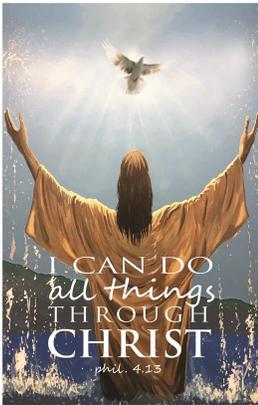


September, 2019  
Volume 9, Issue 1

# September Newsletter



I can  
reflect  
Christ  
everywhere  
I go.

## Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that all of you had a wonderful, restful summer and that you and your families are refreshed and ready to return to the routines of the new school year. It has been a lovely, temperate summer here in Vancouver, while the weather around the world has been much less predictable! We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

We welcome our new pastor, Father Martin Tuyen Nguyen, to St. Joseph's. As you may know, Father Vincent will not be returning to St. Joseph's Parish and Father Martin has been appointed as the new pastor. In addition, Father Dominic has left the parish and we welcome Father Joseph Cao Nhan Do as Assistant Pastor. We

Our theme for the Catholic schools this year will be "I Can Do All Things Through Christ", which is taken from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians. Saint Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison, facing execution for preaching the Gospel. Despite his imprisonment, Saint Paul speaks in his letter of rejoicing in the Lord and of remaining faithful to spreading His Word, even when faced

## Welcome

are looking forward to getting to know Father Martin and Father Joseph and to welcoming them to our school and parish! Welcome to all of our new families! We are so glad that you are joining our community and we look forward to many wonderful years of learning and friendship together. We want you to feel at

with opposition. If Saint Paul can be steadfast in his faith and rejoice in the love of Christ as he faces his death, we can certainly be strong in our beliefs as we face our daily tribulations and we can take joy in God's daily blessings. We are looking forward to bringing our theme to life throughout this school year and to spreading the joy of the Gospel throughout the St. Joseph's community.

home at St. Joseph's, so please do not hesitate to ask for help or support as you become familiar with our school. Everyone will be most pleased to answer your questions, so please ask! We also welcome back Mrs. Capolongo and Ms. Pham. Both of our teachers have returned to St. Joseph's and will share the teaching of

**Important****Dates:**

September

**3** – School Opens  
8:40 – 11:00am**4** – Regular School  
Day  
8:40am – 2:30pm**Meet the Teacher**

6:30 – 8:00pm

**5 & 6** – Regular  
School Day  
8:40am – 2:45pm**11-13** - Outdoor Ed.  
for Gr. 6 & 7**18** – Bottle Drive**23** – Picture Day**26** – Kindergarten  
Hearing Testing**Oct. 2** – CISVA Cross  
Country Meet**Walkathon**

Our annual walkathon will be held at Trout Lake on Friday, October 11. This year, our theme will be Superheroes! 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. Let us all be superheroes as we raise money for our school!

**Welcome Cont'd**

our grade two class. We are looking forward to having them back with us at St. Joseph's. We also welcome Ms. Samantha Hill who will be working as an Education Assistant this year. It's going to be a terrific year!

**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 (gardening and general yard work, minor repairs, etc.) 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.

**Professional Development**

As we do every year, the staff attended the annual CISVA Faith Development Day on August 28. We spent the day listening to Michael Gormley speak about ensuring that our faith remains at the centre of our lives, and on finding ways to avoid having our more worldly concerns take precedence over our relationship with God.

The Faith Development Day was a wonderful way to start our year on the right foot, and to re-connect with our greater Catholic school community of educators. We have confirmed our date of **September 30** as a professional development day for the staff. There will be no regular classes scheduled on that day.

**Meet the Teacher Night**

As stated in our June newsletter, our annual Meet the Teacher evening will take place on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30pm. It is expected that at least one parent from each family will attend this meeting. The evening 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. Please sign in when you enter the gym. After the general

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 parents of students in grades 6 and 7: the information session for Outdoor Education will take place on that evening. At least one parent per family must be in attendance.

## Bottle Drive September 18<sup>th</sup>

We hope you've been saving your bottles throughout the summer! Our first bottle drive of the year will take place on Wednesday, September 18. On that day, Mr. Evans and the grade seven students will be available from 7:45am until 9:00am to receive bottles in the school parking lot. The money that we raise from our bottle drive goes to support field trips throughout the year, to try to reduce the costs to families. Thank you for your support.

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

## Picture Day September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lifetouch Studios will be in the school on Monday, September 23, 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.

## Attendance

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.

## 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 (3:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 2:45pm on Wednesday) 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.**

## Communication

We work hard to ensure that families are informed of events that are happening in our school and in individual classrooms. School newsletters are sent home at the beginning of each month with the youngest sibling and are available on the school website as well. We continue to strive to communicate electronically whenever we can. Please ensure that the office has your updated email address and, if your telephone number changes throughout the year,

## Communication Cont'd

please make sure that you give Mrs. Oye your new information. You can also follow us on [facebook.com/stjosephs](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephs).

