

Upcoming Events

Dec. 12-13 – Sr. Girls’ Basketball Tournament
Dec. 19 – Advent mass, last day of classes
Christmas Break
Jan. 5 – Classes resume
Jan. 13 – English 30-1, 30-2, Diploma Exam Part A
Jan. 14 – Social Studies 30-1/30-2 Dip Exam Part A
Jan. 19 – Term 1 Last day of Classes
Jan. 20-28 – Exams, Exams, EXAMS!
Jan. 29 – Parent School Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Feb. 2 – First day of Term 2

The complete exam schedule and instructions are attached at the end of the newsletter. Please note when your student is writing his or her exams.

A Message from the Assistant Principal

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4)

Advent’s light is a beacon of hope and a call to trust in the presence of Christ’s love shining in the midst of our darkest days. Advent is a time of joyful hope and anticipation. We await the light that dispels the darkness. We wait for the birth of our savior; our true light. During Advent we are called to prepare our hearts, to be active witnesses to our faith, and to fully welcome Jesus into our lives.

Over the past month the St. John Paul II Catholic School community has been extremely busy working hard on some pretty BIG projects. We say thank you to our teachers for the various roles they do in the school. We had wonderful Twitter action regarding our first ever “Food Truck Wars” that occurred in Mrs. Tully’s Foods classes. We had some celebrity judges from the community such as the honorable Mayor Katchur, Alex Tostawaryk from Mix 107.9 and our own RCMP Constable Schoepp. The food was truly amazing and the students outdid themselves.

We also give a gigantic “HI Five” to Ms. Jenkins and her entire drama department for an outstanding production of “Lend Me A Tenor.” If you caught the play, you know what I mean! The students were outstanding!

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our volleyball coaches: Ms. Balla, Mr. Gau, Ms. Cava, Mrs. Tully who rocked the season and Miss Panich, our curling coach, whose team made it to semi-finals! Of course, we must also acknowledge our athletes for what has been a thrilling sports’ season thus far at St. JP II! Our Patriots can be proud of their accomplishments. On or off the court, or ice, our students are true ambassadors of our community. Their discipline, integrity and Patriot Pride is second to none! We also look forward to our rigorous basketball season that just “tipped off” as well.

We thank all our parents for taking time to register online parent teacher interview scheduler in November. Communication between teachers and parents is vital. It is through dialogue that perceptions are clarified and proper strategies are put in place so that student learning is enhanced. Once again we thank you so much for your participation in this process.

We also extend our gratitude to the ST. JP II Leadership Group under Mr. Segberg, the ST. JP II Fishermen lead by our chaplain Mr. Walker, and our Cafeteria blessing, Mrs. Jo-Ann Flemming for their role in promoting a positive Catholic culture within our school community. The level of commitment, planning and support for our various activities across the ST. JP II community is truly a blessing!

Friday, December 19th is a full day of school and our Advent Mass will be at OLA Church at 9:00am. We will be walking to the church, weather permitting, so we ask students to please dress appropriately. Attending Mass is an integral part of our faith formation at St. John Paul II and we ask all students to attend. Parents are most welcome to attend as well.

The staff of St. John Paul II wishes you all peace, hope, and happiness this Advent season. May God continue to bless our community as we journey into 2015. Remember, classes resume on Monday, January 5th, 2015 and grade 12 diploma examinations are followed shortly thereafter.

May the light of Christ warm your heart this Christmas season.

Mrs. Tracy Melnyk, Assistant Principal

Any questions, please call or email Ms. Zaleschuk.

School Fees

School fees are due. We accept cash, cheques, visa, mastercard, debit cards and fees can also be paid on-line using PowerSchool. If you don't have a copy of your invoice, please contact Mrs. Roth or check your PowerSchool account. (Mrs. Roth works Monday to Thursdays.) If you feel you may qualify for hardship fee waivers, please apply at <http://www.eics.ab.ca/index.phy/parents-students/school-fees/fee-waiver-program> The deadline is **December 12, 2014.**

Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from St. John Paul II, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled at St. John Paul II Catholic School during the present year;
- Have successfully completed Religion 35 or be enrolled in and passing Religion at mid-term in semester II;
- Have met all Alberta High School Diploma Requirements with a minimum of 100 credits;
- Have attendance and achievement which reflects a reasonable opportunity to successfully complete grade 12 course work.
- All outstanding school fees must be paid.

If you are unsure about your grad status, please check with Ms. Labrecque.

