



John Paul II Newsletter

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

SECOND TO NONE!

November 28, 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

Friday, Nov. 28	Hat and Tie Day, Hot Lunch Day, Report Cards go home
Wednesday, Dec. 3	EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 p.m. for staff meeting
Friday, Dec. 5	Reconciliation 1:00 p.m. Mass 2:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 8	Parents' Auxiliary Meeting 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 11	School Council Meeting 7:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 12	Hot Lunch Day
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal 1:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18	Christmas Shopping Day, Red/Green Day/Winter Wonderland
Friday, Dec. 19	Noon Dismissal

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

This weekend is the first Sunday of Advent. From then till Christmas Day we will be making extra effort to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Each of the children will be participating in several activities centred around preparing for Christmas. These projects will also include some form of service for the less fortunate. The staff at JP II would like to wish all of our families a special and holy Advent as we prepare together.

As report cards go home tomorrow, let us all take a minute to catch our breath. It has been a busy and productive time for everyone. Let us celebrate our student's successes and achievements. Well done everyone!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Korman

Safety Concerns

We have had some neighbours phone the school with concerns about students being dropped off at the front door. They are worried that someone is going to be hit by a passing car. Please drop your child(ren) off at the back of the school unless they are late. If they are late, there is room to park at the front and then your child(ren) can walk safely on the sidewalk.

We are still having problems with students leaving after school from the front door when they are not accompanied by an adult. Students must leave from the back playground even when they are walking home. They must tell the after-school supervisor that they are walking, and where they are walking to. Thank you for your cooperation.

Welcome Mrs. Salmon!

Mrs. Crystal Salmon has joined the JPII staff as our new Education Assistant. She will be working in Miss Wharton's grade 3-4 classroom. We are delighted that Mrs. Salmon has joined our JPII family!

Report Cards

The first term report cards are being sent home with your children today. The card consists of three pages. Please sign the first page and return it to school. This lets us know that you did indeed get the report card. The staff has been working hard to ensure that your child has received high quality instruction. The report card will reflect your child's progress and will indicate areas where your child needs to concentrate his/her efforts before the next reporting period in March. Please take this opportunity to read your child's report card with your child so that you can celebrate their successes and support their areas for suggested improvement. Together we are making a difference. Well done everyone!

PA Meeting

The next Parents' Auxiliary Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 8, at 4:00 pm** here at the school. PLEASE NOTICE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THE MEETING!

Recycling

Thank you to Mrs. Julie Matte for volunteering to help with the recycling. If anyone else can help, please call the office.

Festival of Christmas Lights

Come and check out the John Paul II Catholic School building at the first annual **Festival of Christmas Lights** at McLean's Mill. Sponsored by the Port Alberni Branch of The Navy League of Canada, the Festival of Christmas Lights is a fundraiser for the Bread of Life. They are raising money by asking the public to vote for the best display by making a donation to that organization's donation box. Thank you to Mrs. Joan Scheunhage, Mrs. Corinne Baines and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Titanich, Mr. George Flint and Mr. Jim Korman for all their hard work setting up the display.

The Festival of Lights will be open November 28 to November 30 and December 5 to December 7 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Sports

We have completed our fall sports season. Thank you to Mr. Rod Mitchell and Mr. Paul Kurucz for coaching our Grade 3-8 Cross Country running team! We had 18 students participate. Our students were well-prepared for the Meet that was held on November 4th.

Our Grade 4/5 basketball team played 4 games against local schools, and wrapped up the season with a tournament at ADSS. They had a lot of fun, and have developed many new skills. Thank you to our Assistant Coach, Colton Poirier (Gr. 8), for all his help!

Our winter sports season is well underway. We are thrilled to have Mr. Doug Marling coaching our Grade 4/5 floor hockey team this season. Grade 3 students are welcome join in the practice sessions with the grade 4/5's. The students are very happy to have an opportunity to play.

Our Grade 6-8 basketball team looks very promising. Most of the students played on our school basketball teams last year, so we've started off the season with a good skill base. We are still looking for a volunteer to help coach this basketball team. If you know anyone who has basketball coaching skills, please encourage them to offer their help. (Our team has 18 students. With an extra coach, we could make two teams!)

Spelling Club

The students in the spelling club are quickly developing the skills needed for oral spelling competitions. (This is very different than written spelling tests). They are enjoying the activities! New members are still welcome to join us. Some fun spelling games, activities and word lists can be found on the Canspell website: www.canspell.ca

Grocery Certificates

Thanks to Mrs. Lenihan for sorting and counting all those grocery receipts, and to Mrs. Irg for taking them in to the stores! It's amazing how quickly they add up! We now have gift certificates available in the office for Fairway Market, Quality Foods, and Buy-Low Foods. Stop by the office any time to pick up certificates for your grocery shopping. They would make great Christmas gifts too!

Christmas Shopping Day

We will be having a special Christmas shopping day in December for the children. The goal is to provide an opportunity for the students to purchase inexpensive gifts for their parents and loved ones. If you have any trinkets (vases, jewelry, decorations, candles, and on and on) that are in really good shape and might be appropriate to donate., please drop them off at the office before Monday, December 15. Your child will be thrilled to get something special for you that they can afford. Let's help them to experience the joy of giving.

