



EST. 1938
ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LOVE · RESPECT

Newsletter
September 8th, 2017

*"I alone cannot change the world,
but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."*
St. Teresa of Calcutta

Dear School Families,

A huge **WELCOME TO SCHOOL!!!!** What a great first week! How amazing is the new renovation!! It has truly been a marathon of a summer getting the rest of the classrooms up and running. And we will soon have the new computer lab and library on the go! And how great the outside of the buildings are looking!! Soon, so very soon, the parking lot will be FINISHED!! We cannot wait!

And once again we want to welcome our new families to our community. You have just made us an even better place. I look forward to getting to know you over the next while.

"Thank you" does not even begin to address the gratitude we feel for everyone who has helped us get up and running, once again working around, through and with the construction crews and the MESS!:

- Your staff have, once again, spent many, many, many extra hours (beyond any reasonable expectation) just getting the school ready for you, including moving 'stuff' again and again to make way for the next round of cleaning, as well as clearing and setting up, never mind getting their own classrooms up and ready! Such great work ethic and dedication reminds us as to WHY we are here and have such a fantastic place to work and learn.
- You, the families, who have embraced the chaos and the construction, and the amazing nearly finished project. We are so blessed to completely be in our fully expanded campus and are looking forward to finishing off the parking lot and to begin work on the courtyard!

Many of you may already know that I experienced quite a serious fall while hiking over the summer, resulting in some broken and dislocated bones as well as surgery to add some lovely 'bling' to my ankle. Although I am healing, my recovery will be slow. I thank you all for the prayers and wonderful offers to help that you have reached out to me with and know that all of those things really do make a difference.

*****In addition, I really must say a huge thank you to Mrs. Vivien Farr, our fantastic vice-principal who is now the acting principal in my absence. She has put in countless extra hours over the past month wrapping up the construction crew, getting us moved in (no small feat), doing her VP job and also doing mine. I truly am blessed that she was able to take this on and I want to thank her, and ALL of our staff, for covering for me during this time. It really does help with getting me 'back on my feet'!!**

With blessings and gratitude,
Lynn Fleck

2017-2018 Staff

Teaching Staff

Kindergarten	Mrs. Herron	Grade 4	Mrs. Braund
Kindergarten	Miss Johnston	Grade 5	Mr. Zerr
Grade 1	Miss Nutini	Grade 5	Mrs. Hopley
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Rendon	Grade 6	Mrs. Beetlestone
Grade 2	Mrs. Griffin	Grade 6	Miss Nagy
Grade 3	Mrs. Aitken	Grade 7	Mrs. Basso
Grade 3	Mrs. Beaudin	Grade 7	Ms. Pedrette

Phys-ed/Religious Ed: Mrs. Mlikotic
Grade 7 Science and prep relief: Mrs. Rensby

Education Assistants

Mrs. Booker	Mrs. McCoy
Mrs. Crombie	Mrs. Moore
Mrs. Dyer	Mrs. Michielsen
Miss Figueira	Mrs. Raible
Mrs. Kirzinger	Mrs. Shaw
Mrs. Lee	Mrs. Schober
Principal	Mrs. Fleck
Vice Principal/Band	Mrs. Farr
Director of Student Services	Mrs. Dreher
Learning Assistance	Mrs. Forrest
Custodian	Mr. Fonda/Mrs. Puno
Office Administrator	Mrs. Sehn
Accounting	Mrs. Thiessen

SCHOOL NEWS

School Mass

Thank you to all of the parents and guests who joined us for our first school mass. What a wonderful way to role model the importance of our faith to our children. Your presence is always welcome and so appreciated.

Drop off zone and safety

By now most of you will have 'tested' out our new 'drop-off' zone. It seems to be working really well and helping to keep traffic moving. Please do not drop off your child before 8:15 as there is no supervision before 8:15.

Please drive in at the back of the line. Keep the line moving forward. Once you have unloaded/loaded feel free to pull out carefully and drive ahead, allowing those behind to move up.

Please do not unload in the main parking lot unless you have parked your vehicle. Thank you for helping us with this transition.

Here at St. Joseph School, the safety of the children is number one.
Thank you for following the 'drop off and pick up' rules.

Parking on the street is always a good option. Please remember that it is extremely important that you do not block our neighbours' driveways or park in their driveways. You may need to circle around in order to find a space.

Once our parking lot is fully finished there should be no need for parents to park out on Elliott. For your information the end of Elliot grassed area (closest to the school) is private property. Vehicles should continue to drive around to the right on to Copeland to exit Elliot rather than turning around.

