

## St. Joseph the Worker School April 2018 Newsletter

In light of Resurrection Sunday that we recently celebrated, I thought that I might share a reflection on this search we are all involved in - the search to find the joy that was promised each of us as followers of Christ.

All of us have found that, along our journey through adulthood, different crises happen that cause us pain or a sense of disconnect. In everyone's life, during certain low points, our inner fire seems to "go out".

Theologian and pastor Terry Hershey shares with us that, sadly, our modern measure of success doesn't necessarily include physical or mental health. Terry shares,:

*"We go about our merry and hectic way, accumulating and weighing, measuring and posturing, hoping that the balance sheet of life judges us with kindness. Until that one day when you look into the mirror and ask yourself, "Why?" and you decide then and there to set about reclaiming that which has been lost—namely, you."*

When this occurs (and it inevitably does), some then set out to find answers. Others do not set out at all. They simply remain anxious and unsettled, knowing only that their soul feels.... malnourished.

God waits patiently for us during these times. When we are no longer afraid to be tiny or humble or meek, God can then step in and gently guide us onto the next stage of our life journey. He does this by giving us living saints to use as examples or role models. An amazing (and current example) of this power in humility is our own Pope Francis. Pope Francis shares with us that "faith is less about the use of power to shape the social order than about straightforward efforts of kindness and generosity, the gifts from a heart glad to be alive."

So - how exactly do we do this? Of equal importance - who do we teach our children to do this? The answer is almost too easy, yet so very hard at the same time. We achieve contentment by savouring simple pleasures. Being fully alive is a fiesta of the senses. Living in our common home offers us sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the day. If we can slow down enough to savour them.

We need to teach our children to appreciate simple pleasures. Ask them this: Can you tell me a simple pleasure that happened, that you enjoyed, in the past day. Perhaps we need to ask each other less about "What do you do?" or "What did you do?" And more "What surprised you today? What made your heart glad?

There is a connection between simple pleasures and gratitude. What does it matter? Because being glad to be alive (even in the midst, of grief, broken dreams, turmoil and noise), allows us to spill light to a world on edge. If we let Grace take root, it spills from our life.

We are truly Blessed. Happy Easter to all.

## Spirit Day for March for Chalice Canada

Our March Spirit Day took place on Tuesday, March 6. We are pleased to announce that our Spirit Dress Down raised \$342. As mentioned previously, this money raised will be donated to Chalice, a Catholic organization that does both mission and sponsorship work in various developing countries.

## Readers are Leaders - In-House Competition April 6

On Friday, April 6 our Librarian, Mrs. Williams, is holding our in-house Readers are Leaders competition. From 10:45 to 12:00 noon the competition will be held in the gym. Parents are welcome to attend.

## Destination Imagination - Provincial Competition April 7

Our Destination Imagination teams will be competing at the annual Provincial Championships on Saturday, April 7. We wish them best of luck in their events!

## Summer Uniforms

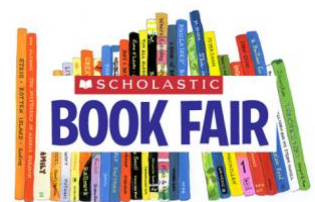
A reminder that, as of the end of our Spring Break, summer uniforms (shorts and skorts) can now be worn to school. All other uniform items are the same year-round.

## Student-Led Conferences

A reminder that Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Thursday, April 12**. Please check your child's bag for your conference time confirmation sheet. Conference time request forms are due Tuesday, April 3.

## Scholastic Book Fair

We will be holding the second of our twice-annual Scholastic Book Fairs during the upcoming Student-Led Conferences. From **9:30am till 12:30pm, and again from 5:00pm to 8pm**, all families are encouraged to spend some time in our book fair, which will be held in the Music Room. All proceeds from our Book Fair help us to buy books for both our library and for our classrooms, so make sure you visit us! This year, the Book Fair will be open during both lunch and dinner breaks as well!



## Tuition - Due April 13

A reminder that electronic payment forms, VOID cheques and the \$55 (per student) book fee is due April 13. The form was sent our March 27. Thank you in advance for ensuring your payments are received by the due date.

\*\*\*\* Please note that the form needs **BOTH** account holders' signatures. \*\*\*\*



## Track and Field Season Begins!

Our much anticipated Track and Field Season will begin on Monday, April 16. Permission slips and sign-up forms will be sent out this week. The practice schedule will be sent home prior to April 16, and will soon be available online at our school website: [www.stjosephtheworker.ca](http://www.stjosephtheworker.ca) Track and Field is open to all students in Grades 3-7. Major Track and Field Meet dates are:

- May 2: St. Paul's/St. Joe's Track Meet (Minoru Track)
- May 30: CISVA Track Meets -Day 1 (Swangard Track)
- June 6: CISVA Track Meets -Day 2 (Swangard Track)



## Hip Hop is coming back to St. Joe's!

We are excited to announce that Mike Figueroa, a well-known hip hop teacher that has worked in many of our Catholic Schools (and has been at St. Joe's twice before) is coming back for a week of Hip Hop lessons! From April 24-27, all grades will receive daily lessons from Mike, and have a mini "show" for all our parents on the Friday afternoon. It will be a great week of fitness and fun.

## First Communion - April 28/29

Our Grade 2 students will be receiving the Sacrament of First Communion during the weekend of April 28 and 29, at their regularly attended masses. Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers as they approach this important weekend.



## Parent Appreciation Tea - May 29

Save the date for our upcoming annual Parent Appreciation Tea, to be held this year on Tuesday, May 29. from 1pm-3pm. More information will be posted in our May newsletter.