



St. Joseph the Worker School November 2015 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a soggy beginning to November (or for those growing follicular caterpillars in support of Prostate Cancer Awareness - MOvember!). All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows, is a solemnity that we celebrated on November 1 in many parts of Western Christianity. All Saints' is celebrated in honour of all the saints, both known and unknown.



It was great to see that many of our parents took advantage of the opportunity to offer feedback in the CISVA survey for St. Joe's. A summary of the data will be published in the December Newsletter. The survey was a valuable way to gather parents' feelings on aspects of the school regarding faith, student learning and support, community and communication between the school and home. Although we offer a continual open-door approach for feedback, this was an excellent way to collect data, which will in turn be shared with all school staff as we plan and program for the future.

Our school community will soon gather to offer tribute to the many sacrifices made for our freedom. This special day will fall this year on Monday, November 9. The Remembrance Day Service will be held in the gymnasium at 11:00am. Mrs. Withers is busy preparing her Grade 6 class, who are in charge of the Remembrance Day Service. All are invited to attend and pay their respects to the women and men who sacrificed and gave so much.

This November's Spirit Day efforts will support RCAV (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver) initiatives around the Downtown East Side. More details will be shared during our Friday, November 13th school assembly. As always, parents are welcome to join us as we discuss more about the DTES initiative with the students.

Finally – please make sure you get involved in our upcoming Gala-Opoly Fundraising Auction and Dinner. For it to be the success that it needs to be, we count on EVERY family to get involved in one way or another, whether that means live bidding at the event, or by donating in advance of the evening. Please keep your eyes out for various Gala updates about draw tickets, seat tickets and other opportunities for everyone to get involved.

May everyone have a happy and blessed November,

Paul Fraser

Reminder- it's time for Winter Uniforms!

Just a reminder that the Thanksgiving weekend has passed, and therefore all students must wear their winter uniforms. Please refer to your Parent Handbook for uniform details and information on when St. Joe's moves back to its Spring uniform.



Cross Country 2015

After many weeks of training, the St. Joe's Cross Country running team competed in our 6th Annual Salmon Run: a tri-school competition at Garry Point Park.

A big thank-you goes out to our coaches for their hard work and help. Thanks also to our many parents who assisted us this year with supervision during the practices.



New Parent Gathering- Great Times!

The annual New Parent Meeting was held on October 7th. It was very well attended by our many new families who had the opportunity to pray, learn more about our school community and get to know each other better in a light, social atmosphere.

Parent -Teacher Meetings

Many thanks to both our teachers and our parents for, once again, making the Parent-Teacher Meetings on October 29th both meaningful and productive. There was excellent feedback on the open discussions that occurred during this lengthy but very productive day.



Scholastic Book Fair 2015

The Scholastic Book Fair, held during our Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 29th, was a big success. We have two winners drawn from the Book Fair Draw: **Arabella Calderon (Grade 1)** and **Bella Ramchandani (Grade 4)**. Each won \$25 in books, which also allowed their classroom teachers to choose \$25 in books for the respective classrooms. Many thanks to all who visited and purchased items from the Book Fair! As part of our agreement with Scholastic, hundreds of dollars worth of classroom books were donated to the school because of our continually successful Book Fairs.

Grade 7 Bake-sale Fundraiser for Syrian Refugees a Success

Thanks goes out to our resourceful leaders in Grade 7, who put together a baking fundraiser that was held during our Parent-Teacher Conference Day. The Grade 7 class raised \$338 for relief efforts. Well done, 7's!



Remembrance Day Service 2015

We will hold our annual Remembrance Day service for St. Joe's School on **Monday, November 9th**. At 11:00am, all grades will gather in the gym and the Grade 6 class will lead us in a memorial for all of the fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may continue to live in freedom. All families are invited to attend the service.

REMINDER: There is no school on Wednesday, November 11 as Canada observes Remembrance Day.



Gala-opoly is Just Around the Corner!

The **St. Joseph the Worker Gala Fundraiser** will be held on **Saturday November 21st** at the **Westin Wall Centre** in Richmond. Get your tickets a.s.a.p. to be eligible for the early-bird draw of a night at the Westin! **Gala ticket prices \$65**, with an early bird draw closing **November 6 (this Friday!)** For details, please see the Gala package and Gala Newsflashes that are sent out to each school family.

Report Cards for Term 1

The school will be issuing Term 1 Reports for all grades on **Friday, November 27**. Please check your child(ren)'s back packs for these important documents.

Reconciliation Celebrations for Grades 3- 7

We will once again be taking a school-wide exploration of conscience and forgiveness during the days leading up to Advent. For Grades 3-7, this exploration will manifest itself in an opportunity for classroom-wide confessions with Father David, Father Mon and Father Francis during the Advent season.

Early Morning Drop-Off Concerns

As the days get colder and the mornings become progressively darker, it is important to ensure your children are properly supervised prior to school. This means that no unsupervised children are to be dropped off prior to supervision commencement of 8:30am. **Dropping children off early and instructing them to wait in the gym if there is a volleyball practice is not an option.**

If your work schedule involves an early drop-off, please make the necessary arrangements with either family members or with another school family to ensure your children are kept safe and warm in the mornings. Thank you for your assistance regarding this important safety concern.