



February, 2025
Volume 15, Issue 6

March 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming School Closures

Please keep these dates in mind, as some of the dates the school will be closed will not coincide with the public school calendar.

March	April	May
Early Dismissal Friday, March 14 Noon	Early Dismissal Thursday, April 17 Noon	Victoria Day Monday, May 19
Spring Break Monday, March 17 to Friday, March 28	Good Friday Monday, April 18	Non Instructional Day Tuesday, May 20
	Easter Monday Monday, April 21	

Lenten Pancake Breakfast & Mardi Gras! | Tuesday, March 4th

Before we begin our Lenten journey, we will celebrate Mardi Gras on Tuesday, March 4th. Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, is celebrated as the last day of eating rich, fatty foods before the sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season begins. In New Orleans, as well as other places in the world, there is a big celebration with masks, costumes and dancing. We are going to have our own version of a Mardi Gras celebration at St. Joseph's this year.

We will be having a Pancake Breakfast! You are all invited to join us at the school gym between the hours of 7:45-8:45 to have pancakes with the staff and students. Mr. Schultz will be our pancake chef for the day, and the Grade 7s will serve us the pancakes. We hope you can join us!

On this day, we will also gather as a school for "The Burning of the Palms", where Father Minh will prepare use palms from Palm Sunday to prepare the ashes for Ash Wednesday. This will take place at 11:45am on our school playground.

Spring Break

The school will be closed from Monday, March 17th to Friday, March 28th for Spring Break. School will be dismissed at 12:00pm on Friday, March 14th and will re-open with regular hours on Monday, March 31st. Please note that there will be NO Afterschool Club on Friday, March 14th. We hope you have a wonderful break with your families!

Green Colour Day

On Thursday, March 13th, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day early! On that day, with a minimum donation of \$2.00, the students may wear green clothing instead of their uniforms. The money will be donated to Covenant House. Thank you for your generosity!

A message from our Principal, Mr. Michael Schultz

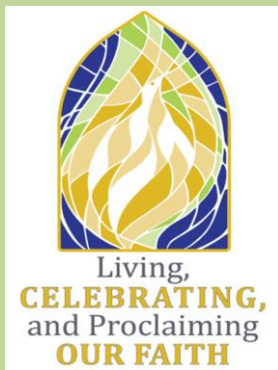
Dear Parents,

It is fitting that the beginning of the month of March also marks the beginning of our Lenten journey. One of the great gifts of being a Catholic school is that we can take this journey towards Easter together as a community.

I am very excited to start our month with our pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday, which we will follow up with Father Minh leading our "Burning of the Palms" prayer service, where our students can pray together and learn where our ashes for Ash Wednesday come from. We will follow that on the very next day with our Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00 at the church. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all our families to both our pancake breakfast and our Ash Wednesday mass.

As is always the case, there will be a special focus throughout Lent on our commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I think it is a very important thing for students of all ages to understand what these things can mean to them. I know that our teachers will do a great job of focusing on these things in classes throughout Lent.

Throughout this season, we ask for your continued prayers, and you can rest assured that the school is praying for all your families as well.



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH



Track & Field 2024-2025

Permission slips for track and field will be distributed next week and practices will begin after Spring Break. Track is open to students from grades one through seven. Joining track is a commitment and we expect students who join to attend all practices throughout the season, with the exception of medical absences. We are looking forward to a great season!

Absences

If your child will be absent from school please notify the office and their teacher, especially if your child will be away for a certain length of time.

Absences will be audited in May. Students are to attend school for a required number of days per year or you will be audited. Auditors will be looking through absence notes during the audit.

Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, March 5th

We will begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, March 5th. Our school community will celebrate Mass at 9:00am on that day, including the distribution of ashes. Each class will journey together through Lent, making individual and group sacrifices to mark our own journey with Christ.

St. Joseph's Feast Day

As you know, our Parish celebrates the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th. We will be on Spring Break at that time, and so we will celebrate with a St. Joseph retreat on the morning of Friday, March 14th.

After Mass, the students will work with their buddy classes to complete activities to learn more about and honour our patron Saint.

In addition, St. Joseph's Parish will celebrate our Saint on Saturday, March 15th at 10:30am with a bilingual Mass and a small reception to follow at the school gym. Hope to see you there!

Communicating Student Learning

Please note that the Communicating Student Learning progress reports (report cards) will be sent home with the students on Thursday, March 13th. Please keep your copy of the report and return the envelope to the school. If you have any questions about your children's progress, please make an appointment with their teachers.

Spring Raffle 2025

Raffle tickets will be going home the first week of March, they are due back to the office by April 28th. Tickets are \$5 and each family will be sent a book of 20 tickets. The first book sold is \$75 towards fundraising commitment and every book sold after is \$100 towards your fundraising commitment. Even if you have finished your fundraising goal, each book you sell counts for 6.7 hours if you haven't finished your hours yet!

All ticket stubs and unsold tickets must be returned to the office. Books that are not returned will be billed to the family.

Basketball

Thank you very much to our coaches who worked with the students this year in basketball. We had a great season of developing skills and playing games. Great work to all the students who took part in basketball this year! Thank you to Mr. Shultz for being our coaches this year!

Participation and Fundraising Statements

Statements went home with your re-registration package or tax receipt. If there are any missing hours, please make sure you have entered them on the onvolunteers website. Remember that you have until May 31, 2025 to complete hours and fundraising. Bills will be sent home in June for immediate payment.

Hot Lunch Forms – April to June

We will be sending hot lunch order forms this week. We will be sticking to White Spot and Pizza for this new order. Order forms and payment are due on March 12th. We will not be accepting any orders after this date. We will only grant cancellations and changes to lunch orders after the deadline date.

Dress for the Weather

The weather is getting warmer these days as Spring creeps up. In Vancouver, spring also means rainy days. The students will still go outside for recess during light rainy days. Please ensure that your child has a jacket to keep them dry during recess.