



St. Patrick's School

JANUARY 20, 2010

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January Calendar

- January 21 - 9:30 am Intermediate Students' Mass**
26 - 9:00 - 11:30 am - OPEN HOUSE
26 - 9:30 am Primary Students' Mass
27 - Hot Lunch - Soup
27 - 7:00 pm PEC Meeting
28 - Registration Blitz -8:00 am - 5:00 pm in former Music Room
29 - 1:00 pm Story Time Theater - parents are invited to join us

February Calendar

- February 5 - 9:15 am Whole School Mass / Bring donations for food bank**
8 - Hot Lunch orders go home for March
10 - Hot Lunch Day - Captain High Liner Fish & Chips.
12 - Last day to order Summer Uniforms
16 - 26 - Olympic Break - NO SCHOOL
17 - Ash Wednesday - Lent starts

Summer Uniform Ordering:

Check your child's summer uniforms now. Last day to order summer uniforms will be **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12th**. Any orders after that date will have a \$5.00 late charge and cannot guarantee that we will have a summer uniform in stock. The students will be able to wear their summer uniform after Easter break on April 6th.

February's Hot Lunch:

We wish to thank Captain High Liner for providing us with our February hot lunch of English Fish & Chips.



Family Literacy Day – We work hard every day at school to help our students learn an appreciation for literature. On **Wednesday, January 27**, please join us by planning something special to do with your family to mark this day. Perhaps you can just turn off that TV or computer and snuggle down together with a good book; read some comics together; sing karaoke! There are many ideas, some of which we included in an attachment. There's a great website that may be of interest to you as well: www.abc-canada.org. Good luck and have fun!

Principal's Message If you have ever had to help your children negotiate with one another, and found this to be a challenge, you may be interested in the information attached, written by Barry Macdonald who is an expert on raising and educating boys. Enjoy!

Thank You: to everyone who made it a priority to attend our second (and hopefully annual) hip hop show last Friday. Your presence really makes the week special for our children, who feel appreciated and well loved as you help prepare them in "costume" and watch and cheer them on. Without you, the show just could not go on!

The Tetherballs are in Action! Thanks to our parents who work in maintenance and our Parent Support Group who applies for funding, we were able to purchase three tetherball games for our school. They have proven to be a hit! If you get a chance, come out and watch the children play; (maybe they'll even let you have a turn.)

Helping Hands for Haiti – Please know that we have intentions to support our brothers and sisters in Haiti, and all our classes are praying for them daily. We plan to have a jeans day in March when students can bring in a donation of a toonie. It is hoped you would encourage your children to sacrifice part of their allowance, or to do extra chores to help around the house for which they could get paid. We appreciate all your current generosity in giving to this cause through your parish.

You Are Invited: to watch the presentation of Storytime Theatre's Pinocchio on Friday, January 29 at 1:00. There is no cost to you for this event, and the quality of the performance promises to be first rate. It would be great to see you there, showing your appreciation of the arts.

16th Annual Trivia Night Tickets on sale Now!
Don't miss out get your table together and get your tickets NOW! TABLES ARE SELLING OUT FAST One free ticket with a table of 10. Tickets \$25.00 each

Trivia Help Needed: This is a reminder that we are asking all families to contribute \$5 per family towards the creation of baskets that will be available for the silent auction portion of the evening. Teachers will do the shopping of items for you as they design the different themes. We hope to offer three different baskets, plus the one donated by the teaching staff. Your generosity and cooperation are much appreciated. Please submit your donation (cheques acceptable) by **Friday, January 22.**

Speaking of Trivia . . . Students in Grades 4-7 who have elected to participate in a program introduced last year should be upping their ante when it comes to learning facts from the books assigned by the local library (in the case of Grades 4 and 5), and the Catholic Independent Schools (in the case of Grades 6 and 7). Teams of six or seven have been formed, the books have been available since before Christmas, and we are now practicing writing questions, and answering them in order to prepare for the in-school competitions. Grades 4/5, the librarians are coming on our first day back from the Olympic Break on March 1 to determine the winning team that will advance to Level 2 on March 5 at the local library. Grades 6/7, your in-school competition is yet to be scheduled, but we know the regional round for the winning team will be closer to the end of March.

