



# St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School



November, 2008

## School Information

- Principal  
Mr. Dave Dempsey
- Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Cathy Schiiler
- School Address  
195 Weston Drive  
Spruce Grove AB  
T7X 1V1
- School Phone  
(780) 962-8788
- School Fax  
(780) 962-5341
- School Web Site  
[www.ecsrd.ab.ca](http://www.ecsrd.ab.ca)



## Spooktacular Halloween Fun



The students of St. Joseph School celebrated another fantastic Halloween season. This year's Costume Parade was lead by Captain Underpants and his many followers were dressed in a variety of amazing costumes. All the students had great fun at the Spooktacular Coin Carnival and all the money raised is going towards Save-A-Family for our Family in India. A special thank you to all the parents who so graciously volunteered to run the centers and games throughout the day. This spooktacular event would not be possible without your helping hands. Thank you!!



## Important Dates

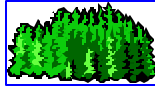


- Nov. 2 Catholic Education Sunday Mass @ 11:00 am
- Nov. 7 Peace Celebration - 9:55 a.m.
- Nov. 10 Lieu Day —No School
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day - No School
- Nov. 17 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm

- Nov. 24 Report Cards go home
- Nov. 25 - 26 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 25 - 26 Book Fair - Library—see specific times in newsletter
- Nov. 28 PD Day - No School

### Evergreen Cross Country Run

St. Joseph School hosted another very successful Evergreen Cross Country run with more participation than ever before. There were close to 200 participants, including students from Devon, Hinton, Westlock and Stony Plain. Grade three and four students ran 1.5 kilometers through the forest in some ground breaking times. Here are the top finishers.



Grade 3 Girls: Eva Fleming - John Paul II - Record time  
Grade 3 Boys: Kiernan Fullam - St. Joseph  
Grade 4 Girls: Emma Scott - John Paul II  
Grade 4 Boys: Cassidy Chubbs - St. Mary  
Grade 5 Girls: Monica Slupek - St. Mary  
Grade 5 Boys: Austin Watamaniuk - St. Mary - Record time  
Grade 6 Girls: Taylor Maas - St. Mary  
Grade 6 Boys: Evan Grise - St. Marguerite

Thank you to all those parents and staff members who had the most challenging task—standing in the forest for over an hour to direct the racers on the race course. Thank you as well to the many other helping hands of parents and teachers who contributed to the success and excitement of the day.

### Outstanding Artwork

Congratulations go out to Marie Brausen-Ollie for her wonderful art work which has been published in the Annual Get to Know Calendar put out by Robert Bateman. Marie was honoured at the Royal Alberta Museum last month where she was able to meet Robert Bateman and be interviewed by the Edmonton Television stations. Marie's beautiful artwork, dedicated to her baby sister's love of bright colours, will be prominently displayed at the Museum for the rest of this year. If you are interested in purchasing a "Get to Know" calendar they are available in the office for \$10 and they are **signed by Robert Bateman** himself!



### Teaching Award

Congratulations go out to Mr. Maykut who accepted an award on behalf of St. Joseph School at the Religious and Moral Education Conference this last month for outstanding teaching in Moral Education. Mr. Maykut has been pivotal many of the wonderful Social Justice programs that we have running here at St. Joseph School, ensuring that the students at our school are good global citizens.

### Terry Fox Run

The final count is in on the Terry Fox Run for Cancer. St. Joseph School was able to raise a whopping \$8089 all going towards Cancer research. A great big St. Joseph thank-you goes out to everyone who donated money for this great cause.

As a special incentive for raising money Triple S Stitching donated hoodies, with the Run for Cancer logo sewn in, to one winner in each grade. The winners were drawn from a hat on SJTV—Congratulations!!!



### Scholastic Book Fair



Remember to attend the Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Book Fair will run from 8:30 - 9:30, 11:00 - 12:00, 3:00 - 3:30, and 5:00 - 8:00 on both days. As well as Thursday, November 27 from 8:30-10:00am. If you would like to help out on either of the above evenings, please call Mrs. Tkachuk at the school. Thanks to everyone for their support. All proceeds go to expanding our library's book collection.

### Hallway Reminder

Many of our parents come to the school early in order to pick up their children after the last bell of the day. Please keep in mind that while you are waiting the school is still functioning as an educational facility and classes are still running. We ask that while waiting you keep the level of noise to a minimum, especially if there are open doors or students and teachers working in the hallway. The school was designed to have testing and conferencing areas in the hallway and they are used quite often for teachers doing diagnostic work. Thank you for your cooperation in making this an excellent learning environment.

