



## St. Joseph the Worker School December 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Advent Season to all! It's hard to believe that December and the new liturgical calendar year (Year C) is already upon us. I pray that we can make some time to reflect on the message of Advent - that Advent is actually about two comings – a celebration of one that already occurred, and a waiting and preparation for something truly incredible still to come. This waiting and preparation means to not allow ourselves to be caught asleep.

So, in the time of Jesus, how did so many miss the arrival of the Messiah? Simply put, “many were asleep” on the job (Mark 13:33-37). They busied themselves with a variety of activities, including pious practices. But constant movement can lull one to sleep, like a kid on a long car ride.

So we wait for Christmas. And we hopefully steal moments, between the frenzied trips to the shopping mall, to ponder the difference between being spiritually awake and asleep. Because we know all too well that, between the frenzy at the mall and the various office and home parties, it is easy to get numbed to the true reason for the season: the celebration of our Saviour and His promise of amazing things to come.

May everyone experience a happy and blessed Advent season that is filled with generosity, self-reflection and preparing. Our time on this earth is brief; let us use our time wisely and bring joy and hope to all in this ever-increasingly busy world of ours.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Fraser

*"Whatever else be lost among the years, Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing: Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears, Let us hold close one day, remembering its poignant meaning for the hearts of men. Let us get back our childlike faith again." -- Grace Noll Crowell*

## Hollywood Guardians Gala: What an Amazing Evening!

Our recent Guardians Gala fundraising event was a great success on so many levels. Between the fun theme, action in the Live Auction with Mike (our favourite auctioneer), tasty food, and a fabulous assortment of generously donated items, it was a well organized event that was enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks go out to our Gala Committee Chair – Calina Hung, as well as our new PEC Coordinator – Monica Sagastume. Many hours of tireless work went into the success of the evening. Well done to all who were involved in the evening, both in the forefront and behind the scenes in organizing the event. Although final numbers are not in yet, it seems we met (and even exceeded) our Gala fundraiser goal of \$40,000. We look forward to hearing the final amount!

## Spirit Day Toy Drive: Many Thanks to All!

We are wrapping up our November Fundraiser! Our Toy Drive was in support of Children's Hospital and Richmond Christmas Fund. Dozens and dozens of toys came flowing in over the past week and we are so grateful of our family's generosity. Thanks go to Mrs. Whitlock and the Kindergarten class for organizing this worthwhile initiative.



## Food Drive For St. Vincent de Paul Society

In the spirit of giving, St. Joe's will be having its annual food drive week! Throughout the week of December 10- December 14, each class will bring in non-perishable food items. Our school goal is to bring in 1200 items and we are hopeful that we will reach it. Please send the food items with your child any time during the week of December 10-14 and watch our "food pyramid" in our school foyer grow!

## Spirit Day Dress Down Day for December - Extra Information

Connected directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive (December 10-14), we will be having our monthly Spirit Day (non- uniform day) on **Tuesday, December 11**. The Spirit Day will be for our food drive efforts for the week. **No toonie is necessary on this day**, since your generous food donations during the week represents the "giving" portion of the Spirit Day.

**NOTE:** (if you also wish to donate cash to assist with the St. Vincent de Paul hampers, there are “giving” envelopes available in front of the altar in the church).

## St. Joe's Christmas Celebration 2018

Our annual Christmas sharing afternoon and evening is fast approaching! We will have two celebrations on **Wednesday, December 19**. After our traditional Seniors' Luncheon is complete, we will share the Advent spirit with an exciting Christmas musical program, followed by some K-7 Christmas cheer prepared by each of our classroom teachers.

The afternoon Christmas Celebration will begin at 1:00pm. Please note that dismissal on this day is: 1) when the afternoon celebration ends and **IF** a parent/guardian is present to pick up the student **OR** 2) at 3:00pm (our regular dismissal time)

We will then gather again in the evening for a **7:00pm celebration**. Please remember that all children need to attend the evening event, and they should arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the celebration (6:45pm). We'll see you there!

## Speech Arts for 2019

Watch for the permission form and details during the first week of January. Speech Arts is a wonderful opportunity for students in Grades 1-4 to practice oral speaking and presentation skills. All students 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 a Tri-School Speech Arts Festival.

## School Closures

This is a reminder of our school procedures with regard to school closures due to snow or other reasons. If there is a school closure, a closure posting will be made on our school website (and you will receive an instant email if you are properly subscribed to the office blogs). If no web blog is posted, the **school is open as usual**. If you feel, at any time, that it is unsafe to travel on the streets in your area, 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.

## Gift Cards for Your Christmas Shopping

It's an easy solution if you're thinking of giving something to family and friends for Christmas. All proceeds from the gift cards directly benefit the school and the tuition assistance program. Order

forms are available in the Church Gathering Space at the gift card table or on the St. Joseph the Worker Parish website ([www.stjworker.org](http://www.stjworker.org)). There are also order forms at our school office!