ST JP II DRAMA



On December 9, 10, we were
• • treated to a fine performance
of *Lend me a Tenor* by the drama
club. The students did a fantastic job of
presenting this fast-paced comedy!
• Congratulations to the cast, crew, and
• Ms. Jenkins!

FOOD TRUCK WARS

This November, the 20/30 Foods classes were busy preparing, researching and testing out recipes for their Food Truck Wars that took place on December 4th! We had an amazing array of foods ranging from super spicy, to extra cheesy, to traditional, and even healthy! We had a lovely panel of judges with Mr. Gau, Ms. Zaleschuk and Mr. Roberts repping St. JP II, as well as two special guests: Mayor Gale Katchur and radio host, Alex Tostowaryk! A huge THANK YOU goes out to the students, who worked so hard to prepare this event, as well as to the students of St. JP II who supported us through the purchase of food tickets! Ku-dos to our two winners: *Grillenium Falcon* and *Larger than Leaf*.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

St. JP II is collecting non-perishable food bank donation items in each classroom for the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank! December can be a tough month for many families in our community who require the help of others to make it through the holidays. Often times these families do not have enough for a simple meal over the holidays. We are hoping to collect enough donation items to build a large donation tree in our school to then donate to the Food Bank! Please help us out by dropping off donation items at our school until December 17th! On December 18th we will be assembling and displaying our donation tree, then delivering the donations on Friday the 19th of December before we break for the holidays! Thank you in advance and Merry Christmas!

GRAD UPDATE



Graduation this spring will be held on Saturday, May 10 and Saturday, June 20. On May 10 there will be the grad banquet and dance at the Shaw Conference Centre. On June 20 we will have the grad mass at 3 p.m. followed by the commencement exercises at 7:30 at the Shell Theatre. (Please note the change in date for the commencement mass and exercises.) Please check the webpage for any further updates regarding graduation.

Thank you to all the families who helped support the Stawnichy's fundraiser. The profits will be used to enhance the decorating budget and be used towards other incidentals.

GRAD RINGS: Reminder that if you would still like to purchase a Grad ring from Josten's, proceed to www.jostens.com and you can create your ring from that website.

Grad photographs will take place Jan. 20-22. PLEASE GO TO <http://lifetouch.ca/northernalberta> and scroll down to

1. *How to make an appointment* and choose St. John Paul II Catholic School.
2. ***Your sitting fees for your photographs have already been paid.
3. Please SELECT SESSION. (There is only one option- Photo Sitting (20 min)).
4. On the right side of the page, please follow Step 1-5.

CASUAL CARETAKERS NEEDED

Are you looking for a role that provides the opportunity to work in a collaborative team environment, where your skills, knowledge and attributes are respected?

If so, please consider joining EICS as a casual caretaker. We're accepting applications for casual Caretakers at our Camrose, Fort Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, and Vegreville schools. These positions are on an on-call as-needed basis with a salary of \$22.51 per hour.

Please visit our website at www.eics.ab.ca and click on Human Resources / Support Staff Career Opportunities. Information is posted under **Competition #13/114C**.

SALT AND LIGHT

For this month, as we are in the thick of the Advent season, I thought it might be of interest to include a bit about the symbols we use to celebrate this wonderful time of joyful preparation. God bless you and your families as you prepare the way of the Lord and make room for him in your hearts and homes.

(when the Church celebrates *the liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating [John the Baptist's] birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #524)

Advent wreath: The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones are lit on the "penitential" Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent. The color purple reminds us of the color used at Lent – it is a royal color – and in that, it is a color that reminds us to prepare for the coming of the King (Jesus) in our lives! What



better color to celebrate the birth of the King! Advent is not just a somber time of repentance like Lent, however – it is a joyful preparation! Hence, the use of the pink third candle to punctuate our preparation with joy. For us today, Advent means a time of repentance and preparation of our minds and hearts as we are filled with hope and expectation! Editor's note: The white candle (white signifying purity) is called the Christ candle, and is generally lit on Christmas Eve.

The Nativity scene: Also known as the "manger scene". These scenes which are common at advent often show Mary and Joseph, Baby Jesus, and the three wise men. Often an angel and even some animals are depicted. However, we often misuse these scenes, plunking Jesus in right away! Instead, Catholic tradition has encouraged us to enter into the expectant waiting of advent by placing Jesus in the manger only on December 25th to celebrate his coming into the world.

The Advent Calendar: Many of us have used (and still do) those wonderful chocolate advent calendars! They are yummy to be sure and certainly build anticipation for the fulfillment of our hope at Christmas. However, many other "calendars" exist – their main purpose being to remind us daily of the season of advent and our preparations for the coming of King Jesus!