## Fundraising – Shop-easy Certificates

Once again this year, we will be running the Shop-easy 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

## Drop-Off

There is NO DROP-OFF and NO PARKING in the school parking lot, as this is the play area for our intermediate students. It is not permitted to drive onto the school lot between the hours of **7:30am** and **5:00pm**.

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, Victoria 88 Supermarket, Chevron, Esso, Petro Canada, Starbucks, Shoppers Drug Mart, London Drugs and Walmart.

## 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 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 27.

## Gardening & Maintenance

Parents who are interested in working to maintain our school should contact Mr. Jason Nguyen at (778) 389-4236 or via email [Jasontvn@shaw.ca](mailto:Jasontvn@shaw.ca). Gardening and other maintenance activities are a wonderful way to make up your participation hours. The back slope is an area of particular need. Thank you to all the dads who worked hard to clean up our grounds last week.

## Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found bin is located outside on the primary playground. All items that are lost will be placed there and those that remain unclaimed at the end of each term will be donated to charity.

Please label all of your children's clothing items with permanent ink or purchased labels. Please check regularly for your children's lost items.

## Nut Awareness

Please be reminded that we are a *Nut Aware* school because of a number of allergies within the school. Therefore, we do not allow **nuts of any kind** on the school premises. Please make sure that you do not send nuts or nut products with your children. Thank you for your attention to keeping everyone in our school community safe.

## Parent Participation

Participation will be logged through the OnVolunteers website. All school families will need access to this system, and each new family will receive a “username” and “password”. Please contact Mr. Van Chuong Nguyen; email: [paxvann@gmail.com](mailto:paxvann@gmail.com) for assistance, if you don't have access to the *OnVolunteers* website. Detailed instructions for using *OnVolunteers* are available for download from the school website. Thank you for your cooperation.

## School Website

Our school website is [www.saintjosephschool.ca](http://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.

## Tuition

There are a number of parents who have not forwarded their post-dated cheques to the office. Please do so immediately or advise Mrs. Symington if you will be paying cash. The school depends on your prompt tuition payments!

## School Routines

Helping children to get back into the routine of school is not easy after the summer break. However, it is beneficial for your children to develop their healthy sleeping, eating and study habits as soon as possible in order to set the year off well.

- Please make sure that your children eat a healthy breakfast and bring healthy lunch and snacks to school.
- Help them to pack their backpacks the night before in order to make the mornings smoother.
- Support them in their homework, and give them a quiet place to complete it.
- Turn off the television and other media while they are doing their homework.
- Limit the amount of daily screen time for your children; make sure they know and understand your house rules regarding screen use.
- Remind your children that they are expected to read independently or be read to every evening. Reading is key to success in school and we work hard to help the children to develop a lifelong love of reading.

## Swimming

Swimming lessons for the students in grades 2 and 3 will begin early next month. More information and permission slips will be sent home soon. Please be reminded that we rely on parent drivers to transport the students to and

from the pool, and so we ask you to find time in your schedules to help us in this regard. Drivers need to submit their insurance information to the school office before taking students in their cars.

### ***Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year (from the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida)***

*Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers.*

*We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed in us through the summer months.*

*We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends and to reflect on what is important in our lives.*

*Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith.*

*Help us to fulfill Your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith.*

*Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to others.*

*We ask this in your name. Amen.*

## 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.

### Daily Physical Activity

According to a directive from 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.

### 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.

### First Friday Mass

We celebrate First Friday Mass every month at 9:00am, and invite parents to join us whenever your schedules permit.

### 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. If you would like to take your child out for lunch, please send a note and they will be dismissed during the lunch recess. Please note that cakes or cupcakes with icing, cookies, fried chicken and other fast foods will not be allowed for birthday celebrations. These items will be packed up and returned home if they arrive at the school. Thank you!

### Personal Electronic Devices

Please be reminded that the use of personal electronic devices is not permitted on school

## Personal Electronic Devices Cont'd

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 Assemblies

We begin each week by gathering as a school community on Monday mornings at 9:00am for an assembly. The classes take turns in leading morning prayer and events and announcements are shared. Parents are more than welcome to join us at our gatherings and we hope to have many of you come to celebrate our community with us.

## School Schedule

Bell rings at 8:40am (late comers must report to the office)  
 Morning recess 10:15 to 10:30am  
 Noon Recess 12:00 to 12:25pm (students play outside)  
 Lunch break 12:25 – 12:40pm (students stay at their desk and eat quietly)  
 Class Dismissal at 2:45pm  
 Wednesday Dismissal at 2:30pm  
 Office Hours 8:30am – 3:30pm except Wednesday 8:30am - 3:00pm.  
**Playground Supervision:**  
**8:15 – 8:40am**  
**2:45 – 3:00pm**  
**(Wed. 2:30 – 2:45pm)**

## School Supplies

All students must have their school supplies by Wednesday, September 4th 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.

