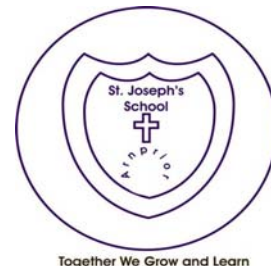


ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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Together We Grow and Learn

September 2007

'It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts... it is to teach them to think, if that is possible, and always to think for themselves.' --- Robert Hutchins

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome to a new school year! I hope everyone had a truly enjoyable and restful two months. While treasuring our memories from the summer holidays, we can look forward to a year filled with lots of excitement and new beginnings at St. Joseph's Catholic School. We have the privilege to learn, grow and love in a faith-based community.

As a Catholic community we have a shared mission. "Education is a life-long experience leading us forth from where we are, to where God would have us be, in the example of Jesus. We ask God to help us to deepen our knowledge and understanding, our awareness and sensitivity, our discipleship and our serving others in God's name."

On behalf of the staff of St. Joseph's Catholic School, we wish to extend a warm welcome to all students and families in our community and a very special welcome to our new junior kindergarten students, grade six students from John XXIII and new registrants. I'm confident everyone will embrace all new students and parents with "warmth, hospitality, good humour and joy".

We look forward to working with you to make this school year one filled with many positive experiences. Judging by the activities, laughter, meaningful work and enthusiasm in the classrooms this past week, we are off to a successful start!

Please feel free to contact the school if we can be of any assistance to you. Your frequent personal contact with us will help facilitate quality Catholic Education for your child(ren).

Your Partner in Catholic Education,

Christina Brown

ST. JOSEPH'S 2007-2008 STAFF

Teaching is leaving a vestige of one self in the development of another. And surely the student is a bank where you can deposit your most precious treasures.

~Eugene P. Bertin

I am honoured to work with this year's staff. They are dedicated, hard working, talented and fun.

Regularly, they collaborate with one another to ensure excellence and a safe environment for all.

Below is a list of staff assignments for the 2007-2008 school year.

Amber Barclay	JK/SK
Lindsay Andrechek	JK/SK
Jacki England	Grade 1
Darlene Guindon	Grade 2
Cathy Finner	Grade 2/3
Maureen Hawel	Grade 4
Lee Kedroskie	Grade 4/5
Nancy Brisson	Grade 5
Allen Ferguson	Grade 6
Cathy Quinn	Grade 7
Andrew Smith	Grade 7
Nathan Hisko	Grade 7
Dana Smith	Grade 8
Denis Coulterman	Grade 8
Kelli Holm	French (JK/SK)
Mandy Schroder	French (JK/SK& Gr. 5)
Ivana Matjasko	French (Grades 1-5)
Anne-Marie Strack	French (Grades 6-8)
Barbara Duffy	Special Education
Kelli Holm	Special Education
Kerrie-Anne Hebert	Educational Assistant
Lynn Johannson	Educational Assistant
Bonnie Kwiatkowski	Educational Assistant
Lianne Ray	Educational Assistant
Lise Zamojski	Educational Assistant
Patricia Duhn	Secretary
Debbie Godin	Custodian
Terry Lemenchick	Custodian
Carol Marcellus	Noon Hour Supervisor
Carol Marcellus	Bus Supervisor (a.m.)
Father Patrick Dobec	Parish Priest
Sister Nancy Wilson	Spiritual Advisor
Lisa Dellezay	Counsellor
Christina Brown	Principal
Lorne Keon	Supervisory Officer
Andrew Bray	Trustee

Welcome

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Ray back to St. Joseph's Catholic School and to Mr. Larry Maltby who has been working as a half-time supply Educational Assistant. We are glad to have you join us!

Welcome to our student teachers, Ashley Clouthier and Julie Blimke. Miss Clouthier will complete a six week placement in Mrs. Guindon's class between September and December and in Mrs. Brisson's class between February and March. Miss Blimke will complete two placements in Mrs. Hawel's class. One is beginning in October and the other in April.

We are blessed to have a few co-operative education students from ADHS to assist in classrooms as well.

In my absence, Mr. Coulterman or Mrs. Strack will be the Principal Designate.

OUR VISION



In 2002, The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Community reanimated its vision statement. In doing so, the mission statement was clearly articulated:

"Inspired by our rich heritage and challenged by the struggles of our past, we are an inclusive Catholic educational community called to express our mission as church to pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future."