Ready Set Learn: Parents of 3 and 4 year olds, we are offering two experiences to develop literacy skills. There is a "camp" for the children on Saturday, **Jan. 30 from 9:30-11:30,** here in the Kindergarten room, and a parent information evening on Monday, **Feb. 1 at 7:00.** Registration is required, and you can let us know you're coming by phoning into the office by **Jan. 25.** There is no cost to you for either event. **Tell your friends!**

Grade Six Parents: If any of you are considering having a student from **Mexico** stay in your homes next year, and have filled out the application, it *must* be in the school office by **Friday, January 29 at the latest.** We have been contacted by the Mexican families who are anxious to know where their children will be staying, and would like to provide them with this information as soon as possible. Thanks so much for your interest and cooperation.

BOTTLES, BOTTLES, BOTTLES

Thank you to those who have already contributed bottles but we still more — much more!

We need bottles! All kinds of bottles.

Big bottles, little bottles.

Bottles of anything.

*Liquor, Wine, Beer, shampoo
pickles, mustard, bleach, spices
catsup, hot sauce, pasta sauce,
Etc, etc, etc.*

We need at least 300 Bottles.

What for you ask?

For our bottle game at Trivia Night!

This game brings us in almost \$900.00

It's fun to play and our guests love it.

But we cannot have the game without your help.

Please send into the school whatever you can.

Perhaps there is an unopened bottle of something
in your cupboard. Just make sure it has not expired
and that it is not homemade.



Trivia Night

By now you would have heard a lot about Trivia Night. If you are new to the school you may not know what it is all about. First off Trivia Night is our biggest fundraiser for the school. We have raised over \$20,000 in one night. How does it work? You purchase a ticket and come out and have fun answering trivia questions. Much like the game of Trivial Pursuit but you don't play alone. You play as a team. One team per table. If you don't have enough family & friends to make up a table of 8 to 10 people, don't worry—we will find a spot for you. This is a great way to meet new people and get to know other St. Patrick's parents. With your ticket of \$25.00 you will get to have lots of fun, a chance to win a door prize and a light meal mid way through the evening. We will also have silent auction items as well as a live auctions. We have a 50/50 draw and many other games including our Bottle Game.

Don't miss out—tickets are selling fast. We have already sold 50% of our tables. With the purchase of 10 tickets you will get one free.

If you are not able to come perhaps you will consider donating a door prize or an item for our silent or live auction. For more information contact the school office at 604-467-1571.

Scholastic Book Fair: Mark your calendars! On March 31 you will be able to purchase books and other materials for your children at our book fair. Proceeds from the sales will go towards increasing our own collection. Prices are usually great. There is no pressure to purchase, but we hope you can take advantage of this opportunity that has not been available here for a number of years. Note that this is the same day as our Student Led Conferences, for your shopping convenience. (Parents who are interested in helping out should contact Mrs. Sandra Diersch, who is coordinating the scheduling.)

Help Us Help Others: As we have been doing since last year, the first mass of the month is one in which we make an effort to collect food for the local foodbank. Please consider sending in a non-perishable food item. Additionally, we have learned of the need for board games, books and toiletries/cosmetics for our brothers and sisters in the Downtown Eastside, who are helped by Catholic Charities. If you can find it in your heart to give even more generously, know that your offerings are received with great amounts of gratitude by the recipients!

Special Thanks: to the many families who gifted us so generously during the last week of school in December. You were also most kind to buy toys for needy families, as well as contribute to Chalice and Aura Humanitus, a charity started in El Salvador by Mrs. Rasmussen and her husband.

2009 Income Tax Receipts The school income tax receipts are now available for pick up from the school office. Included with your school receipt is your \$50.00 fundraising receipts and St. Patrick's Parish donations receipt. We will not be sending the receipts home with your child. You may pick up your receipts on January 28th when you bring in your 2010/2011 School Registration package.

St. Patrick's Parish is looking for a librarian for its new Parish Library. The library has been set up and organized, and there are volunteers in place to help. We now need someone with computer skills to keep up with the administration of the borrowing and returning of library materials, coordinate the volunteer schedule, and oversee that the library is kept current. Training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering (and becoming an "Active Parishioner"), please contact Fr. Au through the parish office as soon as possible.

Liturgy Choir: Once again, you have practices on Thursday mornings at **8:00**. (Please remember that 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. Thanks for your attention to this matter.)

Come Worship the Lord – at our intermediate Mass on Thursday at 9:30. Our RC Challenge students are preparing the readings and intentions. Please join us as we celebrate.

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 office (school@stpatsschool.org) if you are interested in being named on our list.

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 **11:15 until 11:40**. Parents, of course, are welcome to stay.