



# St. Joseph the Worker School

## September Newsletter

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We were blessed with beautiful weather for the first week back at school. It has been wonderful to see the smiling faces of the students, staff, and parents once again after our summer break. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the St. Joseph the Worker School community.



I am excited to begin my role as Principal of St. Joe's. This school is blessed with a dedicated and creative staff, with caring and faith-filled friars, with a supportive and involved parent group, and with energetic and enthusiastic students. It is an honour to serve this community.

I want to thank both Mrs. Bernett and Mr. Fraser, my two most recent predecessors for the leadership they showed during their time here.



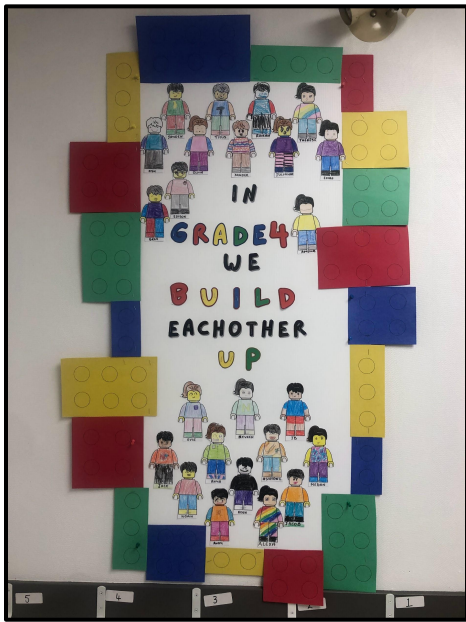
I would like to welcome all of the new families to our school. There are thirty new students in Kindergarten and we are blessed with new students in Grades 2, 3, and 7 as well. We also welcome three new staff members - Ms. Celine Bance, our new Grade 4 teacher, Mr. Charles Johnson, our new Music specialist, and Ms. Alysha Carandang, who is joining our team of educational assistants. We are also pleased to announce the return of Mrs. Darlene Williams, our teacher-librarian.



The staff of St. Joseph the Worker School and I look forward to guiding the students this year and witnessing the growth that they will show in the next ten months. May all of God's blessings be with you and your family during this new school year.

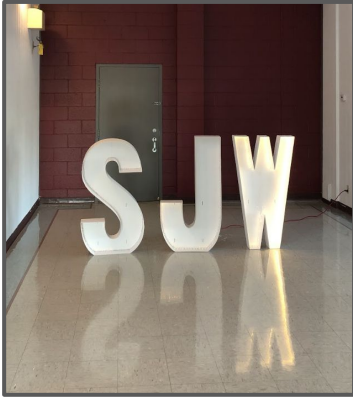
Mr. Jamie Withers  
Principal

## School Staff (2024-25)



Pastor	Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM
Principal	Mr. Jamie Withers
Vice Principal	Mrs. Diane Ison
Vice Principal	Mrs. Anne Tien
Grade 7	Mrs. Diane Ison
Grade 6	Ms. Regi Nevada
Grade 5	Mr. Theo Lorenz
Grade 4	Ms. Celine Bance
Grade 3	Ms. Libby Ekels
Grade 2	Ms. Chary Castrillo
Grade 1	Miss Renée Foran
Kindergarten	Mrs. Lynn Whitlock
Learning Support	Mrs. Anne Tien
Learning Support	Ms. Cecilia Ramirez
P.E.	Mr. Tom Girard
Music	Mr. Charles Johnson
French	Mrs. Lilian Vernier
Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. Darlene Williams
Educational Assistants	Ms. Alysha Carandang
	Ms. Emily Dragicevic
	Mrs. Sheryl Dragicevic
	Mrs. Larrie Hong
	Mrs. Veronique Horry
	Mrs. Bickie Lam
	Mrs. Sheila Leacock (on leave)
	Mrs. Lynn Lovik
	Mrs. Ann McIntosh
	Mrs. Kathy Pember
	Mrs. Vanessa Pereira-Li
	Mrs. Cheryl Perry
	Mrs. Monica Ramirez
	Mrs. Kelly Shaw
	Mrs. Ivy Zuzartee (on leave)
Secretary	Mrs. Denise Lorenz
Bookkeeper	Mrs. Lisa Phillips

# Parish Education Committee (2024-25)



Chair	Sean O'Brien
Vice-Chair	Dean Saldanha
Treasurer/Tuition	Henry Lam
Secretary/Policy	Stephanie Mui
Parent Participation / Society Delegate	Nicola Thompson
Maintenance	Bryan Walls
Uniform	Ricardo Hernandez
Fundraising	Monica Francisco
Fundraising	Melissa Lui

## September 2024 School Events

### Wednesday, September 11th - 2pm Early Dismissal

Please remember that the **second** and **last Wednesday** of every month is an early 2pm dismissal. We ask that you pick up your children promptly at that time. Due to the school staff meeting, there is no Homework Club on early dismissal Wednesdays.

