



# John Paul II Newsletter

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**SECOND TO NONE!**

## February 21, 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

Mon Feb 25	Mark Mallett Concert 1:30 pm
Fri Feb 29	Hot Lunch Day
Mon Mar 3	Parent's Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm
Wed Mar 5	EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 PM for Staff Meeting
Thur Mar 6	Local School Council Meeting 7:00 pm
Fri Mar 7	Liturgy 11:00 pm/Lenten Rice Lunch
Tues Mar 11	Report Cards go home
Thurs Mar 13	Student Led Conferences from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Fri Mar 14	School Closed for Spring Break until Mon. Mar. 31st

### Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We have just completed a successful Catholic Schools Week. Many thanks to the families who participated in the parish Mass at Holy Family/Notre Dame Church. The children did a wonderful job.

Our staff also participated in an inspirational Educator's Conference in Vancouver this week. We traveled on Sunday and returned late on Tuesday. The keynote speaker, Monsigneur Jim Lassante from New York, was especially good. His stories of reaching out in compassion and love in very difficult situations truly touched our hearts. The theme for this year's conference was "Let Us Pray".

Lastly, please remember the needy in a special way during Lent. We are again collecting for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank. It is hoped that everyone will bring at least one can of food. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Korman*

### **REMINDER**

Please remember that before school supervision starts at 8:30 outside at the back of the school. Students should be dropped off at the BACK of the school between 8:30 and 8:40 am.

### **Mark Mallett**

Canadian singer/songwriter and Catholic missionary Mark Mallett, will be performing here at the school on **Monday, February 25, at 1:30.**

Mark Mallett is a dynamic entertainer with a powerful message and music to both soothe and invigorate the soul. He tours extensively throughout North America, performing all his own material and keeping the audience on their toes with his rich melodies, compelling message, wacky sense of humor, and keen wit. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Parent's Auxiliary Meeting**

The next Parent's Auxiliary meeting is **Monday, March 3 at 7:00 pm** at the school. We did not have enough parents for a quorum at our last meeting, so if you are available on **March 3**, please come out to the meeting.

### **Early Dismissal**

**Wednesday, March 5** is the first Wednesday of the month and so it is an early dismissal day. **Students are dismissed at 2:00 pm on the first Wednesday of every month** so the staff can hold their monthly staff meeting.

### Catholic Schools Week Results

The Middle School basketball team traveled to Queen of Angels School in Duncan for a tournament on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Our mixed team of 13 students came in second out of eight teams in the Duncan area. Well done to Grant Bernard, Chloe Bernard, Julia Graydon, Bruce Keizer, Ashton Leboe, Aaran MacLeod, Eric Mitchell, Aine O'Dwyer, Colton Poirier, Daniel Steeves, Kaden Tardif, Samuel Wilson, and Michael Woods-Walker. Thanks too to Mrs. deBruijn for coaching and driving, to Mrs. Irg for helping and driving, and to Mrs. O'Dwyer for helping and driving.

#### Valentines Day Project

The Primary and Intermediate class prepared paper valentines for the residents at Echo Village. They walked together on Valentine's Day to deliver them. Again - well done!

#### Wind-up Games

A spirited game of floor hockey was played between the parents and Intermediate students on Friday. This was followed by a game of basketball between the parents and the Middle School students. Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who participated. Everyone was a good sport and it was lots of fun. Also thanks to the referee, Mr. Korman.

#### Contest winners

The top two students in each classroom who guessed the greatest number of student identities from our portrait bulletin board won a prize. The winners were as follows:

Primary -           2<sup>nd</sup> place: Kendrah Castro  
                          1<sup>st</sup> place: Jordan McLean

Intermediate -    2<sup>nd</sup> place: Laura Fernandez  
                          1<sup>st</sup> place: Aleesha Kaushal

Middle School -   2<sup>nd</sup> place: Michael Woods-Walker  
                          1<sup>st</sup> place: Tatyanna Kurucz

One student from each classroom was also selected for a prize because they had the most people identify their picture correctly. They were Declan Lenihan, Noah Clement-Robertson, and Grant Bernard. Congratulations everyone!

## Weavings

Our theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was, "Weaving a Tapestry of Faith". A symbolic gesture of weaving our faith in our lives was contained within the weaving activities throughout the school. Our artistic efforts are on display.

## Other Sports

The Middle School Basketball team also played against Dunn during Catholic Schools Week. Our team won with a score of 31 - 29.

## Lenten Service Projects

A Catholic organization that helps poor people in other countries is called Development and Peace. They are a group that the Island Catholic Schools supports in a special way during Lent. Information regarding Development and Peace is included with this newsletter. Their focus for this year is "I believe.....I give." This is centred around justice and solidarity for the poor. In Canada, Development and Peace is trying to establish an ombudsperson at the federal government level who will call to account mining companies that poison water and destroy the land of the local people where mining takes place. Each class will be conducting a small fundraising project for this organization. We are also collecting for the St. Vincent de Paul Food bank. Any contributions will be gratefully accepted.

## Lenten Rice Lunch

In an effort to understand the plight of children in developing countries and to practice a gentle form of personal sacrifice, we will be holding a rice lunch on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The children are invited to refrain from bringing their lunch that day and instead, they will be served a bowl of warm rice. In many countries, a bowl of rice is equivalent to what a person would eat for the entire day.

We will also be having a communal reconciliation service with the children on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> as well. Fr. Marek will be available for personal reconciliation afterwards if your child so wishes.

## Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to sign the cover page and return it to school with your child. The remaining two pages of the report card are yours to keep.

### **Student Led Conferences**

Student Led Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Your family will be scheduled for a 20 minute time slot per child. There will be three to four other families in the classroom at the same time. Your child will lead you through a presentation of his/her work and a demonstration or two. The conference presentation will vary from class to class. If you require a personal interview with the classroom teacher, please notify the office as soon as possible so that we can accommodate you.

### **Spring Break**

Easter and Spring Break are combined this year which has enabled us to have a longer break of two weeks. There will be no school on Friday, March 14. Classes will start again at 8:40 am on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs)**

The grade four and grade seven students have completed writing their FSA tests. Mrs. Mary Benson will participate in a two day marking session with the other Island Catholic Schools to mark and grade the written component of the tests. When the marking has been completed, the tests will be returned to the students. This is a different practice from other years. Two of the tests had multiple choice questions on the computer. This was also new this year. A record of the total results will be sent home when it is available.

### **Sadie Hawkins Day**

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This year is leap year. Sometimes leap year is referred to as Sadie Hawkins Day. Some people say that this is the day that women are allowed to propose marriage to men. This tradition was apparently started in the 5th century in Ireland when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick that men took too long to propose. According to legend, St. Patrick gave permission for women to propose on February 29th. Later in 1288 in Scotland, a law was passed that allowed women to propose to the man of their choice on that day. If the gentleman declined, he had to pay a fine which ranged from a kiss to payment for a silk dress or gloves. Al Capp, who wrote the comic strip, "Lil' Abner", drew a character and dubbed her Sadie Hawkins. The public connected Sadie Hawkins to February 29th and the rest is history. Happy Leap Year!