



St. Joseph the Worker School February 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the beginning of February came a real snap of chilly weather. I was so pleased to note that the kids have been dressing properly for the weather! There is a flurry of toques, mittens and scarves at the start of each break, and boots are lined up outside most classrooms. Winter has finally arrived!

This week we have been celebrating BC Catholic Schools' Week. We have the opportunity from February 11-13 to reflect on what makes St. Joe's so unique, and to celebrate being part of the 47 schools that make up the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese. We will come together to pray as a school, listen to our Friars share in a talk on vocations, share in some volleyball fun at lunch, and perhaps even sneak in another hot chocolate morning !

With Speech Arts, basketball games, "100 Day", school re-registration/PEC AGM, and our annual Catholic Educators' Conference all contained in the month of February, we are in for another busy month. Unbelievably, Lent is not far away and the staff is preparing for our annual Shrove Tuesday breakfast in early March followed by our Hunger Lunch on Ash Wednesday.

Among the many events planned for the next month and beyond, please read and make note of a Lenten Retreat that Father Pierre and the Friars are organizing for the parish. In mid-March, Father Leo Hofmann, from the Diocese of Edmonton, will help us explore a better understanding of the sacraments and how they relate to us in today's busy world. Please read the details contained in this February newsletter and save the date(s)!

Wishing a joyful and safe February to every St. Joe's family.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Fraser, Principal

Results for January's Spirit Day

We are pleased to be sending a cheque for \$371 to "Hope for the Homeless" in Richmond. Many thanks to all the students who made the extra effort to earn their toonie through allowance or special chores around the house!

Reminder of School Closure for February 14 & 15

All Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Vancouver will be closed for Thursday, February 14 and Friday, February 15 as Catholic Educators gather for the Catholic Educators' Conference in downtown Vancouver. School resumes on Tuesday, February 19 (after Family Day).

Resources for Supporting our Kids in a Digital Age

There are some excellent resources that the government of BC has made available online for parents who are trying to keep their kids safe in a digital world. Safer Schools Together (SST) has partnered with the BC Government to ensure both schools and parents are as aware and educated about online threats as possible. The link below will take to a great resource that all parents should download and explore with their families.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/erase/documents/raising-digitally-responsible-youth.pdf>

PEC Family Movie Night

On **Friday, February 22** come and join us with your blankets and chairs for an evening of movie fun. We will be hosting a screening of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* on our "big screen". Doors open at 6:45pm and the movie starts at 7pm sharp. We'll see you there!



AGM

St. Joseph the Worker PEC AGM - Coming Tuesday, February 26

Our annual Parish Education Committee AGM is fast approaching. On Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30pm, all school families must have at least one family parent or guardian attend the meeting (held in the church) where PEC annual reports are presented, new school-relevant information is disseminated, and re-registration packages are picked up.



Pink Shirt Day/ Spirit Day - Wednesday, February 27

In our constant goal to create and sustain a school environment that is free of bullying, St. Joe's will have a Pink Shirt Bullying Awareness Day on Wednesday, February 27. All students, as part of our Spirit Dress-Down Day, are encouraged to include pink shirts as part of their clothing choice that day.



Speech Arts for 2019

Speech Arts practices are in full swing. 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 Speech Arts presentation date: @ St. Joe's on Thursday, February 28.

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

Lenten Retreat - Save the Date

Father Leo Hofmann is coming to St. Joe's for a special Lenten Retreat for all parishioners and non-parishioners alike. On Sunday March 10 and Monday March 11 at 7pm Father Leo, who is an extremely engaging speaker, will be sharing a special understanding of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. The retreat is themed: "Journey to the Easter Sacraments". Father Pierre hopes you are able to attend.