



St. Joseph the Worker October 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last night, I was honoured to attend a Truth and Reconciliation event at our own church. It was called “A Night of Truth and Healing”. Elder Don Tourangeau gave listeners a window into his profoundly painful experiences during his forced attendance at one of Canada’s federally funded church-administered Residential Schools. It was an emotional evening for both Elder Don and the parishioners as he recounted the horrors experienced at the hands of others. Elder Don ended with a message of hope and love for everyone, as he concluded that it is through helping others that peace may be found. The closing interactions between Elder Don and Father Pierre shared raw emotions of both sorrow as well as newly created bonds of friendship. Those closing moments of Grace gave me the greatest hope I experienced to date – a hope that a path to reconciliation can be forged through real accountability, honesty, truth and God’s love.

Today, the entire school celebrated St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day. With COVID protocols in place, the school and parish were still able to share St. Francis of Assisi’s message of love and humility through a school mass. St. Francis of Assisi’s life was a perfect model of living for all of us. He had no judgement on others and saw each living person and creature simply as a gift from God. In these challenging times, positive messages and reminders like his are needed more than ever.

During the month of September, we have had a safe start to our school year. A big congrats goes out to our Grade 1 class for creating an awesome video for the entire school that shared Terry Fox’s message so well. We managed to raise over \$500 for cancer research.

Finally – please keep the evening of November 20th open for our 25th Annual Guardians Gala. The theme for this Gala is “Silver 25th!” We are in need of LOTS of auction items donated, both small and large, for this virtual fundraiser to be a success. Please be watching out for the Gala Giving Package, which will be sent home via backpack soon.

God Bless,

Parent-Teacher Conferences : Wednesday, October 27th AND Thursday October 28h

Term 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences are going to occur in-person (NOT on Zoom) on two different days. Just like last year, there will be COVID protocols in place for all families attending these in-person meetings. The two days will be:

Wednesday, October 27th from 5pm-7pm

Thursday, October 28th from 10am-7pm.

Times will be listed on the form being sent home later this week. This form will request the best time of day for your 10-minute private conference. When you receive the request form in your youngest child's backpack, please fill it in and return it to the school as soon as possible to ensure your request can be accommodated.

It's time for Winter Uniforms!

A reminder that after the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend, all students must wear the winter uniform. Please refer to the Parent Handbook on our school website for uniform details and information on uniform change dates.

Operation Christmas Child - A Memorial to Arlene Lucero

The school will again be offering Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes as an optional Memorial fundraiser this year. This fundraiser was very close to Arlene Lucero's heart, and we felt it important to continue offering school families an opportunity to get involved. The involvement is for filling a shoe box with items for a boy or a girl. It does **NOT** need to include the shipping charges mentioned on the information sheet. If you are interested in getting involved in this charity support, please contact the school office at:

pfraser@stjosephtheworker.ca and we will ensure we order you an OCC shoe box.

Photo Retake Day - October 5th

St. Joe's will be holding its Retake Photo Day on **Tuesday, October 5 (am)**. Parents **MUST** telephone the school office to put their child(ren) on the photo retake list.

Professional Development Day - October 22

A reminder that school will be closed on Friday October 22 as our staff attends professional development virtual workshops during the day. Classes resume on Monday, October 25.

Earthquake Preparedness

The CISVA is participating in the province-wide “BC Shakeout” practice on Thursday, October 14. Our P-Wave system, installed and fully functional for all CISVA schools, will also be tested on this day.

For more information on preparedness, please see City of Richmond website at:
<http://www.richmond.ca/safety/prepare/notify-me>

Hallowe'en at St. Joe's!

We're still having a Hallowe'en dress-up celebration at St. Joe's! On Friday, October 29, **students will come to school in dress-down clothes**, with their **costume gear in a labeled bag**. After lunch, students will transform into their costumes and do safe classroom-level activities.

Kindergarten parents – please wait for the notice from your Kindergarten teachers on extra Hallowe'en costume instructions.

**** PARENTS PLEASE NOTE ****

No violent or gory costumes are permitted. *As well – no weapons are allowed to be part of any costumes (sorry, pirates – no swords or pistols!) Please make sure you go through this costume criteria with your child(ren) prior to October 29 in order to avoid upset students on the day. We are also asking no full-face masks are used, since masks need to still be worn.*

Trunk or Treat! It's BAAAACK on October 30th

St. Joe's is once again excited to offer the opportunity for school families to participate in our second-ever “Trunk or Treat”. It will be held this year on Saturday, October 30th from 2pm-4pm. We are looking for families to volunteer to decorate their cars and/or donate individually wrapped candies. Each car will be socially distanced and only 1 family (bubble) will be allowed at a car at one time. Our car hosts will be provided with gloves, tongs, and masks to ensure candy is safely distributed.

All Trunk hosts will need to be at the school parking lot by 1:15pm on October 30th. We are asking hosts to provide enough candy to start. We encourage families to decorate their vehicles for the children who will be visiting your car. Get creative and have fun with the decorating. There are lots of great trunk decorating ideas online. There will be prizes for the best decorated cars. We are hoping to have at least 25 decorated cars for the kids to visit.

Please click on the link below and fill out the form if you are interested in participating in “Trunk or Treat”. You must fill out the form (below) whether you wish to host a car trunk, or simply attend the event. The form will close on October 15th. If you have any questions, feel free to email the event coordinator at: sagastume.monica@gmail.com.

<https://forms.gle/zZc8nS2UoXQxhUKUA>

