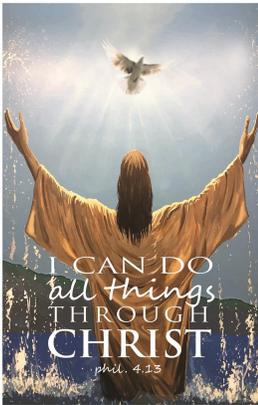


November, 2019  
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# November Newsletter



*I can be an  
instrument  
of God's  
peace.*

## Dear Parents,

"I can be an instrument of God's peace." This is the statement on which our school community will focus during this month of remembrance. We will reflect upon what it means to spread God's peace through our daily interactions. In a certain sense, the challenge of spreading peace is sometimes more difficult with the people we love the

most. Often, it is easier to be peaceful and friendly to our casual acquaintances than it is with our family members. We can spread peace more easily out in the community or in the classroom or playground than at home with our brothers and sisters. We are so confident that our family members will love us regardless of

our bad moods and our negative behaviour that we forget that they are the people most deserving of our peace. Perhaps we could challenge ourselves this month to be more peaceful with our loved ones and in our homes. Let us all try to be instruments of God's peace for those whom we are blessed to call family.

## Walkathon Thank you!

Thank you for your support of our annual walkathon. Together, we raised \$18,700, which will help with upgrades to our technology and our Learning Commons. In addition, we thank all of you who volunteered to help us on that day, with snack preparation, supervision on the route, or walking with the students. We couldn't have this terrific event without you! Special thanks to Ms. Levonne Abshire who coordinated the

walkathon this year, taking care of all the preparations beforehand, as well as making sure that the day itself ran smoothly. Thank you so much for all of your hard work. Thank you also to those who made donations for the day, including: Harbour Cruises courtesy of Mr. Tengku, and SPUD (Sustainable Produce Urban Delivery). Congratulations to all of our prize winners! Our Grade one class raised the most money

and therefore won a pizza party for the class. Our top fundraisers this year were Isabelle and Alexander Quiroz in Kindergarten and grade six - \$1400, who will have lunch out with a teacher. The other top fundraisers were as follows:  
Theron and Raiden Ladd (Gr. 1 and 5) - \$600  
Danica and Olivia Hoang (Gr. 1 & 4) - \$570,  
Hudson Ocampo (Gr. 1) - \$515

***Important Dates:***

**November:**

- 1st** – All Saints Day Mass – Gr. 5 is in charge of the readings
- 7th** -- Photo Retakes
- 8th** – Remembrance Day Assembly – 10:45am / Gymnasium
- 9th** – Spirit Day
- 11th** – No School Remembrance Day
- 15th** – Colour Day - Shoebox Project for Shelters
  - Communicating Student Learning –sent home
- 20th** – Three Way Conferences
- 25th** – Living Rosary
  - Diversity Day
  - Purdys orders due
- 26th** – St. Joseph’s Intermediate Speech Arts Festival

**Photo Retakes**

Lifetouch will be at our school on Thursday, November 7 to retake individual photos. If your child was absent or you were not happy with your original photo, simply return your Proof Portrait Sheet and Order Form to the office so we can make sure your child is called for retakes.

**Spirit Day**

In preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring, the grade seven students will attend the annual Archdiocesan Spirit Day on Saturday, November 9. At this event, the students from throughout the archdiocese gather for a day of prayer, music and testimonials. Spirit Day is a powerful event for all of the students, as they unite as one body on their sacramental journey. Please keep our grade sevens in your prayers throughout this year of spiritual growth.

**Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day will be on Sunday, November 11. Please take time to stop at 11:00am on that day for a minute of silence to say a prayer for those who gave their lives for our country. Our school Remembrance Day assembly will be held at 10:45am on Friday, November 8 in the school gym. Please join us if you are able. Let us not forget. The school will be closed on Monday, November 11 for Remembrance Day. We hope that the students enjoy their extended weekend.

