



## St. Joseph the Worker School November 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

November is already upon us. We started the new month with All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows, a solemnity that is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup> in many parts of Western Christianity.

Our school community will soon gather to offer tribute to the many sacrifices made for our freedom. This special day will fall this year on Friday, November 8. The Remembrance Day Service will be held in the gymnasium at 11:00am. Mr. Whelan is busy preparing with his Grade 6 class, who are in charge of the Remembrance Day Service. All are invited to attend and pay their respects to the women and men who sacrificed and gave so much for our freedom.

Our Term 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. It is an important opportunity for families to connect with their classroom teachers after 2 months of classes. The school has sent out a brief interim report for each student, to allow for talking points during these upcoming meetings. Regular communication between the school and parents is essential not only to share learning, but to ensure that we are successfully meeting the emotional needs of your children.

This November's Spirit Day efforts will support a Toy Drive for BC Children's Hospital and the Richmond Christmas Fund. The Toy Drive week will be held from November 25<sup>th</sup> – November 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Dress Down Spirit Day for the Toy Drive will be held on Tuesday, November 26.

In closing, I wanted to share a special story that recently came to my attention. From time to time, we have students who become so moved by our school's mission projects, they choose to do something extra to support our school cause. Two of our students just did this. For their birthday parties, Lauren and Leilani Dang asked for donations to our sponsor school - Aduoyo Primary School in Kenya – instead of gifts. Together, the Dang sisters raised \$146 for our mission outreach support. The school is so proud of your empathy and generosity! Many thanks to all the families who were a part of this special fundraising endeavor!

May everyone have a happy and blessed November,

Paul Fraser,  
Principal

## Reminder- it's time for Winter Uniforms (and Coats)!

Just a reminder that all students must wear their winter uniforms. Please refer to your Parent Handbook for uniform details and information on when St. Joe's moves back to its Spring uniform. Warm jackets (preferably with hoods!) and proper outdoor shoes are a must, as the students still go outside, even if the weather is less than ideal.



## Cross Country 2019

After many weeks of training, the St. Joe's Cross Country running team competed in our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmon Run at Garry Point Park. Our runners also participated in the CISVA Cross Country Finals at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby. With 33 schools participating, it was an amazing event!

A big thank-you goes out to our coaches for their hard work and help. Thanks also to our many parents who assisted us this year with supervision during the practices.

## New Parent Gathering- Great Times!

The annual New Parent Gathering was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was very well attended by many of our new families who had the opportunity to pray, learn more about our school community and get to know each other better in a light, social atmosphere.



## Remembrance Day Service 2019

We will hold our annual Remembrance Day service for St. Joe's School on **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. At 11:00am, all grades will gather in the gym and the Grade 6 class will lead us in a memorial service for all of the fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may continue to live in freedom. All families are invited to attend the service.

**REMINDER:** There is no school on **Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>** (as Canada observes the Remembrance Day holiday. Then followed by a connected Professional Day on November 12<sup>th</sup>). Classes resume on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Our Guardians Gala is Just Around the Corner!

The biggest St. Joseph the Worker Fundraiser of the school year will be held on **Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the **Richmond Golf and Country Club**. This year our theme is 'Masquerade' with all the flash and mystery that goes along with it!

As we have previously blogged out, **Gala dinner tickets are sold out**. We are **STILL** in need of items for the Gala silent and live auctions. Please be generous in your time and talent to donate items or activities that can be auctioned off. It takes everybody's participation to make our biggest fundraiser a success!

## Parent Teacher Conferences - November 7<sup>th</sup>

November Parent Teacher Conferences are set for Thursday, November 7. Time slot requests have been sent out via backpack mail.

## Scholastic Book Fair

We will be holding the first of our twice-annual Scholastic Book Fairs during the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences. All families are encouraged to spend some time in our Book Fair, which will be held in the Music Room. All proceeds from our Book Fair help us to buy books for both our library and for our classrooms, so make sure you visit!



## Reconciliation Celebrations for Grades 3- 7

We will once again be taking a school-wide exploration of conscience and forgiveness during the days leading up to Advent. For Grades 3-7, this exploration will manifest itself in an opportunity for classroom-wide confessions with either Father Pierre, Father Joachim, Father Joe, or Father Manoj during the Advent season. Reconciliation dates are set for December 3, 4 and 5.

## Brass Trio Visit to St. Joe's

We are blessed to have a visit from a VSO group of musicians called the Brass Trio on Monday December 2. At 1:45pm, all students will be treated to an interactive display of classic and contemporary music, with hands-on audience interaction. Please come and join us for 45 minutes of fun if you can on December 2!

## Reason for the Season - December 13

Our parish will once again be hosting "Reason for the Season" in the School and parish Center. Along with an interactive Downtown Bethlehem, arts crafts, entertainment and yummy treats, we will also have a petting zoo (this year they will actually show up and have animals with them!). Please join us for an evening of faith and fun on Friday, December 13 from 5pm-9pm.

## October Spirit Day Results

Our October Spirit Day results are in. Our students managed to raise \$385 to buy textbooks for our sponsor School in Kenya. Great job to everyone - well done!

## Workshop for Parents on using CBT to Tackle Anxiety

We are letting parents know of a workshop offered by Dr Katherine Martinez on supporting children and adolescents with anxiety, lower mood, and other life problems. This workshop is designed for parents and caregivers who wish to learn effective methods to decrease unwanted anxiety and stress.

The workshop will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at the Holiday Inn at 701 West Broadway. If you are interested, you can register at: <https://www.behaviouralparenting.com/workshops.html>

## Early Morning Drop-Off Concerns

As the days get colder and the mornings become progressively darker, it is important to ensure your children are properly supervised prior to school. This means that no unsupervised children are to be dropped off prior to supervision commencement of 8:30am. **Dropping children off early and instructing them to wait in the gym if there is a sports practice is not an option.**

If your work schedule involves an early drop-off, please make the necessary arrangements with either family members or with another school family to ensure your children are kept safe and warm in the mornings. Thank you for your assistance regarding this important safety concern.

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