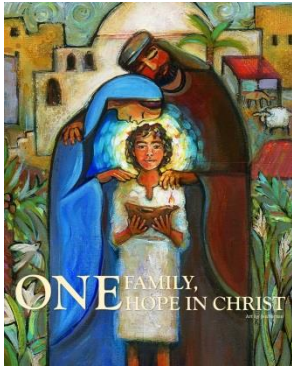


September, 2021
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September Newsletter



"Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possession, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.'" (Luke 19:8)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a safe and restful summer, with time to relax and enjoy family and friends. It is unfortunate that we have seen such an increase in COVID cases in recent weeks, as this year is not beginning in the way that we had hoped when we finished school in June. However, we will persevere and place ourselves once again as a community into God's hands and work together to maintain a safe and happy place of learning and faith at St. Joseph's.

Welcome!

We welcome three new members of staff to St. Joseph's this year. As you know, Mrs. van der Kooi is on maternity leave (she and her husband welcomed a baby girl on September 2). Ms. Capolongo and Ms. Pham will be teaching grade four this year and so we have

Our theme for the Catholic schools this year is *One Family, One Hope in Christ*. As a staff, we reflected on the meaning of each of those words at a virtual CISVA Faith Development Day last week and we are looking forward to exploring what it means to be a part of the St. Joseph's family and part of God's family. There is much to discuss with this theme and we can't wait to begin our journey with the children. In addition this year, we must intensify our learning and

hired Ms. Juliana Dobrei to be our grade two teacher this year. As you know, Ms. Hill left St. Joseph's at the end of June; Ms. Nguyen (Ms. V) has requested a leave of absence for this year. Therefore, we welcome two new Education Assistants to our

understanding of First Nations culture. Although it has always been part of our curriculum throughout the grades, the discoveries of graves at the sites of numerous former residential schools creates a new urgency to our studies. We have a responsibility to learn as much as we can and to help the children to develop a sense of respect and understanding for our First Nations people, as well as a knowledge of current news events, as befits their age levels. We are looking forward to this year of learning.

school: Ms. Gabriela Jimenez and Ms. Katie McNamara. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of working with our new staff members and I know you will join us in making them feel very welcome at St. Joseph's.

Important Dates:

- 7** – School Opens
8:40 – 11:00am
- 8** – Regular School Day
8:40am – 2:45pm
Meet the Teacher
6:30pm Virtually
- 9 & 10** – Regular School Day
8:40am – 2:45pm
- 21** – Picture Day

Statutory Holiday September 30

As you know, the federal government has instituted a statutory holiday on September 30 in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day. Our school will be closed on that day.

School Schedule

Our daily schedule will return to normal this year, as the mandate of cohorts has been removed by the Ministry of Education. We have removed the early dismissal time on Wednesdays. Therefore, our schedule is as follows:

- 8:40am – morning bell rings to begin the day (latecomers must report to the office)
- 10:15-10:30am – morning recess break
- 12:00-12:40pm – lunch break – students play outside and then return to their classrooms to eat lunch
- 2:45pm – final bell rings to end the day

Playground supervision:

8:15-8:40am

2:45-3:00pm (students who remain on the grounds after 3:00pm will be sent to the Afterschool Club and the parents will pay the drop-in fee)

Daily Safety Protocols

Although some of the restrictions of last year have been lifted, there are still protocols that we need to follow in order to maintain the safety of everyone in our community:

- Pick-up and drop-off of students must be done outside; parents are not able to take their children to the classrooms or pick them up from their classrooms
- You are welcome to come to the school to visit the office if you have business to conduct; please go to the office and then exit the school
- We are not able to have people congregate within the school to wait for their children
- Parents are not permitted to be in the classrooms or hallways
- If you need to see your child's teacher, please contact him or her by email to make an appointment

Meet the Teacher Night

Our annual Meet the Teacher Night will take place **virtually** on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30pm. You will receive the appropriate links to attend. It is expected that at least one parent from each family will attend this meeting, in order to find out important information about the school in general and about your children's classroom learning.

Picture Day, September 21

Lifetouch Studios will be in the school on Tuesday, September 21, to photograph the students for their school pictures in their full uniforms. Proofs will be sent home approximately 3 weeks later for you to select packages if you would like to purchase any. If you are not interested in purchasing a package please return the proofs as they are property of Lifetouch Studios.

Thank you

Thank you to all of the parents who have worked so hard to make our school look beautiful as we start the year. Whether it was gardening, moving furniture, or painting, we had many busy bees come in recent days to help us to get organized for the year. We appreciate all of your help!

Absences

If your child is going to be late or away, please call or email the office (604-872-5715; stjosephsvancouver@telus.net). Notes are required for all absences upon return to school, as we must account for every day that the children are in school. Emailed absentee notes are acceptable.

