



St. Joseph the Worker School Newsletter

September 8, 2023



Welcome Back to School!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school. We have had a wonderful first week and a great Welcome Assembly on Friday. Our Kindergarten children are beginning to come to school full time next week and we are excited to welcome them fully to our community. We also welcome our new grade 3 teacher, Miss Chary Castrillo to our community.

We are excited to begin our new *PEER Helper Program* that will launch later this month, our *Growing in Our Virtues* assemblies, and daily all school prayer. These new initiatives are part of our ongoing school wide effort to provide opportunities for our students to live their faith more fully and grow in their relationship with others and God.

Please take the time to read this **long** newsletter. Every family will benefit from these reminders as well as programs that are directly related to your child.

May all of God's blessings be with you and your family during this new school year.

Mrs. Andrea Bennett, Principal



School Staff : 2023-2024

Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM. – Pastor

Mrs. Andrea Bernett – Principal

Mr. Jamie Withers – Vice Principal, Grade 7

Mrs. Lynn Whitlock - Kindergarten	Mrs. Lynn Lovik - EA
Miss Renee Foran - Grade 1	Mrs. Monica Ramirez - EA
Mrs. Diane Ison - Grade 2	Mrs. Vanessa Pereira-Li - EA
Mrs. Libby Ekels - Grade 3	Mrs. Bickie Lam - EA
Miss Chary Castrillo - Grade 4	Mrs. Veronique Horry - EA
Mr. Theo Lorenz - Grade 5	Miss Kelly Shaw - EA
Miss Regi Nevada - Grade 6	Mrs. Ann McIntosh - EA
Mr. Jamie Withers - Grade 7	Mrs. Cheryl Perry - EA
Mrs. Anne Tien - Learning Support	Mrs. Kathy Pember - EA
Miss Cecilia Ramirez - Learning Support	Mrs. Sheryl Dragicevic - EA
Mrs. Andrea Withers - Music/Learning Support	Mrs. Larrie Hong - EA
Mrs. Vilma MacDonald - Library	Mrs. Lisa Phillips - Bookkeeper
Mr. Tom Girard - Physical Education	Mrs. Denise Lorenz - School Secretary
Mrs. Lilian Vernier - Learning Support	
Darlene Williams - Grade 4 (on leave)	Ivy Zuzartee - EA (on leave)
	Sheila Leacock - EA (on leave)

Parish Education Committee (PEC) 2023-2024

Fr. Pierre Ducharme - Pastor	Monica Francisco - Fundraising	Henry Lam - Treasurer
Sean O'Brien - Chair	Nicola Thompson - Fundraising	
Dean Saldanha - PP/Vice Chair	Bryan Walls - Maintenance	
Melisa Lui - Secretary	Ricardo Hernandez - Uniforms	

September School Events

Wednesday, September 13th

- **FIRST SCHOOL MASS - 9:15 am.** The theme for this school year is: “LIVING, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith”. Grade 2 and 7 classes will be leading the 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 our choir will lead us in song.
- 2 pm dismissal

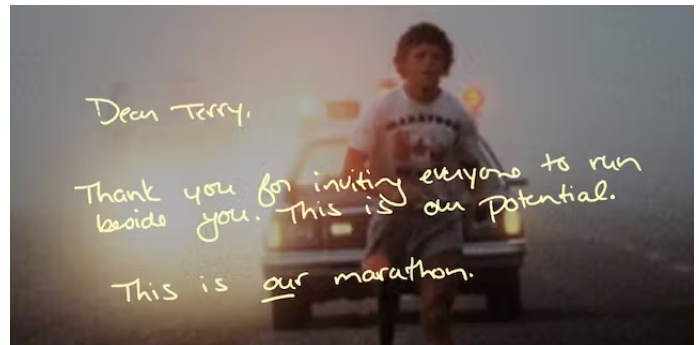
Thursday, September 14th - Meet the Teacher

7:00 pm (Important meeting beginning 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 any changes, 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. There will be multiple sessions for families with more than one child at the school.

Friday, September 22nd - Terry Fox Fun Run

To celebrate Terry Fox's life and subsequently his contribution to cancer research, we will once again be holding a mini-run, jog and walk for a short time around our property. 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 clothes appropriate to run/walk outside and bring in a minimum donation of a toonie. All proceeds will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.



Monday, September 25th

Whole school photo day including our Panoramic shot. Please have your child in full uniform with their sweater. Further information will be sent home soon.

Wednesday, September 27th

- 2 pm dismissal

Friday, September 29th - Orange Shirt Day

Students are asked to wear an orange shirt to stand in solidarity with our First Nations communities. We will have a school assembly on this day and a project that we will do as a whole school. More information will be forthcoming from your class teacher(s).

