

# Educating Men for Others



May 30, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to share with you an important initiative at St. Paul's High School to foster a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students. As part of our ongoing commitment to the well-being and development of every child, we are launching our third annual *Everyone Welcome* Mission Week from June 3–7, 2024.

This initiative is designed to educate students and staff about the harmful effects of bullying and to promote respect and understanding for all individuals, including members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

## **Purpose of Everyone Welcome Mission Week**

The primary goal of our mission week is to provide a school culture where every student feels safe, valued, and respected. Negative comments, actions, and bullying can have severe and lasting effects on a child's mental, emotional, social, and academic well-being. By addressing bullying proactively, we aim to prevent these negative outcomes and to ensure that all students can thrive in a supportive learning environment.

## **Faith-Based Foundation**

Our mission week is deeply rooted in our faith, emphasizing the teaching that all are created with inherent dignity. As stated in *Dignitas Infinita*, "...the Church encourages the promotion of the dignity of every human person, regardless of their physical, mental, cultural, social, and religious characteristics. The Church does this with hope, confident of the power that flows from the Risen Christ, who has fully revealed the integral dignity of every man and woman" (*Dignitas Infinita*, par. 66). This principle emphasizes our commitment to treat all individuals with love and compassion, reminding us that every person has dignity and ought to be treated with respect.

## **Jesuit Values and Mission Alignment**

This initiative aligns with the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Jesuits, particularly the call to accompany young people in creating a hope-filled future and to walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated. Our school's mission to develop "men for others" and the Profile of the Graduate, which emphasizes being open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to justice, are central to this effort.

## **Educating About the 2SLGBTQ+ Community**

Another key component of this mission week is educating students about the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Members of this community often face unique challenges and are at a higher risk of being marginalized and bullied. By providing education on the diversity and experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, we seek to promote understanding, acceptance, and allyship among our students and school community.

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## Mission Week Activities


1. **School Assembly:** We will have a school assembly on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to explain the purpose of the Everyone Welcome Mission Week and to address the importance of kindness, respect, and empathy. Students will be educated about the impacts of words and actions, as well as examples of bullying behaviours we want to address in our school community. Students will gather in their core groups to view the assembly with a teacher present.
2. **Classroom Discussion:** Following the assembly, teachers will facilitate group discussions to help students process the information shared in the presentation. These discussions will cover key topics such as the impacts of bullying, the importance of creating a welcoming environment, and the harmful effects of offensive language, microaggressions, and excluding others. By engaging in thoughtful dialogue, students will develop a deeper understanding of how actions and words affect others. This collaborative approach aims to foster empathy, promote respect, and ultimately create a safe and welcoming school environment for everyone.
3. **Resources and Support:** We are committed to providing resources and support for students who may be experiencing bullying or who need someone to talk to. Our school counsellors are always available to offer guidance and assistance.
4. **Prayer Service:** Under the guidance of Mr. Martinez, Campus Minister, the Student Pastoral Team will offer a prayer service on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> during lunch. The service will occur in the Martyrs' Chapel. All are welcome.
5. **Human Rights Initiative (HRI) Activities:** Staff and students involved in HRI will provide a variety of activities during the week, including announcements, displays, a casual day in support of Fr. Martin S.J.'s organization Outreach, as well as a t-shirt tie dye activity. These activities aim to educate our students and school community about the diversity and experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals to foster understanding, acceptance, and allyship.

We believe that parents and guardians play a crucial role in reinforcing the values of respect and inclusion at home. Please have a conversation with your son about these values and help him reflect on ways he can assist the school in providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students.

St. Paul's remains dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive school environment where every student can feel safe and respected. We believe that by educating our students about the 2SLGBTQ+ community and the importance of standing up against bullying, we can build a more compassionate and understanding school community.

We appreciate your support in this important endeavour to make our school a place where all students can thrive.

Sincerely,



Kevin Booth  
President



Bob Lewin  
Principal