### Thursday, September 12th - Meet the Teacher Night (7pm)

Meet the Teacher Night will begin with an important general session for all parents in the gym. At this session, parents will be introduced to school staff and members of the P.E.C. I will also deliver important information and reminders to ensure the school year runs as smoothly as possible. Presentations by the classroom teachers will follow in their classrooms. At these sessions, teachers will give a year overview and will outline their expectations for the students. The primary teachers (K-3) will present first after the general session and the intermediate presentations (4-7) will follow.

### Friday, September 13th - Family Friday and School Mass (9am)

Parents are invited to spend a few minutes in their child's classroom on Friday morning until 8:45am and are then welcome to join us for mass. Our September mass will be led by the Grades 3 and 7 classes, while the Grade 6 students will be in the choir. Our school masses will be led by different classes each month.

### Friday, September 20th - Spirit Assembly (9am)

At this assembly, our Grade 1 class will promote our upcoming Terry Fox Run.

### Monday, September 23rd - Individual / Class / Panorama Photos

Individual photos, class photos, and our school-wide panoramic shot will be taken. Please have your child in full uniform with their sweater and school shoes. Further information will be sent home soon.

### Tuesday, September 24th - Terry Fox Run / Spirit Day

To celebrate Terry Fox's life and his contribution to cancer research, we will once again be holding a mini-run, jog and walk for a short time around our property. This day will also be a Spirit Day, which is a day off from the usual uniform. 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.

# September 2024 School Events (*continued*)

**Wednesday, September 25th - 2pm Early Dismissal**

**Thursday, September 26th - Orange Shirt Day**

Students are asked to wear an orange shirt to stand in solidarity with our First Nations communities. Special activities for the students are being organized.

**Friday, September 27th - Assembly (9am)**

Parents are invited to attend.

**Monday, September 30th - NO SCHOOL - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

On this day, schools across Canada are closed. This day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

## Fall Extracurricular Activities

### Volleyball

**Girls** Starts today, Monday, September 9th for Grades 5-7.  
Permission forms were sent home last week.

**Boys** Starts Monday, September 23rd for Grades 5-7.  
Permission forms will be sent home the week prior.

An intramural recess Grade 4 volleyball program will start soon.

### Soccer

**Boys** Permission forms will go home this week. The season runs until the end of October.

**Girls** Girls soccer is in the spring.

### Cross Country

Cross country for Grades 2-7 started today, Monday, September 9th. Practices are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8am - rain or shine! Permission forms were sent home last week. As cross country is an outdoor sport, students will not be permitted to wear their **indoor** gym shoes. Please ensure they bring a different pair of runners for running outside.

### Band

Band is for students in Grades 6 and 7. Band rental night will be Tuesday, October 8th, and the program will begin Wednesday, October 23rd after school. Information will be sent home in the next few weeks.

### Choir

Primary Choir will be for Grades 1-3 and will start after the Thanksgiving break. Practices will be Thursday mornings before school.

Intermediate Choir will be for Grades 4-7 and will start on Tuesday, October 1st at lunch.

# School Updates



Living,  
**CELEBRATING,**  
and Proclaiming  
**OUR FAITH**

## Celebrating our Faith

Each year, the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese selects a theme for all of their schools. Last year, the theme was “Living Our Faith,” and we explored how the students could live such virtues as charity, prudence, temperance, justice, hope and faith. This year’s theme of “Celebrating Our Faith” builds on this, and we will especially focus on how Catholics celebrate what God has done for us. We will also look at how our Catholic celebrations help us to understand who we are and our place in the world. We look forward to unpacking this theme at our assemblies and in the classes.

## School Renovations

You will notice many changes when you walk through the school. The gym floor has been resurfaced, the hallways have been repainted, new cabinets were installed in the Music room and the Learning Support department has switched rooms with the parish Religious Education office, and our new larger classroom has been renovated. There have been other repairs and improvements as well. I would like to offer a huge thank you to Bryan Walls, Ursula Mendez and Andrea Bernett for all of their planning, hard work and expertise.



## School Routines and Reminders

### Spirit Days

Spirit Days are our monthly opportunity to support those in need or stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized. We ask each student to bring in a toonie that they have taken from their savings or perhaps “earned” by doing extra chores. This way, the money comes from them. On Spirit Days, students are able to “dress down” in play clothes. 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.

