



St. Patrick's School

DECEMBER 2, 2009

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December Calendar

- Dec. 3 - Skating—Grs. 2,4,6
- 4 - 9:15 am Whole School Mass
- bring food for the food bank
- 5 - 5:00—6:00 pm Liturgy Choir singing at
Maple Ridge Band Stand
- 11 - School Confessions
- 12 - 7:00 pm Stradivari Chamber Orchestra
performance
- 14 - 7:00 pm PEC
- 15 - 9:15 am Whole School Mass
- 15 - 6:30 pm Jason Evert @ St. Jude's
- 16 - Hot Lunch - Special Turkey Dinner
- 17 - Christmas Concert - 1:00 & 7:00 pm
- 18 - Report Cards go home
- 18 - Noon Dismissal



Christmas Break Dec. 19, 2009 - Jan. 3, 2010

Principal's Message

In this increasingly busy season, I thought you might enjoy this prayer from

Prayers My Dogs Have Taught Me
by Herbert Brokering

God, sometimes I will not hurry. I will not run when I am already out of breath. I will not work when I am too exhausted. I will not lift what is too great a burden. I will go slowly. I will stop and rest. I may quit and surrender. I am not the timekeeper for all things, when to begin, when to finish. Peace requires patience. I am not in charge of time. There is a fullness of time I will not learn to recognize the time we all keep. There is a right time for which I will wait. Patience will give me a new gait. Patience will help me see in all directions, feel feelings of others, know what to do next. Slow my feet and head and heart. Sometimes stop me to listen and look and hear what is right around me. Slow me down. Help me know what you have given that is in me. Walk me into peace.

You Are Invited! Father Au has been instrumental in attracting a unique opportunity for your family to experience the beauty of Baroque music during the Advent season. **On Saturday, Dec. 12**



The Stradivari Chamber Orchestra are playing in our very own gym and they are reportedly better to listen to than the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra! Mrs. Krystyna Gaweda is a member and it would be great to hear her play with this group. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and children, but St. Patrick's families are being offered a 20% discount. Come and treat your children to a unique experience in a familiar setting! Thanks for your support.



Come Worship the Lord – As a special Advent devotion to prepare for the coming of the Christchild, we invite moms in our school to spend one hour in prayer in our library on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 during the season. We will be using the format from an organization called *Mothers' Prayers*, which includes formal prayer, reflection on Scripture, personal prayer intentions and singing. Please come join us. We also invite you to attend mass on Friday at 9:15 am. Our Grade Five class is preparing the readings. Please share your blessings by contributing a perishable food item for the food bank, as we do every First Friday of the month.



Liturgy Choir: This is a reminder that parents of these choir students should have received and returned a permission slip, now that we are confirmed to be singing on Dec. 5 here in Maple Ridge at the town Center (in the Gazebo) between 5:00 and 6:00 under the direction of Mrs. Gaweda. Our Choir will be part of the entertainment prior to the Santa Parade. Please come out and support our students and enjoy the festivities.

(Remember: you have extra practices on Thursday mornings at **8:00**. It is critical to the quality of the practice that singers arrive **on time**, as new material cannot be learned and perfected in only fifteen minutes per week, nor can we learn to sing in parts. Please allow for extra travel time if the weather is inclement. Thanks for your attention to this matter.)



Spelling Bee Our second official bee will be on December 9 at 12:45 for students who have earned their spots in Grades 5-7. Each of these grades will have five representatives who will spell off until we have a winner for the school. This student will write another test from the Canspell organization, and if enough words are spelled correctly, will advance to the Vancouver round of the competition. The top two spellers from there fly to Ottawa! It's a difficult road, but you never know. (Parents are welcome to come and watch. Location TBA.)

Babysitters Wanted: We are looking for former students of our school who would be interested in having their names added to a babysitting list. This would allow new families to St. Patrick's (or any families, really) who are interested in attending school functions in the evening but can't find a babysitter to have access to a resource. Please contact the school office (school@stpatsschool.org) if you are interested in being named on our list.

Help Us Help Others: Please send along a perishable food donation with your child before our First Friday mass this week.



As well, while the teachers and staff greatly appreciate your generosity to us at Christmas, we kindly ask you to redirect your wonderful intentions and consider buying a new toy for a child instead. We will send these off to a charitable organization. Alternatively, you could donate to www.chalice.org which we support with our walkathon proceeds as well.

