



St. Joseph the Worker October 2015 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A joyful October to each and every one of our St. Joe's families. After looking back at the busyness of September, the staff realized that, with the late Labour Day start this year, we had managed to pack 4 weeks of classroom and school activities into 3 weeks. No wonder it was such a dizzying blur!

In the midst of our programming and getting settled into the new school year, we have heard wonderful messages in our Sunday gospels throughout the month of September. One that truly hit home was Jesus' message to his disciples when they attempted to stop a man who was preaching in Jesus' name without being a recognized follower. Jesus reminds us of the universality of faith and love by reminding his disciples that, as long as an act is kind and loving, it matters not in whose name it is done in. Our beloved Pope Francis echoes this gospel in his reminders to us that we should not fall into the temptation of judging others, but to simply act with love. Without love in both our hearts and in our daily actions, the world can seem like an awfully negative and hopeless place.

At this point in the school year, numerous school activities are already in full swing. Volleyball games for Grades 5-7 have begun, the Cross-Country Club has been practicing for three weeks already, and our Cross Country **Salmon Run**, to be held this year on October 9, is just around the corner. Also – please keep the date open for our annual Gala – the theme this year is **Gala-opoly**. It will be held on November 21 and is shaping up to be an amazing evening of fun and fundraising.

In the spirit of our upcoming Thanksgiving long weekend, I wish to offer a prayer of thankfulness for the dedicated and reflective Christian community we have at St. Joe's. God has blessed us in abundance in many different ways!

God Bless,

Paul Fraser

"Gala-opoly" Guardians Gala - November 21

Please plan on joining us for our Guardians Gala in a fun-filled Monopoly Theme! Invitations have been sent out and the Gala team is already in the midst of acquiring auction items. It will be held again in the beautiful Westin Wall Center. We count on all school families to get involved with this important fundraiser (in one way or another) for it to be a big success!

Becoming a Catholic: Interested?

- Are you a non-Catholic parent whose child(ren) attend a Catholic School?
- Are you seeking a better understanding of the religion of your Catholic spouse and child(ren)?
- Are you a baptized Christian interested in learning about the Catholic tradition?
- Are you a baptized Catholic who has not yet received first Eucharist or been confirmed?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions there is a wonderful and welcoming process of inquiry within our parish that addresses these questions, as well as many other inquiries of faith.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) also known as the Catechumenate, serves as a vehicle for those who wish to inquire about the Roman Catholic Church or may desire to be initiated into this community of faith. Please contact Lisa Phillips at the RCIA office for more information: [604-275-2064](tel:604-275-2064).

It's time for Winter Uniforms!

A reminder that after the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend, all students must wear their winter uniforms. Please refer to your Parent Handbook for uniform details and information uniform change dates.

Cross Country 2015

After many weeks of training, the St. Joe's Cross Country running team will be competing in our 6th Annual Salmon Run: a tri-school competition at Garry Point Park on Thursday, October 9. Students participating need to be driven from the school (12:30pm departure time) and arrive at Garry Point by 12:40pm. After the warm-up and opening prayer, the races begin at 1pm and should wrap up by 2:45pm.

Parish Sponsored Events in October

Please make a note of the following events that are being sponsored by both the parish and individual ministries:

- **"Oktoberfest"** on Saturday, October 10, 6pm -11pm in the Parish Center (sponsored by Knights of Columbus) Tickets are \$25/adults and \$12/youth
- **"ALL IS GIFT"** concert on Sunday, October 18 from 6pm to 8pm at St Joseph the Worker Parish (sponsored by CWL) Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased from Adelaide Dede or at the back of the church after each mass.
- **Parish Fall Fair** on Saturday, October 24 from 10am-4pm. Please come out to support our parish's largest annual fundraiser.



October Living Rosary

October is dedicated to Our Lady. The school will be holding a Living Rosary on Wednesday, October 21st @ 9am in the school gym. Grades 6 and 7 will be facilitating the Living Rosary. Students are welcome to bring their own rosary to pray with and the extended school community, as always, is welcome to attend.

Professional Development Day - October 23

A reminder that school will be closed on Friday, October 23 as our staff attends various professional development workshops during the day. Classes will resume on Monday, October 26.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Term 1 Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled this year for Thursday, October 29th from 10am-7pm. A form requesting the best time of day for your 10-minute private conference will be sent home in the next week. When you receive the request form in your youngest child's backpack, please fill it in and return it to the school as soon as possible to ensure your request can be accommodated.



Scholastic Book Fair 2015

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held during our Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 29th. Many thanks in advance to all who are planning on visiting and purchasing items from the Book Fair!



Hallowe'en at St. Joe's!

We're having a Hallowe'en dress-up celebration at St. Joe's! On Friday, October 30th, **students will come to school in dress-down clothes**, with their costume gear in a labeled bag. After lunch, students will transform into their costumes and then at 2pm (after classroom activities), they will partake in school-wide activities in the gym. More exciting details on this day will be shared later on in the month. Parents are more than welcome to attend the 2pm afternoon gym activities!

Kindergarten parents – please wait for the notice from your Kindergarten teachers on extra Hallowe'en costume instructions.

**** PARENTS PLEASE NOTE ****

No violent or gory costumes are permitted. As well – no weapons are allowed to be part of any costumes (sorry, pirates – no swords or pistols!) Please make sure you go through this costume criteria with your child(ren) prior to October 30 in order to avoid upset students on the day.

Earthquake Preparedness

The CISVA is doing its own “shakedown” practice on Wednesday, October 13. The new P-Wave system, installed and fully functional for all CISVA schools, will be tested on this day. For more information on preparedness, please see City of Richmond website at: <http://www.richmond.ca/safety/prepare/notify-me>