### Family Fridays

Parents are invited to spend a few minutes in their child’s classrooms on one Friday per month. Family Fridays are from 8:30 until 8:45am. Often, our Family Fridays will coincide with our school masses.

# School Routines and Reminders

## New Student Absence Procedure

As outlined in my first letter of the year, we have a new procedure for parents to notify the school of absent students. If your child is absent from school:

- Email [absent@stjosephtheworker.ca](mailto:absent@stjosephtheworker.ca).
- “Cc” your child’s classroom teacher so they are aware of the absence.
- Include your child’s name and grade in the subject of your email.
- Include your child’s name, the date of their absence, and the reason for their absence in the body of the email.
- An email is required for half-day absences if a student will be away for a full morning or afternoon.
- You may phone the school as well, but this is not mandatory.

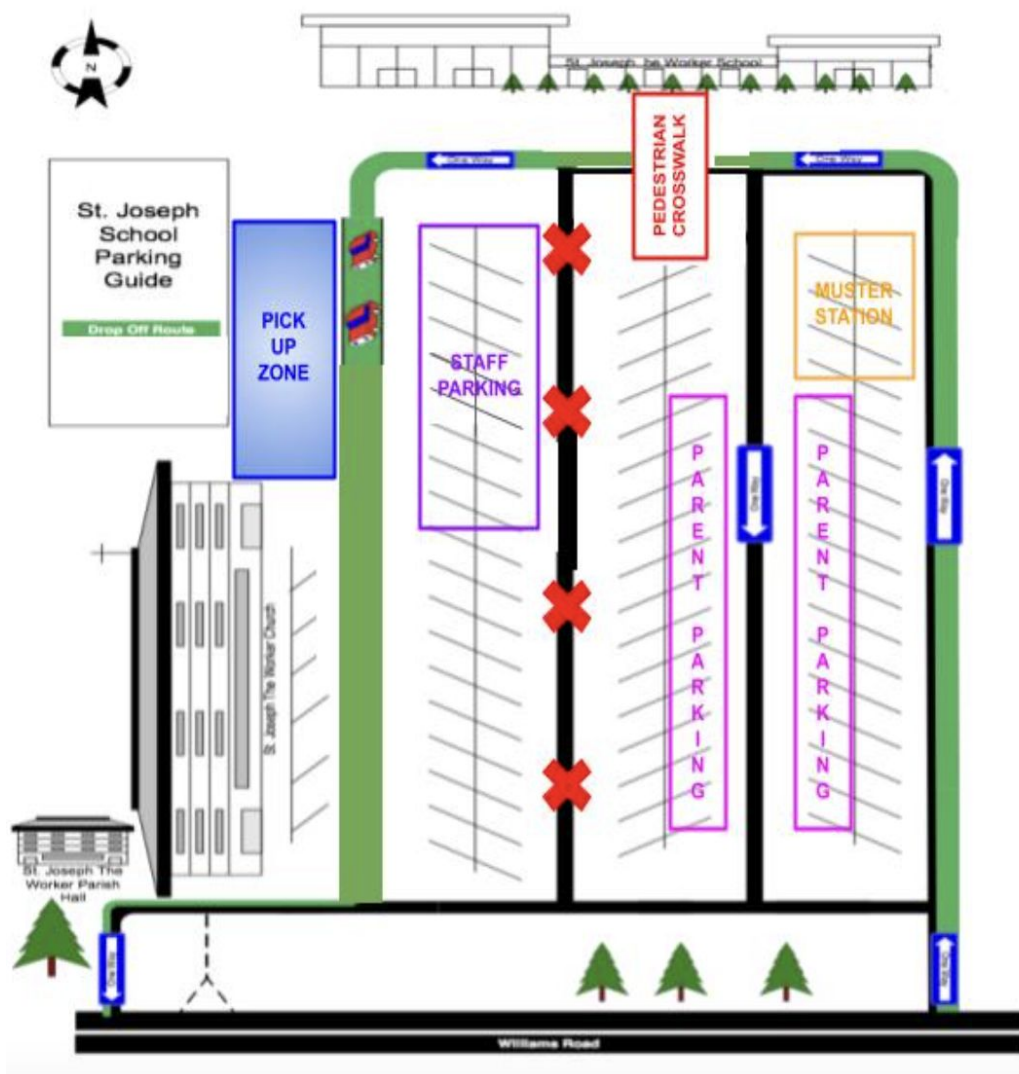
In the provincial database, we are required to identify if a student’s absence is “excused.” Students are excused if they are absent for illness or for a medical appointment. Students are not considered excused if they are absent for other reasons, including if they are away on vacation, at a community sports tournament, spending a fun day with a parent, or if no reason is given for their absence. Students who have too many unexcused absences may not be eligible for government funding, in which case, as per P.E.C. policy, the parents will be asked to pay for the shortfall in funding.

