



ONE FAMILY,  
HOPE IN CHRIST

Art by E. Lubron

# NOVEMBER 2021

## St. FRANCIS XAVIER

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*I acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tseil-Waututh), and x̓w̓məθk̓w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.*

Dear Parents,

November has arrived with its blustery weather and shorter hours of daylight. With last weekend's time change, it often seems that November is such a bleak month with dwindling daylight and foreboding weather. However, November has its upside as well as it is a month where we reflect on the value of peace in our world and commit ourselves to working towards achieving peace in our own personal lives and in the world as a whole.

We take the time during November to pay tribute to the brave young men and women who sacrificed everything to keep our nation strong and free. As Canadians we need to continue to honour them on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day. Wear a poppy both as a sign of respect for the generations who gave so much so that future generations could have the freedom to build a world of peace, and as a sign of your commitment to never forget that sacrifice. This is a good time to commit to being a peacemaker in today's world.

For us in the St. Francis Xavier school community, it is also a time to reflect upon our call to be peacemakers by bringing love and peace to all we meet in our daily life and by humbling ourselves to serve our fellow man, setting aside our own needs to help those in need. Like Zacchaeus high in the sycamore tree, we want to experience the peace that only Jesus can offer us, yet another reason to take the time to "Walk with Jesus" as the theme for the year reminds us. Hope can often be among the victims of war and disease in our world, all the more reason to put our faith in Christ.

It also makes us think about our theme for the year "One Family. One Hope in Christ" It is within families that we learn the give and take of everyday family life. We learn that we cannot always win but as an army, or a team, or a class we learn to work towards achieving goals together.

War leaves in its wake death and destruction. The horrifying images we see played out on the news is a terrible reminder of the damage we do to each other as well as the damage we inflict on the Earth. The scars of battle from WW1 and WW2 can still be seen after a century has passed. The weaponry we possess today is far more powerful and therefore far more destructive; we can only hope through a dedication to peace on behalf of each and every one of us can prevent such damage to our common home. We can all bring peace to our lives by following Christ's word and trusting He will guide us all towards Peace.



Blessed  
are the  
peacemakers,  
for they  
shall be called  
the children  
of God.

Matthew 5:9

**Remembrance Day:** On Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we remember the men and women who died in the wars so that our country could be free. These brave people gave their lives for their country and for all people, including us, who would come after them. We need to bring to mind how very blessed we are to live in a peaceful country.



“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.” (Martin Luther King Jr.)

“If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.” (Gandhi)

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.**

**- John 14:27**

**Manner of the Month:** November’s manner of the month is to be peacemakers. (Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.) It is one of the Beatitudes. It is required of all of us to be peacemakers in our family, our class, our

school, and in our neighbourhood. We will discuss the importance of showing our love for God through acts of kindness to our neighbours. As we are reminded by Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, everyone is our neighbour and we need to be more focused on the needs of others than our own. Something as simple as holding the door open for the people behind you can send a strong message to all those around us.

As Remembrance Day approaches it is a good reminder to be peacemakers every day in our lives, not just on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Halloween Spirit at SFX

Special thanks to everyone, especially the parents who helped make our traditional Halloween Parade successful in a different way! We worked out the kinks and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Congratulations to the following students who won a \$20 gift certificate to Chapters in our costume parade!

KD	Charlotte Sun	4L	Morgan Tse
KC	Charlotte Chan	4C	Marcus Yip
1D	Amber Du	5C	Mila Mason
1W	Michaela Deluz	5P	Sabrina Ju
2B	Otto Leung	6G	Helianthus Lee
2C	Emmalyn Chow	6B	Averi Chan
3B	Skya Sun	7C	Keira Wong
3N	Colette Lau	7W	Teresa So

**Mass Schedule** – As you should be aware already, recently we made important changes to the Mass schedule to allay parental concerns over seating in Mass. We devised a new schedule to have half of the classes attending Mass. Please find below the schedule for Masses from now until Christmas holidays. A new schedule will be sent home in January 2022 if necessary.