Colors of Advent: Purple stands for penitence, fasting and preparation for the Christmas season. Purple is also the color of royalty, which is appropriate for celebrating the birth of the new King, Jesus. Purple is also used during the Lenten season before Easter, reminding people that even in this time of celebration we can also be mindful of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, another gift he provided to us. The pink candle stands for joy, which is what most people feel in the Christmas season! Respectively, each of the candles we light, remind us to welcome the following into our lives – Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace – to live these out in a special way this advent season and beyond.



ST JP II CURLING

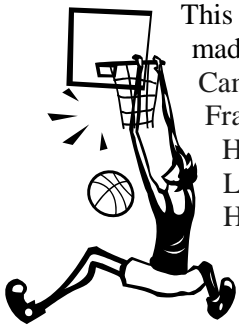
Congratulations to the curling team (Michael Barbour, Shaylin Sharpe, and Rebecca Bartz) for their success in the Metro High School Curling League. After going 5 - 2 in the regular season, they made playoffs and lost in the semi-final. The 2015 Metro Zone Curling Playdowns/Championships will run from February 2 - 25.



VOLLEYBALL



A huge shout-out goes to the Junior Girls and Boys this volleyball season! Girls won Gold in their final playoff game as well as bronze at the Fort Christian Tournament! Boys won silver in their playoff game! Way to go! Good luck next season!



This year the senior boys basketball team is made up of the following players : Cameron Gabert, Neil Annang, Mason Franchuk, Brandon McKay, Ben Hawryliw, Matt Bennett, Dakota Lambert-Cardinal, Dylan Pitt, Alex Hynes, Alex Bourget, Bryce Grozli, Kristian Brown, Jeremiah Aquino, and Morgan Bonneville. New to the coaching staff this year is Mr.

Cameron Keats.

This week we have a home game on Dec. 9 @5:00.

Next month we have a home game at 6:30 and a game at Fort High at 5:00. Our home tournament is on January 9, 10.

Come out and cheer for our Patriots!

SR. GIRLS BASKETBALL

Come on out this weekend, December 12, 13, and cheer for our girls at the annual tournament! Our team consists of Allyson Apolonio, Megan Nixon, Courtney McKay, Stacey Mearns, Haley Reich, Alexandra Dyky, Chandler Grainger, Brooke Tremblay, Rhianna Zazula, Kaitlyn Krauskof, Danielle Ouellet, Renee Ouellet, Clairese Bouwman, Gaddiel Kamuanya. Coach, Ms Balla, says the team has great potential this year. Good luck at your tournament, girls!



May peace be in our hearts and homes this Advent and Christmas season and always.

Best wishes to all from staff at St. John Paul II Catholic School.

Exam Schedule, January 2015

Date	Time	Exam	Room	Supervisors
Tues., Jan. 13	9:00-11:30	English 30-1 Part A Diploma	Lab	Melnyk
Tues., Jan. 13	9:00-11:30	English 30-2 Part A Diploma	Library	Gau
Wed., Jan. 14	9:00-11:30	Social Studies 30-1 Part A Diploma	Library	Melnyk
Wed., Jan. 14	9:00-11:00	Social Studies 30-2 Part A Diploma	Lab	Tymko
Jan. 19 - Last Day of Classes				
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	English 10-1 Part A	Lab	Jenkins
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	English 10-1 AP Part A	Chrome 1	Cava
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	Math 20-1	Gym	Keats
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	Math 20-2	Gym	Keats
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	English 30 AP Midterm	Gym	Tully
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	English 30-1 Part B Diploma	Gym	Melnyk
Tues., Jan. 20	9:00-11:30	English 30-2 Part B Diploma	Gym	Melnyk
Tues., Jan 20	1:00-2:30	Language Arts 9.1 Midterm	Gym	Labrecque
Tues., Jan 20	1:00-2:30	Language Arts 9.3 Midterm	Gym	Stolk
Tues., Jan 20	1:00-2.30	Language Arts 9.2 Midterm	Gym	Degenhardt
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	English 20-1 Part A	Chrome1	Cava
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	English 20-1 AP Midterm	Gym	Degenhardt
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	Social 30 AP Midterm	Gym	Robert
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	English 10-1 AP Part B	Gym	Segberg
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	English 10-1 Part B	Gym	Jenkins
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	Social Studies 30-1 Part B Diploma	Gym	Tymko
Wed., Jan. 21	9:00-11:00	Social Studies 30-2 Part B Diploma	Gym	Tymko
Wed., Jan. 21	1:00-2:30	Math 9.1 Midterm	Gym	Keats
Wed., Jan. 21	1:00-2:30	Math 9.2 Midterm	Gym	Panich
Wed., Jan. 21	1:00-2:30	Math 9.3 Midterm	Gym	Panich
Thurs., Jan 22	9:00-11:00	Social 10-1 Part A	Chrome 1	Romanowski
Thurs., Jan 22	9:00-11:00	Social 20-2 Part A	Lab	Reader
Thur., Jan 22	9:00-11:00	Social Studies 20-1 AP Part A Midterm	Gym	Robert
Thur., Jan 22	9:00-11:00	Science 10 AP	Gym	Balla
Thur., Jan 22	9:00-11:00	English 20-1 Part B	Gym	Cava
Thur., Jan 22	1:00-3:00	Religion 15	Gym	Walker
Thur., Jan 22	1:00-3:00	Religions of the World 35	Gym	Degenhardt
Fri., Jan. 23	9:00-10:20	Social Studies 9 PAT	Gym	Segberg
Fri., Jan. 23	9:00-11:00	Social Studies 10-1 Part B	Gym	Romanowski
Fri., Jan. 23	9:00-11:00	Social 20-2 Part B	Gym	Gau
Fri., Jan. 23	9:00-11:00	Biology 20 Adv.	Gym	Tully
Fri., Jan. 23	9:00-11:00	Math 10-3	Gym	Lemmens
Fri., Jan. 23	9:00-11:00	Biology 30 Diploma	Gym	Zwicker

