



Upcoming Events

Nov. 3 – Free the Children – group travelling to seminar in Calgary

Nov. 5 – Early dismissal (2:06)

Nov. 6 – Parent/Teacher Interviews, 3:30-9:00 p.m.

Nov. 7 – Remembrance Day Ceremony, gym, 10:15

Nov. 10-14 – No Classes

Nov. 22 – Catholic Education Sunday

A Message from the Principal

It has been an excellent start to school year! We are fortunate to be able to provide a Christ centered school to educate our young people in their faith and in the desire to serve the Lord. It is a joy for me to witness daily the students and parents involved with our school.

We have seen many exciting changes at St. JP II over the past few weeks. Our cafeteria is re-opened with a new operator. Mrs. Flemming is offering many healthy choices including breakfasts and snacks for break time. Great food, great prices. Please see our website for the current menu. Please support this enterprise.

Alberta Education has announced a new Catholic high school for Fort Saskatchewan. We welcome this news with joyful hearts. The school is slated to be open in 2018 and will have a capacity of 1000 students. Talks have already begun between our school division, the city and the province. I will keep you informed of the progress.

The City of Fort Saskatchewan has put into place a School Resource Officer (SRO) to service the city's grade 7-12 students. Cst. Janice Schoepp shares her time between the schools and will be a continued presence within these schools for the foreseeable future. We are thrilled to have her and firmly believe her work will reduce youth crime and help to keep our young people safe.

Parent/Teacher Interviews are being held on November 6th from 3:30-9:00pm. Report cards will be given out at interviews. Please attend. To book an appointment, please go to www.schoolinterviews.ca event code GE428.

We are striving to make St. JP II the best school it can be. If you have any questions or concerns or, more importantly, wish to let us know what we are doing well, please don't hesitate to let me know.

God Bless,
Steve Tymko, Principal

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 you 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.**

DRAMA

The St. John Paul II Drama Club would like to invite you to our winter production, *Lend Me a Tenor*. Night time performances will be December 2nd and 3rd at 7:00 in the gym. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Please send Ms. Jenkins an email at nicolaj@eics.ab.ca if you have any further questions or inquiries.



“Lend Me a Tenor is set in September 1934. Saunders, the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is primed to welcome world famous Tito

Merelli, known as II Stupendo, the greatest tenor of his generation, to appear for one night only as Othello. The star arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant Max believe he is dead. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, Saunders persuades Max to get into thinking he's Stupendo. Max succeeds admirably, but Merelli comes to and gets his other costume ready to perform. Now two Othellos are running around in costume! A sensation on Broadway and London's West End, this madcap, screwball comedy is guaranteed to leave audiences teary-eyed with laughter.”

LIBRARY NEWS



The magazine subscription program for Read-in week was a meager success this year. Only 16 people brought in magazine orders. The ones that participated will be treated to a free pizza lunch where some will be presented with prizes for their efforts. Ashlyn Cherniwchan and Tyler Nix are further recognized for bringing in the most subscriptions. Thanks to you all.....and remember that this is an annual event so you may renew your orders next year or you may also **order year round online** and our school receives full credit. Begin by logging in to www.qsp.ca, and clicking on “just shopping”, enter group #3698297 and “shop now”. Enjoy your reading.....MAKES GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!!

SALT & LIGHT

When you think of Halloween, what comes to mind? If you are like me, probably candy! For a lot of people the day is synonymous with costumes, scary stuff, and pumpkins. At first glance it seems like it is non-religious at best. In fact, many people oppose the practice for one reason or another – usually these reasons are religious in nature. But, did you know that Halloween has some very important Catholic connections?

The origins of Halloween as we know it today date back to ancient Celtic tribes who lived in what is now modern day Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Britain. For the Celts, November 1 marked the beginning of a new year and the coming of winter. On the night before the new year, they celebrated the festival of Samhain. During this festival, Celts believed the souls of the dead returned to mingle with the living. In order to scare away any (evil) spirits, people would wear masks and light bonfires.

