



SEPTEMBER 2022



STMC held a special service on Sept 29 in commemoration of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Mark Your Calendar

October

- 2-4: Grade 12 Retreat
- 6: Thanksgiving Mass
- 7: Photo Retake Day
- 10: Thanksgiving - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 14: Red Day
- 21: Pro-D Day - NO CLASSES
- 28: Jeans Day



Message from the President

For each of the past 51 of my (nearly) 56 years of life, the start of the school year in September has always had a bit of a magical feel to it.

As a lifelong student, September was synonymous with the dawning of fresh adventures; new classmates, new classes, new teams, and new teachers & coaches. It was always the harbinger of renewed hope and was accompanied with the belief that

anything was possible.

As a full-time teacher, I was giddy with the opportunity to put into practice the myriad of new lesson ideas I had conjured up over the summer. Most importantly however, it was a chance to forge relationships while being afforded a front row seat to watch a human being learn and grow – body, mind, and spirit – over the course of a year (or years) was a genuine gift and blessing for which I will be forever grateful.

As a teacher leader and school-based administrator, Septembers were marked with implementing new programs and practices, as well as enhancements to long established ones.

Moving out of the day-to-day operations of the school was something I knew I would miss going from Principal to President this fall, especially being able to teach. In the end, it is why I entered the craft and what has kept me in it for the past 33 years! That said... I absolutely love my new role. The challenges and opportunities it brings affords me the chance to think more deeply about, and plan for, our school's future!

I am also hugely at ease with the transition because of the unbelievable confidence I have in Mr. Adams, our new Principal and in Ms. Lauang and Mr. Shoemaker, his administrative partners and indeed our entire staff. Our school community is so incredibly blessed to have them at the helm of the Good Ship STMC.

To our staff, I want to thank you for the selfless giving of the gifts of your time and talents. You are our heartbeat. We would not be who we are without you!

To our students, I welcome you back to your home-away-from-home and I challenge each of you not to be passive observers, but rather, active participants in the life of the school and our broader community. Without you, and the life and energy and passions you all bring, our school is nothing! You represent our collective hopes and dreams, our soul, and our reasons for why we (the staff) come to STMC each day! Do not settle for less. When you do, you not only cheat those that love you most and those that work so closely with you, but most importantly, you cheat yourself. And you are all much too important to do that.

To our parents, Mille grazie! Thank you for not only making the decision to send your daughter/son to STMC but also entrusting all of us at the school be a partner in the faith development and education of your respective Knight(s)!

Here is to an amazing new school year!

God bless to all,
Steve Garland
President – STMC

Message from the Admin Team

It is a tremendous pleasure and honour to be the new Principal of STMC. Our Admin Team is so excited to lead, learn from and to serve the STMC community. Mr. Steve Garland has set our school up for success as he passes the torch of leadership to me, to Vice-Principal Ms. Cassie Lauang and to Vice-Principal Mr. Ethan Shoemaker.

As an Admin team, we are all committed to the [Core Values of STMC](#), to the [Essential Elements](#) of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and to Servant-Leadership. We will always put the needs of others before our own, we will always stay committed to the growth of our students and our staff, and we will always stand in solidarity with those marginalized by poverty and injustice.



Principal
Joe Adams



Vice-Principal Cassie
Luang



Vice-Principal Ethan
Shoemaker

We know that we will have an amazing year here at STMC. We urge you to take a moment to visit our [school website](#) and check out our [News & Media](#) links so that you can stay connected to STMC announcements and social media sites. Lastly, please take a moment to look at our [Bell Schedules](#). We use various bell schedules here at STMC.

Take care, be well, stay safe and God bless you all.

Joe Adams, Principal | Cassie Lauang, Vice-Principal | Ethan Shoemaker, Vice-Principal.

WELCOME NEW KNIGHTS

Knighting Ceremony

The Knighting Ceremony is an annual event held at STMC to welcome the grade 8's, new students, and new teachers into the community. The school roared in the stands as the new students and teachers rushed through the tunnel made by the pep squad. On one knee, each and every one of them was formally knighted by the grade 12's on the student council. At that point, they officially became a knight. Followed that, a yearly and friendly competition to see who had the most spirit and the loudest cheers was held between grades. The Knighting Ceremony is always an event to look forward to and an annual STM tradition that continues to live on.

