



St. Joseph's Catholic School



NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: Dear families,

I've been very impressed by the leadership of our kids even more so than usual. I don't even have enough room to write down all the awesome examples! Here are just a handful. As you may have seen in the paper, a number of our grade four girls do a fundraiser for the library completely on their own. Grade six and sevens have been referees for younger children for hockey and intramurals. We have started composting because of an idea brought forward by one of our learners that a team of her friends help to set up; now grade 6s help collect the compost. Our office monitors are great as always. We are so blessed with such awesome kids here!

Have a great week!
Hayden

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP:

The next Parent Support Group (PSG) meeting will be held Wednesday, 24 November, 7pm on [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 993 0595 5212 | Passcode: PSG

Chair: Julie Chaplin | **VP:** Jen Moyle | **Treasurer:** Seonaid Davis | **Secretary:** Monica Howard | **Hot Lunch Coordinator:** Angela Souter | **Council Liaison:** vacant. For more info, please contact Julie Chaplin @ (250) 877-8271 or any of the other members.

HOT LUNCH HELP NEEDED !!!

We're still looking for a **Spaghetti** team. Spaghetti is scheduled for just three times this year. Please email Angie Souter if you are able to help.
angelasouter@gmail.com or call 250-877-3170



CHURCH:

Mass at 9am on Sunday streamed on [Facebook](#). Check Flocknote for more info.
Drive through communion is back on!

Weekday Masses: paused temporarily

Flocknote: To get on Flocknote text SMITHERS to 514-900-0130

Online Catholic Resources

Content, events, workshops and tools are available at beholdvancouver.org

New prayer app

Available now from the Augustine Institute is a brand new Catholic prayer app called "Amen."



Contact us: 250 847 9414 | <http://stjosephsschool.ca/> | stj@cispg.ca | [Facebook](#)



We thank God that we are blessed to be working, playing and learning in beautiful Smithers, BC on the unceded traditional territory of the Gitdumden clan of the Wet'suwet'en.

UPDATES

Hot lunch this week 🍕

Pizza is the hot lunch this week, which will be served on Friday.

Poinsettias 🌲

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser! We raised over \$1600, which will go toward student activities. Your plants will be in on 25 Nov. and can be picked up between 2 and 6pm in the gym. Please note this may change due to supply chain disruptions due to weather events in the south of the province.

School photo orders & retakes

If you are placing orders by paper, the orders were due yesterday! Please get them in to the office asap. Retakes are scheduled for Thursday, 27 January, 2022.

Jam Pail Curling - Come throw rocks at houses!!

Saturday, 27 November, at the curling rink. Ages 5 - 12 yrs. Registration @ 10am; starts @ 11am. \$1 per curler.

REMINDERS

Witsuwit'en word of the month

November's word is: 'Ats deondzin? (pronounced ants deriden) means 'how is it outside?' October's word "Hadih" (pronounced ha-dee), which means hello!

Christmas Store 🌲

We are accepting donations for our Christmas Store; gifts for men are especially appreciated. Please see page 3 for more info. Thank you for donating already and to Mrs Boot for organising!!!

Air purifier fundraiser 🗂️

Please see the note on page 4 regarding a fundraising campaign to help us purchase air purifiers for classrooms. Thank you to Dr Kate Niethammer for leading and organising this!

Maintenance advisory committee members needed

The school council is calling for volunteers with trade, maintenance, construction, and engineering backgrounds interested to help plan future work on our facility. Please note that committee members are not expected to perform any work themselves. Tasks involve tour the facility, provide suggestions, and attend one or two meetings a year. Please contact the school office if you are interested!

Bus fees 🚌

Fees are now due. Cost for one child is \$250.00, for two or more \$310.00. You can pay cash or cheque at the office, e-transfer to stjetransfers@cispg.ca or contact the bookkeeper at bookkeeperstj@cispg.ca if you would like it added to your pre-authorized debit.

