

# Mrs. Richinski's November Kindernews



“Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children” (Matthew 5:9). This year at St. Joseph school, children are learning about how Jesus, the way, the truth and the life can lead us in building a community of faith and learning. War is a constant reminder of what happens when we don't follow Christ's teachings of love, truth and forgiveness. In November, as we reflect on the atrocities of war and remember those who fought for our freedom, our focus will be on spreading peace in our world. Kindergarten children are too young to comprehend what war is all about, but when we discuss how terrible it must be for other young children to be in the midst of all that horror and destruction, they are surprisingly empathetic. They want to help make the world a better place for every child. In the spirit of peace, we will follow in Jesus' footsteps by praying, playing and learning about being peace makers together. Hopefully, the children will develop some tools for dealing with conflict in creative, effective and peaceful ways. We will be having a school-wide Remembrance Day celebration (look for the date and time in St. Joe's newsletter) and all parents are welcome to join us.



We are very excited about our other major theme for the month, “Noah's Ark”. As one of the most recognized and beloved stories of the Old Testament it is a perfect introduction to the concept of peace. Of course, all the animal talk will provide us with tons of hands-on opportunities in reading, writing and math readiness activities. We also get to explore some wonderful science concepts such as water cycles, buoyancy and colours. As we practice being peacemakers we will learn about accepting and celebrating each others' differences with our social studies unit “I am unique”.



November is also a very special month because families will be invited in for an evening “Celebration of Learning”. This is an opportunity for parent/teacher/child conferencing in which you and your child spend about an hour together in the classroom. He/she will show you what we've been doing in Kindergarten by leading you through a series of activity centers. Your presence is very important to the children, and it allows you to make your own observations as they work and play. I will

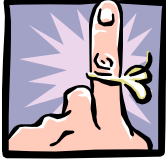
be set up as a “center” to meet with each of you and chat about progress, concerns and goals for the year. Please be aware that it is important for me to speak to everyone, and so it is therefore equally important for me to stay on schedule. If we feel we have issues to discuss that will take longer than about 10 minutes, I would be glad to set up a separate, more private time to meet with you. Your child will be given a report card on Nov. 23 **and I would like you to sign it and bring it back with you at your scheduled time.** We have designated 2 evenings for our Celebrations of Learning: **Wed., Nov. 25 and Thurs., Nov. 26.** There is no kindergarten on **Fri., Nov. 27** so that morning will also be available for your convenience. *Please indicate your first, second and third choices* for times on the attached slip and return it by **Tues., Nov.10.** We'll try our best to give you your first choice, but because we have to accommodate so many families, it may not be possible. You will receive a confirmation of your scheduled time in your child's mail folder.



Things are sure winding up for Halloween! We are getting very good at recognizing and spelling words like “boo” and “the”! We have been sorting, counting and patterning with Halloween manipulatives and we practice printing numbers every day. We decorated our haunted houses and re-enacted the story “Big Pumpkin” about 8 billion times! In music, we've made yucky witch's brew! Last week we met Hula Hippo who loves to dance the hula in Hawaii where it is always hot (of course he's happy!!!) This week we have been learning about the letter Gg, and a very grumpy gorilla. Ask your child what is making the gorilla so grumpy! All children can bring a few silver coins (nickels and dimes, no pennies please) for the coin carnival on Friday. There should be about 20 games to play and kids will be asked to “pay” all their coins at once in a big cauldron in the gym, so a small zip lock bag would be a great way to send it. It's going to be a spooktacular day!!



As I try to do my part to conserve paper, I am forced to turn to technology, which is a big learning curve for me! I **think** I'm ready to begin an e-mail list for those who might be interested in receiving newsletters and updates electronically. If you would like to be part of this list, please send me your e-mail address at [srichinski@ecsr.ca](mailto:srichinski@ecsr.ca) by Wed. Nov. 4. I will also post my main letters on the school's website. I'm hoping this will cut down on a lot of my paper usage!



Other things you need to know about:

- Ø There will be no school on Mon. Nov 11, 12 or 13. There is also no kindergarten on Fri. Nov. 27 as the Celebration of Learning will be continuing.
- Ø **Catholic Education Sunday** will be celebrated at the 11:00 a.m. mass at Holy Trinity Parish on Sunday, Nov. 1. All families are invited and encouraged to join us in prayer and fellowship! Even if you don't normally attend mass we welcome you to come to feel the warm embrace of our faith community and to celebrate the blessing of being free to learn in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served after mass!
- Ø **Picture retakes** will be on Nov. 9 at 10:45 a.m.
- Ø There will be a Scholastic Book Fair set up in the gym during Celebration of Learning week, so I will not be sending home a December book order. Information about this event will be in your folders soon. Nov. book orders are due Nov. 6.
- Ø Imagine the joy and relief Noah and his family felt when they finally reached land—it must have been a great beach party! We will celebrate the end of the Noah's Ark theme with a beach party of our own! On Fri., Nov 20 our classroom will be transformed into a sea-side beach, and we'll pretend it's hot, sunny and peaceful Hawaiian weather! Children should bring bathing suits, towels, sunglasses and sandals, and any other suitable beach-wear they can think of! Yes, there will be a wading pool with real water, so children (and the classroom) will be getting wet!!! Parent helpers who sign up for this day should be prepared to do a lot of mopping!

That's enough for now! I'm looking forward to meeting with all of you at our Celebration of Learning!

Sincerely yours,  
*S. Richinski* ☺