In addition to articulating a mission statement, we identified various vision concepts we strive and are called to do. Each school year, to help keep the vision alive, one of these statements is chosen as a focus. This year, the statement that will be integrated through our Board and School's Strategic Plan for 2006-2007 is:

"Open to mystery and endless discovery in the Lord, we are called to challenge the consumer culture with lives dedicated to the principles of social justice in the spirit of gospel values."

Our goal is to explore ways of

PARISH NEWS

Eucharistic Celebration

St. Joseph's and John XXIII Catholic Schools will gather as a



community of believers to celebrate an opening school mass and the Feast of St. John Chrysostom on Wednesday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Coulterman has graciously offered to lead us in music. One of our grade seven students will provide leadership for the first reading.

St. John Chrysostom Parish News

The Feast of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated at mass on Sunday, September 17th. A parish barbeque will follow 10:30 a.m. mass.

Confirmation candidates and their parents are to meet in the parish hall after 10:30 a.m. mass on Sunday, September 24th. The Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th at 4:30 p.m. This is for both parishes.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Confirmation candidates and their parents are to meet in the parish hall after 10:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, September 24th.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2006-2007

I'm looking forward to working with this year's School Council members! They are listed below.

Karina Dewar	Chair
Kristine Dewar	Vice-Chair
Hazel Power	Secretary
Anita Brown	Treasurer
Rachel Burton	Parent Rep.
Kelly Cavanagh	Parent Rep.
Julie Clarke	Parent Rep.
Darlene Denis-Friske	Parent Rep.
Lynda Jamieson	Parent Rep.
Peter Landon	Parent Rep.
Nicole Parks	Parent Rep.
Alanna Symington	Parent Rep.
Michelle Wyatt	Parent Rep.
Crystal Couvieuau-MacLean	Student Rep.
Brendan Edge	Student Rep.
Maureen Hawel	Teacher Rep.
Bonnie Kwiatkowski	Support Staff Rep.
Patricia Duhn	Support Staff Rep.
Christina Brown	Principal Resource

Our first School Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m.



The Meet the Teacher Barbeque, hosted by School Council, is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th beginning at 4:30 p.m. . This evening is an informal gathering. It is a time to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s). Please note your child(ren)'s progress will not be reviewed during this time. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



The pavement in the back of the school yard has been replaced. It looks wonderful and has been well utilized by students during recesses and gym classes!

New tile was laid in Mrs. Duffy's Classroom and The Educational Assistant's Resource Room.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

An ADHS Venture Planning student will be selling an assortment of various juices at St. Joseph's Catholic School from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 14th. The purpose of this venture is to test initial marketing and entrepreneurial skills. A cup of juice costs \$0.50 and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY



Thursday, September 21st has been designated as "School Colours Day". Everyone is encouraged to dress in school colours – blue and white!

PEDICULOSIS

We hope to conduct healthy hair checks as early as next week. Volunteers are always welcome and training will be provided. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. We can work together to prevent the spread of lice by taking a few precautions listed below:

- Do not share hats and toques.

- Do not try hats on in a store.
- Do not share combs and hairbrushes.
- Do not use another person's hair ornaments.
- Do bring a pillow to a sleep over.
- Do clean headphones before using.
- Do keep hats, toques, mitts and scarves inside coat sleeve.
- Do a regular head check at home.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Recess (Primary/Junior)
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Recess (Intermediate)
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch (Primary/Junior)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Intermediate)
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Recess(Primary/Junior)
3:10 p.m.	Dismissal

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS



Student information forms were distributed to students on the first day of school. These are the blue sheets that were attached to a form letter along with student insurance forms. Please complete and return all forms as soon as possible if you have not done so already. The information, specifically medical and custody information, may assist us in keeping your child safe. Thank you to everyone who was prompt in returning them.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The Board's School Year Calendar Committee reconvened in July regarding the inclusion of two additional professional development activity days. Upon approval, it will be printed and copies will be distributed to schools. As soon as the calendars arrive in our school, we will send them home for your perusal.

FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

Fully Alive, our Family Life Program, is an integral part of our curriculum. A Family Edition of the Fully Alive program is available to parents upon request. This family edition helps those who want to be active participants in their child's Family Life program. Once the program is completed, family booklets must be returned to the school.

