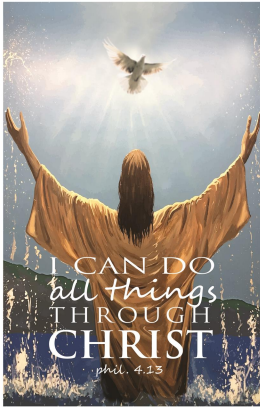


January, 2020
Volume 9, Issue 5

January Newsletter



I can
choose to
follow
Jesus.

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday, with ample time to enjoy the company of your families and friends, and time to relax and experience the peace of the Christmas season. It is hard to believe that another decade has passed and that we have now reached the year 2020. In terms of

eternity, a decade is just a speck; however, to us, it feels like such a long time. We mark the days and weeks and years as they go by, lending structure to our lives. In God's eyes, though, our increments of time mean nothing. He and His love have always been and always will be. God's eternal and unconditional love gives us the strength

and courage necessary to follow the plan that He has laid out for us and to say 'yes' to His invitation to follow Him. As we begin our new year, let us remember that we are always in God's hands and that He will carry us through all of the joys and challenges that we will face this year. May God bless us on our journeys.

Opening Mass Mon., Jan 6th

Thank you to Father Martin for our Mass on the first day back to school. We missed our First Friday Mass this month, as we were still on holidays, and so our priests offered an extra Mass, just for our school community. Thank you, Father!

Bottle Drive: Wed., Jan. 8th

We hope that you have been saving your bottles during the holidays! Please bring your bottles to the front entrance on the morning of January 8. Mr. Evans and the grade seven students will be ready to receive them. The money raised from this effort will offset the cost of various school field trips. Thank you for supporting our school.

I Am a Gift from God & Gr. 2 Sacraments

Parents of students in Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3 must attend the information meeting on Tuesday, January 14. The *I Am a Gift from God* program was developed by the Superintendent's Office with the support of the Archbishop's Office to work to prevent the abuse of children. It is vitally important for parents to attend, so that you are able to

Important Dates:

Jan. 6th – Opening Mass; 9am

Jan. 8th – Bottle Drive

Jan. 14th – I am a Gift from God Parent Meeting 6:30pm.

Jan. 15th – Cardigan Day

Jan. 24th – Pyjama and Popcorn Day supporting Archdiocesan charities

Jan. 29th – Gr. 2, 3, 6 & 7 Ice Skating at Trout Lake

Jan. 31st – Gr. 4 & 5 X-Country Ski Trip

I Am a Gift From God Cont'd

complete the parent lessons at home. The evening will begin at 6:30pm in the school gym with a short overview of the program, and then parents will proceed to their children's classrooms to meet with the teachers about

the specifics at each grade level. The meeting will be finished by 7:15pm. The grade two meeting for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist will take place for the grade two parents immediately following the *I Am a*

Mr. MacDougall Cardigan Day

On Wednesday, January 15, we will have a Cardigan Day in memory of our teacher who passed away seven years ago, Mr. Don MacDougall. On that day, students may wear their own clothes instead of their

uniforms, including a cardigan, which Mr. MacDougall loved to wear. This year, there will be no charge for Cardigan Day. We hope that everyone will be able to participate in our celebration of Mr. MacDougall.

In a Little Stable

Gift from God meeting. Pictures and a video taken by our designated photographers of our spectacular Christmas Concert will be copied to your personal memory sticks. Please label your stick and forward it to the office if you would like the video and pictures. We have had difficulty with copying the DVD's properly in past years.

Reminders

Grade 4 & 5 begin swimming lessons on January 7th. If you are driving please check with Mrs. Oye that she has your current Driver's License and Insurance on file. Hours can be recorded at <http://stjs.van.onvolunteers.com>

Pyjama and Popcorn Day

Each year, we hold a fundraiser to support the Archdiocesan charities, which include The Door is Open, Prison Ministry, the Men's Hostel and the Refugee Sponsorship Program. The money that we raise will be combined with that of

the other CISVA schools, as a donation from all of our Catholic schools. We are pleased to be a part of this giving community. This year, our fundraiser will be a Pyjama and Popcorn day on Friday, January 24. On that day, the

students may wear their pyjamas and may order popcorn; the order form will follow soon. We raised a good sum of money last year and I thank you in advance for your consistent support of our outreach programs.