******A reminder to all that Spirit Day dress should be modest, appropriate and in keeping with the Catholic school environment here at St. Joseph the Worker. *******

Athletics & Extracurriculars

Volleyball

Girls - grades 4-7

- Starts Monday, September 11th
- Permission forms were sent home this week

Boys - grades 4-7

- Starts Monday, September 25th, permission forms will go home the week prior

Boys Soccer

- Permission forms will go home next week

Cross Country

- Starts Monday, September 11th
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8am start. Rain or shine!
- Permission forms went home this week

Band

- For students in grades 6 & 7 again this year and will begin October 11th
- October 4th will be the renal night
- Information will be sent home in the next few weeks

Choir

- Primary Choir will be for grades 1-3 and will start after Thanksgiving break
- Intermediate Choir will be for grades 4-7 and will start on Tuesday, Oct 10th at lunch

Questions and Reminders

Criminal Record Checks (CRC's)

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe environment for all students and community members, we require our parent volunteers to complete the following CRC check. This includes volunteer roles that involve student interaction; driving students to and from school events/games, any school day volunteering, coaching etc. I strongly suggest you complete this process so if the opportunity arises for you to volunteer you will not be delayed or prevented from doing so. Please use the following link to complete this process and notify Laura that you have submitted your check. Results come directly to the parish and we are notified.

As part of the criminal record check application, your identity will be verified electronically by the Ministry of Justice using your BC Services Card.

1. Log on to <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck/>
2. Use our Access Code: **G8HC368U38**
3. Complete the on-line criminal record check application.
4. **If your application is successfully submitted, you will get a confirmation service request number.** Please email the service request number to Laura Carandang pa.stjw@rcav.org. The result will be emailed to us within **3-4 weeks**, and you should receive a confirmation email.
5. **If the system could not complete your request, or you are unable to verify your identity using your BC Services Card:**
 1. Apply a second time as you may be successful on your second attempt.
 2. If after your second attempt the system could not complete your request, you may receive a return email with a "Criminal Record Check" form that can be mailed. **Please do not use this form.** Contact Laura Carandang to arrange to complete and sign a form in the Parish Office which we will submit on your behalf.
 3. Once I have received and submitted your Criminal Record Check form, the results will be e-mailed to us within **3-4 weeks**.

Spirit Days - What are they?

These days are our monthly opportunity to support those in need or stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized. 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 raised goes to the charity or an organization such as B.C. Children’s Hospital, Covenant House or this month, the **Terry Fox Foundation**. We also sponsor a school in Kenya through Chalice. Check out the board in the foyer for more information and updates.

Wednesday Assemblies

All school assemblies will be held each **Wednesday**. In the event that a school mass falls on a Wednesday, there will be no assembly that week. Each class will take the leadership role once during the year to lead assemblies and prepare for our spirit days that will normally fall on designated Fridays. This Year we are introducing **Growing in our Virtues** assembly. Our Friars will be participating in this new initiative and together we will be focusing on living our faith through our actions at school and in our community.

We will continue with our **Welcome Wednesdays** on the first Wednesday of every month. This is an opportunity for parents to visit the hallways and view their child(ren)’s work. If we have a mass on the first Wednesday we encourage you to join us for mass and Barista ministry as well. Our first Welcome Wednesday will be October 4th which is also the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. We look forward to seeing you at school and at mass that day.

After School Supervision

We ask you to make sure you pick up your children as promptly after the end of the day as students are supervised outside for only fifteen minutes after school is dismissed. At 3:05pm, 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(s) 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

NO FAST FOOD LUNCHES OR POP should be brought to the school by your children or dropped off during the day. 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. Pizza lunch and Hot Lunch will begin in October.

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please call in the morning to advise the office via phone or email. It is not sufficient that a sibling advise the office of your child's absence. Please submit an absence note upon their return.

Safety

We ask you once again to sign in at the office and take a badge before entering into the school hallways as well as when you come for any supervision duties. 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.

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.

Traffic

As per my most recent letter home to parents, parking lot safety continues to be of the highest priority. 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.

2023 TRAFFIC SAFETY PROCEDURES

MORNING = DROP-OFF ONLY

- **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 zones”**

- **Please DO NOT drop your child(ren) off against the school; please drive up to the zones**
- **Drop off can be anytime from 8:30-8:45 am. Students head directly into their classrooms. Parents are asked to please stay in their cars unless they have a meeting or are volunteering at the school.**

AFTERNOON PICK-UP:

- **When entering the parking lot, please slow your vehicle down to 10km/h**
- **Pick-up time is 2:50pm for ALL STUDENTS**
- **If parking please park cars in the two designated parking rows and escort child(ren) to your parked car.**
- **If picking up in the zone, 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 THREE 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.**
- **IF YOUR CHILD(REN) ARE NOT READY TO ENTER YOUR VEHICLE DURING AFTERNOON PICK-UP, PLEASE CIRCLE AROUND, OR PARK YOUR VEHICLE AND PICK THEM UP BY HAND. DO NOT HONK YOUR HORN AT YOUR CHILD IN THE PICK-UP ZONE.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on following all of these important procedures.

