



St. Patrick's School

NOVEMBER 12, 2009

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November Calendar

Nov 16 Gymnastics Starts

- 16 Hot Lunch order for Dec. go home**
- 17 9:30 am Intermediate Students' Mass**
- 18 Hot Lunch Day**
- 27 7:00 pm PEC Meeting**

Come, Worship the Lord with us as the intermediate classes celebrate Mass on Tuesday, November 17 at 9:30.

RC Challenge: Remember, the next tournament is this Saturday, November 14 in Vancouver at Corpus Christi. Come and support The *Super Saints*, the *Faithful Archangels* and the *Golden Blossoms of Mary* as well as the *Angels and the Saint*.

Liturgy Choir This choir has been asked to perform a few songs at the ACT Theatre on December 6, which is a Sunday, at 4:00 pm., as well as at a parish breakfast with St. Nicholas on Sunday, Dec. 13. Parents can expect permission slips to come home Friday.

Remember: you have practices on Thursday mornings at **8:15 am sharp.** 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.

Library News: Starting on November 18, pre-school aged siblings of St. Patrick's students are invited to our library for a story-reading experience from 9:00 until 9:30. Parents, of course, are welcome to **stHelp Us Help Others – Please!**

Driver's Insurance: Parents, please remember that if you are planning on driving for any class fieldtrips or sporting events, we must have a copy of your current ICBC insurance documents as well as a photocopy of a valid driver's licence.

Principal's Message On October 24, I had the privilege of hearing Fr. John C. Cusick, director of Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago, speak at the Congress organized by our own archdiocese every year. Here are a few "pearls" that I took away from his presentation on: "*Why Should I Go to Church?*" Simply put, we go to church to remember who we really are. In a world where secularism can become overwhelming, and we run the risk of 'becoming our job', we can lose sight of who we are in the truest sense. Jesus created worship to allow us to remember. Our way of worshipping is really genius, in that it gives a vision or dream. Popular culture holds us to our past, but God doesn't: he is interested in our potential, in who we *can be*. At Mass, we're called to our future. Mass is a treasure that we have been given, and that we need to pass on. There, we are forgiven, we are fed, we have the chance to heal relationships and renew promises. And finally, for any of you who may on occasion question if you really even believe in God, Father Cusick suggests a better question to ask yourself is: Does *God* believe in *you*?

Walkathon Update! We are now only \$351 away from a more realistic goal of \$10 000. If the 27 families who have not contributed yet would reconsider and sacrifice **\$13** each, our school could hit that target. *Please think about helping out this year. Together we're better.* (As you may know, Grades Three and Five won the grand prize of a bowling trip for collecting the most money, and will receive this award on Friday. Any students who contributed \$100 or more will also go bowling.)

H1N1 Information: As of Monday, we have had an average of 4% of our student population away for medical reasons, and no lab-confirmed cases of this flu, although we are getting reports that some doctors are making a diagnosis based on observations alone. This week so far, we have had approximately 21% of our students missing. Please continue to work with your children to educate them about basic hygiene practices such as coughing and sneezing into their elbows, washing their hands with soap and water, and avoiding touching their eyes, nose or mouth with their hands. As well, if your child shows signs of illness, please help us all by keeping him/her at home until improvement is shown. Note that you can get information regularly at www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1. This is a government site that is updated on Tuesdays. There have been no reported cases at our school. We are being extra vigilant about hand washing and have hand sanitizers in all classrooms. As well, surfaces that are commonly touched (such as door knobs and exit bars on the doors to the playground) are being regularly wiped down with disposable towels.

Athletes in Kind: Students who like to *run*, or who want to get in better shape and *pray* at the same time got involved in a new initiative spearheaded by one of our parents: April Migneault. Registration is on-going, so it's not too late to join. Students run 1-3 km once a week on our school grounds, and have their distance and attendance documented each week. As they run, they are invited to think of a child who CAN'T run because of being too sick, and needing care in the hospital. (The school will try and make contact with some families who are willing to make their stories known to our students; it always helps to put a face to a name when you're praying.) Runners will receive a promotional item after they reach every 25 km. Each time they run, the students are asked to bring a suggested donation of 25 cents to one loonie (perhaps part of their allowance, or from doing extra chores at home), and these proceeds will be donated to the Oncology/Haematology Department at Children's Hospital. Any parents who want to run are welcome to join us; we are running after school on Wednesdays for about 30 minutes. For more information, including testimonials, feel free to visit www.athletesinkind.com.

Help Us Help Others: Our school has been asked for help by the *Franciscan Sisters Benevolent Society*. They require toiletries to give to the men who visit them on East Cordova in the Downtown Eastside. We are asking each grade to contribute the following items during this month of Remembrance to show the men they are not forgotten by our community.

Kindergarten: bars of soap,
Grade One: toothpaste (small, medium only),
Grade Two: disposable Gillette razors (not pink),
Grade Three: socks,
Grade Four: shampoo,
Grade Five: combs/brushes,
Grade Six: men's gloves (Magic),
Grade Seven: toothbrushes.

(All items need to arrive at school by Nov. 20th please, so they can be delivered by the agreed upon date.)

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 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.

2010/2011 School Registration

We will be sending out the School Registration earlier this year than in the past.

The registration packages will be sending them home in January, 2010

Our registration blitz will be one day only on February 5th

Mark your calendars!

Please check you cheque book now to ensure that you will have enough cheques for all your fees.

You will **not** need to reissue the \$100.00 undated Parent Participation Cheques unless you have changed banks.

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 homemade wine or other homemade items please**). Please watch the expiry date of donated items.

Like 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! Ticket are \$25 each or \$225 for a table (10 per table), that's one free ticket with each table purchase!

Mark those calendars, called your friends and get your teams ready!
The countdown beings!