Winter Field Trips

On Wednesday, January 29, the students in grades 2, 3, 6, and 7 will be going ice skating at Trout Lake. On Friday, January 31, the grades four and five classes will be going x-country skiing at Cypress Mountain. More information and permission slips for these activities will follow soon.

Thank You

Thank you to all who made a donation at our Christmas concert to the St. Joseph's Parish Outreach program. Together, we raised \$220.

Thank you to all of you who donated baked goods to our bake sale and to those who supported the bake sale (\$444), and 50/50 draw (\$454) at the Christmas concert. Parents can log their bake sale baking hours on OnVolunteers.

Registration for 2020-2021

Registration packages for new families wanting to enrol their children in St. Joseph's for the 2020-2021 school year will be ready soon. Please let your family and friends know. Remember any family you refer and we are able to accept will fulfill your participation obligations for the 2020-2021 year. Please let the office know if you have a child starting Kindergarten in September if you have not already done so. Re-registration for students currently attending St. Joseph's School will begin in

February. NOTE: Completed Re-registration packages will **only be accepted with accompanying Activity Fees and Registration Fees (if applicable)**. Next year, we will be accepting online payments instead of post-dated cheques. The online payment form will be included with your re-registration package. If you would prefer to pay tuition fees in cash monthly, please advise the office when you bring in your registration package.

Weather

As we begin winter, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. We watch the weather closely throughout the day and, if it is a safe temperature and only a light drizzle, the students will be outside during the breaks. All students must have a warm coat, gloves, hat and boots to be safe and comfortable at school; school sweaters and hoodies are not

warm enough for the students to wear outside instead of coats. Thank you for your cooperation. Also, during this time, the roads may become very slippery. As our school is surrounded by hills, we suggest that you park away from the school and walk your children onto the school grounds. Thank you for helping everyone in our community to remain safe.

Winter Snow

Winter will be with us for the next few months. The school may have to close due to bad road conditions. Please listen to CKNW 980 after 6:30 am for school closures or check our school website or you can receive notification via our Remind app. (*To sign-up on remind open your web browser and go to the following link: [rmd.at/kg6eda](https://www.remind.at/kg6eda) Follow*

the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app. Or, text the message @kg6eda to the number (705) 805-4329.

If it snows during the night, we need to have people to clear the sidewalks and pathways into the school grounds before 8:00am. Your voluntary help is appreciated.

Follow us on Social Media

Help us share news about St. Joseph's!

Twitter

@saintjosephsSc1

Facebook

@stjosephvancouver

Instagram

saintjosephsschool

Basketball

Basketball practices have begun and games and tournaments have been scheduled. We will need to have parents to drive students to the games that are played at other schools. If you are able to help us in this regard, please submit a copy of your vehicle insurance and your

driver's license to the office before you drive any students. After the game, parents are responsible for picking up their children at the school at which the game is played. Coaches will not be bringing the students back to St. Joseph's. The students who are on basketball teams will

receive their team jerseys this week. We want our students to play with pride. Please ensure that your child is ready for the sporting events, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you at the games, cheering on the students!

Absence Notes

As you know, the school must have a written explanation of every student absence. It is acceptable for parents to send this explanation by email. If

you choose to use email for this communication, please ensure that you send your note to the office, at stjosephsvancouver@telus.net. If you wish,

you may also send it to your child's teacher, but the office must receive a copy. Thank you very much for helping us to maintain our records.

Important Traffic Reminders

In these dark months of winter, we need to be even more careful regarding the traffic regulations. Please be reminded that there is NO DROP-OFF permitted on Fleming Street. The drop-off zone is located on 15th Avenue ONLY. There is no parking in front of the school on Fleming Street between the

hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm on school days. In addition, we have had numerous complaints recently from our neighbours regarding traffic violations committed by some members of our community. There is no parking in the RESIDENT ONLY areas of Fleming Street. Also, please DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF

OUR NEIGHBOURS' DRIVEWAYS. We must be respectful of our neighbours and follow the traffic rules. The neighbours have the right to have your vehicles towed away if you have parked in an illegal spot. Thank you for your ongoing respect and consideration of our community.