

# St. Patrick's School weekly newsletter

*"Serve with Joyful Hearts"*



## SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

### OCTOBER 2011

Oct. 5

Hot Lunch—Quesadilla

Oct. 7

9:15 am Mass

Bring food for the needy

Walk-a-thon

Bottle Drive

Early Dismissal

Oct. 10

Thanksgiving—NO SCHOOL

Oct. 11

Switch to Winter uniforms

Student Photo Retakes

Oct. 13

Grade 7 "Me to We" day

Oct. 17

Hot lunch order for Nov.  
go home

Oct. 18

9:30 am Intermediate  
Student's Mass

Oct. 19

Hot lunch day - Hot Dogs  
Hot lunch order for Nov.  
due back

Oct. 21

NO SCHOOL—PRO-D DAY

Oct. 25

7:00 pm PEC Meeting

Oct. 27

9:30 am Primary Student's  
Mass

Oct. 28

Noon Dismissal

Parent/Teacher Interviews  
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Oct. 29th

Grade 7—Spirit Day

### *Principal's Message:*

**Internet Safety and Awareness:** On Monday, Jesse Miller, an expert speaker on this topic, made a presentation to our intermediate students. You may be interested to know that many of the children who have Facebook accounts state their ages falsely; the age of consent for using Facebook is actually 13, but many admitted to signing up as sixteen year-olds and even older. The result is they are then being targeted by advertisements designed for older teens and adults, and this may not be what you want your child exposed to. The question raised by the presenter was: *If we know the rules, why do we break them?* As well, it became apparent to the students that despite any privacy settings they put on their account, it is virtually impossible to keep pictures and information such as addresses, phone numbers, and pictures private because of the many links and how accounts are webbed to other accounts which may not have those same privacy settings. Essentially, if you make a mistake on Facebook, through pictures or comments, these can not be fixed, deleted, undone. While Facebook in and of itself is not necessarily a bad thing, the way we use it may be dangerous. Help your child find a better way of using the technology, as there are many incredible aspects to it. Guide them to know: always think before you post, and ask yourself will what you post change the way people think about you? What would someone that loves you think of you based on the pictures they see? What will your on-line legacy be years from now? Finally, the presenter urged the students to report to their parents if any stranger is asking to be added as a friend (making "friend requests"). He let the students know that by *telling*, they may be saving not only themselves from danger, but also other kids. (He also told the Grade Four and Five students that Facebook is really not meant for people their age.) Your relationship with your children is critical; help them know the difference between right and wrong, but also make sure that your reactions to them when they mess up are more about fixing the problem, owning up to the mistake, and feeling loved unconditionally despite doing something wrong. Then they will feel that you are someone they can talk to and get help from.

**Parenting Help:** If you have a teenager, or a child approaching adolescence, consider attending a presentation about the **Myth of the Teen Brain** featuring Dr. Robert Epstein. This is scheduled for Sturdy, October 22 9:30-2:30 at the Chandos Theatre (Pacific Academy) in Surrey. Cost is \$40/person for registration before Oct. 1. (Our Grade 6 and 7 students brought home information about this on Monday.) To register go online to [www.pife.ca/office@pife.ca](http://www.pife.ca/office@pife.ca) or call 604-329-8850 for more information.

**Bottle Drive:** Don't forget to bring your bottles to school on October 7th (Walk-a-thon) day. If you have bottles and *just* can't wait for the bottle drive they can either, take their bottles directly to the Return it Depot at Bay 7 - 20475 Lougheed Hwy (same complex as the Sears outlet store) and put it in our account, Or call Carla Erho 604-476-0720 to arrange pick up at the school.

**Cross Country** – Due to job action in the public schools, the district cross country meet is cancelled this year. However, we ARE still running in the CISVA meet on Tuesday, October 4. We are **desperate** for drivers, and noticed that several parents did not seem to have read the back of the permission slips. Please let Mrs. Stradeski know by tomorrow at the latest if you can help; as of today, we can only take 15 of our athletes.

**(Reminder) Parenting Help:** If you have a teenager, or a child approaching adolescence, consider attending a presentation about the **Myth of the Teen Brain** featuring Dr. Robert Epstein. This is scheduled for Sturdy, October 22 9:30-2:30 at the Chandos Theatre (Pacific Academy) in Surrey. Cost is \$40/person for registration before Oct. 1. (Our Grade 6 and 7 students brought home information about this on Monday.) To register go online to [www.pife.ca/office@pife.ca](http://www.pife.ca/office@pife.ca) or call 604-329-8850 for more information.

**Grade 2 Parents:** There is a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, October 11 for you to begin to learn about how to support your child as he or she prepares to receive the sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion. Note that this is right after the Thanksgiving weekend. The meeting starts at 6:30 and should last about an hour.

**Entertainment Books:** This is an ongoing reminder to parents to return your payments for all outstanding books! If you choose not to buy, the book itself needs to be returned so we can fill orders for other people with it and close our sales campaign. Tisha Scoffins will be at school collecting and handing out prizes for ALL sales! We are having great success so far, having sold 112 books, which surpasses our sales last year and entitles us to keep \$12/book.