### Parent Volunteer / Visitors

During class time, all parent volunteers are required to register in the Library and wear their St. Joseph school name tags. All presenters in either classrooms or in the gym should also stop at the office for a red visitor's badge.

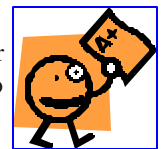
### Operation Education

Have your receipts from Boston Pizza stamped with Operation Education and return them to the school office. Boston Pizza donates a percentage of the total receipt back to the school.

### Report Cards

On Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, report cards will be sent home with students. These report cards will focus on goal setting for the students and will serve as a discussion focus during Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. If you do not receive an interview time in your child's report card, please contact your child's teacher.



### Peace Celebration

On Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding a Peace Celebration in the gym at 9:55 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend and remember those who sacrificed so very much for our peace.



## Counsellor's Corner: Helping Your Child with Homework

Homework is your child's responsibility, so you should just stay out of the way, right? Not necessarily. With a little support from you, homework can be a positive experience for your child - one that enriches learning, reinforces daily classroom lessons, and fosters lifelong organizational skills. Although it can be difficult, it's important to build homework time into your child's schedule, making sure that it is not left until just before bedtime. It's a good idea to set rules for when homework and studying need to be done and when the TV can be turned on and when it should be off. Making homework a priority will help your child recognize the importance of learning, reading and studying.

## Parent Advisory Council

We would like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to Brenda Canfield for her efforts in regards to the fundraising that is done at St. Joe's. Brenda is the PAC President and she spends hours of her time organizing, ordering and sorting out all of the various fundraising items. Next time you see Brenda around the school (and she is there a lot), take a moment to say thanks to her.

**McDonald's Fundraiser** - Just a reminder to keep your receipts from McDonald's Restaurants and bring them into the school office. McDonald's donates a percentage of the total receipt back to the school.



## Spruce Grove Minor Baseball

Spruce Grove Minor Baseball Association is holding their Annual General meeting at the TLC on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00pm. We ask that all parents of current players and those interested in joining baseball in the spring of 2009 to come to this meeting. There will be a draw for \$100.00 gift card for The Keg Steakhouse to be won by a parent attending the meeting whom has a child playing baseball in the upcoming 2009 season.



## School Custodian Needed

Casual positions available responsible for cleaning various areas of school buildings. Casual salary starts at \$13.08/hour. Please send resumes by mail, email, or fax to the following:

Sime Fatovic  
Director of Facilities and Technology, Box 4265  
Spruce Grove, Ab.  
T7X 3B4

Email: [sfatovic@ecsr.d.ca](mailto:sfatovic@ecsr.d.ca)  
Phone (780) 962-5627  
Fax: (780) 962-4664

## School Council

### **WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL?**

A school council is a means for parents to be involved in decision-making on issues that affect the operation of the

school. It is an opportunity for parents to have an influence on the education of our students, and to actively participate in giving direction and support to the principal and teaching staff. It is a forum for you as a parent to express your wishes and ideas that can have an impact on the operation of the school, and the way that our children are educated.

Did you know that the principal presents to the school council a three year education plan? Did you know that you can have an influence on what the three year plan ultimately looks like?

**Why become involved?** Studies have shown that an actively involved school council can have an impact on student achievement and attendance, and creates more positive student attitudes and behaviours. Your involvement also serves as a positive role model for our children, because it teaches our children the value of giving back to our community by the things we do to help others.

Your involvement does not need to be anything more than regularly attending school council meetings, which are the third Monday of every month. With regular attendance, you will develop an understanding of the role of school council, and you may have very valuable ideas to share that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of school council, and St. Joseph School itself.

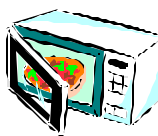
Ask not what your school can do for you, but what you can do for your school! Get involved! Set a good example for your children!

See you at the next School Council meeting on Monday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m.! Child care for ages 5 and up is available at the school. Please contact Micia by noon on the day of the meeting if you plan on attending and require child care, so that we know how many teens we need.

**Micia Kawulka**  
**Chair, St. Joseph School Council**  
**Email: [miciastjoe@shaw.ca](mailto:miciastjoe@shaw.ca)**  
**Phone: 780-946-6356**

## Microwaves in Gymnasium

Approximately two hundred Grade 3 and 4 students eat their lunches in the gym from 11:35—11:50 pm every day. A number of students bring items to heat up in one of the four microwave ovens that are rolled into the gym for lunch. With the amount of students in the gym, microwave time is at a premium. Therefore, we are asking students to only bring items that need a maximum of 30 seconds to be heated. Hopefully,



this will help us avoid long line-ups at the microwave ovens.

