



The Cougar Column

ST. JOSEPH - NEWSLETTER

October 1st, 2018

A Message from the Principal...

We made it through the first month of school! Our virtue of the month continues to be Gratitude. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and as parents, you are the primary teachers of your children, hence, you can model this virtue by letting them know all of the things that you have to be thankful for. Ask them to consider all of the things they are thankful for. I am thankful for the increased enrolment at St. Joseph's that has allowed us to add a classroom in our primary division! We now have straight Grade 1, 2 and 3 classes for the second year in a row! We welcome Mr. Lamothe as our new Grade 2 teacher. He brings much experience from the intermediate level to our school and has taught at various schools within our Board over the years. Once he settles in, I am certain we can convince him to do some intramural sports!

There will also be another teacher joining us for two half days per week – I will let parents know as soon as I have more information. For thanksgiving – I would like the St. Joseph community to know that I am thankful to be here and it is a joy and privilege to be a part of your lives. I am wishing you a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday and ask that you be especially safety conscious on Hallowe'en.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pichette



REMINDERS - Safety is our priority!



Please be aware that our school is **NOT supervised until 8:35 am**. If your child walks, bikes or is dropped off at school, be sure not to send him/her too early!



There continues to be construction on William Street, so pickups and drop offs remain at the corner of Powell and Huot Street until further notice. Please do not enter the parking lot to drop off/turn around as all of our students will be walking there and it is a safety concern. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.



Letters will be going home shortly to all children in Gr. 4 with their EQAO test results. St. Joseph School has done well - Way to go!



October is Child Abuse Prevention month in Canada. As Christians and adults, it is not only our moral obligation to report, it is also our legal responsibility. Keep all of our children safe – they are a precious gift from God!



FOCUS ON FAITH

Our monthly mass will be celebrated on October 4th at 9:30 at St. Joachim Church, followed by our Harvest picnic in the gym. Our virtue continues to be – Gratitude.



DEVELOPING CHARACTER THROUGH GRATITUDE

The goal of this virtue:

- To help our students give thanks for what they have and for who they are instead of focusing on what they are not and do not have
- To help our students and ourselves learn to be attentive and to stop and enjoy the moments of happiness and joy in our lives. It is important to not lose our sense of wonder and thanksgiving for the simple things
- To teach our children to be grateful for life itself and to live in accordance to the purpose which we were created for

“This is the day, the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.” Psalm 118:24



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Our students from Gr. 3-6 will have the opportunity to participate in a X-country meet at Opishong Lake on Oct. 4th. They have been practicing since the beginning of the school year several times per week. Indeed, they have been placing very well in our local meets. Come on out and cheer them on!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We had a record breaking 10 people attend our first school council meeting on Sept. 26th! We held elections and Shannon Costello was nominated and unanimously voted in as our Chair. Congratulations! We look forward to working as a team in building an even better school community and in planning both fundraising and parent engagement activities. Our next meeting has yet to be determined.



BREAKFAST/SNACK PROGRAMS

We are starting this a bit later than usual as our 2 very reliable volunteers – Jackie Whalen and Leah Sasseville are unable to help us this year. Dorothy Bromilow has agreed to help us this year and we are getting her the food handlers training course and then we will be good to go. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

FOCUS ON INSTRUCTION



Our school has committed to utilizing with our Gr. 2, and 4-6 students, a new program created by Canadian math research expert, Marian Small. It is the **MathUP Classroom** - a comprehensive instructional solution that helps build teachers' knowledge and understanding of mathematics so they can better help their students. It is based on our Ontario curriculum and we piloted several units last year in the 4-6 classrooms and will continue this year, adding the Gr. 2 group as well.