On the afternoon of December 18, students will have the opportunity to purchase small gifts for their families and friends. Articles will be priced between \$0.25 - \$1.00. The children will be wrapping their purchases in the classroom so that their gifts are ready to take home for Christmas.

Parents' Auxiliary Christmas Raffle

The Parents' Auxiliary is once again holding a fundraising Christmas Raffle. First prize is a beautiful handmade Christmas Quilt, donated by Mrs. Jill Zodichi. Second prize is an Army-themed handcrafted stool, made and donated by Mr. Ray Berry and Mrs. Jill Zodichi. Third prize is a handmade Afghan Blanket, beautifully made and donated by Debbie Manning. The 4th, 5th and 6th prizes will be Gift Baskets filled with all kinds of goodies.

Each student has been given 1 book of 18 tickets. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Please return the all the ticket stubs sold with the money collected, and all the unsold tickets, to the office no later than **Wednesday, December 10, 2008**. There will be a prize for the student in each class who sells the most tickets.

If anyone would like extra tickets to sell, see Mrs. Anderson at the office.

St. Vincent de Paul

We had some success with the hat, mitt, scarf, and toque drive in November. About one third of our families contributed. We are hoping for greater participation in the food drive which will be held during December. Any non-perishable food items can be sent to school with your child or dropped off at the front office. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.

Illness and Absences

For the most part, if a child is too sick to play outside, then they are too sick to attend school. We have made the occasional exception when a child has already missed school for a few days and is well enough to return, but might have a bit of a remaining cough. Usually they are no longer contagious and will not affect the other students. Please be considerate of others. If you require homework, please contact the school and arrangements will be made. On some days, the staff does not have a break other than for lunch, so they will gather student work to be picked up on the next day. Again, thank you for your cooperation.

Inclement Weather

If we need to close the school for any reason, such as snow, we will be contacting the local radio station at 93.3 FM before 7:30 a.m. with that information. We have also organized a back-up phone tree to personally contact each family. Rule of thumb is: if the roads are too treacherous for the public school buses, then they are too dangerous for us. If we need to close the school during the day due to a power outage, then each family will be contacted and arrangements made to pick up your child.

Friday Masses

Fr. Alfredo and Fr. Marek have agreed to hold a class Mass each Friday. Each classroom is taking a turn to organize a liturgy to be celebrated in the chapel with that particular class. Usually the service will take place at 11:30 and Fr. is available for reconciliation beforehand if

required. Sometimes we will have liturgy of the word, sometimes the whole eucharist, and sometimes it will be a classroom visit. We are delighted that our parish priests are able to join us.

We will be having a whole school Mass in the gym on Friday, Dec. 5th starting at 2:00 p.m. Please join us.

Curling

We have started curling lessons with grades 5 - 8. It is so much fun! One student was overheard to say, "I only weigh 11 more pounds than this rock!" They are participating well and learning lots. Thank you to all the parents helping with the driving.

Next Year's Enrolment

It may seem early, but plans are in process for increasing our enrolment for next year. We will be holding an information night on Tuesday, January 13th. Please start talking about our school to your friends and neighbours. We would love to have enough students to have a straight Kindergarten.

Christmas Concert

Our dress rehearsal for this year's concert will be at 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16th. The evening concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 17th. All children are expected to attend. We will start practising for this special event starting next week. It promises to be bigger and better than ever. Mark your calendar and invite your family and friends! We are hoping to organize a Christmas bake sale for before and after the performance as well. Details to follow.

Newsletters by e-mail

Just a reminder that you can receive our Newsletters by e-mail if you would like to. Just send an e-mail to Mrs. Anderson at panderson@cisdv.bc.ca to let her know.

Band Interest

Some parents have expressed an interest in having band classes at JPII for grades 5 - 8. This can be an expensive venture so I would like to research parental interest before making a commitment. Please complete the following questionnaire and return it to the school by Friday, December 5th.

Name: _____

Child's name: _____

Grade: _____

I have an instrument at home which my child could use

Yes_____ No_____

If yes, the kind instrument: _____

If no, I would be willing to rent Yes_____ No_____

Rental costs vary depending on the kind of instrument and its age/condition. Instruments such as a flute or clarinet will cost approximately \$15.00 per month. A saxophone will be between \$25.00 - \$35.00 per month. Guitars and snare drum sets are approximately \$10.00 per month.

**Notre Dame Children's and Family Ministry
Calendar of December Fun!!**

Friday, December 12 7:00 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexican Fiesta! JPll Gym

Tacos, Piñata, Games, Songs

Hosted by Notre Dame Youth Group

Saturday, December 13 6:00 pm

Parents, experience with your children how it really was in Bethlehem that

Holy night. Meet at the church for Parksville Bethlehem Walk Caravan.

Call Marnie 723 3263 for more info

Sunday, December 21 4:30 pm

Winter Wonderland Parish Skating Party~ Alberni Valley Multiplex

(please sign up your family at the parish office 723 8912)

Wednesday December 24th 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Children's Mass

(first pews reserved for families with children)

From everyone at Notre Dame Church~

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!