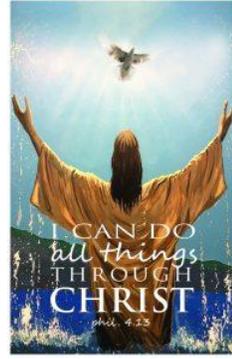


ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER SCHOOL



September 2019 Newsletter

2019/2020 Academic Year

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to the new school year! I am hoping and praying that it will be one filled with faith, learning and new adventures. A special welcome goes out to our new families who are joining our amazing 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. The school staff, along with our wonderful Friars, are already looking forward to seeing and hearing our children's happy voices as we all settle in for a new year. We extend a special St. Joe's welcome to our newest Friar - Father Joachim.

We have many new aspects of the new school year to look forward to! We have an awesome new CISVA-wide theme this year entitled - "I Can Do All Things Through Christ". This reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of the most misused passages in the bible. Together with our staff, we will unpack this reading to discover what the apostle Paul was referring to when he told the early church that, through Jesus Christ, all things are possible.

Beyond our new Catholic School theme, we have exciting new curricular programs to unroll with the students. Our Creative Studio is finally ready to go, and new learning opportunities will be radiating from the classrooms to our two (yes, two!) new creative areas. More will be shared about this in the weeks ahead.

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.

Paul Fraser, Principal

School Staff : 2019-2020

Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM. - Pastor

Mr. Paul Fraser - Principal

Mr. Jamie Withers - Vice Principal/Grade 7

Gerard Whelan	Gr 6	Monique McKee	Learning Support
Theo Lorenz	Gr 5	Vanessa Pereira-Li	EA (part time)
Darlene Williams	Gr 4/Library	Lynn Lovik	EA
Anne Tien	Gr 4/Learning Support	Kathy Pember	EA (part-time)
Vilma Macdonald	Gr 3	Larrie Hong	EA (part-time)
Andrea Withers	Gr 3	Monica Ramirez	EA (part-time)
Diane Ison	Gr 2	Sheryl Dragicevic	EA (part-time)
Renee Foran	Gr 1	Veronique Horry	EA (part-time)
Lynn Whitlock	Kindergarten	Cheryl Perry	EA (part-time)
Ivy Mendoza	French/EA	Kelly Shaw	EA
Junie Brayley	Learning Support	Sheila Leacock	EA (part-time)
Regi Nevada	Music/EA	Sacha Brayley	Support Intern
Tom Girard	P.E / Computers		
Denise Lorenz	Secretary		
Lisa Phillips	Bookkeeper		

Parish Education Committee (PEC) 2019-2020

Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM.	Pastor
Vince Uy	Chairperson
Sean O'Brien	Vice-Chair/ Policy/ CISVA Delegate
Raymond Bianchin	Parent Participation
Clayton Ablett	Maintenance
Gabriel Labrador	Maintenance
Sabrina Chiu	Treasurer / Tuition
Monica Sagastume	Fundraising
Ricardo Hernandez	Uniforms / Fundraising
Resina Becket	Secretary/co-Parent Participation/CR & PR

EVENT ALERT!

Back to School Breakfast/Brunch September 22 - 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 22**. All meals are by donation. Delicious breakfast items will be served after 8am and 9:30am masses. Brunch will be served after the 11:15am mass. Come join us in the school gym after mass to meet new families and enjoy a great meal!

OTHER SEPTEMBER SCHOOL EVENTS

Thursday, September 12th, 2019

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 13th, 2019

9:05 am FIRST SCHOOL MASS - the new theme for this school year is: "I Can Do All Things Through Christ". 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 17th, 2019

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 24th, 2019 (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 (e.g. 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.

