CSM Update for Families - September 14–18

A Message from Mrs. Clamp

We have now completed our first two weeks of school and welcomed all of our students from ELP 3, ELP 4, Kindergarten, and Grades 1–6. The energy in the building is incredible, and I continue to feel blessed to be part of this community.

Please read through this week's update, as we have many exciting activities ahead. September tends to be a busy month, but I welcome the opportunity to get to know more of our families and to hear about your hopes and dreams for your child's time at CSM.

Beginning in October, I will post a couple of times each month when families are welcome to stop in for coffee and a visit.

Thank you for trusting our school with your children.

Mrs. Clamp

Faith in Our Week

September Scripture
"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
— Matthew 18:20

This week gives us many opportunities to gather together as a school and faith community — through our St. Martha liturgy, Opening Mass, Welcome Back BBQ, classroom visits, and Terry Fox Run.

Each gathering reminds us that community is built through presence, relationship, faith and shared experiences. As more families become part of life at CSM, we hope everyone continues to feel welcomed, known and connected.

Celebration & Gratitude

We are grateful to now have **all of our students together at CSM**.

Over the past two weeks, our youngest learners have begun new routines, returning students have reconnected with friends and staff, and many new students and families have joined our community.

Thank you to our families for your patience, encouragement and support as we begin another school year together.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, September 14
Monthly Liturgy — Grade 2C will lead us in honour of St. Martha

Tuesday, September 15
School Photo Day — Individual photos only

Wednesday, September 16
Opening Mass — 9:00 AM at St. Martha's Parish

School Spirit Day - Pattern Day (How many patterns can you wear?)

Thursday, September 17
School Council AGM, Family Blessing, Welcome Back BBQ & Classroom Visits

Friday, September 18
Annual Terry Fox Run at Nicholas Sheran Lake

Need to Know

Indoor Shoes
If you have not yet sent a pair of clean indoor shoes with non-marking soles, please send them when you are able. If providing indoor shoes is difficult at this time, please contact your child's teacher. We are happy to help.

Microwaves
Our microwaves are available for **reheating only — approximately one minute or less**. Items that need to be fully cooked should be prepared at home and sent in a microwave-safe container ready to reheat.

Lost & Found
If your child has been coming home without jackets, sweaters or other belongings, please remind them to check the Lost & Found. Families are also welcome to stop in and have a look. It is located near the front of the school. Items are donated when the bin becomes full.

Growing in Our Catholic Faith

What is the Altar?

The **altar** is the sacred table at the centre of the celebration of the Eucharist. During Mass, the bread and wine are placed on the altar and become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The altar represents Christ and is treated with great reverence. You may notice the priest bowing to or kissing the altar during Mass as a sign of respect and honour.

As we attend our Opening Mass this week, this is one feature of the church that families may want to notice together.

School Updates

- **School Photo Day — Tuesday**

Individual student photos will be taken throughout the school day.

Because it takes time to photograph all of our students, some children may have recess or even lunch before their photo is taken. If your child may want to fix their hair or appearance before their picture, please make sure they are able to do this independently.

Photos will begin first thing in the morning and are expected to finish around last recess.

Class photos will be taken in the spring.

- **Opening Mass — Wednesday at 9:00 AM**

Our school community will gather for our **Opening Mass at St. Martha's Parish at 9:00 AM**.

Families are warmly invited to join us if they are able.

- **Thursday Evening — Welcome Back to CSM**

We have a full evening planned and would love to see our families.

5:30 PM — School Council AGM
Please meet in the library if you are interested in helping form our new School Council, contributing ideas at meetings, or supporting school events through volunteering.

6:15 PM — Family Blessing
We will gather in the gym, where **Father Valentine** will offer a special blessing for all CSM families.

Following the Blessing — Welcome Back BBQ
We will be serving hamburgers and spending some time together as a community. We will also have several community groups with information tables where families can learn more about supports and opportunities available in our community.

Classroom Visits
Following the BBQ, classrooms will be open so families can see their child's learning space and say hello to teachers.

Please remember that this portion of the evening is intended as a **welcome and introduction**, rather than a parent-teacher interview. There will be other opportunities for individual conversations about student learning and progress.

The evening will finish by **8:00 PM**.

- **Terry Fox Run — Friday**

On Friday, staff and students will walk together to **Nicholas Sheran Lake** for our annual Terry Fox Run.

Students are welcome to bring a **Toonie for Terry**. All money raised will be donated to organizations supporting people diagnosed with cancer.

Looking Ahead

We have two fundraisers beginning soon.

Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser
Funds raised will support the purchase of a **curtain for our gym** and help us renew some of our **gym and recess equipment**.

Bottle Drive
Funds raised through our bottle drive will help send our **Grade 5 and Grade 6 students to camp**.

We are very excited to expand our camp experience this year and invite our Grade 5 students to participate alongside our Grade 6 students.

More information about both fundraisers will be shared soon.