**Colour Day, November 15**

Our grade two class has taken on a charity project this month and we are supporting that project with the proceeds from our colour day. The charity is called the Shoebox Project for Shelters. The grade two students will fill as many shoeboxes as they can with personal products for women who are homeless in our own city. They will wrap the boxes nicely and each will be given to a

woman who has fallen on hard times and does not have anywhere to live. We hope to raise a good amount of money to be able to make as many shoeboxes as we can in order to brighten the lives of as many homeless women as we can. On November 15, for a minimum donation of \$2.00, the students may wear blue and white clothing instead of their uniforms. We have chosen blue and white

to symbolize peace during our month of remembrance and peace. The flag of the United Nations, that body that works so hard to create and maintain peace among nations, is blue and white. We can look to be united in peace on that day as well. We hope you will consider donating more than the minimum amount to support the efforts of our grade two students.

## Communicating Student Learning

Our system for reporting on your children's learning will take the same form as it did last year. We will send home an interim report on November 15, which will describe your children's general progress as well as their progress in the subject areas of Christian Education, English

Language Arts and Mathematics. We hope that you will use this document to prepare for the student/parent/teacher conferences on November 20. We feel that these tools are effective ways to inform and involve you in your children's learning.

## St. Joseph's Intermediate Speech Arts Festival

On Tuesday, November 26, the intermediate students will participate in the individual categories of Poetry Recitation and Persuasive Speech. All students from grades four through seven will prepare a selection in one of these categories and present it in their classrooms. Then two students from each

class will be selected to present their poems or speeches to the rest of the school. Parents are most welcome to attend our celebration of the spoken word. We will begin at 1:00pm in the school gym. We are looking forward to some wonderful presentations!

## Reminder

Please remember that the children will be outside in the mornings before school and at the recess and lunch breaks unless it is raining. They need to have proper clothing, including a warm coat every day at school.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Our book fair was a big success! We raised funds to supply books and teaching resources to our classrooms. Our thanks to the many parents who bought books to donate to our classroom libraries, and those who volunteered their time to work in the book fair. We wouldn't be able to hold a fair without you!

## Basketball

Basketball season will begin later this month for students in grades five, six and seven. Permission slips will be distributed soon and must be returned by November 22 in order for the students to join a team. We are looking forward to a great season.

## Halloween Candy

Once again this year, we are collecting Halloween candy to donate to the Agape Street Ministry, which supports women who are living in the sad situation of addiction. Please help your children to set aside some of their trick-or-treat candy to donate to the cause and send it in to the school this week.

## Living Rosary

Please join us at our assembly on Monday, November 25, at which we will pray the Rosary together as a school community, reflecting upon the Luminous Mysteries. We will begin at 9:00am in the school gym.

## Diversity Day

On Monday, November 25, we will celebrate diversity in our community. St. Joseph's is a multicultural community and we want to celebrate everything that makes each of us unique, as well as everything that we have in common as children of God. We are looking forward to a day of learning and understanding.

## Purdys

The information regarding our Purdys fundraiser has been sent home. Please be reminded that the orders are due (either online or to the school office) by Monday, November 25. Thank you for supporting our chocolate fundraiser.

## Snacks and Lunches

Please make wise choices when sending snacks and lunches in containers with your child. We encourage parents to use plastic non-breakable containers when sending food items.

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported our first two bake sales of the year. Whether you baked or sent money for your child to spend on treats, we appreciate your support of our fundraising efforts. Between the two sales we have raised \$470. Special thanks to the parents who have spearheaded this initiative, Sandra Brasil, Sandy Ho and, Helen Luong.

Thank you also to everyone who supported our October colour day, which raised \$267 for the Holy Childhood Association. It is so important for the children to understand that there are many others who are less fortunate than we are and to offer help.

## Looking Ahead - Upcoming Raffle

Our annual raffle will be launched in the early spring and we are collecting prizes. If you own or know of a company that is willing to donate a prize to the raffle, please contact Ms. Levonne Abshire at (778) 387-4097 or [levonneabshire@icloud.com](mailto:levonneabshire@icloud.com). We are looking forward to a successful raffle. Thank you!

## Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
 where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is doubt, faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is darkness, light;  
 and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
 grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
 to be understood, as to understand;  
 to be loved, as to love;  
 for it is in giving that we receive,  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

-St. Francis of Assisi