Group One	Group Two
KC, 1D, 2B, 3B, 4C, 5C, 6B, 7C	KD (will begin attending school mass of SFX Feast Day Friday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup> ), 1W, 2C, 3N, 4L, 5P, 6G, 7W
Dates: Nov 5, Nov 26, Dec 10	Dates: Oct 29, Nov 12, Dec 3, Dec 17

A reminder that students must be in full uniform, including their school sweater, when attending School Masses. Students with PE on Fridays can wear their gym clothes under their uniform. After PE, they can simply put their uniform on over their gym strip. Grade Sevens are reminded they must wear their school uniform to Mass; they may not wear their Grad hoodies.

**Traffic Concerns** – At the assembly on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, I spoke to the children about putting the needs of others ahead of our own. This was demonstrated by a couple of simple yet caring acts of holding a door open for others and lining up in a way that allows others to pass. The students were obviously listening and put those simple rules into practice in the hallways the rest of the week.

The following article from the Drive Smart BC newsletter was sent to me a few years ago by a concerned parent regarding the driving habits displayed by some of our parents around the school. Especially with two drop zones now should be even more reasons to drive cautiously! Please take the time to read it and put it into practice!

### **What's In Your Rear View Mirror?**

Readers in Port Alberni and Kelowna have written this week to comment on drivers who stop to turn left between intersections and are then involved in collisions with drivers overtaking from the rear. In Port Alberni this is occurring in a downtown business district with straight road and a posted speed limit of 50 km/h. The situation in Kelowna is a bit different as the speed limit is where this is reported to be happening is higher and the road is not straight. In both cases I would ask the left turning driver “What’s in your rear view mirror?”

When you are driving on roads that have painted lines marking out the lanes to use, you are generally required to stay to the right of them. There are exceptions for passing, avoiding obstructions and when you are entering or leaving the highway.

The situation raised here involves leaving the highway and the onus is on the left turning driver to do so safely and without unreasonably affecting the travel of another vehicle.

I’m sure we all watch the oncoming traffic carefully and find a safe gap to make the turn through. After all, who wants to have a collision where the vehicle hits you in the side door at speed? There is almost nothing there to protect you in comparison to a front or rear end collision.

What we may not consider is what is happening behind us as we slow or stop waiting to make that left turn. Remember that onus to be safe and to not unreasonably affect the travel of others?

Before slowing or stopping, you should be checking your rear view mirror to see what is behind you. It is not enough to rely on your signal and brake lights to announce your intentions, you must first consider whether it is safe enough to slow or stop at all. This is where the test for being reasonable or not begins.

If traffic is heavy, speeds are high, the vehicles behind you are following closely and oncoming traffic leaves little opportunity to turn left it’s time to consider an alternative

method of making that move. It may involve turning at the intersection before or after the convenient (for you) spot and going around the block to make a right turn instead.

Having decided that it was reasonable to stop and wait to turn left, the test for being reasonable continues. It doesn't just involve oncoming traffic, but traffic that you should be watching for in your rear view mirror as well. If conditions change, you may need to abandon the turn and proceed in order to be safe.

Yes, there is also a duty for drivers who are overtaking the left turn vehicle to anticipate and drive with due care in order not to become involved in a collision. However, that situation can't be more than anticipation of what might occur until after you have made the decision to turn left and begin to act. The main onus is still on the driver of the left turning vehicle to choose safety and consideration for others.

**Walkathon:** Thank you for your generous pledges which amounted to over \$34,000 which is remarkable! We were very grateful for the help of many parent volunteers who kept everyone's spirit up despite the weather! Thank you to the PTA for coordinating the volunteers.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brian Fader, Principal

November 2021 Calendar

<b>November 2021</b>			
<b>Monday, November 1</b>	Individual Picture Retakes	School	
<b>Wednesday, November 10</b>	Remembrance Day Service	10:45 am via ZOOM	Whole School Event
<b>Thursday, November 11</b>	Remembrance Day	Holiday	NO SCHOOL
<b>Friday, November 19</b>	CISVA Professional Development Day		No Classes