



John Paul II Newsletter

4006 8th Avenue Port Alberni, BC V9Y 4S4 Tel: 723-0637 Fax: 720-0379

SECOND TO NONE!

February 18, 2009

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

Thursday, Feb. 19	ICS Pro D Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, Feb. 20	ICS Pro D Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday, Feb. 24	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday/Mass 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4	EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 PM for Staff Meeting
Monday, March 9	Parents' Auxiliary Meeting 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10	Report Cards go home
Wednesday, March 11	Grade 3/4 Floor Hockey Finale 3:00 at Glenwood Centre
Thursday, March 12	Student-led Conferences 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 13	NO SCHOOL - FIRST DAY OF SPRING BREAK
Monday, March 23	School Re-Opens 8:40 a.m.
Thursday, March 26	Hair Day
Friday, March 27	Lenten Rice Lunch; Reconciliation 1:00 p.m.; Mass 2:00 p.m.

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Catholic Schools Week was a huge success. We were in the paper for the Ready, Set, Learn activity. We were on Shaw, channel 4, for our hope quilt project and we expect to be in the paper again for our Valentine visits to the nearby senior's homes. The Dinner & a Show night was a lovely evening and the basketball game was lots of fun. Well done to everyone who helped from reading at Mass to putting away chairs after the dinner show. JP II has proven itself "Second to None" once again!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Korman

Baby Photo Contest

The students had lots of fun trying figure out who was who from the baby photos of the grade 6, 7 & 8 students. In the primary class, Kirsten, Matthew & Declan each had 5 correct, Rebecca and Taylor both had 7 correct, and Jorden and Sam W. had 8 correct. In Miss Wharton's class, Jordan and Austin had 8 correct, Anna had 9 correct, and Gabriel and Aleesha had 11 correct. In Ms. Duncan's class, Minesha, Sahara and Frances all had 11 correct, Jairyynn had 14 correct, and Amy had 18. In the grade 7/8 class, Joseph, Josh and Chloe all had 18 correct, Julia had 19 correct and Aine was 21 for 21!!

Knights of Columbus Basketball Free-Throw Competition

Approximately 25 students from John Howitt, Eighth Avenue, and Wood Elementary Schools joined 20 of our students here for the annual Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Competition. The students were treated to juice and wagon wheel cookies after the event. Several students won basketballs and mini net sets. Well done everyone and many thanks to the Knights of Columbus!

Grade 3/4 Floor Hockey

Our grade 3/4 floor hockey season is well under way, with lots of enthusiastic participants. Games have been scheduled for today at noon at Wood School, 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday February 25th at 8th Avenue School, and noon on Friday, March 6th at Gill. There will be a wind-up tournament on Wednesday, March 11th from 3:00 p.m. until approximately 6:00 p.m. at Glenwood Centre. PLEASE NOTE that this was originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, but has been changed to Wednesday, March 11.

Thanks again to Mr. Marling for volunteering to coach the team for practices and games.

Grade 4/5 Badminton

Badminton for Grade 4 and 5 students will be starting next Tuesday, March 24. Practice times will be 12:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Grade 4 students have the option of starting next week, or waiting until the floor hockey season is finished. If any parents are experienced badminton coaches, and have some free time at lunch time on Tuesdays and Thursdays, please join us! Extra help is always appreciated.

Report Cards & Student-led Conferences

It's almost that time of year again! The children will be bringing home report cards on Tuesday,

March 10th. Please keep the report card except for the front cover page. This page needs to be signed and returned so that we know you have received the report card.

Student-led conferences will take place between 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12th. You have the opportunity to remain in the classroom for up to 20 minutes with your child and two other families. Your child will show you some of his/her best work, demonstrate what they can do, tell you about some of the displays, and so on. It is a special time of celebrating your child's accomplishments. Classroom teachers will be on hand to help with this process and to affirm your child's growth.

Suggested time allotments for the student-led conferences will be sent home during the first week of March. If the time slot is not convenient, please call the office and we will try to change it.

If you require a personal interview with the classroom teacher, please notify the office as soon possible so that we can accommodate you.

Hope Quilts

Mrs. Reika Wouters from Holy Family/Notre Dame parish has graciously offered to help sew our hope quilts together. Thank you Reika! The children's squares are finished and we should have four quilts to present to preschools in our community soon.

If you want a copy of the blurb on Shaw, Channel 4 of our quilt activity, please send your name and \$1.00 to the office. Copies will be made within in the next week or two.

Lent and Ash Wednesday Service

Lent, the six weeks of preparation time before Easter, starts with a special service on Ash Wednesday. We will have a liturgy, including the ashes ritual, for the whole school and any visitors at 2:00 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 25th. You are welcome to join us!

FSA Testing

The gr. 4s and 7s will finish their Foundation Skills Assesment tests today. They have worked hard. Results from these tests will be shared with the students and families as soon as the tests are returned from the Ministry of Education.

Fraser Institute Report

Recently there was a list of schools ranked by the Fraser Institute and published in the Times Colonist, a Victoria newspaper. The Fraser Institute is a nonbiased company that uses the FSA testing results and some other criteria to rate schools out of 10 as to how well the students are learning in areas of reading, writing, and numeracy. The published results for Island Catholic Schools and Port Alberni elementary schools (middle schools will probably be published later) are as follows. Note that JPII does not have enough students taking the tests yet to determine our standing. Also, the ICS schools include results averaged in gr. 4 and gr. 7, whereas the Alberni schools are only gr. 4.

Island Catholic Schools:		Port Alberni Schools	
St. Josesph's, Victoria	10	Maquinna	5.2
St. Patrick's, Victoria	8.5	Wood	5.1
Queen of Angels', Duncan	7.7	Gill	4.8
St. Andrew's, Victoria	7.4	John Howitt	4.7
St. Joseph's, Chemainus	6.0	Alberni Elem.	4.6
		Eighth Ave.	2.8

Pro D Days

The staff are off to Chemainus and Duncan tomorrow for workshops on computer technology. We will be learning about Google Apps, iMovie, and Excel programs. On Friday we will be participating in a workshop back at JPII on autism.

Psalm Contest

Students in grades 3 - 8 participated in an Island Catholic Schools psalm writing contest. Samples of the students work are posted on the bulletin board across from the office. Here's one written by Anna Parac.

Psalm

*God, you are my spirit and my strength
 Oh God almighty, you deliver me to goodness and deliver us from evil.
 I lift up my spirit.
 God almighty, ruler of heaven and earth,
 Help us to understand.*