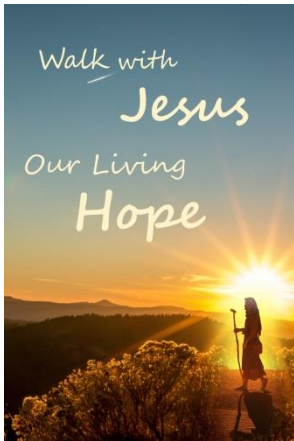


February, 2021
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February Newsletter



Walk with
Jesus in
Love

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all well and still managing during this difficult time. We were given such hope last month with the arrival of the vaccine, but it still seems sometimes that we will never get to the end of this pandemic. It is a good test of our faith and trust in God, to maintain our reliance on His goodness that we will be brought

through and all will be well. Our theme this year is Walk With Jesus Our Living Hope, and it is during times like these that we realize that our hope in Christ is the only thing that will keep us going. Sometimes, it may feel that we are plodding or even stumbling instead of walking, but, regardless of the way that we are moving

along our path, we know that our God is with us, guiding us and carrying us along our way. During these days that we are tired of worrying and working hard to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, and just tired of this pandemic, we must remind ourselves that we are, indeed, people of hope.

Communicating Student Learning

The Student Progress Reports for the first term will be sent home on Tuesday, February 9. Should you have any questions or require further discussion after reading the report, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Catholic Schools Week

The week of February 8-12 is Catholic Schools Week. During that week, we will spend time talking to the students about the gift of our school, and each student will complete an activity to reflect upon and celebrate St. Joseph's. We recognize the sacrifices that you make to send your children to our school and we are so grateful to you for entrusting your children to us every day. May God bless all of us at St. Joseph's.

Parent Appreciation

We will not be able to invite you in for tea this year, unfortunately. Instead, we would like to have a Parent Appreciation Parade to show how much we appreciate all that you do for us. On Tuesday, February 9, beginning at 2:10, all of us will be out on 15th Avenue. We ask that you drive by us so that we can show our thanks to you. In order to be COVID-safe, we ask that you stay in your cars. Feel free to drive by our stationary parade as many times as you wish! The students will be brought inside in time for dismissal. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Red Day for Canadian Blood Services

Important Dates:

Feb. 8-12 – Catholic Schools' Week

Feb. 9 – Parent Appreciation Parade @2:10pm
Progress Reports sent home

Feb. 10 – Red Day for Canadian Blood Services

Feb. 11 & 12 - CISVA Conference - **No School**

Feb. 15 – Family Day - **No School**

Feb. 16 – Mardi Gras

Feb. 24 – Anti-Bullying Day

Feb. 26 – Student Led Conferences

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we will have Red Day on Wednesday, February 10. On that day, for a minimum donation of \$2.00, the students may wear their Valentine colours (red, pink, purple, white) instead of their uniforms. The money collected on that day

will be donated to the Canadian Blood Services to support the many people who receive lifesaving transfusions of blood and platelets. We hope to collect as much money as possible to help with the critical part of everyday medical care including

major surgeries, medical procedures, cancer treatments and managing diseases. Please consider contributing more than \$2.00 and booking an appointment to give blood at www.blood.ca. Thank you so much for your support.

Catholic Educators' Conference & Family Day

Please be reminded that the school will be closed on Thursday and Friday, February 11 and 12, as the staff will attend the Catholic Educators' Conference. The provincial holiday, Family Day, will be on Monday, February 15. The school will be closed on that day.

Mardi Gras!

As you know, we usually hold a Pancake Breakfast on Shrove Tuesday. This year, of course, we will not be able to do so. Instead, we are going to have a Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, February 16. 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.

The students will be making their own masks and may wear their own clothes on that day. We also want the students to bring in an item of "junk food" that they would like to eat on that day, to symbolize that we will be entering the Lenten season the next day, and that we will be giving up treats or special foods for Lent. Normally, we do not allow junk food at St. Joseph's, and so we feel that this will be a good way to demonstrate the meaning of the end of a celebratory time and the beginning of the Lenten season of sacrifice.

