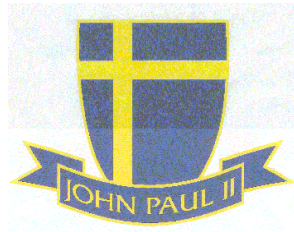


John Paul II Newsletter

4006 8th Avenue Port Alberni, BC V9Y 4S4 Tel: 723-0637 Fax: 720-0379
SECOND TO NONE!



March 5, 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

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,

Many important events are taking place during March. We have started our Lenten journey, report cards are being prepared, student-led conferences will be held to celebrate student achievement, and we are looking forward to Spring Break.

What is Lent? This is a special season during our church year that begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days till Easter. Traditionally it was a time of preparation of converts to the faith. Lent is a time for:

- looking at things that we have done that are wrong, asking God's and other people's forgiveness
- giving up things that keep us from being loving people
- doing extra things that will help us grow closer to God
- being more aware of what it means to love as God loves us
- thinking about our baptism and what it means to be a child of God.

As a school, our service project during Lent will be to collect money for Development and Peace. This is a Catholic group that helps people in developing countries. Each classroom teacher will initiate an activity to raise awareness of the poor and to bring in a small amount of money which we will collectively donate.

A second school wide activity will be the sharing of a rice lunch on Friday, Mar. 27th. We invite those children who are able to fast that day by having a small breakfast and perhaps giving up their snack. Older children will be expected to give up more food that day than the younger ones. At lunch time, all of the children will be given a bowl of rice. This is the usual amount of daily food for some children in poorer countries. The purpose of this activity is raise awareness of how little some people have and to help the children develop some self-discipline.

The staff wishes all of our families a blessed and meaningful season of Lent. We look forward to celebrating your child's accomplishments at the student-led conferences, and lastly, have a restful and refreshing Spring Break!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Korman

Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found bin in the office for items your child may be missing. A table will be set up in the hall by the office during our student-led conferences next week. Any items unclaimed after that date will be donated to charity or discarded.

Knights of Columbus Basketball Free-Throw Competition

Seven students from JP II qualified to compete in the Mid-Vancouver Island Free Throw Championship at Ballenas Senior Secondary School in Parksville on Saturday, February 28. To qualify, they had to place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd out of the whole Alberni Valley in their age level. Congratulations to Julia Graydon, Joe McGuire, Colton Poirier, Nathaniel Wynans, Jakob Leboe, Julian Castro, and Cody Loft. The finals consisted of students from all over the island - Campbell River, Parksville, Nanaimo, Powell River, and the Alberni Valley. It was a wonderful opportunity and a lot of fun. Three of our JP II students came home with medals. Colton Poirier (grade 8) with a Gold, Julian Castro (grade 6) also with a Gold, and Cody Loft (grade 6) with a Silver!! Well done boys!!

Student Led Conferences

Don't forget the Student Led Conferences next Thursday, March 12th from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Everyone should have received notice of their scheduled time by now as they were sent home with students on Monday. If you have not received your notice, please call the office at 723-0637.

Gymnastics

Back by popular demand, gymnastics will be starting on Wednesday, April 1st for students in grades 3 to 8. The lessons will run for 5 Wednesdays in April, from 10:15 to 11:15. The cost for the lessons is \$20.00 per student. Permission forms are being sent home today, and we ask your cooperation in signing and returning the forms (and the \$20.00) to the office no later than March 12.

Grocery Receipt Fundraising

This program has been a great fundraiser for the Parents' Auxiliary, but the PA can't use the funds until the grocery gift certificates have been sold. We currently have over \$2,300.00 worth of gift certificates on hand, so if you do your shopping at Fairway Market, BuyLow Foods or Quality Foods, please stop by the office to buy some.

Parents' Auxiliary - Many hands make light work!

The Parents' Auxiliary group led by Mrs. Lori MacLeod has been doing a wonderful job this year. They have completed several successful fundraising projects, provided the students with hot lunches, counted endless receipts, and kept track of gaming funds that have been collected. Now its time to make decisions on the best ways to use the funds accumulated so far and to plan for next year. We need more parents to attend the monthly meetings so that we can successfully make these decisions. Please attend the next meeting held at 4:00 p.m. on Mon, Mar. 9th. We look forward to seeing you there.

Hair Day

After Spring Break we will be having another "Spirit" day. The theme this time is to arrange your hair in a wild and/or wacky way. Students can use gel, curlers, barrettes, elastics, etc. to decorate their hairstyle. Temporary washable hair dye is also acceptable. They will still participate in gym and all other school activities. They may wear appropriate civvies which include blue jeans and t-shirts. Please remember a donation of \$1.00 or more per student as well. These funds will be used for the Development and Peace Lenten Campaign. This will be another potential "photo op!"

Donation Receipts for Income Tax

If you have not already done so, please pick up your charitable donation tax receipts from the school office.

Guitar Lessons

Jack Granneman, a parishioner from Holy Family/Notre Dame Church is offering free guitar lessons for any students in gr. 4-8. Details regarding times after school and days are still to be worked out. We have had one guitar donated to the school which could be used by someone. If you are interested in joining the guitar club, please call the office at 723-0637 and leave your name with Mrs. Anderson.

A Bus is Coming!

The Knights of Columbus have recently purchased a used school bus. Several of the members are currently working on it to restore and repair it to code so that we can use it for field trips. The staff and students are very excited about this latest improvement to our school. More details to follow as we get updates!

Holy Mackerel Awards

The staff has started presenting students with "Holy Mackerel" certificates for good behaviour and citizenship. It is another way of "catching kids being good". A photocopy of their certificate will be placed in a net for a weekly draw at assembly. Look for these special awards coming home with your child.

What to Give Up for Lent

Give up grumbling...
Instead in everything give thanks.

Give up to 10 to 15 minutes in bed...
instead use that time in prayer.

Give up looking at people's worst points...
instead concentrate on their best ones.

Give up speaking unkindly...
instead let your speech be generous and understanding.

Give up your worries...
instead trust God with them.

Give up hatred or dislike for anyone...
instead learn to love.

Give up concentrating on Sunday newspapers...
instead study your Bible.

Give up TV one evening a week...
instead visit someone lonely or sick person.

Give up buying anything but essentials for yourself...
instead give money to God's work.

Give up the fear which prevents Christian witness...
instead seek courage to speak to others.

Give up the judging by appearances and standards of the world...
instead, learn to give yourself to God.

(World Christian Digest, London)

