B., Antoni K. & Magdalena W.

**Grade 3A** - Sophia A., Tessa A. & Julia S.

**Grade 4A** - Catherine D. & Fareedah S.

**Grade 5A** - Cyrus D., Naila S. & Avaria V.

**Grade 6A** - Caleb H., Zoey L. & Cristian R.

**Grade 7A** - Sarina A. & Julia G.

**Grade 8A** - Lucas H. & Andus W.

**SERC** - Emma L. & Andria W.

## All Saints' Day – November 1st

All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1st. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. The saints also give us a model of holiness. The charity they lived on Earth lives on. The witness of their love and sacrifice was not just a one time act in history. Rather, charity is living and continues to have an effect for the good. Therefore, the charity and witness of the saints lives on and affects our lives. This charity in their lives creates a bond with us, a communion. It enables us to love them, admire them and want to follow their example. It is this, coupled with their continuing intercession, that establishes a powerful bond of love and union with us.

## All Soul's Day – November 2nd

All Souls Day is a holy day set aside for honouring the dead. All Souls Day, which is observed on November 2nd, is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Catholics believe that through the prayers of the faithful on Earth, the dead are cleansed of their sins so they may enter into heaven.

## A Message From St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Preparation for **First Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** is now started.

Our Grade 2 students will be celebrating the sacrament of **First Reconciliation on Thursday April 10, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

Preparation for the **Rite of Confirmation** is now started.

Our Grade 7 students will celebrate **the Rite of Confirmation on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 7:00pm.**



## Catholic School Council

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. All parents are encouraged to participate in council meetings. You do not have to be an executive member of the council to participate. You can view the approved minutes of our council meetings on the school website. Meeting minutes are always approved at the next month's meeting. This year's School Council meetings are set for: **WEDNESDAYS**. Only School Council representatives have the right to place a vote. Our meetings are simply a platform to keep parents informed and an opportunity for you to share your ideas. We look forward to seeing you virtually. The agenda for our first Catholic School Council Meeting will be posted on the School website and will also be emailed to parents. Please consider coming to our first meeting and accepting a role on the council.

## Medication

On occasion, the school is asked to store and/or give medication to students. Medication of any kind cannot be stored on school property without the proper medical forms on file.

1. A completed form must accompany each request for medication to be stored by the school. It is the prerogative of the Principal to decide whether or not medication will be stored or given out and may establish such conditions as are deemed necessary regarding any specific request. All medication must be submitted and stored in its original packaging.
2. School personnel will not assume responsibility for the administration of any medication.
3. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to monitor the quantity of medication stored by the school.
4. Please let the office know if you require Storage of Medication Forms so they can be forwarded to you.

## School Cash Online

### If you haven't already - Sign Up Today

School Cash Online provides the ability to pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily. By using School Cash Online, you can help increase efficiency and security at our school by making payments directly into our school bank account.

Parent registration is a simple process. Once you have registered, you will receive e-mail notification of fees or items for payment related to activities for your child(ren). In addition, a receipt for payment will be issued to you directly and a history of payments is available at all times. Please follow the link below to register online.

<https://dpcdsb.schoolcashonline.com>



## Mary Fix Thanksgiving Food Drive

Mary Fix is currently collecting nonperishable food items or grocery store gift cards for our St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving food drive. Collection items may be brought into the school **until Thursday, October 10th**. We appreciate your generosity in making this Thanksgiving a special one for those in need.

## THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

The school will be closed On Monday October 14th as we all give thanks for our blessings and enjoy the time with family and friends.

## Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

Students are asked to ensure that they have a pair of indoor shoes at school. As the weather gets wetter, we ask that children change their footwear when they come inside in an effort to keep our classroom floors clean.

## Change of Clothes

Children are expected to participate in Daily Physical Activity/Physical Education activities and are reminded to dress for the weather. **It is recommended the children of all grades have a change of clothing at school in the event that they get wet.**

## Attendance and Punctuality

### DID YOU KNOW?

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

Missing 10% of school (1-2 days every few weeks) can:

- Make it harder to develop early reading skills
- Make it harder to develop numeracy skills
- Develop a poor attendance pattern that's hard to break
- Absences can affect the whole class as time may be required to help children catch up.

## Halloween Costumes at School

Thursday, October 31st, students are invited to wear their costumes. We would like to remind everyone that masks that cover your child's entire face will not be permitted for safety reasons. Weapons as part of the costume will also be allowed.



## Halloween Costume Considerations

In an effort to create safe, caring and inclusive spaces within our schools, please consider the impact costume choices may have on others. Families are encouraged to select costumes that may not be considered offensive to someone's religion, culture, race, gender, gender expression, ability, heritage, or sexual orientation. Everyone has the freedom to express themselves within reasonable limits. As a caring Catholic community, we must ensure that the costume choices are not offensive to, or mocking of, others. Rather than creating a list of inappropriate costumes, we encourage families to discuss with students what is appropriate, what is not appropriate, and why. Below are some guidelines to consider before choosing a costume. These questions will help determine what constitutes an offensive/disrespectful costume, and applies to "characters" from media, including TV or films. (Adapted from Simon Fraser University).