Nut awareness policy input 🥜

St Joseph's is considering updating its nut awareness policy due to changing demographics. Please complete the survey here by Friday, 26 November: <https://forms.gle/ghqAawePLxSwGFgX7>

Missing item 🏏

Please contact the office if you have seen a lime green and black Sherwood hockey stick with the #11 on the top handle.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Nov. 16, 2021

Christmas Shopping for Moms and Step Moms, Dads and Step Dads

In the spirit of Christmas giving, Grade 5 will be organizing a ***Christmas Store*** and **wrapping stations** for the students of St. Joe's on December 9th in the Gym.

We hope to collect gift items that will appeal to Moms and Dads which you might have hanging around your house and might be thinking of recycling or re-gifting.

The students will have an opportunity to buy gifts and wrap them for their parents.

We will be accepting donations of gently used: **mugs, books, key chains, knick-knacks, picture frames, sayings...**

Ideas for Moms: **jewelry, candles, kitchen gadgets, scarves, pottery,**

Unused/unopened: bubble bath, perfume, soap etc.

Ideas for Dads: **fishing gear, hooks, golf balls, small tools, clean ball caps/hats, ties, hockey cards, socks (never used), games**

Thankyou in advance for your generous donations! Please send items in before Dec 7th.

All gifts will be 3 dollars, so we encourage the students to use their own money.

On the shopping day there will be wrapping stations as well. We will also be looking for donations of gift wrap, bows and ribbon.

The money raised will be given to the Christmas food hamper. Any leftover items will be donated to New to You or saved for next year's store.

Thank you,

Mrs. Creyke

Mrs. Dingwall

Mrs. Boot

AIR PURIFIER FUNDRAISER

Dear parents, teachers, staff, students, relatives and caregivers of St Joe's students,

The COVID pandemic continues to affect our lives in ways most of us would never have imagined and it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

There have been many things that have been learned over the last 2 years about mitigating the spread of COVID and all respiratory viruses and the layers of protection that help. I am sure you are all aware of handwashing, staying home if sick, wearing a mask and getting vaccinated to protect yourself and others. The next step that has been shown to be very effective at preventing spread of respiratory viruses is adequate air flow and filtration.

Currently, St Joe's classrooms are increasing air flow in their classrooms by keeping the windows open and, although this is good and has worked well thus far, it is not a perfect system. St Joe's does not have a central ventilation system. They have a modern central boiler and radiators for heating and are using the windows, the hood for the ovens in the kitchen and a few bathroom fans, to help air circulation. The cost of the recommended upgraded ventilation system was \$800 000 in 2013, this is presumably more expensive now and is not within the school's budget.

I have, therefore, spearheaded the purchasing and fundraising for stand-alone air purification systems for each of the classrooms.

The IQAir HealthPro Plus systems technology traps ultrafine particles down to 0.003 microns - 10 times smaller than a virus! This also filters pollen, dust and dander making the classrooms better for children with allergies and asthma, as well as preventing the spread of all viruses, creating a safer place for everyone in the school. You can find more information here <https://www.iqair.com/ca/room-air-purifiers/healthpro-series>

I would like to stress that the addition of these systems **WILL NOT REPLACE ANY OF THE LAYERS OF PROTECTION CURRENTLY IN PLACE** at this time, and are recommended as an **ADDITIONAL** layer for now and into the future.

The cost of the systems will be \$25,000.00 plus for purchasing, materials and labour for mounting the units in the gymnasium. The filters would need to be replaced every 4 years. I have been in contact with Mr Drygas and this is much more than what the school has for COVID spending this year, but that himself and the school council are fully supportive of these units and the fundraising needed.

I am writing to you at this time to ask you to consider donating to this important cause for the safety of our children, teachers and staff.

The donations can be made out to St Joseph's School (in the form of cheques, cash or pre-authorised debit) and you will be issued a tax receipt.