Student Attendance

Classes start at 8:30am. (Mrs. Farr said the wrong time at the assembly - so sorry). As many plans for the day are discussed at the start of the day it is important that your child is here to listen to them. Academic subjects also take up an early part of the morning. If for any reason you have to bring your child late to school after 9 am. you should bring them in to the front office to sign them in.

If your child has an appointment during school hours please message the teacher via agenda, phone call or email to let them know in advance when you will be collecting them. When you arrive at the school please let the office know that you are here to pick up your child.

It is very important that we have knowledge of where students are and have an accurate attendance of the school population.

Staff Prayer

Our staff gathers for prayer every morning at 8:05am. At that time the office will be closed for approximately 10 minutes. If you have an emergency, please see the staff members on supervision outside.

Thank you for respecting the importance of staff to be together to pray at this time.

Uniform Sweaters

Please make sure your child has their uniform sweater at school every Monday for assembly and for all planned assemblies as well as for School Mass. Many of our students are still waiting for uniforms and gym strips to arrive. We are aware of this and look forward to see everyone in uniform as soon as possible.

FreshGrade

This year our school will be enrolling with a program called "FreshGrade". Some of your teachers will have used this last year so you will already be familiar with it. FreshGrade is a sophisticated communication tool between home and school. Many of our staff are new to this program and will be beginning to use it gradually this term.

Please watch for further details about FreshGrade and some parent information.

Cell Phones

If your child has a cell phone and is required to bring it with them to school. The cell phone must be in his/her backpack once they are on school property. There is no reason for cell phone use during the school day. If a child needs to call home for some reason they need to first ask a teacher if they can use the phone and then use a school phone to call. At the end of the day if you have arranged to call your child regarding pick-up, students may go to the "Pilon" area by the teacher supervisor to take /make the call.

Any cell phone that is being used during school hours for any reason will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Safe Environment Training

All of our parents who are hoping to help out in the classroom or on field trips are required to have taken this short training session. It will be held on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7pm.** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (3665 Benvoulin Road). Please read the policy before you arrive. It is available from the Safe Environment Office webpage www.nelsondiocese.org. Please RSVP to renee.burzuk@nelsondiocese.org (preferred) or 250-448-2725 ext. 225.

Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox run is on **Friday, Sept 15th at 1pm.** We always need lots of volunteers for this event. You don't have to run, just help to provide safety for our students at various stages of the event. Volunteers should meet in the main foyer at 12:15pm for instructions. If you can help please contact the office sjkoffice@cisnd.ca and leave your name. Thank you.

Students may wear their gym strip that day to come to school. The primary students can dress in active wear. Students will learn the details about the event next week. The length of the course varies according to each grade. As always we encourage the students to bring a minimum donation of \$2 which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. As this is a volunteer organization ALL money donated goes directly towards Cancer research. Student donations may be given to the classroom teacher any day this coming week. If you would like to donate online our page is: <http://www.terryfox.ca/StJosephElementary> . Our goal this year is \$800.00

Staff Meet and Greet

The staff would like to welcome all our new families back to school with an evening meet and greet. This will be **held Tuesday, September 19th** instead of September 12th; from **5-7pm** and include a meal and give you an opportunity to see the school. Pre-order forms and information will be coming home next week.

PSG NEWS

PSG Meeting – Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm.

Please join us for our first PSG meeting of the school year on **Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30pm.** in the school. This is the same date as the staff Meet and Greet. If you would like to attend, staff will be providing babysitting in Doyle hall classrooms. Room 16 and Room 17.

All parents are welcome, we look forward to seeing you!

New Families' Tea

Welcome back to school!

The Parent support group would like to invite you to our annual New Families' Tea to gather together to meet and greet our new families. Please join us on **Tuesday, September 12th, in the main foyer after drop off around 8:45 am.**

New families, this is a great opportunity to meet other parents and ask questions. Old families, come and have coffee and treats and enjoy fellowship.

School links

1) Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintJosephCatholicElementarySchool>

2) and for the dads group

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/saintjosephdadsgroup/join>

COMMUNITY NEWS

There will be a First Communion meeting at St. Charles Garnier on **September 27th at 7:00pm.**

Attachments

- New Families Tea – poster
- Uniform Alterations – information

Our mission is to foster the development of the total child in spirit, mind and body. Through Jesus, we encourage the pursuit of excellence in a community of love and respect.