

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER



## September 2018 Newsletter

2018/2019 Academic Year

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to another school year of faith, learning and adventure. A special welcome goes out to our new families who are joining our school community this academic year.

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the warm summer weather that we were blessed with for much of July and August. Father Pierre and new Friars are already experiencing the splendour of hearing our children's happy voices as the Friars settle into their new residence in the parish rectory. We extend a warm St. Joe's welcome to each of them.

A great way to get back into the community groove and connect with other parents is to join us for our 5th Annual Back to School Brunch, which is happening on **Sunday, September 23**. Please read the newsletter below for more details on this event.

On September 15, our school and Religious Education staff will be attending what is sure to be a fruitful retreat to help us unpack our new CISVA theme. This year, we are blessed to have Jesse Manibusan, a gifted writer, speaker, composer, storyteller, humorist and catechist lead us in retreat. Jesse will lead our Saturday staff retreat as our school and parish examines what God is asking of each of us. Our CISVA Theme: "What Do You Want of Me, Lord?" asks an often overlooked question about how we see our relationship to God, and explores ways we can tune into what His plan for each of us might be. Jesse will also be leading the parish ministry for all parishioners on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings. You are invited to participate in this unique experience for any or all sessions.

I have no doubt that we, as a strong and supportive Christian community, will have an excellent school year. I wish to close by reminding everyone that, in an ongoing commitment to transparent parent-school communication, the door to my office is always open for your ideas, reflections and feedback.

May all God's blessings be with you and your family during this new school year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Fraser".

Paul Fraser, Principal

## School Staff : 2018-2019

Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM. - Pastor

Mr. Paul Fraser - Principal

Mr. Jamie Withers -Vice Principal, Grade 7

Gerard Whelan -	Gr 6	Monique McKee -	Learning Resource
Nancy Ebert -	Gr 5	Vanessa Pereira-Li -	EA (part time)
Darlene Williams	Gr 4/Library	Lynn Lovik -	EA
Anne Tien -	Gr 4	Kathy Pember -	EA (part-time)
Vilma Macdonald -	Gr 3	Monica Ramirez -	EA (part-time)
Diane Ison -	Gr 2	Regina Nevada -	EA (part-time)
Renee Foran -	Gr 1	Ivy Mendoza-	EA
Lynn Whitlock -	Kindergarten	Sheryl Dragicevic -	EA (part-time)
Erica King -	French	Veronique Horry -	EA (part-time)
Junie Brayley -	Learning Resource	Kelly Shaw -	EA (part-time)
Regi Nevada-	Music	Cheryl Perry-	EA
Tom Girard -	P.E / Computers	Sheila Leacock	EA
Denise Lorenz -	Secretary	Jovana Durica	Ed. Psychologist
Lisa Phillips -	Bookkeeper	Yanna Martinek	Clinical Counsellor

## Parish Education Committee (PEC) 2018-2019

Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM.	Pastor
Vince Uy	Chairperson / Community Relations
Gabriel Labrador	Vice Chairperson / Secretary
Raymond Bianchin	Parent Participation
Sabrina Chiu	Treasurer / Tuition
Monica Sagastume	Fundraising
Doug Choy	Maintenance
Ricardo Hernandez	Policy / Uniforms
Jose Flores	Uniforms / Fundraising

## **EVENT ALERT!!**



### **Back to School Breakfast/Brunch September 23** - Friends and Families of St.

Joe's will be hosting its 5th Annual Back-to-School Breakfast/Brunch after the 8am, 9:30am and 11:15am mass on **Sunday, September 23**. All meals are by donation. Delicious breakfast items will be served after 8am and 9:30am masses. Brunch will be served after the after 11:15am mass. Come join us in the school gym after mass to meet new families and enjoy a great meal!

**Parish Retreat: September 16,17 and 18** -this year's Parish retreat is hosted by Jesse Manibusan. Jesse will help us explore topics that all connect to our parish theme of building community.

Each session will be offered at 7pm and then repeated at 10am the following morning (Tuesday evening is the final session with no repeat). Please join us in the church for any or all of these 3 wonderful evenings!

## **OTHER SEPTEMBER SCHOOL EVENTS**

### **Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**7:00 pm MEET THE TEACHER** (Important meeting begins in the school gym)

School and class meetings will be held for all parents. At the school meeting, parents will be introduced to the school staff and the Parish Education Committee. I will give a brief outline of changes, a revised Curriculum update, parish school expectations and important reminders to help the school year run as smoothly as possible. Class meetings will follow. During this time, teachers will give a year overview of the expectations and programming for their particular grade.

### **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**9:15 am FIRST SCHOOL MASS** - the new theme for this school year is: "What Do You Want of Me, Lord?". Grade 2 and 7 classes are in charge of the readings and leading this first mass. We invite as many parents as possible to come and join us for our liturgies throughout the year. The masses are prepared by different classes and often our choir will lead us in song. We also encourage all students to bring donations for the Food Bank the day of every school mass.

### **Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**9:00 am PHOTO DAY**. Individual, Class and school-wide panorama (weather permitting) photos will be taken on this day. A notice will be sent out soon!