## Sports

Permission slips for all of our autumn sports will be distributed this week and must be returned by Monday, September 9.

### **Cross-Country:**

Students from grades 2 through 7 are able to join the cross-country team.

**Volleyball:** Girls from grades 5 through 7 are encouraged to join the volleyball team. More information regarding league play will follow soon.

**Soccer:** Boys in grades 5, 6, 7 are encouraged to join the soccer team. We will play with a variety of schools during the season.

## Student Commitment

When students join programs or activities, we expect them to make a full commitment of time and effort. Whether it is reading buddies, choir, cross-country, volleyball, or soccer 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 letter and 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

## Traffic Safety Cont'd

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.

## Uniform

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 instil 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. Unlabelled items will be put in our Lost and Found bin located outside on the primary playground. Unclaimed items at Christmas, Spring Break and the end of the year will be donated to charity.

## Yard Supervision

St. Joseph's School provides supervision between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm (2:45pm on Wednesdays, due to our weekly staff meeting). 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.



## Sign up for important updates from Mrs. Oye.

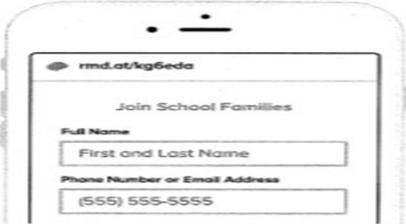
Get information for **School Families** right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **School Families**:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

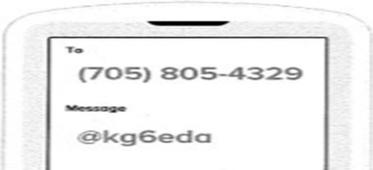
Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @kg6eda to the number (705) 805-4329.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/kg6eda](http://rmd.at/kg6eda) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

## A Message from our School Nurse

Welcome back to school! As kids head back to the classroom, it's a good time to ensure that their health is protected and they are ready for a healthy school year. There are a few things that parents and guardians can do:

1) Make sure that your child's immunizations are up to date. Vaccines are a healthy choice for your child. They provide immunity and prevent disease. Children routinely receive vaccines before or during Kindergarten and in grade 6. Immunization is available at the local health unit (with special clinics offered for Kindergarten students) and will be offered to select grades during the year at school.

Kindergarten students are due for their DPTPO (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio) booster and a second dose of varicella (chicken pox)/MMR. If your child was immunized at the doctor over the summer, please send in the dates of the immunizations as soon as possible.

2) If your child has any chronic medical conditions (for example: Diabetes or Asthma) or  
3) If you are concerned about any aspect of your child's health including: vision, dental, hearing, nutrition or behavioural concerns please don't hesitate to talk to the school.

All Vancouver schools have access to a school public health nurse who is available to help support the health of your child at school. The nurse for our school is Cindy Diett and can be contacted through the school or directly at 604-872-5711 ext 3308.



## St. Joseph's Elementary School

Dear Parents,

We receive reports regularly from neighbours who have witnessed unsafe actions by members of our school community who are picking up or dropping off students at St. Joseph's. It is unfortunate that some parents are not following the basic rules of safety, and that they are putting their needs before the safety needs of our children. The situation of being on the last minute, or of not being willing to get out of the car in the rain cannot be more important than ensuring that everyone is able to enter the school grounds safely. We have been fortunate to this point that we have not had a serious incident where a child has been injured, but that time will come unless each person in our community takes responsibility for traffic safety.

Parents are responsible for following these rules themselves, and for ensuring that others who transport their children follow them as well. Please find below the revised traffic policy for St. Joseph's School:

Parents and those who drop off and pick up students are required to follow traffic safety rules and to follow the directives of the school staff and traffic volunteers. Parents are responsible for the actions of those who are transporting their children to and from school.

Following are the traffic rules for St. Joseph's School:

- With the exception of staff cars and delivery vehicles, there is no driving or parking on the school grounds between 8:00am and 5:00pm each day, even if the children are inside the school
- There is no parking and no student drop-off on Fleming Street; there is no parking in the *No Stopping* zone in front of the school on Fleming Street
- The school zone on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue is for the purposes of student drop-off only; parents are not permitted to park in that area between 8:00am and 5:00pm on school days
- Portions of Fleming Street are designated as *Resident Only* parking. Parents must not park in those zones at any time. Neighbours are permitted to make a request to the City of Vancouver to remove vehicles that are illegally parked.
- U-turns and three-point turns are not permitted on Fleming Street or on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue at any time, including in the school driveway
- Vehicles must drive in one direction (clockwise) for drop-off and pick-up:
  - Drive eastbound on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, followed by southbound on Fleming Street and drive toward 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to turn either left or right
  - Please see map attached for more information

We are looking forward to working together to maintain the safety of our students. Thank you for your cooperation as we implement our revised traffic rules.

Deirdre O'Callaghan

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