



January, 2025  
Volume 15, Issue 5



## January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It was wonderful to see all our students' smiling faces as they returned from their Christmas Break. I pray that your families had the opportunity to truly celebrate the season. 2024 was an amazing year for our school and parish community as we welcomed many new families, celebrated many accomplishments, and journeyed together in our relationships with Jesus. I am very thankful for the support of our families and the tireless work of our amazing staff. Our school would not be the wonderful place that it is without all the contributions of so many.

I look forward with hope, knowing that 2025 will also be a fantastic year for our school. Already there are so many things to look forward to in the coming months. We have special theme days such as our Beach Day and our Mr. MacDougall Cardigan Day soon. I can't wait to see all the students' creative costumes on those days. We also have our Spring sports, including basketball and track and field. I would like to encourage as many students to participate in those opportunities as possible. This is also the time of year where many students in our school begin their preparation for the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. I look forward to seeing our students grow in their faith and in their sacramental relationship with the Catholic Church. Please continue to support our school and keep our staff and students in your prayers in 2025.

God Bless,

Mr. Michael Schultz

### Upcoming School Closures

Please keep these dates in mind, as some of the dates the school will be closed will not coincide with the public school calendar.

January	February	March
<b>Student Led Conferences</b> <b>No Regular Classes</b> Thursday, January 30th	<b>Catholic's Educators' Learning Days</b> <b>No Regular Classes</b> Thursday, Feb 13th & Friday Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Noon Dismissal</b> Friday, March 14th <i>No Afterschool Club</i>
<b>Non instructional Day</b> <b>No Regular Classes</b> Friday, January 31st	<b>Family Day</b> February 17th	<b>Spring Break</b> Monday, March 17th – Friday, March 28th
		<b>School Reopens from Break</b> Monday, March 31st

### Mr. MacDougall Cardigan Day | Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

Mr. MacDougall was a teacher here at St. Joseph's and he passed away 12 years ago, after a brief illness. He was still teaching at our school and had to leave suddenly when he became ill. He made an indelible mark on our school, through his work with his students and staff members. Losing him was a great blow to the St. Joseph's community. In his honour, we take a special day in January to wear cardigan sweaters instead of our uniforms, as he loved to wear cardigans to school.

On **Wednesday, January 15**, students and staff will wear cardigans instead of their uniforms as a salute to our former teacher. There is no charge for this day, as it is a day of remembrance and not a fundraising day.

### 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.

### Parking Lot Safety

**Please be reminded that no one is permitted to drive onto the school parking lot between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm.** On these dark days, it is very hard to see pedestrians, especially children, and we need to follow these rules carefully. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### Hotlunch Orders

#### **Hotlunch will resume with:**

Pizza Tuesdays - January 7th

White Spot Thursdays- January 9th

We will be distributing White Spot orders in individual lunch bags so your child can bring home the leftovers.

We are no longer accepting orders for this term, but we can cancel or change your child's hotlunch order.

### Parent Participation Hours

Please make sure that your volunteer hours are up to date on ONVolunteers. If you have any issues inputting your hours, please come to the office and we can assist you.

### E-Transfers

When you are sending an E-transfer to the office, please add in your child's name, grade and what the etransfer is for.

Eg. Jane Smith, Grade 4, January Tuition.

### **Winter Snow**

Winter will be with us for the next few months. The school may have to close due to bad road conditions. If we need to close, you will receive an email by 7:00am that morning. Please make sure that you check your email in the mornings, particularly if the weather is bad. In addition, if it snows during the night, we need parents to come to clear our sidewalks and to shovel pathways into our school from Fleming Street and 15th Avenue before 8:00am. Please inform the office if you are able to volunteer for this important job, which helps to keep everyone in our community safe. We appreciate any help that you can give to us.

### **Gift Cards**

Gift cards are still available at the office year round. Special orders can be placed if we don't have the gift card you need in stock. A percentage of the gift card purchase will be used towards your fundraising! Please visit the office for a list of gift cards we carry and can order for you!

### **I am a Gift from God Program | Primary Grades K-3 | Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

On **Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will be holding an information meeting about our program, "I am a Gift from God" for the primary grade parents. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30pm. It is mandatory for all parents of students in these grades to attend as it will describe to you in depth the program that we will be starting in the new year.

After the meeting, parents of grade 2 students will be discussing First Communion and Reconciliation. If there are any families in grade 3-7 who would like to have their child receive their first communion with the Grade 2 class, please let the office know. You will need to attend this meeting. Your child does need to be baptized to be part of Communion this year.

### **Registration**

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 by parents, accompanied with Activity Fees and Registration Fees (if applicable). Forms brought in by students will not be accepted for Registration and will be sent home. No exceptions.***

The online payment form (PAD) 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.

If you have friends or family wishing to give their children a Catholic Education, please send them to our office and make sure they mention your name as a referral. If their registration is accepted, you will receive a tuition credit of \$300 for the 2025-2026 school year.

### **CISVAAA Fundraising Day | Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Each year, the CISVA schools hold a fundraiser to support the Archdiocesan Charities (the Door is Open, Prison Ministry, Men's Hostel, Refugee Sponsorship, Truth and Reconciliation).

Once again, St. Joseph's will take part in this fundraiser; the money that we raise will be combined with that of the other CISVA schools as a large donation to these Archbishop's Charities.

Please look out for further information via email/social media of when our fundraiser will take place.