



St. Joseph the Worker School

Newsletter for October 2024



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The first month of the school year has flown by! After spending the early days of the month on introductory activities, students are now fully engaged in their new grade level's provincial curriculum. Outside of the classroom, many other activities have started, as we are currently offering cross country running, volleyball, boys soccer, peer helping, choir, and our band program will soon begin as well.

The students are busy participating in a variety of learning experiences and activities, and I encourage you to come to Family Friday if possible, to join us for our masses and assemblies, and of course, to participate in parent-teacher conferences this month to celebrate your child's accomplishments so far.

Sometimes in our busy days, we forget to take a moment to show gratitude to God. As Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage all students, staff, and their families to find time to pause and think about the blessings in their lives. Although these blessings are different for all of us, together we can thank God for giving us life and for loving us unconditionally. This year, we are teaching the students to "Celebrate Our Faith," and I can think of no better way to do so than by giving thanks to the Creator.

Happy Thanksgiving, families of St. Joseph the Worker School! I feel very blessed to be part of this community.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

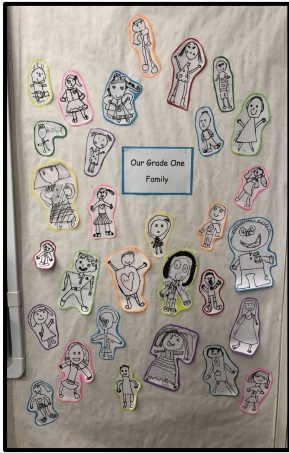
Mr. Jamie Withers
Principal



Highlights From September

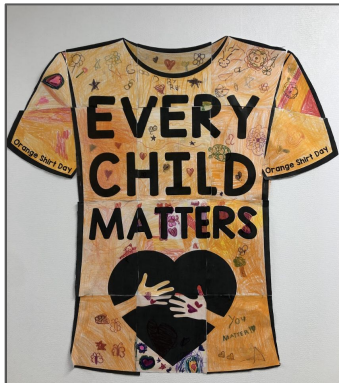
School Photos

Individual and class photos were taken last week. You can now access and order your child's photos using the QR code that was sent home. The deadline is October 16th. Please refer to my recent email for more information about ordering. Class photos will be sent home at a later date. The weather did not cooperate for our school-wide panorama photo, and so this has been rescheduled for retake day, Tuesday, October 29th. If you would like to sign up your child for an individual retake, please contact Mrs. Lorenz in the office.



Terry Fox Run

We were blessed with beautiful weather for our Terry Fox Run last Tuesday. I was impressed to see the students pushing themselves to run, even though it wasn't easy. Students can be proud that our school raised more than \$550 for the Terry Fox Foundation.



Truth and Reconciliation Assembly & Orange Shirt Day

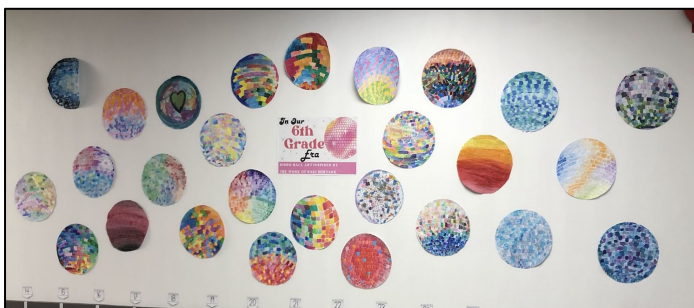
On September 26th, to honour the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities, the students wore their orange shirts, joined in a school-wide assembly, and participated in a variety of classroom activities.

St. Catherine's Cross Country Meet

Last Friday was a beautiful day and the students did a fine job of representing our school at the St. Catherine's cross country meet in Langley. Well done everyone!

Peer Helpers

Our Grade 6-7 peer helper program started a few weeks ago with a wonderful retreat organized by Mrs. Tien and Ms. Ramirez. The peer helpers are quickly learning to tend to small injuries, to help the younger students to play fairly, and to troubleshoot new situations. Thank you, peer helpers, for choosing to serve our school!



October 2024 School Events

Friday, October 4th - 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. Friday is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a key celebration in the life of our Franciscan parish. This mass will be led by the Grades 2 and 6 classes, while the Grade 5 students will be in the choir. Barista will follow mass.



