



# *The Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese*

150 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2A7 Phone: (604) 683-9331 Fax: (604) 687-6692

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### PRESS RELEASE

February 13, 2012

The Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) is pleased to announce that Rev. Wilfred Gomes and the Education Committee of St. Andrews in Vancouver have hired Ms. Marian McDermott as Principal, effective September 1, 2012.

Ms. McDermott is currently the Principal of St. Mary's School in Chilliwack. Ms. McDermott started her teaching career in 1976 in Belfast, Northern Ireland as a primary educator. She moved to Canada in 1980 and came to Prince George as a Frontier Apostle under Bishop O'Grady and taught 4 years in a First Nations School. Following this she taught in Hazelton in a public school, then Veritas Catholic School in Terrace. She moved to the lower Mainland in 1989 and was hired as a teacher at St. Augustine's School in Vancouver. During her teaching career Ms. McDermott taught all the primary grades as well as grade 7. Ms. McDermott's administrative career began in 1992 when she obtained her first principalship with Corpus Christi School. Since then she has been principal of St. Bernadette's School, Annunciation School, Prince Rupert (2002-2006) and most recently with St. Mary's School Chilliwack (2006 to the present).

Ms. McDermott has a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University of Belfast and a Masters of Education from the University of British Columbia. Her expertise is in elementary school education particularly in the curriculum area of literacy and writing. She has been involved in the introduction of educational planning guidelines for teachers and implementing assessment and evaluation methods for learning. Ms. McDermott has also been involved in RCIA programs, a parish lector and worked as a Project Advance Coordinator in her parish.

The CISVA community congratulates Ms. McDermott on her new position and welcomes her to St. Andrew's School community as Principal. The CISVA also thanks Ms. Mary Mailley for the decades of service and Christian leadership that she has provided to the schools of the CISVA in her role as teacher and administrator. Please join with us in praying for Mary as she enters into the new phase of her life - full retirement with new opportunities.



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## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

February 13, 2012

The Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) is pleased to announce that Rev. Thomas Smith and the Parish Education Committee of St. Francis de Sales School in Burnaby have hired Mrs. Irene Wihak as Principal, effective September 1, 2012.

Mrs. Wihak is currently the principal of St. Patrick's School in Maple Ridge. She replaces Mrs. Cecilia McLaren who will be formally retiring in June 2012. Mrs. Wihak began her teaching career in the CISVA school system in 1984 as the Grade 7 teacher at Assumption School in Powell River. In 1986 she left the school to teach Grade 7 and Learning Assistance at St. Edmund's School in North Vancouver followed by Grade 7 at St. Michael's School in Burnaby. From 1990 – 2008, while at Our Lady of the Assumption School, she taught both grades 4 and 5 as well as being appointed Vice Principal. In addition, Mrs. Wihak has served in her parish as an extraordinary minister, a lector, member of the CWL, and currently as a member of the Sunday choir at St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

In 1994, Mrs. Wihak graduated from the University of Oregon with a Master of Science degree. She also holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. Mrs. Wihak has been active in the CISVA through her participation in various subcommittees and attendance at numerous workshops and conferences. Her professional development experiences cover a broad range of topics from religious education to supervision and curriculum development.

The CISVA community congratulates Mrs. Wihak on her new position. The CISVA also thanks Ms. Cecilia McLaren for her decades of service and Christian leadership that she has provided to the schools of the CISVA in her role as a teacher and administrator. Please join with us in praying for Cecilia and her husband Bryan, as they enter into the new phase of their lives – a content retirement.