



St. Joseph the Worker School January 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! It was wonderful seeing all the students in class today, sharing stories and experiences they had during the Christmas holidays (and I'm sure there were more than a few tired parents out there who weren't too sad to see their kids head back to school as well! 😊)

Here at St. Joe's, we are starting 2019 at full speed with a variety of school programs commencing. Auditions for our upcoming "Madagascar Jr." Spring Musical were held back in early December and rehearsals with our talented cast begin immediately. Many other school programs are also starting up, such as our primary Speech Arts program and CISVA basketball games. As well, our Grade 5, 6 and 7 students are set to head up the mountain 4 times in January for their skiing program. Let's pray for a continued accumulation of snow on the mountains!

An important part of what we do at St. Joe's is nurture and mold the many gifts that God has given our students. These gifts reach beyond our stage, basketball courts, volleyball courts and track competitions, into an ever-deepening understanding of our faith. As we know, Christmas officially began on December 25 and carries on for 40 days until February 2 (The Presentation of Jesus and the Purification of Mary). Although it may seem that the days of Christmas carols, Advent calendars and feelings of goodwill are over and "done with", let us keep the spirit of peace and love with us as we continue in our celebration over the miracle of Christmas. A continued acknowledgement and gratitude of the greatest gift God could ever give us (his own son) should be used to guide our actions and decisions throughout the year, not just around the Winter Solstice.

I pray that 2019 provides both strength and blessings for all of our precious families here at St. Joseph the Worker Parish School.

In Christ,

*Paul Fraser, Principal
January 7, 2019*



A Wonderful Celebration of the Season!

Our annual Christmas Celebration on December 19 was an amazing 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 our Miss Nevada for her hard work in coordinating the Christmas Celebration and helping to put all our school families and friends in the true spirit of the season!



St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive - Many Thanks!

Once again, St. Joe’s gathered food items for St. Vincent de Paul the week before our Christmas vacation. The results were simply wonderful. Using a different distribution format this year, the St. Vincent de Paul team used our donated food items to create a “food room”, where recipients could particular food items they most needed. We are pleased to note that every class participated generously in the nonperishable food fundraiser.



Basketball starts up

Basketball is once again underway! Although practices began in mid-December, games are now starting up. We are once again 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. Good luck to all of our Grades 5-7 teams!



Speech Arts for 2019

Watch for the Grade 1-3 Speech Arts permission form being sent home on January 7. All primary 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 our Tri-School Speech Arts Festival. Here is the “save the date” event summary:

St. Joe’s School presentation date: @ St. Joe’s on Thursday, February 28

Tri-School Speech Arts Dates: @ St. Joe’s on Tuesday, March 12

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. It is 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 29**. All money raised from our Toonie-Tuesday dress-down will be donated to the St. Alban's Extreme Weather Shelter right here in Richmond.

New Enrollment Information Evening

We will be holding our annual Information Evening on **Wednesday, January 30 @ 7:30pm** for all new families who are interested in entering St. Joseph the Worker School in September 2019. 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 Grades 5, 6 and 7's will be heading up to Cypress Mountain for 4 days during the month of January. 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!

Reminder of January 21 School Closure

Later this month, school will be closed on Monday, January 21 for a professional development day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 22.

PEC AGM/Re-Registration Meeting

A reminder that the annual re-registration evening is coming up on: **Tuesday, February 26 @ 7:30pm** in the church. One member of each school family must be in attendance to pick up their 2019-2020 re-registration package.

Maker-Space Room Update (and a new name: *Creative Studio*)

We are excited to see our new Creation Studio slowly come to life! Our MS (ahem....our *Creative Studio*) subcommittee has been working hard with our educational consultant in ensuring both the layout and the contents of the room are as usable and "creativity inspiring" as possible! The new floor is in, the water hook-up and stainless steel trough sink is being installed later this month and the custom shelving and racks are ordered. Next comes putting everything together for use and... creating! Our official opening date (originally hoped to be at the end of January) is now more realistically looking like it will be late February.