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

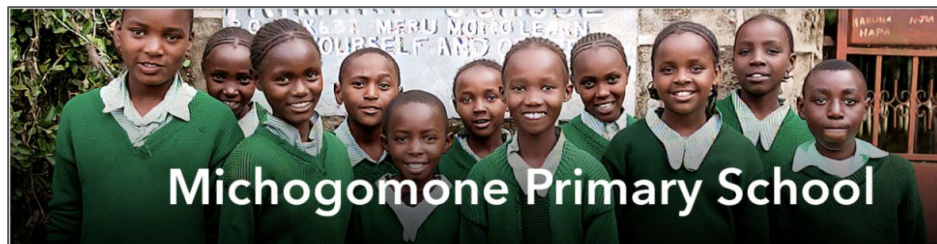
Wednesday, October 9th - 2pm Early Dismissal / Hot Lunch

Thursday, October 10th - New Parent Night - 7pm

Hosted by the P.E.C., this night is to welcome our new and Kindergarten parents to the school community. Beverages and light snacks will be provided in the gym and our P.E.C. will provide important information. There will be time to get to know other parents and our P.E.C. in a social environment. We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday, October 11th - Spirit Assembly (9am)

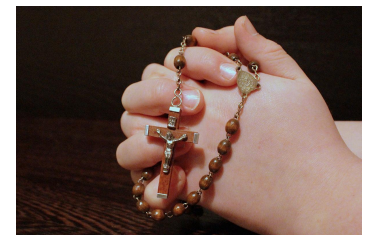
At this assembly, the Grade 7 class will promote our upcoming Spirit Day for our sister school in Kenya. Parents are welcome!



Monday, October 14th - Thanksgiving (No School)

Wednesday, October 16th - Living Rosary

The Living Rosary will be led by our Grades 6 and 7 classes at 10:40am in the church. Parents are welcome to attend and pray with us.



Wednesday, October 16th - Parent Teacher Conferences (5pm-7:30pm)

Wednesday is a regular school day for students with dismissal at 2:50pm.

Thursday, October 17th - No Classes - Parent-Teacher Conferences (10am-6pm)

There are no classes on Thursday as parent-teacher conferences are scheduled all day.

More information on parent-teacher conferences:

Intermediate students (Grades 4-7) must attend the conferences with their parents.

Primary students (Kindergarten-Grade 3) do not attend the conference with their parents.

Sign-up information will be sent home in this Friday's teacher emails.

The book fair will be held during parent-teacher conferences as well.

October 2024 School Events (*continued*)

Friday, October 18th - Morning Assembly / Spirit Day for Chalice (\$2)

Parents are invited to attend our morning assembly at 9am.

Students are reminded to dress down for the day and to bring a toonie to donate to Chalice, which facilitates projects in our sister school in Kenya.

Friday, October 25th - No School (Provincial Professional Day)

Tuesday, October 29th - Photo Retakes

Please contact Mrs. Lorenz if your child will be having a photo retake.

The school-wide panorama photo will be this day, weather permitting.

Wednesday, October 30th - 2pm Early Dismissal / Hot Lunch

Thursday, October 31st - Halloween

Students may dress up for school on Halloween. Costumes must not include masks or weapons. Costumes need to be appropriate for school and in particular a Catholic school in which the children are between 4 and 12 years old. Teachers will review this information with their classes in their Friday email preceding Halloween. We appreciate the generous offers to bring candy for the students, however we kindly ask that parents do not send treats to school.



What's Happening in the Parish



Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 6th at 3pm

Pre-teen Ministry - fourth Thursday of every month

Grades 5-7 students are welcome to participate in pre-teen ministry, which will next take place in the gym on Thursday, October 24th from 7pm-8:30pm.

Bible Study - Gospel of Luke - Mondays (October 21st - December 16th)

With the arrival of fall, we invite you to participate in an exciting Bible study:

Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled!

We'll gather each week, either in the afternoon (~12 PM) or in the evening (~7 PM), depending on your preference.

To join, simply email Laura or Chelsea at pa.stjw@rcav.org or stjw.rcia@rcav.org. When you respond, please let us know which session you prefer (afternoon or evening), so we can plan accordingly and order the necessary workbooks.

Extracurricular Updates

Cross Country

It has been good to see such dedication from the athletes at our morning cross country practices. The final meet is the Salmon Run, which will take place next Friday afternoon, October 11th. This meet, which is co-hosted by St. Paul's School, will be held at Garry Point. Information will be sent home to cross country athletes this week. Here are some photos from last week's St. Catherine's meet:



Volleyball

Volleyball season is in full-swing. Best of luck to the girls and boys teams in their games, jamborees, and as they approach the playoffs.

Boys Soccer

Games and practices continue this month for both the junior and senior teams.

Band (Grades 6-7)

Band rental night will be Tuesday, October 8th, and the program will begin Wednesday, October 23rd after school. More information is being sent home this week.

Choir

Primary Choir (Grades 1-3) starts after the Thanksgiving break. Practices are Thursday mornings before school.

Intermediate Choir (Grades 4-7) has started. Practices are Tuesdays at lunch.

New School Updates and Reminders

WhatsApp and Accurate Information

Most grades have a WhatsApp group that has been set up by the parents in that class. This is one way for parents to keep in touch with each other. When posting reminders about school activities, please ensure that information is accurate by double-checking the parent handbook, by reading the newsletters / teacher emails, or by checking with the class parent or the classroom teacher. Thank you for helping to keep everyone informed with accurate information.