I would also like to say that like the prevention of COVID 19, every little effort helps, so please don't feel that your family needs to contribute a lot or at all if it is not possible. Of course, every contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr Kate Niethammer



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

4054 Broadway Ave (Box 454) Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

250 847 9414 stj@cispg.ca stjosephsschool.ca

One family, one hope in Chris!



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROTOCOLS

OCTOBER 2021



Daily Health Checks

Everyone entering the school is asked to have completed [daily health checks](#) available from the BCCDC to monitor for any symptoms. Parents are responsible for monitoring their children.



Masks

Masks are required for all visitors, staff, and learners in grades K-12. *Some [exemptions](#) apply.

School Entry/Exit

Classes will continue to line up outside with their grade and enter/exit with their teachers as various doors like last year. Thank you for continuing to drop your child off outside the school building and not inside.



Visiting

Visitors are welcome into our school. Thank you for checking in at the office and filling out your name on the visitor's log. Appointments and conducting business by phone or email is encouraged. Please limit your visit to areas required for the purpose of your visit (e.g. school office for drop-off/pick-up of items, classroom for an appointment or volunteer, kitchen for hot lunch etc).

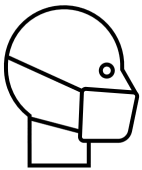


Physical distancing

2 m physical distancing is no longer required. Please avoid crowding and respect the personal pace of others and their preference.

Illness

Students/staff should stay home when sick. See the K-12 Health Check app, call 811 or your doctor for specific guidance and information about when to return to school. Students who become ill while at school will be kept comfortable and supervised while waiting for their parent/guardian to come and pick them up.



Isolating when during testing

Guidelines on what to do when a household member is getting tested: "Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-isolation and when they may return to school." Despite this we know many families go above and beyond and keep their children home if another household member is getting testing even when not required. This is much appreciated!



Cleaning

Staff and contractors will continue to clean high-touch surfaces regularly.



Hand Hygiene

All entering will use proper hand hygiene by washing their hands where sinks are available. Hand sanitizer will also be available throughout the school.



Vaccinations

For more information, please go to the [Northern Health website](#) for times and locations for vaccinations.

COVID-19

When to get tested for COVID-19

Based on current evidence, some symptoms are more likely to be related to COVID-19 than others.

If you or your child have any of the symptoms listed below, follow the instructions.

SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO

- Fever (above 38° C)
- Chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

1 or more of these symptoms:
Get tested and stay home.

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Body aches
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have **1 symptom:**
Stay home until you feel better.

2 or more of these symptoms:
Stay home and wait 24 hours to see if you feel better.
Get tested if not better after 24 hours.

If you are a close contact* of someone who has COVID-19 and have any of the symptoms listed above:
Get tested and stay home.

Check your symptoms with the B.C. Self-Assessment Tool.

If you have any questions, or the symptoms get worse, contact your healthcare provider or call 8-1-1.

★ You will be notified if you are a close contact. For more information on close contacts, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19closecontacts>

For more information on COVID-19, go to www.bccdc.ca

If you develop severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (e.g. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, **call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.**

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Mass at 9am on Zoom	22	23	24 PSG MEETING on Zoom	25 Plant pick- up 2-6pm	26 Gr. 3-7 mass at 9 Pizza (Gr. 7)	27
28 Mass at 9am on Zoom	29	30	Dec. 1	2	3 Gr. 3-7 mass at 9 Poutine	4
5 Mass at 9am on Zoom	6	7	8	9 Christmas Store	10 *Progress reports sent home Spaghetti	11
12 Mass at 9am on Zoom	13	14	15	16	17 Last day before Christmas!	18
19 Mass at 9am on Zoom	20 Christmas Break	21 Christmas Break	22 Christmas Break	23 Christmas Break	24 Christmas Break	25 Christmas! 
26 Mass at 9am on Zoom	27 Christmas Break	28 Christmas Break	29 Christmas Break	30 Christmas Break	31 Christmas Break	Jan. 1