Grade 8 Orientation

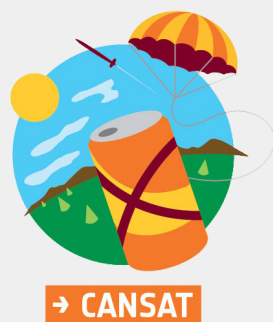
A few weeks ago, STMC's Grade 8's had the chance to meet members of the Student Council, and the Grade 12 leaders in their house. The Grade 8's started off by checking in, and hearing a speech from our Principal, Mr. Adams. Afterwards, they were sorted into their houses, and had a fun day with a variety of different stations that were run by our very own Student Council. These stations included games of water pong, dodgeball, a Connect-4 race, and many more. The Grade 8 Orientation is a part of STMC's tradition to make the new Knights feel comfortable and welcomed into the school. We hope our Grade 8's feel excited, as we wish for the very best in their first year of high school.

ACADEMICS

SCIENCES

Any students interested in taking part in extra-curricular science activities this year are encouraged to join the Google Classroom where all major announcements are posted. The code is: xtyotzj

The first major project that is getting underway is our CanSat teams. In CanSat, students are tasked with building a mini-satellite that collects data during descent from 1 km. Students learn computer programming and engineering design skills along with the scientific purpose behind their chosen secondary mission. There will be an information on Wednesday, October 5th at lunch in room 214 (the physics lab) to further discuss the details of participation. Students in grades 8 to 11 are eligible to take part in the beginner team while students in grades 10 to 12 are eligible for the advanced team. See Mr. Muise for more details.



The other major project is Students on the Beamlines - the synchrotron research team that designs an experiment and conducts it at the Canadian Light Source. Work on our next project will get started in the first part of October with meeting details posted on the Extra-Curricular Science classroom. See Mr. Muise for more details.

MATERIALS ENGINEERING

STMC recently gained a CNC router for the students in the Design and Materials Engineering programs. The router was kindly gifted to the school by a generous donor.

This piece of modern equipment will enable students to learn automation and automated product, various levels of product, computer aided design, computer aided manufacture, design for assembly, design for efficient manufacture plus many other aspects within manufacturing and design. Grade 9, 11 and 12 have already utilised the equipment in their work.



This is a wonderful machine to have access to, especially in a school environment.

FINE ARTS

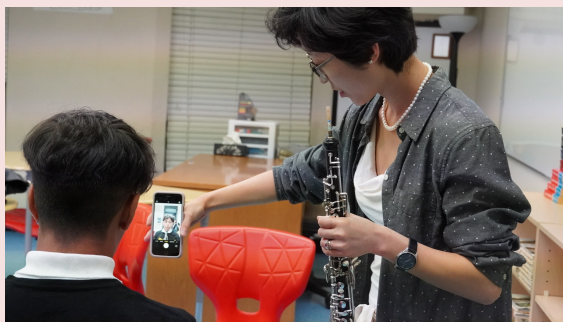
BAND

First Note Night

Grade 8 Band and Elementary Band students participated in First Note Night on September 27. Guest musicians from the Vancouver Symphony presented workshops that helped students get started on their new instruments, from opening the case to getting their very first sounds. Our beginning band students are ready to make music!

The STMC Elementary Band

After a long break due to COVID-19, the STMC Elementary Band is back up and running! We are thrilled to welcome 60 students from OLM, St. Michael's, and SFDS schools to weekly rehearsals at STMC. We are grateful to have 20 of our Senior Band students serving as coaches and mentors for the elementary students.



ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

BC Football Hall of Fame Induction: 1998-2007 Grade 8 Football Program

The grade 8 STMC football program was inducted into the BC Football Hall of Fame at the BC Lion's game on September 24th. The teams from 1998-2007 were inducted for winning 10 consecutive provincial championships including 7 undefeated seasons with a record of 91 wins and 3 losses over those ten years. No other grade 8 football program has ever been inducted into the Hall of Fame, so this is quite an accomplishment. Parents, players and coaches from those years were able to share the experience, which rekindled fond memories and made a great night for all involved.

All of you played a role, whether in being a parent who strongly supported the football program, a coach who helped build the program, or a player who executed on the field of play. Your presence showed that you care about the football program and the school. You are true Knights! That is just indicative of our motto that STMC is a second home. This award is for the parents, coaches and players. We could not have done it without you - that is why this is a team program honour. All of you are now part of the Hall of Fame. Congrats to each one of you for being part of STMC history. This Hall of Fame plaque will forever adorn the halls of STMC - a great legacy to you all.

Co-head Coach Ron Crosato and I want thank all of you for taking the time to be part of the Hall of Fame induction of the STMC teams from 1998-2007. It means a lot to Ron and I and to the school community.

Thank you,

Darrell Hall
Head Coach



SPECIAL EVENTS

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Have questions about teen mental health? The STMC website has [Online Mental Health Resources](#) that include websites, videos and services to help youth and families. Any questions, reach out to Mrs. De Lazzari at patricia.delazzari@stmc.bc.ca.