MILK ORDERS

Milk is available to students for purchase. Each 200 ml carton costs \$0.60. Milk is to be purchased for one month at a time.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:55 a.m. Bell rings

DAILY ROUTINES:

1. Students are expected to remain out of doors before classes begin, during recesses and once they are dismissed at noon hour, except in poor weather conditions. Dressing to suit the weather is encouraged. Hats are very important since they give excellent protection from the sun.
2. Walkers and bikers need not arrive before 8:35 a.m. in the morning, unless previous arrangements have already been made with the staff of St. Joseph's. They are to enter the school grounds from John Street only.
3. For safety reasons, students are asked to refrain from using scooters, skateboards and heely's in the school or yard.
4. Students require two pairs of shoes. They will remove their "outside" shoes in the hallway and replace them with their "inside" shoes before entering the classroom.
5. We welcome visitors to our school. For safety reasons, we request that everyone other than students and staff, come to the office to sign in. We will gladly deliver forgotten materials to your child(ren) or call for them to come to the office. Thank you for helping us keep St. Joseph's a "safe school".



SAFE ARRIVAL

In order to ensure the safe arrival of your child(ren), it is critical that the school be notified of all absences or late arrivals. If the school is not notified, we will call parent(s) each day a child is absent.

Students who arrive late must report to the office for a late slip before entering class.

DISMISSAL

Students are dismissed at 3:10 p.m. Most of them will exit the school from the back doors. Students being picked up may exit from the front doors. A teacher will be on duty in this area until 3:20 p.m. We greatly appreciate that you wait for your child(ren) outside the doors of the school so as to eliminate confusion and congestion in our hallways.

Under the busing policy, bus passes are to be issued by the principal for “emergencies” only.

SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR & DRESS CODES

Our school’s Behaviour and Dress Codes are outlined in each student’s agenda. Teachers have reviewed them with students. We encourage you to review them as well with your child.

SICK CHILDREN

The school does not have the facilities to care for sick children. When a child is sick at school he/she will be kept comfortable until a parent arrives or authorizes the student’s release.

A child recovering from an illness is best kept at home. Requests for a student to remain indoors during recesses or lunch hour will not be permitted. Recesses and lunch hours are part of the school day and the school is organized and staff supervision is allotted accordingly. Special accommodations may be made with extenuating circumstances (i.e. in the event of an injury).

MEDICATION



Administration of medication by school personnel to students is discouraged.

However, we recognize the occasional need to administer medication to those students who may have specific needs or severe or life threatening allergies.

If medication is necessary a written parental consent form with written permission and instructions from the child’s physician must be completed. If you wish to have a form for administration of medication, please contact the school.

When the necessary written consent has been received, medication must be brought to the office where it will be securely stored in a cabinet. For the safety of all students, medication is not to be in school bags or lunch kits.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can be fatal. St. Joseph’s has students who suffer from life-threatening allergies to certain foods, medications, and insect stings. It is our duty to implement safety guidelines outlined in the Board’s Anaphylaxis Policy. All students with a food allergy **MUST** carry an Epi-pen on them at all times. A second one is to be stored in a safe accessible location. Students who are anaphylactic to bees or wasps **MUST** wear their epi-pens from early spring until early winter.

Consent forms and anaphylactic alert forms will be sent home to parents for signatures. We are also asking for five small recent photos of anaphylactic children – one copy for each: the teacher’s day book, classroom doorway, staffroom, bus driver and main office.

Teachers will notify parents if their classroom is to be designated as a “nut-free” environment. They will also contact parents of anaphylactic students before any major class excursions to review protocols and safety procedures.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping all of our students safe!

OUT-OF-CLASSROOM EXCURSIONS:

From time to time the opportunity arises to enhance the curriculum by venturing beyond school boundaries. Such occasions include:

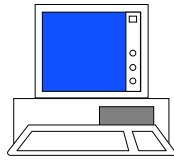
- a) going to St. John Chrysostom Parish for mass or concert practices.
- b) walking to and from the local library or
- c) walking to and from The Grove.

Any of the above would be with the classroom teacher, during class time, for a purpose related to your child's curriculum. Rather than send a permission slip home for each of the above, we are

asking you to complete the attached permission form indicating your approval for short-distance excursions as outlined above.

