



John Paul II Newsletter

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SECOND TO NONE!

February 6, 2008

Mission Statement

John Paul II Catholic School is a faith community rooted in Scripture and the Traditions of the Church. Our mission is to provide a safe and loving educational environment, which will enable each child to develop spiritually, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and artistically. We are committed to sharing the values Jesus modeled.

Upcoming Events

Sun Feb 10	Mass at Holy Family/Notre Dame 11:00 am
Mon Feb 11	Open House - 9:00 - 3:00
Tues Feb 12	Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition at noon/weaving activities
Wed Feb 13	Middle School Basketball Tournament at Queen of Angels in Duncan
Thurs Feb 14	Red/Pink/White Day; Valentines Day/Valentines for Seniors
Fri Feb 15	Floor Hockey game; basketball game; Portrait Contest
Fri Feb 15	DEADLINE FOR RE-REGISTRATION
Mon Feb 18	Island Catholic Schools Pro D Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tues Feb 19	Island Catholic School Pro D Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Today is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. The staff will be helping the children to prepare for Easter through many activities during the next several weeks. Report cards are around the corner and budgets are being discussed for next year. It is a busy time.

But in this "busy-ness" it is important to reflect and remain focused. The following is a prayer that I will be sharing with the staff:

Dear Lord, we strive to do your will. We don't follow the goals of this world because people often make material gain or power their goals. We choose your path, a path that is worthwhile, a path of love and service. In this way, all that we do is good, all that comes from what we do is good. Amen

(Prayers for the Liturgical Seasons)

We need to pray for each other. Parenting and teaching have many similarities and neither is an easy task. Together we shoulder the responsibility of helping our children to grow in faith and love. May this Lenten time be fruitful for you and may you feel enriched and encouraged as you grow as a family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Korman

If Lent were.....

- " If we were knives, Lent would be a time to sharpen our cutting edges.
- " If we were cars, Lent would be a time for an oil change and a tune-up.
- " If we were swimming pools, Lent would be a time to filter the dirt out of our water.
- " If we were gardens, Lent would be a time to fertilize our soil and dig out our weeds.
- " If we were carpets, Lent would be a time to get power-cleaned.
- " If we were VCRS, Lent would be a time to clean our heads and adjust our tracking.
- " If we were computers, Lent would be a time to overhaul our disk drive.
- " If we were highways, Lent would be a time to repair our cracks and fill our chuckholes.
- " If we were TV sets, Lent would be a time to adjust our focus and our fine-tuning.
- " If we were silverware, Lent would be a time to clean away our tarnish.
- " If we were batteries, Lent would be a time to get recharged.
- " If we were seeds, Lent would be a time to germinate and reach for the sun.

But we are none of those things.

We are people who sometimes do wrong things; we need to atone for them.

" We are people who sometimes grow spiritually lazy; we need to get back into shape.

" We are people who sometimes become selfish; we need to stretch out of our narrowness and begin giving again.

We are people who sometimes lose sight of our purpose on earth and the immense promise within us; we need to regain our vision.

And because we are also people who sometimes tend to put those things off, we need a special sort of official time to concentrate on doing them.

So we have Lent.

The Easter candy will taste sweeter, the Easter flowers will bloom more brightly, the Easter Sunday sun will shine more warmly if we are a better people - and all because of how we spend these next 40 days.

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Catholic Schools Week

We are excited to be participating in the annual BC Provincial Catholic Schools celebrations which will take place February 10th to 16th. We join the other four dioceses of British Columbia in sharing the good news about what is happening in Catholic education. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools - Weaving a Tapestry of Faith." There are a number of events scheduled throughout the week. We invite everyone to join us for the events we have planned. We look forward to showcasing the excellent work of our Catholic school students.

Catholic Schools' Week Activities:

Sunday, Feb. 10th - Mass at Holy Family/Notre Dame Church at 11:00. All students are invited to attend. Please wear your uniform. Come and show the parishioners how many students they are supporting through their volunteer efforts and financial contributions.

Mon. Feb. 11th Open House from 9:00 - 3:00
This is an opportunity for the public to see Catholic education in action.

