



ST. JAMES NEWSLETTER #12

February 19, 2014

School website: www.stjamesvernon.com

Walk Humbly with Our Lord

Upcoming Events

February 24	School Council meeting at 6:30pm in the staff room
February 25	Grade 6/7 ski trip to Silver Star
February 27	Hot Lunch Day; Student Led Conferences from 3:00 to 7:00 pm
March 1	VEGAS PUB NIGHT - buy your tickets at the school office
March 3	PSG meeting at 6:00pm in the staff room; all parents are welcome
March 4	The school choir will be performing at the Vernon District Choir Festival. The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in the school gym; look for details in upcoming parish bulletins
March 5	Ash Wednesday - the start of the Lenten season; newsletters go home today
March 7	First Friday Mass at 9:00 am; parents are welcome to join us at St. James Church
March 14	Our celebration of St. Patrick's Day starts at 10:30; wear green and join in the celebration; last school day before Spring Break!
March 15-30	Spring Break
March 31	School Council meeting at 6:30pm in the staff room
April 18-21	Easter weekend; NO SCHOOL
May 16	School PRO D day - NO SCHOOL

The Start of the Instructional Day

Parents, please remember that the instructional day actually begins at 8:30am. Although things may seem a bit chaotic as students hang up jackets, put on shoes, and generally get organized for the day, this is all part of the Social Responsibility aspect of our program. Once the children are in the classrooms, the rest of the instructional day starts. It is quite frustrating to teachers when students arrive late and miss some key aspects of their learning. We urge parents, as much as possible, to help their children arrive prior to the warning bell that rings at 8:25am. Thank you so much for your consideration.



WINTER CARNIVAL POSTER WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who were winners in the Winter Carnival poster contest:

- Grade 4 - Kaitlyn, Nadia, Georgia
- Grade 6 - Emma
- Grade 7 - Erika

THANKS TO THE FAMILY FLING ORGANIZERS for organizing such a fun-filled family event. A great crowd was in attendance and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.

Student Led Conference letters went home earlier this week. In case you didn't get yours (they were sent home with the students), we have included one as an attachment to this newsletter.



A Personal Faith Formation Opportunity

The **Annual Lent Retreat** will be held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine in Cache Creek on March 14-16. The retreat is open to all adults and will be directed by Bishop Monroe. Registration forms are available at www.rcdk.org.

ALLERGEN AWARE SCHOOL

It is the policy of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Kamloops Diocese to create allergen-aware environments in our schools. As a school community, we are aware that students who have potentially life-threatening allergies can go into anaphylactic shock. We have protocols in place in such an event. We do ask the cooperation of parents to be sensitive to the requirements of some of our students. If you are not sure what an allergen-aware environment looks like, check out web sites such as www.foodallergy.org

Catholic Schools by Amber, Grade 7

To me, a Catholic Education means having a safe environment to grow in my faith. Being in a Catholic School helps me with prayer and helps me understand more about the seven sacraments. The differences between this school and my past public schools are drastic. First of all, the people here are nice to each other. Another extreme change is that everyone is seen as an equal and there's not a lot of bullying. I am very privileged to be in a Catholic school.

UNIFORM REMINDER: Pants are to be 'dress'-style; nicely fitting, not cargo, track pants, capris, or sweatpants. Cords are permitted. Check out the uniform policy on our school web site if you are uncertain as to what is acceptable.

SAINTS OF SERVICE PROGRAM FOR 2014-2015

Saints of Service letters for next year will be sent home today with the students. Please fill in the information as accurately as possible and return the form and your post-dated cheque to the school office. **Remember, these forms are for the 2014-2015 school year!**

Easy Ways to Support Our School

Recycling of Bottles - St. James School has made arrangements with Chaser Bottle Depot and Interior Bottle Depot that all monies received from returning your empties will go to St. James School. Please tell the clerks that you would like the money donated to St. James School.

Cobbs Bread - When you purchase items at Cobbs Bread, identify yourself as a supporter of St. James School and the school receives a percentage of the sale.

Updates from the School Office

There are occasional times that the office needs to be closed during the school day. One of these times is when Mary has to count and verify monies received from fund-raising events. If she gets interrupted in this process, things can easily become confusing! So, if the office door is closed or she does not answer the phone, please realize that she is working on something time-sensitive.



Income tax receipts are available for pick-up at the school office. Office hours are from 8:00am until 4:30pm. If you need to come outside of the regular office hours, please call to arrange a suitable time for pick-up. We do not send these receipts home with the students as these could be "lost in transit".

Criminal Record Checks

All volunteer criminal record checks are now done through the Ministry of Justice. There is no charge for these. If you need an updated CRC, or haven't done one yet, the forms can be found on the school web site or can be picked up from the school office. Please let us know if you complete one on-line as these approved CRCs get sent to our Superintendent by the Ministry of Justice and she doesn't know which school parents are connected with.



In preparation for the Lenten season, here are a few web sites that have great ideas for family Lenten activities:

www.catholicmom.com/kids_lent_activities.htm

<http://www.cfm.org/families/pdf>

https://loyolapress.com/lent_activities.htm