



St. Bernadette Elementary School  
13130 65B Ave. Surrey BC V3W 9M1

T: 604.596.1101  
F: 604.596.1550

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff of St. Bernadette's, I am happy to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year! Once again I feel very privileged to be a part of such a vibrant, energetic, dedicated and welcoming school community. It is such an honour to work alongside a staff that is fully committed to your child's education and well-being. There is no bigger highlight than meeting and speaking with the students on the first day of school as they build excitement for the year. As a staff we understand that the elementary years are critical times of development for students and families and I look forward in working with all of you to make this school year the most successful to date.

We have been committed over the last few years to match our schools physical appearance to the expectations of the redesigned curriculum. Over this time we have made many improvements. This year you are going to notice new furniture in the classroom and a major change to our library, which from this point forward, will be referred to as our Learning Commons. As we go through the year you will experience the positive changes and see firsthand how it improves your child's learning.

### **Staff News**

There are some noteworthy changes to our staff that we would like to share with you. We would like to welcome back Ms. Hillard from her maternity leave. We welcome two new staff members: Ms. Bennett who will be our Learning Resource Teacher and Ms. Leslie who is joining our Educational Assistant staff .

Here is the staff list for the new school year:

Teaching Staff:

Kindergarten – Ms. Schollen  
Grade 1 – Ms. Misiti and Ms. Hillard  
Grade 2 – Ms. De. Sousa  
Grade 3 – Ms. Misiti and Ms. Fraser  
Grade 4 – Ms. Stuart  
Grade 5 – Ms. Bourassa  
Grade 6 – Ms. Peck  
Grade 7 – Ms. Kosman



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French Teacher – Ms. Fraser  
Music Teacher – Mr. Natola  
Learning Assistance Teacher – Ms. Bennett  
Physical Education Teacher – Mr. van der Pauw

SEAs:

Ms. Boerescu, Ms. D’Costa, Ms. Junk, Ms. Leslie, Ms. MacRae, Ms. Pimentel and Ms. Pyun

Office Staff:

Ms. Spanjers and Ms. Gelz

Custodian:

Mr. Barry

Stingers Club:

Ms. Vader, Ms. Dimou, Ms. Borba

**Mission and Vision for the New School Year**

As a staff we are committed to our mission of being dedicated to educating each child spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically in partnership with parents, parish and the wider community. We also hold firm our mission in creating lifelong learners by meeting the needs, and nurturing the individual abilities, of all the children we serve. It is our mission as a Catholic school, that we model and live our faith to build the Kingdom of God.

As professional educators of St. Bernadette Elementary School, we have a vision to ensure every child is academically equipped to the best of their ability, to develop Catholic leaders through evangelization and service using a Christ-centered approach, to build community by creating a safe and welcoming environment for learning and to honour the whole child by teaching to their different intelligences, building on their strengths, and offering varied instructional opportunities in order to inspire a love of learning. Our Mission and Vision Statements guide our profession and focus our efforts.



## **Parent Partnership and Participation**

It is important as we start a new year that we honour the productive partnership we have with our parents. This allows us to certify that every student can achieve his/her highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our students need support from both the home and school. As partners in your child's education, we share the responsibility for their success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

1. Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
2. Attends school in full uniform
3. Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
4. Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
5. Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
6. Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
7. Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school
8. Remind your child that they are awesome, they are a big deal and you love them!

We thank you for joining our parent participation program as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations.

## **The First Week Back**

We are excited to host our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast on the first day of school. We start serving at 9am and it ends at 10am. We served close to 300 people last year at the event which suggests we had almost 100% participation from our school community! Lines will get long and we ask for your patience as we try to serve everyone in a timely fashion. It is such a wonderful event and we thank the Knights of Columbus for putting it on once again.

On Friday September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate our first school Mass. **Please remember to be at the school for 8:45am as Mass starts at 9am.** We welcome all parents to our monthly Masses. Please see our website calendar for the dates.

We understand that the first week can be a bit hectic when it comes to uniforms and supplies. Please do your best to have your child in full uniform. Starting the second week of school we require all students to be in full uniform. We will no longer accept items from the old uniform to be worn at school. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately.



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### **Weekly Monday Morning Assemblies**

Starting next week, we will host assemblies on Monday mornings. This is a time for the school to start the week together in prayer and to be informed of items that may pertain to them in the week ahead. It is also a time to recognize students in our community who do wonderful and meaningful things in and outside of school. All of our assemblies are open to parents and we invite you to attend on Monday mornings starting at 9:05am.

Once again, on behalf of the staff, we feel very privileged to be a part of this amazing school family. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in and around the school.

Yours in Christ,

Michael van der Pauw  
Principal