Tues. Feb. 12th Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw
weaving activities throughout the school

Wed. Feb. 13th Basketball Tournament at Queen of Angels in Duncan

Thurs. Feb. 14th Valentine's Day - dress up in pink, white, and red
Valentines will be given to the residents at the local senior's facilities

Fri. Feb. 15th Floor hockey game: Intermediate students vs Adults
Basketball game: Middle School students vs Adults
Winners from the portrait contest will be announced

Formal Day

Thanks to all those who participated in our most recent school spirit day. Photos of the students in their gorgeous gowns and stylish suits can be seen on the school photo board across from the office. Well done everyone - you looked marvelous!

Parent's Auxiliary

Many hands make light work! Please support the Parent's Auxiliary. The next PA meeting will be held on Monday, March 3 at 7:00 in the school staffroom.

Pro D Days on Feb. 18th and 19th

The teachers will be traveling to Vancouver and attending the Vancouver Catholic Educator's Conference. This is a popular event with excellent keynote speakers and several informative workshops/sessions on both days. The school will be closed while we are away.

Spelling Club

Congratulations to the students who have been participating in our JP II Spelling Club since November. We have completed our school-level competition. After two tie-breaking rounds, we have identified the two top spellers who will continue on beyond the school level.

Congratulations to Nathaniel Wynans and Jairyann Kurucz. They will be completing the Vancouver Island spelling competition the 2nd week of February. The top students from this competition will continue on to the Regional Spelling Bee in Victoria. Well done to all our spellers!

Sports News

The Intermediate Floor hockey team, under Mrs. Benson's direction, represented our school well against John Howitt School and Gill School.

The Middle School basketball team played at A.W. Neill Middle School, and then hosted them here in our gym. Their coach, Mrs. de Bruijn will be taking the basketball team to an all day tournament at Queen of Angels in Duncan next week. Keep up the good work everyone!

Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Competition

Each year the Knights of Columbus organize and sponsor a Basketball Free Throw Competition. This is open to all students (from all schools) 10 to 14 years of age.. The competition involves taking 15 basketball shots. Top scorers will progress on to the regional level of competition. The local competition (Port Alberni region) will be hosted at John Paul II School during lunchtime on **Tuesday, February 12th, 2008.**

The procedure and rules have been explained to all the students. If you have any further questions, please call the school. Students are encouraged to practice their basketball shots independently at home or during morning/lunch recesses in the schoolyard. Students who were interested in participating were given permission forms to be signed by parents. If anyone has not received a permission form, and would like to take part, please stop in the office to pick up a form.

Important!

Re-Registration Deadline

Each year in early February schools begin budget and staffing preparation for the upcoming school year. Integral to the process is the re-registration of existing students. Before admitting new students, all existing students are given priority to re-register. The Re-Registration forms are being sent out with this newsletter, and the deadline for returning them to the office is **February 15th, 2008**. There is no fee for re-registration prior to February 15, and placement will be secured for the 2008/2009 school year. Parents re-registering after February 15 are subject to a \$50.00 application fee and their acceptance cannot be guaranteed.

Lost and Found

The lost and found bin is full! There is a lot of clothing, including uniform items. There are also keys, watches, necklaces, sunglasses, etc. Please take a moment to check the lost and found bin, located just inside the office door, in the next few days. We will be donating the unclaimed items to St. Vincent de Paul at the end of next week.

Uniforms

Please check that the uniform your child has brought home is the right one. A number of parents have contacted the office looking for missing shirts or vests, so please check that your child hasn't brought the wrong one home by mistake. To avoid confusion, please remember to put your child's name on the labels of all of their uniform items.

FSA Tests

Grade 4 and 7 students will be participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment testing from February 4 - 15th. These Ministry of Education required tests are used to assess student's progress in reading, writing, and numeracy. The Ministry of Education has made a few changes to the process for this year's tests. These changes include that some of the testing will be completed online, the test dates have been changed from May to February and the actual writing booklets will be scored by a team of ICS teachers. The booklets will be returned to the student so that parents can see their child's efforts. We wish our student's well in these government mandated tests!

New Floor

We have a new laminate floor in the Primary classroom. Several volunteers from the Holy Family/Notre Dame parish spent a weekend in January to strip and replace the flooring. Many thanks for their hard work and wonderful workmanship. Thanks also to Mrs. Scheunhage who was willing to have her classroom dismantled and then rearranged. Together, we continue to make a difference for our students.

Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Dinner & Dance

Approximately one third of our school families attended the pancake dinner and dance last night. The Knights of Columbus prepared a delicious supper, the children, decorated some lovely masks, and we all had a turn at "shakin' a leg". It was great fun!

Information Night

The winner of the "referral draw" was the Fernandez family. Congratulations!