When the Romans conquered the Celts, they added their own touches to the Samhain festival, such as making centerpieces out of apples and nuts for Pomona, the Roman goddess of the orchards. The Romans also bobbed for apples and drank cider traditions which may sound like familiar Halloween things to you.

But what about the Catholic connection?

In the year 835, after observing such a day informally for the previous 100 years or so, Pope Gregory IV

moved the celebration for all the saints – which we now call All Saints Day - to November 1 to honor the many saints and martyrs who could not be given their own feast day. (Remember we are all called to be saints since a saint, when it all is said and done, is one we are certain is with God in Heaven)

As is common in the Church on the evening before BIG celebrations (Christmas and Easter) the night before a major feast celebration and observance was a time to hold vigil – praying in thanksgiving for those saints and martyrs whom we would honor the next day – this special time became known as “All Hallow’s Even” and later was shortened through common use to our current name “Halloween”.

The word “Hallowed” itself should be a familiar one as it is used in the ‘Our Father’, “...Hallowed by Thy Name” which translates in modern English as “Holy is Your Name”. Thus the real meaning of Halloween is “Holy Night / Holy Evening”. This puts a different spin on the holiday observance doesn’t it? The purpose of the feast of All Saints is to remember those holy ones who have died, whether they are officially recognized by the Church as saints or not. It is a celebration of the communion of all the saints – they are praying for us all the time!

Remember too we are all called to be saints – to live for God and let God work through us on Earth so that we can enjoy eternity and live with him in heaven. So, where Halloween came from is something that we as Catholics can be proud of because it can remind us to celebrate our faith, to be prayerful and thankful for the gifts of the saints, and to pray for those who have died that they enjoy heaven.

God bless you and yours this Halloween and always!
Mr. Scott Walker, Chaplain

GRAD NEWS



The 2015 grad banquet will be held on May 9, 2015 and the cap and gown ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 21, 2015. Times TBA. Be watching for updates in each newsletter

FREE THE CHILDREN

Our school chapter of Free the Children will be heading to Calgary on Monday, Nov. 3 for a motivating and life changing day at We Day Alberta. Stay tuned throughout the year for your chance to join us in creating effective and sustainable change both locally and internationally!

S-TRIP – WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Just a reminder to parents that the S-Trip is **not** a school sponsored or supported field trip. This is a trip arranged by an outside agency with **no** connection to the school or the school board and has only limited, peer supervision. If your child is interested in S-Trip, we caution you to please research it thoroughly.

St. JP II offers several travel opportunities through the year that meet supervision and insurance requirements of our school district. These trips are safe for your children and are educational. We are currently sponsoring a **Europe Trip** during spring break, the **annual ski trip**, and the **Yamate Exchange program to Japan**. Please contact the school for more information on any of these trips.



PATRIOT SPORTS

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

Both the Junior Girls' and the Junior Boys' Volleyball teams have hit the ground running this season. The Junior Boys Volleyball have had a great season so far! We have boys of all ability and skill level, and play a mean 5-1 rotation! We are undefeated in our league games, and played hard in both of our Junior Tournaments. Our season is starting to wind down, but keep cheering for us by coming out to our games! The Junior Boys Volleyball Team is led by Coach Ewelina Tully and Coach Mason Franchuk. Our team: Setters/Right Side: Landon Lavallee (2), Captain - Bryce Stillborn (3), Captain - Scott Curtis (9); Middle: Braxton Shantz (5), Nick Webb (7), Brayden Rocque (11), Parker Cullum (13); Power: Ethan Robertson (6), Chase Bouwman (8), Jordan Leversuch (10).

Keep up the great work JVB!!