Afterschool Club

Once again this year, we will be running our St. Joseph's Afterschool Club from 3:00pm until 5:00pm every day. It will take place in the school and those who attend will do activities such as homework, outdoor or indoor play, and have social time. There is a fee for attendance in this club: \$5.00 per hour is the drop-in rate (\$10.00 for two hours); discounted rates are available when

students register for a full month at a time. Please note that students who remain in the school after yard supervision has ended at 3:00pm will be sent to the Afterschool Club and the parents will be charged the drop-in fee for the day. Students who are waiting for a sibling who has a sports practice or other event must be picked up at **3:00pm or go to the Afterschool Club.**

Attendance

The bell rings to begin the school day at 8:40am, at which time the students will line up in their designated areas and be taken into their classrooms by their teachers to unpack their bags and begin the routines of the day. It is very important that the children be at school first thing in the

morning so that they have a fresh start with their classmates. If the children are late, they miss important announcements, silent reading, the chance to greet the teacher, and morning prayer; in addition, it is difficult for children to make the transition into the school day when it is already in progress.

Communication

We will continue to communicate electronically as much as possible this year. In order to remain up to date with current events, policies and procedures, please check your email regularly. Each teacher has a school email for the purposes of parent contact as well. If your

email changes during the year, please make sure that you inform the office so that you don't miss important information. If you need to meet with your child's teacher, please make an appointment so that the teacher can set aside a good time for discussion.

Daily Physical Activity

As required by the Ministry of Education, the students will continue to take part in 30 minutes of physical activity every day, sometimes during PE classes and sometimes directed by the classroom teachers.

Please ensure that your child has running shoes and an appropriate jacket each day at school in order to take part in these mandatory activities.

Emergency Preparedness

As a school community, we need to be as prepared as possible in the event of an emergency, which could take the form of a natural disaster, a fire, an intruder, among other things. To that end, we practice emergency procedures with the students so that they will have the knowledge and skills to respond appropriately. We practice fire, earthquake and lockdown drills periodically throughout the year

Emergency Preparedness Cont'd

as a school in order to reinforce the skills and help the students to feel confident in looking after themselves. Please discuss these possible situations with your children so that you can address any fears that they may have. You will soon receive your child's earthquake pack for renewal. These packs are intended to be a little message from home that your child will receive if there is an emergency. Please follow the directions on the letter included with the earthquake bag and return them to school by September 24.

Nut allergies

We are a Nut Aware school. Please do not send nuts of any kind or products that contain nuts with your children to school (including nut butter or Nutella sandwiches) as we have several students and staff with nut allergies. The students are not permitted to share food at any time. Thank you for your attention to keeping everyone in our school community safe.

Extra-curricular Activities

We are able to resume our extra-curricular activities this year. However, we are still working out the protocols that we need to follow for each activity. More information will follow soon. We are excited to be able to offer more opportunities for the students this year!

If you plan to deliver lunch to your child, please ensure that it is delivered to the table inside the front door by 12:00 noon. It is not possible for parents to deliver food to the classrooms, as these disruptions interrupt the work of the teachers and students. We do not allow delivery from food delivery services (such as Skip the Dishes, etc.). In addition, please

Fundraising – Shop-easy Certificates

Once again this year, we will be running the Shopeasy gift card program. This program is the easiest way to complete your \$250 fundraising requirement as it does not cost you anything extra. You simply purchase the gift cards, and the percentage that St. Joseph's School receives back from the merchants is credited to your fundraising account. We offer gift cards for everything

from groceries to gas to coffee shops.

Please stop by the office and speak to Mrs. Oye about the program. It's great for gifts too!

Certificates available on a regular basis from the office include:

Superstore, Safeway, Save-on/Price Smart, T & T Supermarket, 88 Supermarket, Chevron, Esso, Petro Canada, Starbucks, Shoppers Drug Mart, London Drugs and Walmart.

Lunches

remember that we do not permit fast food (such as McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, etc.) or junk food (pop, chips, etc.) at St. Joseph's at any time. If children bring any of these foods to school, they will not be allowed to eat them. We encourage parents to make healthy choices for snacks and lunches. The children need to eat nutritious food in

order to be able to learn at the optimal level. Please check product packaging for information regarding the nutritional value of the food you purchase. Once again this year, we are not able to have birthday treats brought in to be shared in the classrooms. We must continue to be very careful with food service, for safety reasons.

Parent Participation

As you know, each family is responsible for completing 50 hours of participation in the school . The areas of most need are maintenance and traffic patrol, both before and after school. Each of you indicated your preference for participation on your registration form, and you will be contacted soon to arrange for your work to begin. Participation will be logged through the OnVolunteers website.

