



St. Patrick's School

NOVEMBER 25, 2009

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December Calendar

- Dec. 2 - Hot Lunch - Chicken Cordon Bleu**
3 - Skating—Gr. 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
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

Smart Cards:

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

Liturgy Choir: This is a reminder that parents of these choir students should look for a permission slip to come home, now that we are confirmed to be singing on Dec. 5 here in Maple Ridge between 5:00 and 6:00 for about 20 about minutes under the direction of Mrs. Gaweda.

Here are the practice times:

- 8:00 am Tomorrow morning (Thurs., Nov. 26th)**
12:00 noon - Friday, Nov. 27th in the gym
8:00 am Monday, Nov. 30th
12:00 noon - Tuesday, Dec. 1st - in the gym
12:00 noon - Wednesday, Dec. 2nd - in the gym
8:00 am Thursday, Dec. 3rd.

Please mark your calendars

Remember: 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.

Principal's Message Do you feel unprepared for the challenge of sex education for your child? World renowned authority Jason Evert is coming to Vancouver to help parents understand the challenges they face in this area in a free event at St. Jude School, 15th and Renfrew, on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm. In this session Jason offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as primary sex educators of their children. He is the author of many books including *Pure Love*, which challenges young people to embrace the virtue of chastity. Jason is a frequent guest on radio programs throughout North America. His television appearances include Donahue, Fox News, BBC, WGN, and EWTN. I have heard Jason in person at the Catholic Educators' Conference and can attest to how dynamic his presentation is. You will not regret going to this. Register early, as it may fill up quickly.

Help! We are experiencing difficulty in the drive through, particularly at the end of the day when parents are picking up their children. A lot of effort was put into designing the system, and it works best when everyone in our community is committed to using it as has been explained. *Please* be considerate of each other and follow the expectations so that our students will be safe as they leave for home.

Walkathon Thank You! Our final walkathon totals are in and we finished with \$9778. Thank you to all our families who contributed. Because of your generosity, we can continue to pay down the debt for our new building, and purchase new computers for our classrooms contribute to the Chalice organization which allows families in third world countries to live with greater dignity. Your tax receipts as requested should be available for pick-up in the office in the new year.

Come Worship the Lord – As Advent begins this Sunday, we invite moms in our school to spend one hour in prayer on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 during the Advent 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.

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. *Catholics 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.

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.

Help Us Help Others: This is your last chance to help the *Franciscan Sisters Benevolent Society*. They require toiletries to give to the men who visit them on East Cordova in the Downtown Eastside. Please consider contributing 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 this Friday please, so they can be delivered by the agreed upon date.)

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.

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* is playing in our very own gym and it is 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

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 homemade 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!

H1N1 Information: So far, we have had no lab-confirmed cases of this flu, although we are getting reports that some doctors are making a diagnosis based on observations alone. 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. 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 ongoing, 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.