Does your costume:

- Mock or condescend oppressed people and/or cultures?
- Include face painting for the sole purpose of matching the skin colour of a specific person or people?
- Mock or condescend religions or religious beliefs? Use sacred objects/clothing of others' religions/ cultures?
- Caricaturize marginalized groups or persons (historical or current) in a way that may serve to trivialize them?

## Halloween Safety

It is that time of year when our "little ones" will want to visit their neighbours for trick or treating. We remind students and parents of a few safety rules:

- Choose brightly coloured costumes
- Use face paint instead of masks
- Plan a safe route with your child
- Remind your child of road safety rules
- Accompany your children
- Remind children not to enter homes
- Check the treats before allowing your children to eat them.

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## Snack and Treats for Students

We are asking that all parents please refrain from bringing in edible snacks and treats to the classrooms. Several students in our school suffer from a severe food allergy to all nuts, peanuts and all nut products. If you would still like to do something special for the classroom, a small non-eatable gift for each student or perhaps a classroom gift, i.e. board game for inclement recess, may be a great alternative. Again, we thank you for your co-operation.

## Halloween Spirit Week

Oct 28th to Nov 1st will be Spirit week at Mary Fix as we lead up to Halloween. We are asking all students to donate \$2 (or more) through School Cash Online or by bringing cash to school. All proceeds will go to ShareLife, an organization that helps people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds in our communities. More information will be sent home.

## National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

On Monday September 30 Mary Fix Catholic School remembered the injustices of the Indigenous children in the residential schools. Students and staff were invited to wear an orange shirt and also received a button stating: All Children Matter.



## Terry Fox Walk

On Friday October 4th the Mary Fix Catholic School community will walk to raise funds for cancer research. Thanks to the families who generously donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.

## Parents In The Yard

For your child's safety we request that he/she not be on school property until supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. Please do not drop your child off at the school prior to 8:45 a.m.

If not using the Kiss and Ride at dismissal, parents are reminded to refrain from approaching the school building or class lines and allow your child to come to you.

## Kiss and Ride

The safety of our students and parents is of great concern to us here at the school. Please drive **SLOWLY** through the Kiss and Ride lane as well as the drive through lane. Please wait to pick up your child in the four designated spots. Please do not block the Kiss and Ride zone and areas that would hinder the movement of cars.

**Cars cannot be left in the lanes at any time.**

## No Dogs on School Property

Please be aware that dogs should not be brought onto school property. We have students with severe allergies. If your dog is escorting you and your child to and from school please make arrangements to meet your child on the sidewalk in front of the school.

## Junior Girls Volleyball

The Junior Girls Volleyball season has started. The Junior Girls volleyball team will be playing at their first tournament on Tuesday October 8, 2024, at St. Herbert Catholic School. Thanks to Ms. Telfeyan and Ms. Giovannini for volunteering their time to coach the Junior Girls Volleyball Team. Junior Girls Volleyball Team Members:

Claudia S.  
Sophia G.  
Tiana G.  
Vanessa M.  
Georgia Z.  
Lizzy C.  
Valentina K.  
Guiliana S.  
Gabby M.  
Albie T.  
Danielle K.

## Junior Boys Volleyball

The Junior Boys Volleyball season has started. The Junior Boys volleyball team will be playing at their first tournament on Wednesday October 9, 2024, at Christ the King Catholic School. Thanks to Ms. Telfeyan and Ms. Giovannini for volunteering their time to coach the Junior Boys Volleyball Team. Junior Boys Volleyball Team Members:

Benyamin N.  
Caleb H.  
Sal R.  
Evan F.  
Gabe M.  
Sean A.  
Romeo L.  
Luka L.  
Peter G.  
Noak L.

## Cross Country Team

The Cross-Country Tryouts for Junior and Intermediate students started the week of September 23rd. Thanks to Ms. Dinga for volunteering her time to run the tryouts. We will publish the Cross Country Team names once it has been finalized.



## Teacher Appreciation Day

Saturday October 5, 2024, is the International Teacher Appreciation Day. We will celebrate all our teachers here at Mary Fix Catholic School on Friday October 4, 2024. We are blessed to have exemplary teachers at our school. May God bless them each day.



### Dates to remember

October 4th - Terry Fox Walk  
October 8th – Grade 7/8 Immunization Clinic  
October 8th - Jr. Girls Volleyball Tournament  
October 9th – Jr. Boys Volleyball Tournament  
October 11th – PA Day – No School for students  
October 14th – Thanksgiving Monday  
October 16th – Opening School Mass  
October 16th - Cross Country Meet  
October 17th – Gr. 6 trip to Silvercreek  
October 22nd - Picture Retake Day  
October 23rd - School Dental Screening  
October 28th - Gr. 2 trip to Peel Safety Village  
Oct 28th to Nov 1st - Halloween Spirit Week for ShareLife



**Mary Fix Catholic School**