### **Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> (Spirit Day)**

**9:00 am Terry Fox Fun Run** To celebrate Terry Fox's contribution to cancer research we will once again be holding a mini-run, jog and walk for a short time around our property (for primary students) and in the neighbourhood (for our intermediate students). More details will

follow in the coming days. This day will also be a Spirit Day - a day away from the usual uniform (see next item for details). Wear play clothes and bring in a toonie for the "No One in Need" project of the month.

**\*\*\*\*A reminder to all that Spirit Day dress should be modest, appropriate and in keeping with the spirit of the school. \*\*\*\*\***

## Important Reminders

### Spirit Days - What are they?

These days are our monthly opportunity to reach out to those in need. We ask that each student bring in a toonie that they have taken from their savings or perhaps "earned" by doing some extra chores so that they are giving the money towards the charity being assisted that month. Students are able to "dress down" in play clothes, and there is often a theme associated with the day (for example: Valentine's Day). All the money goes to charity or to an organization such as B.C. Children's Hospital, Covenant House or, this month, the **Terry Fox Cancer Research Fund**. We also sponsor safe water initiatives through Chalice. Check out the board in the foyer for more information and updates.



### Smoking and Vaping on School Grounds

A reminder that the school property is completely smoke free. As of 2008 it is illegal to smoke or use vaping products in or on school grounds, including in private vehicles (this includes our parking lot). We thank you for your good example and cooperation. Please remind all other adults that may be dropping off or picking up your children of this policy.

### Friday Assemblies

All school assemblies will be held each **Friday**. In the event that a school mass falls on a Friday, there will be no assembly that week. As usual, birthdays will be celebrated during the first assembly of each month and special awards assemblies will be announced in the monthly newsletter or blog if possible. Each class will take the leadership role once during the year to lead assembly prayer.

We will continue to offer a weekly "Open House" morning once a week for parents to be able to visit the hallways and view their child(ren)'s work. "Family Fridays" are held from 8:30am-8:50am each Friday morning (prior to assembly). We hope to see you there!

### After School Supervision

We ask you to make sure you pick up your children as promptly after the bell as possible as students are supervised outside for only twenty minutes after school is dismissed. At 3:20pm, they will be brought inside to wait for parents who are late picking up. We remind you that prior to school, the Big Toy is off limits because it is not supervised. After school, students may only

play on the playground under the direct supervision of their parents (parent must be standing at the Big Toy). Children cannot be given permission to play after school on the playground unless the parents are at the playground area.

### **School Lunches**

We continue to request that **NO FAST FOOD LUNCHES OR POP** be brought to the school. We still occasionally see "repackaged" fast food (eg. Big Macs put into a Tupperware container) that should not be brought as lunches. If your child's lunch is being brought to the school by parents, it should arrive no later than 12:30 p.m. and be dropped off at the office. If your child is going home for lunch, please submit a note indicating that they will be leaving the school premises for the lunch hour. The student must check in with the office before they leave and upon their return. In continued accordance with food sales guidelines, the Hot Lunch program will only be offering food that falls within certain nutritional guidelines set by the Province.



### **Absences**

If your child is absent from school, please call in the morning to advise the office. It is not sufficient that a sibling advise the office of your child's absence. Please submit an absence note upon their return.

### **Contact Information**

If your address or telephone number has changed over the summer, please verbally advise Mrs. Lorenz. You will have already received emergency information forms. Please complete these forms and return them to the school office as soon as possible so that we may update your child's emergency information in our student administration system.

### **Safety**

We ask you once again to sign in at the office and take a badge before entering into the school hallways. This is a safety precaution for all the children. Safety bulletins from the RCMP are sent out to you as situations arise and we ask that you discuss safety issues with your child.



### **Traffic**

Over the past years, we have had different PEC safety weeks in order to promote safe driving in our parking lot. Signs remind drivers to proceed slowly (**10km/h**) through the parking lot and where to drop off or not drop off students. Never cross the line of traffic at any time except at the designated crosswalk. Our students are well aware of the rules and we ask you to make sure that you follow this so we are giving them the same message for their safety. Please review the traffic safety procedures (see below) with your children and all drivers who may drop off or pick up your children.



# TRAFFIC SAFETY PROCEDURES:

## MORNING DROP - OFF:

- When entering the parking lot, please slow your vehicle down to 10km/h
- For morning drop-off, proceed all the way to the orange-coned "drop off zone"
- **DO NOT** drop your child(ren) off against the school; please drive up to the coned zone

## AFTERNOON PICK-UP:

- When entering the parking lot, please slow your vehicle down to 10km/h
- Proceed all the way to the orange-coned "pick-up" zone. Student crossing guards will direct pedestrians and allow traffic to flow through when it is deemed safe. Please watch for their signs.
- The first TWO cars at the pick-up zone can load up students (not just the front car)
- When departing the parking lot, please travel at a safe speed of 10 km/h and watch for other cars backing out
- IF YOUR CHILD(REN) ARE NOT READY TO ENTER YOUR VEHICLE DURING PICK-UP, YOU **MUST** CIRCLE AROUND OR PARK YOUR VEHICLE AND PICK THEM UP BY HAND. DO NOT HONK YOUR HORN AND WAIT IN THE PICK-UP ZONE.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on these important procedures.