The girls team are working hard and bonding as a team and it shows! The girls are undefeated in their league

games and came home with a Bronze medal this past weekend from the Fort High tournament. The girls are constantly learning and progressing and Coach Cava and her amazing assistant coaches, Ally Apolonio, Chandler Grainger, and Andrea Buban, could not ask for a harder working team! This team is led by their Captains Kaylee Martyn (#13-Power), Angelica Apolonio (#2- Setter), and Brooklyn Grainger (#10- Setter). These girls have done a fantastic job of leading and inspiring the team as a whole, consisting of Talia Mullen (#12 – Power), Miranda Mullen (#11 – Middle), Rheena Sugatan (#3-Middle), and Alex Cordeau (#9 – Middle). The team appreciates all of the support we have received so far, but please keep cheering loud!

SENIOR MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The senior Patriots have had a great season despite the fact that they lost 6 of their starters from last season. With all the players being in brand new positions the guys have managed to maintain an above .500 record in league play, and compete with intensity and challenge some strong teams in tournament action. Great job so far this season guys and good luck in zones and playoffs. This year's team consists of the following players: Brett Dubuc, Mason Franchuk, Ben Hawryliw, Wyatt Lavallee, AJ Cuthill, Nicholas Kolla, Morgan Bonneville, Neil Annang, Fitz Galang, Beau Cox, Conal Backer, Ryan Verbitsky, and Adam Faust.

SENIOR GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

The senior girls Patriots are heading into playoffs this week. They have experienced a lot of growth so far this season and are looking to stay strong as we head into an important part of the year. The girls captured a couple of wins in their tournament in Mayerthorpe over the weekend and are working hard to keep that momentum going. Zone playoffs will begin the week of November break.

See photos next page.

Reminder:

Parent/Teacher interviews

November 6, 3:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Please book an appointment with teachers of choice at www.schoolinterviews.ca event code GE428.

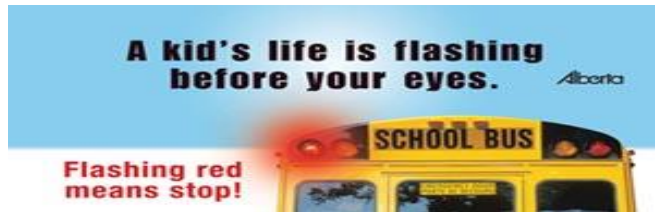
Report cards will be available at the door of the gym.

October 30, 2014



FLASHING RED – MEANS STOP !!

School Bus Drivers are required to activate their 8 Way Red Lights in all areas of Rural Strathcona County. Motorists are reminded that vehicles travelling **in both directions** on a 2 lane highway or roadway **must stop** when approaching a school bus that has activated their 8 Way Red Lights to pickup or drop-off students. Failure to stop will result in a **\$402 fine and 6 demerit points**. Bus drivers will forward the licence information of any offenders to the RCMP so that they can issue a ticket.



SCHOOL BUS EVACUATION DRILL

The Transportation Department will be conducting an evacuation drill on **Wednesday, October 22nd**. This drill will be conducted after school during the PM Bus Route. Students riding the Yellow Bus will be arriving home 10-15 minutes later than usual.



EXTRA RIDERS

Increased enrollment results in increased last minute ridership on our schools. We happy with the growth but our buses are getting full to capacity. Students not registered to a bus are not permitted to ride without authorization from the Transportation Office. Drivers will refuse to take any student not registered on their run. Thank you for your cooperation.

PARKING AT THE SCHOOLS

Safety is always the primary concern in student transportation. When dropping off or picking up students at the schools please respect Alberta Traffic Regulations which restrict vehicles from parking:

- in Bus Loading Zones
- within a “No Parking” zone
- within 5 meters of any fire hydrant
- within 1.5 meters of an access to a private roadway or driveway (driveway accessing school parking lots)
- within 5 meters on the approach to a stop sign or yield sign
- within 5 meters of the near side of a marked crosswalk

Parking within these restrictions is not only unlawful, but puts at risk our children and creates the scene of a potential collision. School buses do not have the same turning radius as a car, truck or SUV and the “Danger Zone” is larger.

PLEASE help keep your kids safe by keeping these zones clear!