Christmas Shopping: We have simple nativity stitchings for sale, already framed, for \$10, with all proceeds going to the Pro-Life Society. See Mrs. Wihak for more information. We also have some unique specialty Catholic products for general use in the home and classroom. *A Treasure Chest of Traditions for Catholic Families* traces out the entire liturgical calendar and provides great crafts and activities for helping to celebrate the seasons and feast days. *Cathletics Playing Cards* are fabulous stocking stuffers, a complete deck of cards loaded with beautiful images and details of our faith. *Reverence and Awe Collector Cards* are ideal to take to Mass in order to learn about the different objects in the church, what they do and what they're called. Proceeds from these items will go to the Regnum Christi Section in Vancouver.

Smart Cards:

Now is the time to get your gift cards for Christmas. One stop shopping! Cash, cheques debit and credit cards accepted. Cards can be purchased at the Parish office. Help support the school and parish.

Order forms went home with your youngest child on Monday. Please return your order by tomorrow. Your order will be delivered to you in the Drive through on Friday Morning or sent home with your child.



Special Thank You:

In last week's newsletter, we neglected to thank a special grandfather who very generously donated a portable sound system to our school. This gift is greatly appreciated.

2010/2011 School Registration - We will be sending out the School Registration earlier this year than in the past. The registration packages will be sent home on **January 11, 2011**

REGISTRATION BLITZ: JANUARY 28th, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm More information to come

New enrollment: We are still looking to increase our enrollment for next year. The best advertisement is always word-of-mouth, so if you are proud to send your child to St. Pat's, tell your friends and neighbours! If you are able to convince a family to enroll in our school, we will reward you with a \$200 Smart Card of your choice as a way of showing our appreciation. Please talk to your PEC members if you'd like more information, and thanks for your help.

**It's time to mark your calendars!!
On Saturday, February 6, 2010 St. Patrick's will host their
16th Annual Trivia Night!**



Each year the event proves to be fun-filled and exciting. This year will be no different! To make our 2010 Trivia Night a success we need the help of our parents and community. We're looking for donations for both our silent and live auction, plus prizes for various games.

We're also looking for unopened bottles of varying shapes, sizes and varieties for the bottle game. (No home-made wine or other homemade items please). Please watch the expiry date of donated items.

As in past years, all donations will be acknowledged in our local and school paper and on our website. We're also offering various sponsorship and donation levels. They are as follows:

- **Gold Level** - Donations valued at \$700 and over will receive two free tickets to the event, verbal acknowledgement during the evening, advertising space in the programme and a tax receipt.
- **Silver Level** - Donations valued at \$400 and over will receive advertising space in the programme and a tax receipt.
- **Bronze Level** - Donations valued at \$100 and over will receive a tax receipt.

We're also in need of volunteers to help out prior to and during the event. Jobs include: donation collection, call backs, bartender, ticket sales etc. If interested please call Francis Smart @ 778-866-5871

Tickets will be on sale in early December and make fantastic stocking stuffers and gifts! Tickets are \$25 each or \$225 for a table (10 per table). That's one free ticket with each table purchase!

Mark those calendars, call your friends and get your teams ready! The countdown begins!



Till Tapes: We are still collecting till tapes from both Save-On-Food stores in Maple Ridge. Please bring your tapes to the school office. For every \$10,000 of receipts we get \$20.00. This has been very profitable for our school. With the money we earned from this program and our recycling we have been able to purchase 4—32” TVs for our intermediate classrooms. We hope to be able to purchase the same for the primary classrooms in the near future, so we need your help. Collect the tapes from your neighbors as well. We will also be having a **bottle drive on January 8th** when we return from Christmas break—mark your calendars and save your bottles.



DO YOU HAVE YOUR POINSETTIA ORDER IN? GET YOUR ORDERS IN BY TOMORROW! DON'T MISS OUT—PLANTS ARE SELLING FAST!!
Do you have a business and give gifts to your clients? Do you give chocolate to your hairdresser, your milkman, or even your neighbour? Why not give them a poinsettia instead?

Library News:

Pre-school aged siblings of St. Patrick's students are invited to our library on Wednesday mornings for a story-reading experience from 9:00 until 9:30. Parents, of course, are welcome to stay.

Consider contributing to our new *Legacy of Literature!* The objective of Campaign L.O.L. is for the families of the children of St. Patrick's School to make a donation of a favourite new book to the library as a gift for a child's birthday. We will make a dedication to the child on the inside flap of the book. Your gift of literacy will last a lifetime. What better way to celebrate your birthday than by sharing your favourite book with your friends. They will be able to check out that book at any time. It will be interesting as children move on, and are no longer at our school, to see how their book donation will still be read by our newcomers. Imagine one day reading a book that was donated by famous Olympic runner Isaac Wadhvani, or world class scientist Dr. Mikaela Smart. At the end of every month, we will place in this newsletter, which books were donated and by whom, as well as what day the child's birthday was. *Campaign LOL: celebrating your birthday for years to come.*