



St. Joseph the Worker School

November 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe November is already upon us. We started the new month with All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows, which is a *solemnity that we celebrated on November 1 in many parts of Western Christianity*.

Our Term 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on Thursday, November 2. It was an important opportunity for families to connect with our classroom teachers after 2 months of classes. Good communication between the school and parents is essential not only to improve learning, but also to ensure that we are successfully meeting the emotional needs of the children entrusted to our care.

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 Thursday, November 9. The Remembrance Day Service will be held in the gymnasium at 11:00am. Mr. Whelan is busy preparing his 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 for our freedom.

This November's Spirit Day efforts will support a Toy Drive for BC Children's Hospital and the Richmond Christmas Fund. More details will be shared during our Friday, November 24th school assembly. As always, parents are welcome to join us as we discuss more about this new initiative with the students.

Finally – please make sure you get involved in our upcoming White Christmas Gala Dinner and Auction. 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,
Principal

Tuesday, November 21st, 2017

St. Joseph the Worker Faith Formation is pleased to welcome an “Advent Reflection” with Fr. Tony Ricard (Diocese of New Orleans & Chaplain for NFL Saints).

Come join fellow parishioners and bring your family and friends for a night that you absolutely do not want to miss! Along with the talented music stylings of Psalm 98 music ministries you will be introduced to our keynote speaker Fr. Tony Ricard of the Diocese of New Orleans who has a unique ability for storytelling and bringing scripture and our faith alive as he helps us prepare in the season of Advent.

7pm – 9pm in the Church. Doors Open at 6:30pm

ONE NIGHT ONLY

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. Jackets (preferably with hoods!) and proper outdoor shoes are a must, as the students still go outside, even if the weather is less than ideal.



Cross Country 2016

After many weeks of training, the St. Joe's Cross Country running team competed in our 7th Annual Salmon Run 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 Gathering was held on October 4th. 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.

Autism Fair - November 18

On Saturday, November 18, the 6th Annual Autism Fair will be held at McMath Secondary from 9am-1pm. Co-sponsored by Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond Society for Community Living and the Province of BC, you can register for this free informative event by visiting: www.autismresourcefair2017.eventbrite.ca



Remembrance Day Service 2017

We will hold our annual Remembrance Day service for St. Joe's School on **Thursday, 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 **Friday, November 10** (Pro-D) and on **Monday, November 13** (as Canada observes the Remembrance Day holiday).

Guardians Gala - "White Christmas" is Just Around the Corner!

The biggest St. Joseph the Worker Gala Fundraiser of the school year will be held on **Saturday, November 25th** at the **Westin Wall Centre** in Richmond.

Get your tickets asap to be eligible for the early-bird draw of a night stay at the Westin!

Gala ticket prices are \$65, with an early bird draw closing **November 9 (this Thursday!)** 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, December 1**. 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 Dennis and Father Francis during the Advent season. Reconciliation dates are set for December 11, 12 and 13.

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.