BEEKEEPING

The STMC Beekeeping Club is selling honey, direct from STMC's very own bee colonies on the roof of the school, to support its ongoing apiary activities. Every winter, a portion of the bee colonies will not survive and proceeds from the sales of honey will be used to replenish the population.



If you would like to support our Beekeeping Club, and receive some delicious honey, please contact Mr. Dawson (dave.dawson@stmc.bc.ca) or Mr. Spanjers (John.Spanjers@stmc.bc.ca). We are selling each jar for \$10 and have either light coloured, early season honey and/or dark coloured, late season honey for you to choose.

GRADE 8/12 MIXER

The Grade 8/12 Mixer is a yearly dance that takes place to further connect the incoming Grade 8 class with the graduating Grade 12 class. The mixer aims to bridge the divide between the youngest and oldest students at STMC, helping the Grade 8's become more comfortable with their seniors. The event contained a water and chip table, a photo booth, and music from Student Council's very own, DJ Meeks. As per tradition, the grade 8's wore white, whilst the grade 12s wore black. Glow Sticks were also handed out to everyone there. All in all, the Grade 8/12 Mixer is a great, annual tradition that brings grades together, and gives the youngest knights confidence around the seniors.

PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Behold Vancouver is hosting an online parent education class "Making sense of Anxiety in Children and Youth". Please [click here](#) to find out more information and to register.

For additional information, please contact Patricia DeLazzari at Patricia.DeLazzari@stmc.bc.ca.

Making Sense of Anxiety in Children & Youth

Thursdays from September 15th to October 13th
7:30pm to 9:00pm | Zoom Webinar



ALL HALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL

This year marks our 3rd installment of STMC's commitment and support to All Hallows High School, a fellow Edmund Rice Christian Brother Catholic school in North America. Located in South Bronx, New York, USA, it is also one of the oldest schools in the ERCBC network.

STMC supports All Hallows High School by providing the full tuition of one student of the school which has a yearly fee of \$7000 USD. This money is raised through our Missions and Lenten collections and cannot be done without the help of all our students and families.

As a result of both our school's Irish heritage, the Celtic Cross deeply ingrained in both schools as shown below.



All Hallows



STMC

TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

MS. ERICA CAMERON

Not to sound trite, but it really is difficult to put into words all that I experienced on the Teacher Pilgrimage in Peru this past July. I was one of eleven staff members from several North American Edmund Rice schools to head down to Lima, Peru to see first hand how our Missions collection funds are put to use. Early in our trip we spent a day in an area known as Canto Grande, about an hour by transit from the heart of Lima. This is not an area that would be frequented by tourists, and it's certainly not a place a taxi cab would bring me voluntarily. We spent the morning with Carmen and Tania, two women who both work out of their homes in the hills of Canto Grande. They both had homes built for them by Edmund Rice students and teachers, and these homes gave Carmen and Tania more security and peace of mind so they could focus more on their work and their families. That afternoon we visited El Colegio Fey y Alegria 26, a Christian Brothers school in the heart of Canto Grande. Students had only just returned to in-school learning in March 2022 after two years of shut-down due to the pandemic. Online learning was available but the vast majority of students did not have reliable internet access at home. We spent some time speaking with the principal and the school psychologist to discuss the impacts of the pandemic on the greater community. We also watched some beautiful cultural and athletic presentations from some of the students.





Our group then spent three days in Jicamarca, in the foothills of the Andes, to undertake our construction project. We met Señora Nilda in her one-room home, where she lived with her husband and three children. Her husband works during the day; Señora Nilda used to work but she is suffering from cancer so she now rests much of the time. Our job was to take down their current home, largely constructed from old slats of wood, wire, and corrugated plastic, and to build a larger, more secure three-room dwelling with shutters on the windows and lockable doors. The easy part was the demolition. The hard part was levelling the ground - a small rock in the way ended up being the top of a huge boulder that took hours to uncover, rotate, and rebury. On the day of construction, Señora Nilda insisted on helping us paint the walls of her new home and we were thrilled she could finally have her own bedroom.



This is just as small slice of the many memorable moments that we all experienced on our journey. As Brother Steven Casey reminds us, our pilgrimage continues at home as well. As STMC prepares to send students again on immersion trips to Peru, I hope to share my experiences with our students so they can not only see where their Missions funds actually go, but so they can also see how these small acts can truly bring positive change to those who have been marginalized by poverty. I must again thank all my coworkers and family members who contributed to the funds that I brought down to Peru, and I am grateful for all the support and prayers on my journey.

We'd love to hear about all the wonderful and exciting things in which our Knights are engaged! If you have something you would like to share on our social media feeds or in the monthly newsletter send an email to communications@stmc.bc.ca

STAY CONNECTED



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St. Thomas More Collegiate

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