INTERNET/PHOTO RESTRICTIONS

It is our policy, and the Board's, to exclude students from hotmail, e-mail privileges. There are many concerns with chat lines – and situations into which people can get lured.



Students have privileges, under supervision, to use the internet for research purposes. If you wish to have your child restricted from these privileges, please indicate this on the attached form.

Occasionally the school will be involved in the photographing and videotaping of children while they are engaged in education activities. We ask your permission to allow us to use these photographs for newspaper articles, our web site, and/or school bulletin boards.

Permission forms are attached. Kindly return them by Friday, September 15th.

FOSTER PARENTS

Tired of waiting? Try waiting for something big like parents. Foster and adoption parents are needed in Renfrew County. If you would like to learn more about what is involved in fostering or fostering with a view to adopt please contact Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County at 735-6866 ext. 4060.

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

- ❖ Thank you to Mr. Terry Lemenchick and Mr. Jack Lavallee for doing such an excellent job in preparing the school for this academic year. The school looks wonderful!
- ❖ I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional work that our staff has done in preparing for a successful 2006-2007 school year.
- ❖ I'm truly grateful to Mrs. Bertrand and Mrs. Duhn for the many hours they put in during the summer to organize the office and prepare for

this school year. All your time and efforts are sincerely appreciated.

- ❖ Thank you to Father Dobec, Sister Nancy and the Knights of Columbus for organizing such a lovely Social Gathering for the staffs of St. Joseph's and John XXIII.
- ❖ I am thrilled to be at St. Joseph's Catholic School. Everyone has been most welcoming, kind and helpful. For this I'm grateful. St. Joseph's is a "School to Believe In"!

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

When education is a high priority in the home and children are given assistance, students succeed. You can help your child become a successful learner by motivating your child to read, encouraging your child to write, nurturing your child's math skills and helping your child learn effective study skills.



Motivate your child to read by:

- Reading to younger children for at least 20 minutes each day
- Model your enjoyment for reading
- Praise your child for reading to you or on his/her own

Encourage your child to write by:

- Writing fun and practical notes to your child
- Getting him/her involved with writing a daily journal, letters to others, or interesting stories
- Reading your child's work and praising him/her for their writing

Nurture your child's math skills by:

- Making use of the "Tips for Math" section of his/her student agenda
- Teaching math skills with real objects and real situations whenever possible (i.e. investigating flyers for items to purchase, follow recipes, time, money)

Help your child learn effective study skills by:

- Referring to the section on study habits in his/her agenda

- Helping your child identify how he/she learns best (through visual representations, auditory processes or hands-on approaches)
- Reviewing key concepts regularly
- Making a study schedule
- Encouraging your child to summarize material in his/her own words

PRAYER

Prayer for Our School

*Lord, circle this school
And keep these good things within:*

*Eagerness to learn
Flowering of talents
A sense of wonder
Enjoyment of sport
Experience of beauty
Warmth of friendship
The art of listening
Respect for all
Service of others
Teamwork between children and adults
Care for the planet
Reverence for life
Fitness of body, mind and spirit*

*Lord circle this school
And keep these bad things without:*

*Low self esteem
Confusion
Prejudice
Pride
Bullying
Cheating
Stealing
Fear of appraisal
Malicious gossip
Absenteeism
'Couldn't care less' attitudes.*

*Lord circle this school
For you are the source of all that is good and true.
Amen.*



**MESSAGE FROM THE
PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

It's that time of the year again! Everyone is anticipating a restful, fun and safe summer. As we look forward to the end of June, we also reflect on the blessings and accomplishments of this school year. The 2006-2007 school year was a productive one filled with lots of excitement and new beginnings.

I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to join the St. Joseph's family – a family that truly “makes a difference as faith-filled community builders” (Our Vision). It is most apparent that everyone strives to work together for the benefit of our children so that they may achieve academic excellence and mature to become caring members of the community and society.

We are so fortunate to have such active and dedicated parents, guardians, volunteers and parish members who make a difference in the life of the school and the lives of our children.

It's been an honour to work with such a hard working, competent and compassionate staff. We accomplished much as a unified team.

St. Joseph's students are one of a kind! They are gifts we all treasure. During the year, I received numerous comments from people visiting our school about how polite and wonderful our students are. This is a direct reflection on you as parents.

Thank you for the dreams, laughter, commitment and support!

I look forward to working with everyone again in September. Best wishes for a blessed and restful summer!