

September, 2023  
Volume 13, Issue 1

# September Newsletter



*Living,  
Celebrating  
and  
Proclaiming  
our Faith  
through  
SOLIDARITY.*

## Dear Parents,

### Welcome to our new school year!

I am very excited to begin my time here as your principal and to get to know you, your children, and your families. I hope that all of you had a restful summer and were able to enjoy the beautiful weather and the many things that our local community has to offer at this time of year.

Our CISVA theme for this upcoming year is *Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith*. We will have a special focus this year on the ways that we can and do live our faith and how we can grow as a community. Through class lessons, school activities, and our involvement in our community of St. Joseph's, our school will strive to put our faith into practice and to help our children to understand the ways that they can support and share with others.

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet and speak with all of you in the coming days and to our year together.

## Welcome!

This year, our school welcomes a number of new teachers to our school community as well as Mrs. Jimenez to a new role in our school.

Our grade four and six classes are shared positions for two to three days a week working with our experienced teachers in those grades.

- Grade 4: Mrs. Micaela De Beer
- Grade 5: Mrs. Gabriela Jimenez
- Grade 6: Mr. James Thorpe
- Music: Ms. Megan Ryan
- French: Ms. Kathy Rastar

We are looking forward to a great year together and I know that you will do your best to make them feel comfortable and welcome in our school community.

## Staff Assignments

**Principal:** Mr. Michael Schultz

**Book Keeper:** Mrs. Laurie Symington

**Secretary:** Mrs. Jennie Laxamana

**Kindergarten:** Mrs. Louise Fader

**Grade 1:** Ms. Juliana Dobrei

**Grade 2:** Ms. Nadine Primerano

**Grade 3:** Mrs. Sara Pizzolato

**Grade 4:** Mrs. Alison van der Kooi and Mrs. Micaela De Beer

**Grade 5:** Ms. Gabriela Jimenez

**Grade 6:** Ms. Jessica Cheung & Mr. James Thorpe

**Grade 7:** Ms. Sylvia Pinheiro

**Learning Support:** Mrs. Patti Macdonald

**Physical and Health Education:** Mr. Blair Evans

**Music:** Ms. Megan Ryan

**Learning Commons:** Mrs. Micaela De Beer

**Intermediate French:** Ms. Kathy Rastar

**Education Assistants:** Mrs. Ruwani De Silva, Mrs. Zena Iwanowicz, Ms. Carmela Alora, Mrs. Cristina Primerano, Mrs. Barbara Di Fluri, Ms. Amy O’Riordan, Ms. Niamh Geraghty, & Mrs. Jennie Laxamana.

## Uniforms

We received a list of orders that have not yet been fulfilled by Neat Uniforms. Therefore, we understand that some of you will not have all of your items at the beginning of the year. If your family is in that situation, the students can wear the uniform items that they have in their possession, along with basic clothing that is in line with the uniform (i.e. dark coloured pants for the boys; a plain skirt for the girls). We have some used uniform items for sale, but we understand if you would prefer that your children wear their own clothing and wait for the new items to be delivered. Hopefully, the orders will come in soon!

Please make sure that your children are dressed in full uniform every day. The school uniform **must** be purchased at Neat Uniforms; non-uniform items, such as shirts and pants, must be replaced. Our uniform policy is described in the school application forms and parent handbook. Students are most welcome to wear the golf shirts, shorts/skorts until Thanksgiving. If you need further clarification, please speak with your child’s teacher or call the school office. Thank you for helping us to instill school pride in our students.

**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.

Unlabeled items will be put in our Lost and Found cupboard located in the main hallway. Unclaimed items at Christmas, Spring Break and the end of the year will be donated to charity.

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## Important Dates

### Weekly Mass

Once again this year, Father Minh has arranged for our school community to attend Mass every Friday morning at 9:00am at St. Joseph's Church. Everyone is welcome to join us!

### Truth and Reconciliation

*Every Child Matters Day* will be on Friday, September 29. On that day, the students need to wear orange clothing instead of their uniforms to indicate our remembrance of those children who were hurt by residential schools. The students will take time to learn and pray about the residential school experience in their classrooms on that day.

The school will be closed on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> for *Truth and Reconciliation Day*. Please take time to remember all families who were harmed throughout the years of residential schools, especially the children, in your prayers on that day.

### Professional Development

The annual CISVA Faith Development Day was held in person once again this year. On Wednesday, August 30, all of us who work in the CISVA gathered to listen to Sister Claire Hunter, FSE speak about the topic of Living our Faith. It was a wonderful, spiritual way to begin our year, and provided all of us an opportunity to re-connect with our greater Catholic community of educators.

### Meet the Teacher Night: Wednesday, September 6

We are going to hold our Meet the Teacher Night in person this year! It is expected that at least one parent from each family will attend this meeting. Please sign in when you arrive, as this meeting qualifies for one participation hour. We will begin with the general meeting in the school gym, during which time we will review important items to help your family have a successful year at St. Joseph's. After this meeting, you will be able to go to your children's classrooms to listen to the presentations by the individual teachers, who will give an overview of the school year and let you know about specific classroom expectations.