## Parking Lot Routines

In the mornings and afternoons, parents may choose to park and escort their child to/from the front of the school or they may drop off/pick up their child using the drive-through lane (see map). Parents who escort their child to school must use the marked crosswalk. Please wait for the crossing guards to indicate that it is safe to cross.

The morning drop-off times are **8:25-8:45am**. Please do not drop off your child before 8:25am, as there is no supervision at that point.

The afternoon pick-up times are **2:50-3:05pm**. Outdoor supervision ends at 3:05pm.



# School Routines and Reminders

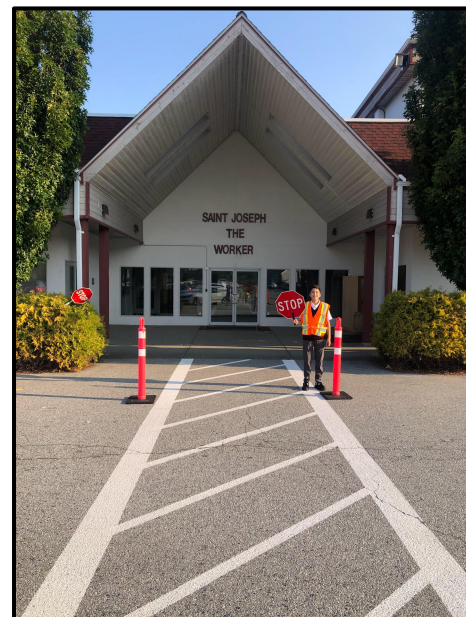
## Reminder: Parking Lot Safety

Safety of your children is our number one priority. Upon entering the school parking lot, parents must drive straight towards the school on the east side of the property. Do not turn towards the church.

While driving on school property, we ask that you drive slowly (the posted speed limit is 10 km/h), you pay close attention to the directions of the student crossing guards and teacher supervisors, and that you watch carefully for other children. Most students are much shorter than adults and may not be immediately visible through rear-view mirrors.

Ensure you only use the marked crosswalk at the entrance of the school gym when walking to the school from the parking lot.

There is absolutely no overtaking of cars in the drive-through lane. Please ensure that anyone who is picking up your child (grandparents, friends, etc.) are familiar with the regulations.



## After School Supervision

We ask you to pick up your children promptly at 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. Before 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.

## Gym Strip

**Kindergarten** - Students do not change clothes other than their runners for P.E. class.

**Grades 1-3** - Students must wear the burgundy shorts or their summer uniform grey shorts for P.E. Girls wear the burgundy shorts under their tunics, and often, boys wear these under their uniform pants. Primary students may continue to wear their white golf shirts for P.E. Students who are in cross country should wear their white gym shirts while participating in the sport.

**Grades 4-7** - Students must wear burgundy shorts and the white crested gym t-shirts for P.E. Students must change out of their t-shirts and into their golf shirts after P.E..

**Runners (K-7)** - All students must wear clean runners with non-marking soles in the gym and for assemblies. When in the gym, students are not permitted to wear shoes that they have worn outside. This means that students should have different runners when P.E. classes are outdoors.

# School Routines and Reminders

## School Lunches

Fast food lunches and pop should not be brought to the school by your children or dropped off during the day. If your child is going home for lunch, please email your child's teacher 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. Our Hot Lunch program will begin in October.

## Criminal Record Checks (CRCs)

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 roles that involve student interaction such as driving students to and from school events/games, any school day volunteering, coaching etc. You are strongly encouraged to complete this process now 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 Carandang from the parish that you have submitted your check. Results come directly to the parish.

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](mailto:pa.stjw@rcav.org) The result will be emailed to us within 3-4 weeks, and you should receive a confirmation email. CRCs are valid for five years.



## Communication

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns specific to your child's class. This is the staff member who knows your child best and will hopefully be able to solve any problems and deal with your concerns. Speak to the Principal if the problem involves the school at large, or if you do not feel satisfied that your concern has been acted upon or understood by the classroom teacher. You can also contact Mrs. Lorenz if you have any general questions about the school.

Thank you for your support of our school. On behalf of the school staff, we wish you and your children a happy and fulfilling school year.