



St. Joseph the Worker School January 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year to all! The first 4 months of the school year seemed rather... busy. Tremendously busy (dare I say bigly busy?). Then - suddenly - we are catapulted into a new calendar year, whether we're ready for it or not. A brand new year has, for ages, brought both hopes and prayers of change. It's time to formally brush the dust off last year and, once again, consciously invite grace into our lives for 2018. When we invite grace into our lives, we are trusting in God's plans for us and allowing Him to lead us to where we need to be.

As we reflect upon the age-old habit of making resolutions or implementing various regimes for the new year, let us put mental wellness on our list of must-do's. The news and social media feeds are full of reports that our hectic and unpredictable world is creating an "epidemic of anxiety". We all must consciously resist the urge to feel, sometimes manically, like we need to have all our ducks in a row for our life to be truly "in control". In resisting this demand for control, we can avoid feeling like failures when our lives don't measure up to modern society's measuring stick of what happiness is *supposed* to look like. Instead, let us make a goal for this year to be ever-watchful for amazing opportunities that we are presented with and be filled with grace: to let go of who we think we're supposed to be, and simply embrace who we are and all the small moments of joyfulness that inevitably come with this mindset.

I pray that 2018 provides simplicity and an opportunity for God's grace to enter the lives of everyone here at St. Joseph the Worker Parish School.

In Christ,

Paul Fraser

A Wonderful Celebration of the Season!

Our annual Christmas Celebration on December 20 was such an enjoyable experience! Both presentations were “standing-room only” and the feedback received from the afternoon and evening celebrations was glowing. A big thank-you goes out to Miss Nevada, our music teacher, for her hard work in preparing and coordinating both the St. Joe’s band and in preparing our K-7 students for their musical celebration of “A Rockin’ Royal Christmas: A Higher Calling to a Higher King”.

School-Wide Toy Drive Results

Once again, our Kindergarten class organized and promoted the annual Toy Drive for the Richmond Christmas Fund and B.C. Children’s Hospital. The beautifully decorated “train” boxes in the front foyer were overflowing with generosity from our school families. Thank you for making the Toy Drive initiative such an amazing success!

Blanket, Jacket and Socks Drive for Extreme Weather Shelter

A dedicated group of Grade 4 students took our CISVA theme of “Care for Everyone in our Common Home” to action, and organized a 3 day used warm clothing drive in December. The families of our school community responded and 167 items were donated for people in need of warm clothing. Well done to Alexa, Kaitlyn, Johnny and Cadence for their initiative and organization.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive Results

Once again, St. Joe’s gathered food items for St. Vincent de Paul the week before our Christmas vacation. Yet again - the results were simply wonderful! I am proud to announce that most classes reached (and surpassed) their goal of 120 items. One class brought in over 250 items! As a school, we managed to bring in **1134 items!** A big thank-you goes out to all our students and their families for being so generous with their donations.



Basketball starts up

Basketball is once again underway! This week, practices are being held to get the boys and girls working on their dribbling, shooting and passing skills. We are blessed to have several parents helping us this year, which will help make things easier in managing the large number of students who regularly join our school teams.





Speech Arts for 2018

Speech Arts is around the corner! It is a wonderful opportunity for students in Grades 1-4 as well as Grade 7 to practice oral speaking and presentation skills. Students who qualify in Speech Arts will participate in our School Speech Arts Presentations, and a smaller group of students from each category will represent the school at our Tri-School Speech Arts Festival. Here are the “save the dates”:

St. Joe’s School presentations – **Thursday, March 1** (Primary in morning, Grade 7 in the afternoon)

Tri-School Speech Arts Date - **Tuesday, March 6 at St. Paul’s** (Primary in morning, Gr 7 in the afternoon)

“Screenagers” Movie Screening

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church and sponsored by PIFE Pacific Institute of Family Education, teenagers, parents, educators (and anyone who is concerned about growing up in the digital age) are invited to attend a presentation of **SCREENAGERS**.

Date: Sunday Jan 14, 2018

Time: 2pm to 4:30pm

Venue: Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church, 5771 Granville Ave, Richmond.



School Closures - A Reminder

We are still receiving questions about how the school announces a closure due to snow or other reasons.

Please note the following steps:

- 1) Check the school website (www.stjosephtheworker.ca) **DO NOT WAIT TO RECEIVE AN EMAIL.**
- 2) If no announcement is made or no web blog is posted by 7:30am, school is **open as usual**. If you feel, at any time, that it is unsafe to travel on your street, please do not feel that you have to get to school even if we are in session. We believe it’s best to err on the side of caution when deciding if it is safe to take to the streets after a snowfall.

Spirit Day for January

This month's Spirit Day will take place on **Tuesday, January 30**. All money raised from our Toonie-Tuesday dress-down will be donated to **CHIMO**, the St. Alban's Extreme Weather Shelter right here in Richmond. Our Grade 3 class will be presenting the charity during assembly on January 26.

New Enrolment Information Evening

We will be holding our annual Information Evening on **Wednesday, January 31 @ 7:30pm** for all new families who are interested in entering St. Joseph the Worker School in September 2018. If you know of a family who is hoping to enter the school, please pass this date on to them.

Grades 5, 6 and 7 Ski Program

Our PE Program at St. Joe's includes a much-enjoyed skiing/snowboarding component. Our Grade 5, 6 and 7's will be heading up to Cypress Mountain for 4 days during the months of January and February. During each of their trips, they will be enjoying a half-day of lessons and a half-day to practice their skills in small supervised groups. Let's pray for continued snowy weather on our local hills!

Professional Development Day - January 22

This is a reminder that staff will be at a Professional Development Day on **Monday, January 22**. No classes will be held this day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 23.

PEC AGM/Re-Registration Meeting

A reminder that the annual re-registration evening is coming up on: **Tuesday, February 27 @ 7:30pm** in the church. One member of each school family must be in attendance to pick up their 2018-2019 re-registration package.