PE

The students will be having PE regularly. Please ensure that your child wears his or her PE uniform under the school uniform to facilitate the changing of clothes. The students will not be permitted to change in the washrooms. Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name. The kindergarten students will only be wearing running shoes with their uniforms for PE at this point in time.

Each new family will be contacted soon with the username and password. Please contact Mr. Phu Nguyen pdn3791@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the OnVolunteers system. As stated in the registration package, families who raise more than the minimum \$250.00 in fundraising may apply those excess funds to the participation hours at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Personal Electronic Devices

Please be reminded that the use of personal electronic devices is not permitted on school grounds or during school-related activities, including Afterschool Club. Students who carry cell phones for security purposes must turn them off and leave them in their school bags, and may only use them after they have left school property. Electronic games or music devices (such as iPods, etc.) are not permitted on school property or at school events at any time. If these rules are not followed, the personal electronic device will be taken away from the student for an extended period of time.

Parking/Traffic

Please find attached a map of the traffic system at St. Joseph's. We have a one-way system to facilitate drop-off and to avoid unsafe situations on Fleming Street. Please drive east on 15th Avenue, south on Fleming, and then you may turn either east or west bound on 18th Avenue.

Please note that our drop-off and pick-up zones are located on 15th Avenue, and not on Fleming Street. It is very narrow at the front of our school and we do not want to have people stopping to drop off their children, as it is not safe. If you have young children, please park away from the school or on 15th Avenue and walk them to the playground. Parents should park on 15th Avenue in the designated area, and **NOT** in the drop-off

zone or on Fleming Street where there is Resident Only Parking. Please respect our neighbours and do not park across driveways.

Please do not make unsafe turns, such as U-turns or 3-point turns in driveways, including the school driveway, as you will not be able to see small children behind you.

Also, please note that driving onto our parking lot between the hours of **7:30am** and **5:00pm** is not allowed. This area is the main thoroughfare for people entering our school and it is the playground for our intermediate students.

Thank you for maintaining the safety of everyone in our community.

Social Media

Parents must **not** post photos which include children other than their own on social networking sites (such as Facebook, Instagram, etc.). Parents are also responsible for ensuring that their children do not post or send photos of other students. St. Joseph's School takes no responsibility for personal photos.

School Supplies

All students must have their school supplies by Wednesday, September 8th so that they can organize themselves properly for learning. Stores have a great supply of the necessary items in stock at this time if you have not purchased them through Creative Children.

School Website

Our school website is www.saintjosephschool.ca. On it you will be able to access the yearly calendar, school newsletters, permission slips, announcements and weekly event updates. In addition, in the event of a school closure due to weather or an emergency, a banner will be posted on the home page.

Yard Supervision

St. Joseph's School provides supervision between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm. Please ensure that your children are not on school property outside of those hours, unless they are participating in supervised extra-curricular activities. Students are not permitted to stay on the grounds to play before or after school. Students who remain after yard supervision has ended will be sent to the Afterschool Club

and parents will be charged the drop-in fee. The staff is not responsible for supervising students after 3:00pm, as they are busy preparing for the next day and taking part in meetings. Thank you for respecting our staff members' time.

Walkathon

Our annual walkathon will be held at Trout Lake on Friday, October 8. We will gather in the gym at 9:00 for prayer and reminders and then

the classes will be dismissed to begin their walk. The students will be dismissed at the school at 12:00. This event is our largest fundraiser for the year and we are looking forward to your wonderful support once again. We will need parents to help with the various duties on the day of the walkathon. More information will follow soon, but please set the day aside to help us, if you can.

Uniform

Please be reminded that the students are required to be in full uniform at all times at school. The requirements are listed in the parent handbook and were published in the June newsletter, and so we expect to see everyone in the proper clothing this year. Please note in particular the following, as stated in our school uniform policy:

- Shoes must be all black and must be regular, low-cut shoes. They must not have any colouring on them whatsoever. Running shoes are not permitted as part of the school uniform. Boots are not permitted, including short, ankle boots.
- Each student must have a school sweater. Hoodies (including St. Joseph's ones) may not be worn in the classrooms.
- The following items **MUST** be purchased at Neat Uniforms: shirts and blouses, pants, kilts, sweaters and skorts. You will be asked to replace non-uniform items.
- Coloured hair dye is not permitted.

Thank you for your support in helping our students to wear their uniforms with pride.

Please label all items including coats, jackets and shoes with your child's name. It really helps if we are able to identify clothing that is lost and found. Unclaimed lost items will be donated to charity.

In addition, please ensure that your children have appropriate clothing for all types of weather. They will be playing outside at recess and lunch breaks unless there is extreme weather. The Ministry of Education maintains the value of outdoor activity and we subscribe to that philosophy as well.