## Stewardship Corner

Is your family up for the water challenge? Water is something we take for granted, because it is so easily available in Canada. However, just because we have an abundance of fresh water doesn't mean we can use it to access. We are God's stewards and we must care for His creation. Wasting and contaminating our water supply has got to stop. The students from 1C and 3May have researched a number of ideas you could try in your home to help reduce our impact on the environment. Try it for a month. Then have your child write down all the ways your family tried to save water on a piece of paper with your name and class. Then drop it off in the box at the office during the first week of December. The Tri Leisure Centre has graciously donated 8 family passes to our stewardship initiative. We will randomly draw 2 letters from each grade. Come on and try, what do you have to lose? We guarantee you will make the world a better place and you will save \$\$\$\$\$ too.



- ?? Label drinking glasses so they can be used for the day
- ?? Keep a water jug in the fridge
- ?? Finish all your drinks
- ?? Use reusable icepacks and ice cubes
- ?? Soak dishes
- ?? Rinse dishes in a sink of water instead of running the tap
- ?? Use microwave vegetable bags to cook veggies; they don't require water
- ?? Purchase appliances that save water
- ?? Install low flow shower heads
- ?? Take showers instead of baths/take shorter showers
- ?? Share baths
- ?? Turn off water when scrubbing your hands
- ?? Wash hands in sink instead of running water
- ?? Rinse toothbrush in cup and not under tap  
Turn tap off when brushing your teeth
- ?? Install low flush toilets
- ?? If it's yellow let it mellow
- ?? Reuse bath towels
- ?? Wear your pajamas twice
- ?? Only wash full loads of clothes and dishes
- ?? Wash clothes less often
- ?? Collect rain water to water plants and garden
- ?? Sprinklers set for lawn and not drive way
- ?? Don't worry about having the greenest grass
- ?? Don't cut lawn short it won't require as much water
- ?? Don't run the hose when washing your car
- ?? Use a broom to clean driveway not a hose
- ?? Fix leaky taps
- ?? Use natural cleaner's not toxic chemicals in water

## Inquiry?????

### Creative Thinking

Give your family a time limit (three minutes). Assign someone to be the recorder. List all possible animals that could be the family pet. Be quick. No stopping to ponder what should and should not be on the list. Brainstorm; adding every idea that comes to mind (even the unusual)!

### Critical Thinking

Look at your list of animals.

Analyze your list. Do you agree that every animal listed could be a good pet? If you wish to remove any animal from the list, convince your family to take the animal off the list. Explain why. Use the word "because".

Organize your list. Agree on three categories and sort the animals accordingly.

Prioritize your list. Which one will be the first choice: Reptile? Rodent?



Adapted from Treffinger & Nassab. (2000). *Thinking tools lessons*.

## Healthy School Communities

A big thank you to parents and staff for completing the survey on how to make St. Joseph School a healthier school community. The response was great and some outstanding ideas are being considered. Information regarding which initiatives will be targeted this year to enhance the health of our students will be forthcoming.



## St. Joseph Annual School Report

The staff of St. Joseph School is very pleased with the results of our annual Satisfaction Surveys, our Provincial Achievement Test results and our Accountability Pillars. While we had no areas to target from last year's Accountability Pillar, the staff met to set our goals based upon new curriculums, the needs of our students which were not reflected in the Pillars and expressed needs from the staff. The results of the collaborative goal setting resulted in our school goals for this year. A copy of the comprehensive report is available in the office.



## Nothing More Beautiful

The Archdiocese of Edmonton has launched a 5-year evangelization process known as 'Nothing More Beautiful'. There is a schedule for a series of Special Encounters focussing on a different aspect of the year's theme with music, prayer, a keynote catechist and a lay witness. Each event will have different perspectives on the beauty of our faith. For more information on *Nothing More Beautiful* visit The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton website at [www.edmontoncatholic-church.com](http://www.edmontoncatholic-church.com).



# November 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Catholic Education Sunday	3	4	5	6	7 Peace Celebration -9:55am 	8
9	10 No School- Lieu Day	11  Remembrance Day-No School	12	13	14	15
16	17 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Report Cards	25 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 4:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.	26	27	28 P.D. Day No School	29
30						

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Parent/Teacher Interview letters will be sent home shortly. Please return them to school as soon as possible.

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			