Using the Drive Through Lane in the Parking Lot

When children require extra support getting out of or into the car, we ask parents to park in the designated area and escort their children. Parents should remain in their cars when they are using the drive through lane. This keeps the drive through lane moving efficiently so that cars do not back up on Williams Road. Staff members can help open curb-side car doors when needed in the drive through lane. Thank you for your cooperation.

New School Updates and Reminders

Parent Drivers

As sports away games and field trips are starting, here is an important reminder of our school policy regarding parent drivers: When parent drivers are used, teachers will assign students into cars. Parents may not organize which students they will drive, or which car their child will go in without prior teacher approval for special circumstances.

Early Morning Practices, After School Games, and Siblings

If your child has an early morning practice at school, please remember that you may not drop off their siblings at the same time, as supervision is not available. If your child has an after school practice or game, their siblings may only stay behind for games if their parent is also there watching, or, for older students, if they are performing an official function (such as scorekeeping).

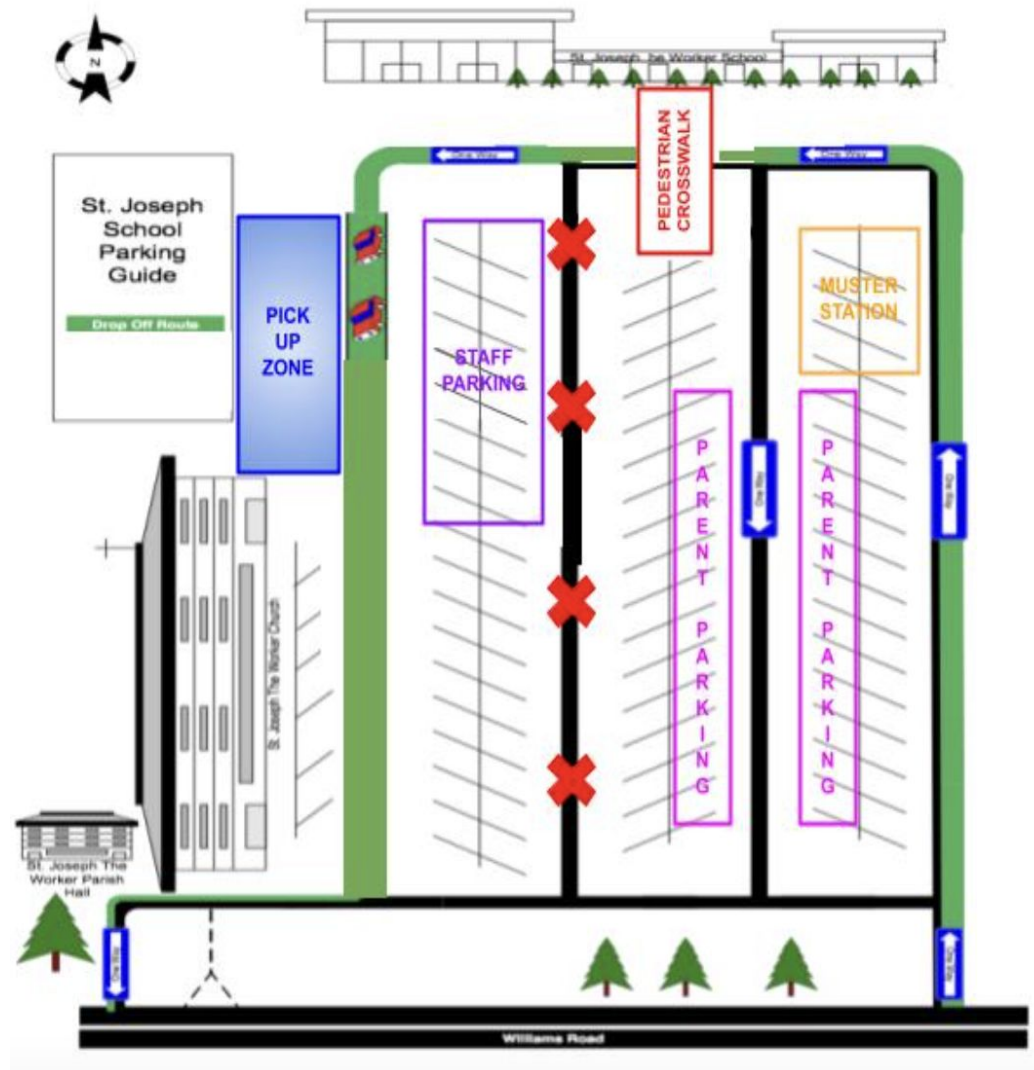
Ongoing School Reminders

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.



Ongoing School Reminders

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
- 5) The result will be emailed to us within 3-4 weeks, and you should receive a confirmation email. CRCs are valid for five years.

Student Absence Procedure

Thank you for following our new absence procedure this year. I have reprinted the procedure here as a reminder. If your child is absent from school:

- Email 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.

