CSM Update for Families - September 21–25

A Message from Mrs. Clamp

Thank you to all of the families who were able to join us last week for our Opening Mass, School Council AGM, Family Blessing, Welcome Back BBQ and classroom visits.
It was wonderful to have so many families in our school and gathered with us as a community. As partners in your child's education, connection and relationship matter. The more opportunities we have to know one another, communicate openly, and work together, the stronger the experience we can create for our students.
We truly love having you with us at CSM, and I am confident that together we will do great things for our students this year.
As always, 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
September has given us so many opportunities to live these words.
We have gathered in classrooms and on the playground, at our Opening Mass, around tables at our Welcome Back BBQ, during our Terry Fox Run, and in so many smaller moments throughout each school day.
This week, we will gather again for Mass, Hot Dog Day, our first Grow & Glow Assembly, classroom learning, buddy activities and time together as a community.
Each time we gather, we have an opportunity to strengthen relationships and remind one another that everyone has a place in our CSM community. Christ is present not only in our formal celebrations of faith, but also in the ordinary ways we learn, serve, welcome and care for one another each day.

Growing in Our Catholic Faith

What is the Ambo?
The **ambo** is the special place in the church from which the Word of God is proclaimed during Mass.
It is where we hear the Scripture readings, the Responsorial Psalm, and the Gospel. Because God's Word is an important part of our celebration of the Mass, the ambo is treated as a sacred and significant place.
When we attend Mass together this week, students can look for the ambo and notice when it is used.

Celebration & Gratitude

We are especially grateful this week for the opportunity to have celebrated our Opening Mass together at St. Martha's Parish.
Being able to gather as a school community and participate together in the celebration of the Eucharist is one of the beautiful and distinctive gifts of Catholic education.
We are thankful for Father Valentine, our parish community, our staff, students and families who joined us.
As we begin this new school year, may God continue to bless, guide and strengthen our CSM community in all that we do.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, September 21
Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser is open through School Cash Online
Tuesday, September 22
Regular School Day
Wednesday, September 23
🌭 **Hot Dog Day**
Thursday, September 24
⛪ **Whole-School Mass at St. Martha's Parish**
Friday, September 25
✨ **Monthly Grow & Glow Assembly**

School Updates

Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser

Our Old Dutch Chip Fundraiser is now available through School Cash Online.
Funds raised will support the purchase and renewal of equipment for our gym, recess, and outdoor learning opportunities.
Thank you for supporting our school!

Hot Dog Day — Wednesday

Wednesday will be our first Hot Dog Day of the year!
This year, the school and School Council are working together to provide students with more opportunities to enjoy special hot lunches throughout the year.
Funds raised through our school hot dog sales will support School Council initiatives throughout the year, including activities such as our Turkey Dinner, Colour Run, Sports Day, and other opportunities that help build community and enrich student experiences.
We are excited to begin with Hot Dog Day this week and look forward to more opportunities throughout the year.

Monthly Whole-School Mass

The last Thursday of each month, our whole school will attend Mass together at St. Martha's Parish on the last Thursday of each month.
Students will attend with their school buddies, giving our younger and older students another opportunity to build relationships across grade levels while growing together in faith.
We look forward to making this a regular part of our monthly rhythm at CSM.

Grow & Glow Assemblies

The last Friday of each month will be our monthly Grow & Glow Assembly.
These gatherings will give us an opportunity to come together as a school, celebrate growth, recognize the wonderful things happening throughout CSM, and continue strengthening our school community.
Our first Grow & Glow Assembly will be this Friday.

Need to Know

Lost & Found — Please Take a Look!

Our Lost & Found is already filling up — particularly with hoodies, sweaters and jackets.
Many of these items are being left outside after recess. When possible, please encourage children to either keep their sweater or jacket on or tie it securely around their waist rather than leaving it on the playground.

If your child is missing something, please have them check the Lost & Found box at the front of the school. Families are also welcome to stop in and take a look.
Items are donated periodically when the Lost & Found becomes full.

Did the Wrong Item Come Home?

With so many students having similar jackets, hoodies, shoes and other belongings, occasionally the wrong item goes home by mistake.
If your child comes home with something that:

- you do not recognize,
- is the wrong size,
- belongs to another student, or
- has another child's name written inside,

please return it to your child's classroom teacher so we can help get it back to its owner.
Thank you for helping us reunite missing belongings with their families!

Toys & Fidgets

A reminder that toys from home should remain at home unless a teacher has specifically requested them for a classroom activity.
We have already had several situations involving toys that have been **lost, misplaced or reported missing**. Toys can also become distracting, traded between students, or accidentally damaged. The school cannot take responsibility for personal toys brought from home.
If your child uses a **fidget as a learning tool**, it should be approved by the classroom teacher.
An appropriate fidget should:

- help the student focus;
- not distract the student or others;
- be quiet;
- be unobtrusive; and
- support learning rather than become something to play with.

Thank you for helping us keep personal toys at home and classroom learning spaces focused.

Looking Ahead

🧡 **Tuesday, September 29 — Orange Shirt Day**
Students are invited to wear orange as we honour survivors of residential schools, remember the children who never returned home, and continue learning about the importance of truth and reconciliation.
Wednesday, September 30 — National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
There will be **no school for students** on Wednesday, September 30.
More information about our Orange Shirt Day learning and activities will be shared next week.