**Grade 7 Parents:** Please make a note of our first meeting for you to outline the Confirmation program and the expectations that go along with it is on Tuesday at 6:30 in the music room. Parents of our PREP students will also be in attendance. Sister Mary Jacinta will be presenting. All parents of students being confirmed this year are expected to attend. (The next meeting in the series is in January, followed by one more in March; these are on the topic of human sexuality and chastity which we teach using the Love and Life program. Your child will attend the last meeting with you. All meetings are on Tuesdays at 6:30.)

Also, there will be two important permission slips coming home next week for events that make being a Grade Seven student so special; these include *We Day*, and *Spirit Day*. Please look for them, read them over carefully and return as requested.

**Thank You:** . . . to Mr. Dale Ablett who has donated hours of his time to repair the wooden stairs at the front of the school building. As well, Mr. George Lesiczka, a parishioner and former parent in the school whose sons now attend Archbishop Carney High School has also donated time and lumber to make this project affordable. Please let them know you appreciate their dedication if you see them in your travels.

Also, the teachers are extremely grateful to Victoria Levens and Claudia Schwartz who took the time to prepare a fantastic hot lunch for us on our spiritual retreat last week. Your generosity helped make our day extra special!

**Walkathon News:** You should have received a large envelope with information, permission slips and a pledge sheet inside to help you support one of our biggest fundraisers, the School Walkathon! With your help, we are hoping to raise \$10 000, which is possible if every family donates at least \$75 by asking their family members, friends, co-workers and neighbours for support. There are weekly prizes for classes, and once all the totals are in and the money collected, the buddy classes who raise the most get to go bowling together, which has always been a lot of fun. Please give careful consideration to this way to help St. Patrick's School provide a great learning atmosphere for our students. Note that you are invited to participate with us next Friday, when we hope to have sunny weather and great spirits all around!

**Come Pray with Us** – Our next Mass is on Friday, October 7, right before our walkathon. It would be great to see you there as we pray and celebrate together. Please remember to support our local foodbank with your monthly donation.

**Thank You!** Your generous donation of toonies made it possible for us to donate \$427 to the Terry Fox Foundation to fight cancer. Together we are keeping Terry's dream alive. We also appreciate the many parents who came and walked with us to keep us safe.

**Drive-Through and Parking:** We need your help! There is sometimes confusion at the beginning of the school year around how to use the drive-through effectively. When lining up in the overflow area between the church and Fr Au's house, you must be in TWO lines. Once it's your turn, you alternate turns to drive into the main drive-through area along the fence. Please enter this line up by driving from Edge Street into the parking lot behind the church. Refrain from parking beside the church, as it makes it hard to form the line up of two cars.

Move at a safe speed, be courteous, and take advantage of a tried and true system that works well. Please be patient with newcomers and/or grandparents who pick up on occasion and may be unfamiliar with our system.

We are aware of the conflicts between ourselves and the parents from our neighbouring school; the principal has been informed of the situation and is in communication with his parent community.

Parents walking with strollers and wheelchairs, we are planning to move one of the posts that link the chain in the coming days, making a lane for you to get through. Thank you for your patience as we work to serve you better. We do take your suggestions and concerns very seriously.

### **FAMILY DIRECTORY:**

Our family directory will be going home soon. The directory will also be posted on our website in the password protected area for Parents only. The password and user name to access this section will be sent to you in a separate email. As this information is very confidential we ask that only parents access this area and that the password is not given out to anyone. Again our family directory is for our families only and are not to be used for solicitation or shared with anyone outside of our school community.

PEC Minuets are also posted on the website along with the monthly Principal's report and can only be accessed with the access code and password.

### **ITALIAN CLASSES:**

Once again the Italian Cultural Centre is offering Italian lessons for students every Wed. from 2:30 to 4:30 pm 2 hours.

**Cost:** ICCS member\*: **\$312.00** (1<sup>st</sup> child) **\$170.00** (2<sup>nd</sup> child)

Non-member: **\$366.00** (1<sup>st</sup> child) **\$203.00** (2<sup>nd</sup> child) *Textbook Included*  
\*ICCS membership: **\$28.00** (optional)

### **Registration:**

**Please call 604-430-3337 or visit [www.iccvancouver.ca](http://www.iccvancouver.ca) For more information, please contact Ms. Edda Onesti, School Administrator of the ICC, at 604-430-3337 ext. 239 or by e-mail at [schooladminis- traor@iccvancouver.ca](mailto:schooladminis- traor@iccvancouver.ca)**

**If no response by next week these lesson will be cancelled.**

### **Handel's Messiah "Christmas at the Orpheum" Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011**

Archbishop J. Michael Miller extends a heartfelt invitation to all parishioners and friends to join him for a performance of the world's perennial Christmas favourite, Handel's Messiah, with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, conductor Jon Washburn, and an all-star cast of great soloists, along with the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Tickets can be ordered for \$30.75 or \$42 through parish or school offices. You may also order on-line at

**[www.rcav.org/messiah2011](http://www.rcav.org/messiah2011).**

**To avoid disappointment, order early!**



**ATHLETES IN KIND KILOMETRE CLUB** St. Patrick's first run day is **Wednesday, October 12, 2011** so register early ONLINE - **NEW THIS YEAR** - at [www.kmclub.ca](http://www.kmclub.ca), "KM Club downloads," "2011 KM Club Permission Form."

**because  
i can.**

**Parent School Hoodies:** We still have two extra large sized parent sweatshirts for sale for \$50.40 (\$45 plus HST) Let the office know if you're interested.