



St. Joseph the Worker School March 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As March unfolds, our school and parish find themselves already into the 3rd week of Lent. Many members of our St. Joe's school community are busy preparing for trips and making special plans to visit family and friends during our upcoming Spring Break. Amidst the excitement of plans and arrangements for our vacations and family gatherings, it is good to remind ourselves of the purpose of this 40 day "ramping up", or personal preparation, we call Lent. The students often ask excellent questions about this liturgical season, and the teachers are often surprised by the thoughtfulness (and humour) behind their inquisitiveness. I thought I would share a couple of their questions with our school community:

QUESTION: Are we allowed to have treats on Sundays during Lent even if we have "given them up"?

The quick answer – *yes, you can!* The 40 days of Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. It is a time of preparation, when we get ourselves mentally and spiritually ready for Easter. There are three traditional aspects to Lent. **Fasting** is one of them. However, Sunday is never a day of fasting (not even during Lent). It is "the glorious Day of the Lord". That's why there are more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. There are actually 46 days this year because there are six Sundays in Lent. 46 days minus 6 Sundays is... 40 days! That's why, in Western society, Lent starts on Ash Wednesday – to allow a full 40 days of fasting before Easter Sunday

QUESTION: But **why** don't Sundays count during Lent?

From the very earliest days, the Church has declared that Sunday, the day of Christ's Resurrection, is *always* a feast day, and therefore fasting on Sundays has always been forbidden. Unlike earlier Christians, most of us don't actually fast every day during Lent, in the sense of reducing the amount of food we eat and not eating between meals. Still, when we give something up for Lent, that's a form of fasting. Therefore, that sacrifice is not binding on the Sundays within Lent, because, like every other Sunday, the Sundays in Lent are always feast days.

I hope each and every family at St. Joseph the Worker School courageously takes the time explore authentic Lenten preparation during the remaining weeks of this important Liturgical season. As well, I pray that everyone enjoys a safe Spring Break vacation.

Paul Fraser



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes- What a great turnout!

On Tuesday, February 13, the staff of St. Joe's served up over 600 hot pancakes, fresh fruit salad, and cold fruit juice on Shrove Tuesday. We think we set a new school record for family turnout and pancakes served! A very special thanks go out to staff and parish support, in particular to David Joe and Mel Dear; their preparation of many parts of the breakfast, as well as all their behind-the-scenes support which occurred that morning, made the breakfast celebration the success that it was!

Hunger Lunch

Our annual Ash Wednesday Hunger Lunch was held on Wednesday, February 14. Soup, crackers and water were served to all of our students in the gym during lunchtime in preparation of Ash Wednesday and commencement of Lent. Thank you to the Hot Lunch team for their efforts before and during this solemn event.

Spirit Day Results for February

Our February Spirit Day was for Chimo Support Services in Richmond. We managed to raise \$332 for this worthy cause that supports both youth and families within our city.



Speech Arts

The Tri-School Speech Arts Festival is coming up! Here are the dates and times:

Primary Speech Arts on Tuesday, March 6th in the morning (at St. Paul's School)

9:00am	Arrival / Welcome / Opening prayer
9:10am	Bible Reading and Poetry

Grade 7 Persuasive Speeches on Tuesday, March 6th after lunch (at St. Paul's School)

1:00pm	Arrival and welcome
1:10pm	Speeches (we expect to be finished around 2:15pm)

Guardians Basketball Wrap Up

The Grade 5, 6 and 7 teams have all enjoyed a great season! The last two months have been full of games, tournaments and practices. We are just winding down during the last week of basketball excitement. We congratulate all students who participated in the basketball season and thank the many coaches and support staff who made this successful season possible. Our Basketball Assembly will be held on Thursday, March 8. See you there!



Spring Break and Term 2 Report Cards Out Thursday, March 8

Term 2 Report Cards will be sent out on Thursday, March 8. Please remember that on this day, there is a 3:00 pm dismissal for all students, which coincides with the start of Spring Break for students. Classes will resume on Monday, March 26.



Lenten Reconciliation

Our Lenten season confessions have been scheduled for all students in Grades 2-7. During school reconciliation, our students will be able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the parish with either Father David, Father Dennis or Father Francis. The dates will be Monday, March 26 for Grades 4/5, Tuesday, March 27 for Grades 2/3, and Wednesday, March 28 for Grades 6/7.



Holy Thursday In-School Retreat, March 29

The school will be having its annual Holy Thursday Lenten Retreat during the afternoon of Thursday, March 29. All students will be participating in this special preparation for the Easter Triduum, which will include a special Stations of the Cross activity.

Looking Ahead to April - Student Led Conferences

Student Led Conferences will be held on Thursday, April 12. Requests for time slot preferences will be sent out as soon as classes resume after Spring Break. Along with our conferences, we will also be hosting our second Scholastic Book Fair of the school year.