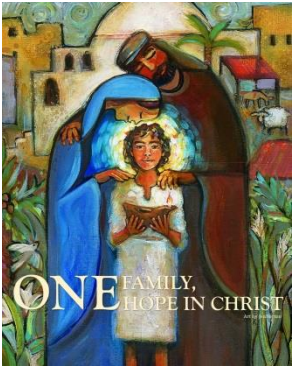


January Newsletter

Dear Parents,



“Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times’ (Matthew 18:21-22)

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a peaceful Christmas holiday with your families. It has, unfortunately, not been a smooth transition into 2022, with the Omicron variant and the delayed return to school. We continue to live in uncertain times, with the ongoing changes to

safety protocols and new rules to follow. However, we will persevere together and work hard to keep one another safe, as we have for the last two years. We are so lucky, as people of faith, to know that God will always look after us. Even in difficult times, we know that God

holds us in His hands and will give us the strength that we need to keep going, despite adversity. As we begin a new year and a new phase of the pandemic, let us renew our trust in God and continue to listen carefully as He guides us on our way. May God bless us.

Mr. MacDougall Cardigan Day

On Monday, January 17, we will have a Cardigan Day in memory of our teacher who passed away eight 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.

CISVA Fundraising 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 group donation from all of our Catholic schools. Last year we donated \$18,935. Given the past

popularity of Pyjama Day, we have decided to continue with that tradition and have a Pyjama and Treat Day. On Thursday, January 27, the students may wear their pyjamas and order a treat (which will be an individual, pre-packaged snack). The order form will follow soon. Thank you in advance for your help in our endeavour to support the good work of our Archdiocese.

Important Dates:

Jan. 12th – I am a Gift from God Meeting - **postponed**

Jan. 17th – Cardigan Day

Jan. 27th CISVA Fundraising Day supporting Archdiocesan Charities

Registration for 2022-2023

Registration packages for new families wanting to enrol their children in St. Joseph's for the 2022-2023 school year are available now. Please let your family and friends know. 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)**.

The options for payment are: online payment or monthly cash payment. 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.

Cold Weather

As we experienced during the Christmas holiday, our weather is quite variable. Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for any kind of weather. They need to have warm coats, boots, hats and gloves to be prepared for anything. Sweaters and hoodies are not warm enough to wear outside. The students will continue to play outside at the recess and lunch breaks, except in

the event of extreme cold or heavy rain, so please ensure that they come to school with appropriate clothing. 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.

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.

Staff Changes

As you know, Mrs. Oye will retire at the end of January; her last day of work at St. Joseph's will be on Friday, January 28. As previously announced, we have hired Mrs. Jennie Laxamana to work three days per week as our new school secretary. She will work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning on January 4, in order to learn from Mrs. Oye.

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 your email. We will send out an email if the school will be closed.

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.

Welcome, Mrs. Laxamana! In other news, Ms. Rumpel has decided to move to another opportunity at the end of March. Her last day of work at St. Joseph's will be March 9, 2022. We are in the process of looking for a new Music teacher to take her place for the remainder of the school year.

Traffic

Thank you so much to our faithful traffic volunteers who have dedicated much time and energy to helping parents to follow the rules for pick-up and drop-off. We are very grateful to these parents who have taken their work so seriously. Thank you also to those of you who follow the rules respectfully and carefully in order to maintain the safety of our neighbours and our

students. Please continue to avoid the following: making three-point turns in the school driveway; dropping off your children in the middle of the street; parking in the resident-only zones; parking in front of our neighbours' driveways; speaking disrespectfully to our volunteers and our neighbours. Thank you for setting a good example for our students.

I am a Gift from God Meeting *Postponed*

The meeting that was scheduled for our parents in the primary grades for January 12 has been postponed. We will let you know the re-scheduled date soon. Thank you for your understanding.

COVID Safety Reminders

The following protocols were sent to parents by email on January 6. We include them here as a reminder to you.

- In the mornings, drop-off will continue to take place between 8:15 and 8:40am; instead of playing outside, the students will have their hands sanitized and will go directly to their classrooms when they arrive.
- In the afternoons, the classes will be brought out to the front playground and will wait in designated areas to be picked up. They will not be allowed to play and they need to leave the school grounds as soon as parents arrive. The students will be dismissed as follows:
 - 2:35pm: Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2
 - 2:40pm: Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5
 - 2:45pm: Grade 6 and Grade 7
- Parents need to wait outside the gate until their children have come out of the school building at the end of the day. Please do not sit on the benches outside the front door or gather on the playground or pathway outside the primary classes.
- Afterschool club will continue to be held between 3:00 and 5:00pm, beginning January 10. We must restrict the students' activities once again, so please encourage your children to bring items from home that they enjoy, such as books or drawing materials.

- Visitors are not allowed to enter the school unless they have specific business at the school office.
- Parents must conduct a Daily Health Check with their children before coming to school. Please download the K-12 Health Check app ([K-12 Health Check \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/k12healthcheck)) to use every morning. Also, the symptoms of Omicron are similar to cold and flu: *fever, chills, tiredness, headache, runny nose and congestion*. You need to assess your children for these symptoms every morning and do not bring them to school if they have symptoms.
- If children develop symptoms at school, parents will be contacted and must pick up their children immediately.
- Students must have a jacket at school. The windows will be open for ventilation and a hoodie is not warm enough for them. They must have their school sweaters; they may not replace these with hoodies.
- The water fountains will be open to fill water bottles only.
- The Mask Order from the PHO remains in effect. All staff, students and visitors must wear a mask indoors at all times. Everyone needs to wear a three-layer mask. Single-layer, cloth masks are not effective and need to be replaced with three-ply masks. Please make sure that your children have an adequate supply of masks to wear and we suggest that you pack extra ones in their backpacks. Please make sure that your children's masks fit properly. Please see the following information provided by the Government of Canada:

A well-fitting mask should:

- *be large enough to completely and comfortably cover the nose, mouth and chin without gaps and not allow air to escape from edges*
- *fit securely to the head with ties, bands or ear loops*
- *be comfortable and not require frequent adjustments*
- *maintain its shape after washing and drying (for non-medical masks only)*

Ways to improve fit include:

- *adjusting ties, bands or ear loops; adjusting the flexible nosepiece*
- *tying knots in the ear loops and tucking the sides of the mask so that it lies flat*
- *using a mask fitter or brace (a mask fitter or brace is a device made of flexible material worn over a mask to help provide a snug fit)*
- *layering a well-fitting non-medical cloth mask over the top of a disposable mask to improve the fit; this will help to push the edges of the disposable mask closer to your face; make sure that you can still breathe easily when wearing 2 masks*