*Note to the parents of students in grades six and seven: the information session for Outdoor Education will take place on that evening. At least one parent per family must be in attendance.*








### Walkathon: Friday, October 6

Start planning! Our annual walkathon will be held at Trout Lake on Friday, October 6. This is a major fundraiser for our school and pledge sheets and information will be sent home soon. Save the date because we need volunteers to help us on that day!

### Autumn sports

Our sports for this season will begin right away. We offer cross-country running for students from grades two through seven; and girls from grades five through seven may participate in volleyball.

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 Labour Day	5 School Opens  9:00 Mass 11:00 Dismissal	6 Meet the Teacher 6:30pm	7	8  9:00 Mass—Gr. 7 Assembly & Art Activity 1pm	9
10	11 Theme Assembly Grade 5 Volleyball & X-country begin	12	13  Outdoor Education 	14	15  9:00 Mass—Gr. 4	16
17	18 Assembly	19	20	21	22  9:00 Mass—Gr. 6	23
24	25 Assembly	26	27	28	29  9:00 Mass—Gr.5 Every Child Matters Day	30 Truth and Reconciliation Day

## School Schedule

### Time

- 8:40 am Bell rings. Late comers **MUST** report to the office
- 10:15 – 10:30am Morning Recess
- 12:00-12:25pm Noon Recess; Students play outside
- 12:25-12:40pm Lunch Break, Students stay at their desk and eat quietly
- 2:45pm Class Dismissal

**Office Hours:** 8:30am – 4:00pm

### Playground supervision:

- 8:15-8:40am
- 2:45-3:00pm

\*\*For safety of the staff and students, there is **NO PARKING** permitted in the school parking lot.  
\*\*Parking lot is **CLOSED** from 815 – 500pm.

## Reminders to Make our Year Run Smoothly

### Communication

Should you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please contact his or her teacher, who will be pleased to meet with you. The times just before and just after school are very busy for the teachers, so we ask that you call or email the school office to make an appointment.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any items with me, please do not hesitate to stop by my office at any time throughout the day. You are also welcome to make an appointment for a specific time. I am always eager to work with you for the well-being of your children.

### Field Trips

Please be reminded that all children nine years of age and younger must be in a booster seat when travelling in a car. Therefore, on all field trips for students from kindergarten through grade four in which students are transported by parents, the children must bring in their own car seat in order to participate in the trip. Please label the car seats with your name and phone number in order to avoid confusion.

In addition, please ensure that you have completed the volunteer driver form and that the office has a copy of your driver's license and car insurance information before driving students on field trips or for sports events. We will keep this information in a secure file for the entire school year. Parents who have not submitted this information to the office will not be allowed to drive students.

### Lunches

At lunch time, the students will play outside from 12:00pm until 12:25pm and then eat their lunches from 12:25 until 12:40pm. If you plan to deliver lunch to your child, please ensure that it is delivered to the office by 12:00 noon, as the office staff will be having their lunch break from 12:00 until 12:25. We do not allow deliveries to the individual classrooms, as these disruptions interrupt the work of the teachers and students. Please remember that we do not permit 'fast food' type lunches (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, and hope that you will make the same choices on weekends as well. Please check product packaging for information regarding the nutritional value of food. ***Please also note that we do not allow food delivery services such as Skip the Dishes, Doordash, etc.***

### 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.

## School Supplies

All students must have their school supplies by Wednesday, September 7th 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.

## Student Commitment

When students join programs or activities, we expect them to make a full commitment of time and effort. Whether it is choir, cross-country, volleyball, or a club the students must attend each session or practice and do their very best. Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

## Traffic Safety

Please find attached the map outlining our procedures for drop-off and pick-up of students. Please observe these traffic safety routines, as we have prepared them in the interest of keeping all of the students safe. Remember that there is **NO PARKING** in front of the school on Fleming Street, or at the side entrance on 15th Avenue. It is only possible to DROP OFF at these locations, on the correct side of the street. Please do NOT drop off your children on the opposite side of Fleming Street, as it is very difficult for drivers to see them as they cross such a crowded, narrow street. Please remember that the maximum speed in school zones is 30kph. You are most welcome to drive more slowly! Please do not make u-turns or 3 point turns in the area of the school, as they are very unsafe.

Most importantly, please respect our neighbours and obey the parking signs. We regularly receive complaints from our neighbours regarding drop-off and pick-up.

Please **do not** park across driveways or park in the Resident Only areas. There is no parking in front of the school on Fleming Street between 8am and 5pm.

We always need more traffic patrollers in the mornings and afternoons. This is perhaps the most important area of participation, as it involves the safety of our children. We hope that you will consider putting your participation efforts towards this duty.

## 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.

**Drop off Zone**

