



Matthews Hall

Established 1918

Friday, May 15, 2020

Dear Parents:

As I was thinking of the Victoria Day weekend, I experienced a “wow” moment this week – the realization that all of Mrs. Anderson’s grandparents, and maybe some of your own, were born during the reign of Queen Victoria. Think about it for a minute. People we met, knew personally, and who impacted us lived at the same time as the Queen when Canada became a dominion in 1867. For history buffs and traditionalists, I hope you can agree that a “wow moment” makes sense. It does for me.

Now imagine all the incredible changes that a person born before the dawn of the 20th century would have experienced during the course of his or her lifetime. For a small amount of perspective at this moment, this would mean that when you were fourteen (like the Class of 2020), World War I was starting and would end on your eighteenth birthday with twenty-two million people killed. Later that same year – when Kate Matthews was opening her little school of six children at St. Paul’s Cathedral – a Spanish Flu epidemic would hit the planet and run until you were twenty years old. Fifty million people would die from it in those two years. 50 million.

By the time you turned twenty-nine, the Great Depression would have been ravaging the world’s economy. Ten years later, World War II would begin and you would experience crisis after crisis until well into your senior years, all the while keeping body and soul together without the benefit (and distraction!) of technology and social media, not to mention CERB.

Yet this great generation survived through everything listed above and more, including our current Queen Elizabeth II, whose personal experiences and endurance during many of the last century’s calamities are second-to-none (...not many of us have endured bombing raids and lightning warfare, although some of our grandparents may well have!).

I guess what I am trying to say is that, as we recognize the national holiday weekend that celebrates the coming birthday of Queen Victoria on May 24th, let’s resist together the inclination to view our times as fraught with unsurmountable difficulties and setbacks.

Last week, I referred to the arts of peace and diplomacy, and this week I am reminded that **perspective** is also an important “art”.

Let’s try and keep things in perspective. Let’s be smart, help each other out, and we will get through all of this. In the history of the world, there has never been a storm that lasted.

This too shall pass and we are beginning to see hopeful signs in that direction.

Given the occasion, perhaps it is a good time to remember the words of good ole Queen Victoria herself:

"We will not have failure – only success and new learning!"

And, if you're walking in the woods this weekend and see a violet blooming, how appropriate, for that was the Empress Queen's favourite flower!

Happy Victoria Day Weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Ric Anderson
Head of School

STUDENT BELONGINGS

Thanks for everyone who safely picked up their belongings this week. Due to a number of requests, we will have **ONE** more day available for pick up next week. Miss Tribe will be at the school on **Thursday, May 21st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Please remember to pull up to the front door, remain in your car and call the main office. Miss Tribe will gather and bring out your belongings.



INDIVIDUAL CLASS RECONGITION — WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH

Our individual student class presentations are going **virtual** this spring! Since we cannot gather in the library this year to recognize students for their **academic** and **character strengths** – teachers will host a **Google Meet** to share each student’s **special talent** and **growth** during this exceptional year. Parents are encouraged to join in! The schedule of “Meets” is listed below. Please note there will be NO other Google Meets held that day.

JK—9:00 am

SK—9:15 am

1A—9:30 am

2M—9:45 am

2P—10:00 am

3F—10:15 am

4C –10:30 am

4L— 10:45 am

5H—11:00 am

5N—11:15 am

6L— 11:30 am

7M—1:00 pm

7P—1:30 pm

8B—2:00 pm



PLEASE WATCH NEXT WEEK’S NEWSLETTER FOR MORE ON HOW AND WHICH AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS UNIQUE YEAR!