Fri., Jan. 23	1:00-3:00	Science 14/24	Gym	Reader
Fri., Jan. 23	1:00-3:00	French 20/30	Gym	Gavin
Mon., Jan. 26	9:00-10:15	Science 9 PAT	Gym	Balla
Mon., Jan. 26	9:00-11:00	Social Studies 20-1 Part A	Lab	Zaleschuk
Mon., Jan. 26	9:00-11:00	Mathematics 30-1 Diploma	Gym	Gavin
Mon., Jan. 26	9:00-11:30	Mathematics 30-2 Diploma	Gym	Lemmens
Mon., Jan. 26	1:00-3:00	Science 10 AP	Gym	Zwicker
Mon., Jan. 26	1:00-3:00	Science 10	Gym	Gavin
Mon., Jan. 26	1:00-3:00	Science 20	Gym	Tully
Tues., Jan. 27	9:00-11:00	Physics 20	Gym	Balla
Tues., Jan. 27	9:00-10:30	Social 20-1 Part B	Gym	Robert
Tues., Jan. 27	9:00-11:00	Religion 25/35	Gym	Walker
Tues., Jan. 27	9:00-11:00	Math 10C	Gym	Gau
Tues., Jan. 27	9:00-11:00	Physics 30 Diploma	Gym	Keats
Wed., Jan. 28	9:00-10:15	Chemistry 20	Gym	Zaleschuk
Wed., Jan. 28	9:00-11:00	Math 31	Gym	Panich
Wed., Jan. 28	9:00-11:00	Chemistry 30 Diploma	Gym	Melnyk
Thurs., Jan. 29	9:00-11:00	Science 30 Diploma	Gym	Melnyk

All exams will be written in the gym unless otherwise indicated.

Instructions:

- Students must return all textbooks to the **library** prior to beginning their examination. Students will be charged for lost or damaged textbooks.
- No cell phones or electronic devices will be allowed in the examination room, except approved calculators. Any student **in possession of** materials **not** allowed in an examination rooms will have his/her mark invalidated. No jackets, hats, electronic device (except approved calculators) and bags will be allowed in the examination room.
- Students may not enter or leave the examination room without the consent of the supervising teacher.
- Students who arrive more than one hour after a diploma examination has started will **not** be allowed to the write the examination.
- Students must write the examination within the specified time and may not hand in a paper until at least one hour of the examination time has elapsed. **Students may write for up to one half hour beyond the assigned writing time.**
- Students may not discuss the diploma examination with the supervising examiner unless the examination booklet is incomplete or illegible. Students may **not** talk, whisper, or exchange information or examination writing tools and materials with another student.
- Students may **not** remove any examinations or other examination materials from the examination room.
- Students who interfere with the security of examinations or who disrupt other students may be evicted from the examination room and have their examination results invalidated.
- Semester 2 begins on Monday, February 2, 2015.
- Report cards will be distributed on Wednesday, February 4, at the end of the day.