



## St. Joseph the Worker June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In less than 3 weeks, we will bid each other 'adieu' for the summer. It's difficult to fathom that we made it through an entire school year of surreal pandemic conditions. Yet, when we look at our lives through a lens of gratitude, there is actually much to be thankful for. Our children's health is good, our school remained open, and we were able to cover an impressive amount of both in-person and remote learning, despite so many safety protocols and restrictions. Although we were not able to hold several of our annual events, our school staff constantly strived to create an atmosphere of "normalcy" amidst a world that has felt anything but normal. I am deeply grateful for our amazing teachers and support staff.

One of the events that we are managing to modify is our upcoming Fun Day. We are looking forward to a cohort-friendly model of having separate stations - one set of stations for the Primary grades, and a different set of stations for the Intermediate grades. Although we won't have the traditional model of Family Groups traveling from place to place with parents watching on the sidelines, we will make the best of the COVID-safe model and still dismiss everyone at 12:00 noon.

With a mindset of gratitude, let us all step into this final month of the 2020-2021 school year with a reminder that we can resist the anxiety that the world of COVID has forced us to exist within. Yes – it is easy to feel disconnected from our hearts with the fatigue so many of us are feeling each day. However, I encourage all of us to try our best to be both courageous and kind in the weeks and months ahead. We are all feeling a little broken (or even – a lot broken), but that's okay. Our faith tells us that it is from our brokenness that we can learn to love and become healers to others.

Warmest Regards,

Paul Fraser, Principal

## **Walkathon 2021 Update -Amazing Job, St. Joe's!!**

Our Walkathon Committee is pleased to announce that we not only reached but surpassed our Walkathon Pledge Goal! In total, we managed to raise just over \$42,000! Well done and many thanks to so many of our school families who sent the ClickBid link out to family and friends for pledges. Every single pledge that came in helped us to reach our goal and purchase materials for our children.

A special thank-you goes out to Erinn Bryan, Nicola Thompson and the entire Walkathon team for their excellent organization and coordination skills.



## **Track and Field - Our Final Week of Practices**

Our Grades 3- 7 Track and Field team members have been practicing hard over the past 5 weeks. This is the week that wraps up our daily event practice and put the batons, shotputs and discuses away for another year. Many thanks to the socially-distanced staff members and parents for making this year's adapted Track and Field practices possible.

## **Neat Uniform's "Focus Week": July 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**

Rather than holding a "fitting day" as in the past years, Neat has a particular Focus Week, when St. Joe's families can receive discounts and rebate offers. All the information needed is contained in a package which is being sent home via backpack.

## **Used Uniform Sale - June 30<sup>th</sup>**

A date has been set for an outdoor Used Uniform Sale. It will be held on Wednesday, June 30 (the day after students' last day of classes). More information on this will be sent home soon. The Uniform team is planning on utilizing the large tents outside the school as the location to set up and conduct the used uniform sale. Please keep an eye out for more information about this event.

## **Staffing Changes for 2021-2022**

We are pleased to share the following changes to our staff for the 2021-2022 school year!

Please join me in welcoming the following teachers to their new positions:

- Mrs. Andrea Withers will be our new Part-time Music Teacher
- Ms. Regi Nevada will be our new Full-time Grade 3 Teacher
- Mrs. Darlene Williams will become our Full-time Grade 4 Teacher
- Mrs. Anne Tien will become our Full-time Learning Resource Teacher
- Mrs. Vilma Macdonald will return as our Part-time Teacher Librarian

We also welcome Mrs. Sheryl Dragicevic back as an Education Assistant. With these changes, combined with our staff returning for another learning year, we will have an all-star staff lineup for 2021-22!

## **May Spirit Day - Fundraiser Results for BC Children's Hospital**

We had a successful May Spirit Day on May 25. The students managed to raise \$427.50. We also managed to raise \$528 with a Stuffy Raffle Draw. In total, we raised an amazing \$955.75! Special thanks go out to St. Joe's Alumni Hannah Schneider for donating 3 super cute stuffed animals for our raffle.

## **Professional Planning Day: June 14 School Closure**

A reminder that on Monday, June 14 the school will be closed for a staff-wide Planning Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, June 15.

## **Library Books Due Next Week**

We will start to collect all our library books starting this week. All library books should be returned to the school by June 10. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

## **End of Year Missioning Mass**

Please join us on Tuesday, June 29 for our end-of-year mass at 9:30am. This mass will be attended and supported by our School Missioning Class of 2021 and will be broadcast live to all classrooms and parents at home. Please join us on YouTube for live streaming!

## **Last Day of Classes and Report Cards Out - June 29**

Report Cards will be issued on Tuesday, June 29 just prior to our noon dismissal. Please note that pick-up times for the last day of classes are:

11:50am -12:00noon: Families A-L

12:00noon-12:10pm: Families M-Z