Anti-Bullying Day!

On February 24, the St. Joseph's School community will stand up against bullying, as part of the province-wide initiative. The students will wear pink clothes to indicate their willingness to prevent bullying from entering our school. We

hope that all students will choose to participate in this important day by wearing pink; however, if they choose not to wear pink, they must wear their school uniforms. Clothing that is not pink is not acceptable. There is no charge for this day.

Student Led Conferences Friday, February 26th

Once again this year, we will be holding Student-Led Conferences. During this time, you will be able to see your child's work. We have not finalized how this task will be accomplished yet, but more information will follow. There will be no regular classes held on that day, regardless of the format of the conferences. Thank you for your patience as we revise this activity to remain COVID-safe.

Thank you

Many thanks for your generous support of our annual Catholic Charities fundraiser on Pyjama and Treat Day. Together, we raised \$703 which will be combined with funds raised in all the Catholic schools and donated to Catholic Charities, which supports the marginalized and those who are less fortunate in our Archdiocese.

Thank you so much for all that you do to keep us safe at the school. We appreciate that you are only visiting the school office for the purposes of paying tuition or buying gift cards. We also thank you for maintaining physical distance when picking up and dropping off your children, and we remind you that they need to be picked up promptly and to leave the school grounds as soon as

Coronavirus

possible. As you know, masks are mandatory within the school, and we ask that you wear them outside as much as you can as well, particularly in the narrow area leading from 15th Avenue onto the playground (outside the classrooms for grades two and four). Thank you for continuing to keep your children at home if they are unwell. We are so grateful that there have

been many less colds going around this year, due to your diligence and to the increased hygiene practices of the students and teachers. If you have misplaced your daily symptom checklist, it is available on our school website. We will keep you informed of any updates that pertain to you as we receive them. Thank you for your support of the health of our community.

Afterschool Time

We have received word from the parish that some students are going to the church after school to wait to be picked up and they have asked us to let you know that this is not permitted. As you know, our Afterschool Club is held every day, for a very modest fee. If you are not able to pick up your children after school, we can accommodate them in the Afterschool Club. Please contact the school office for more information or to register your child for Afterschool Club.

Re-Registration Packages and Kindergarten Registration has begun!

Re-registration packages were sent home and **must be returned before February 26th**. **NOTE: Completed Re-Registration packages will only be accepted with the accompanying \$60 Activity Fee, Registration Fees (for Kindergarten siblings) and payment information. Please be sure to sign the bottom of the Demographic page and initial the Anaphylaxis and Earthquake Forms.**

If you have family or friends wishing to register their children in St. Joseph's School for the 2021/2022 school year please encourage them to contact the school office as soon as possible. Children born in 2016 are old enough to begin kindergarten in September. Registration time is always a busy time each year. If you need an Application Form for family/friends, they are available in the school office and on our website.

A Prayer for Catholic Schools

Loving God, we thank you for our Catholic school community where we can journey in faith together. Watch over and bless all in our community. Help us to accompany one another in our learning as we grow, living as joyful disciples of Jesus and bringing good news to the world. Amen.

Income Tax

The office has sent home Income Tax receipts for tuition expenses paid during 2020 with your youngest child last week with your Re-registration package. Our school system has been able to issue Income Tax receipts for

tuition paid since 1998. This income tax receipt is to be claimed as a **charitable donation** on your income tax return. In order to do so, please enter the amount of the tax receipt on line 34900 (Charitable Donations) of your income tax return.

Social Media

A reminder to follow St. Joseph's School on Facebook@stjosephvancouver, Instagram@saintjosephsschool and Twitter@SaintJosephsSc1. We welcome parents to write reviews on Facebook and for our website! Reviews for our website can be emailed to stjosephsvancouver@telus.net