



Upcoming Events

March 4– District Faith day, no classes

March 16 – Open House/Registration Night, 7:00 p.m.

March 24 – PD day, no classes

March 25 – School closure, no classes

March 28 – April 5 Spring break

April 5 – classes resume

April 14 – Parent/Teacher interviews, one day only,
3:00-5:30, 6:00 – 9:00. **Sign-up information will be out
in late March.**

SALT AND LIGHT

Lent 2016 – “Just do it” (no, I did not get approval or permission from Nike to co-opt their slogan)

Here we are, already a couple of weeks into the season of Lent. Lent is that special time in the Church calendar (roughly) 40 days before the great celebration of Easter. During Lent we are called to, in a special way, pray, fast, and give – so that we might “turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel”. Chances are you have had a moment already to choose something to “give up” for Lent. However, it is sometimes easy to make a Lenten commitment that doesn’t really draw us to closer relationship with Jesus. We sometimes are tempted to treat Lent as a chance to “re-up” our New Year’s resolutions – getting in shape, kicking a bad habit, etc. For others, it can be very easy to make your Lenten sacrifice something you “just do” – and leave it there – rather than making it a spiritual practice that actually changes your heart and causes your relationship with God to grow.

Yet, maybe Nike got it right with their “just do it” slogan. There is an element of our Lenten observance that just has to be done. When we **fast** from (give up) something for Lent (particularly something we like or have grown accustomed to) is not fun. We resist it. So we sometimes just have to bear down and do it. Yet the point of this perseverance is not so we can claim some sort of victory to boast about – rather, the struggle of giving something up is intended to lead us into a place where we can be open to grow spiritually. The same goes with what we **give** (our acts of charity) – sometimes it is difficult to give, as we can often be selfish people.

Yet we know deep down that if we just give – even when it hurts – we receive and grow in ways we never expected. Finally, it can often be difficult to **pray** in our busy and noisy world. It can be a challenge to find the time and space to pray – and then once we find it, our mind wants to race back to other things we have to do. Herein is the beauty of “just doing” prayer. Sometimes it might take a well-known prayer or something like the rosary that we can “do” regularly. This can get us in the habit of prayer – and give God room to work, allowing our prayer time to blossom and become more a prayer of the heart – and a conversation with the one who loves us more than we can imagine – than a task to be done. What I love about Lent is that it gives us a target and a time frame– something to do – that if we heed the call, we open ourselves up to the God who is always ready to pour out his love and grace on us. It isn’t too late to heed the call of Lent – there is lots of it left! Choose something manageable and regular if you haven’t already – or even if you’ve given up on a previous Lenten commitment. You might be surprised what God has in store for you as you take up the challenge to **pray, fast, and give!**

Lenten blessings,

Mr. Scott Walker

School Chaplain

This Lent, pray fervently, fast wisely, give with love!

St John Paul II Catholic School
OPEN HOUSE/REGISTRATION
NIGHT ON MARCH 16, 6:30 P.M.

Choose St JP II for

- a warm, caring Catholic environment
- flexible learning environment
- focus on inclusive education
- a well-rounded CTS program
- a dynamic fine arts program
- strong extra-curricular programs
- leadership opportunities

“Knowledge, Faith, and Pride, Acquired and Retained Forever.”

BREAKING NEWS!

We have just been approved to run a summer school program here at St. John Paul II Catholic School this summer. Classes will run for 7 days from July 4-12, 2016. Summer school offers a great opportunity to earn high school credits quickly, fast track high school to be finished early, open up time for spares, or to make up courses that were missed. Pending sufficient enrollments, we plan to offer:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| - CALM | -Physical Education 30 |
| - Math 10C Prep | -Religious Education 15 |
| - Physical Education 10 | -Religious Education 25 |
| - Physical Education 20 | - Religious Education 35 |

More information as well as registration information will be ready shortly. We will let it be known when this is ready. If you have already registered in summer school at ABJ, we can easily transfer the registration here. If you want any information or to discuss if summer school is right for you, please don't hesitate to contact Steve Tymko at the school.

2016-2017

As we enter the month of March, planning has commenced for the 2016-17 school year. On March 16th the school will hold an Open House and registration evening for new and prospective students. All grade 8's from Our Lady of Angels are invited to attend as well as other students who wish to take a look at St. John Paul II. Parents of existing students are also welcome to join us as we outline the programs and activities offered. In addition to a formal presentation about the benefits of a ST. JP II Education, students will have an opportunity to tour the school, view many of our clubs and activities and take a look at our programs.

Come join us next fall. It is going to be a great year.

Thinking About St. John Paul II in September?

Information will be going home with students in grade 8 at Our Lady of Angels Catholic School and to all current St. JP II students in grades 9-11 as we prepare for fall 2016 registration. For students not currently attending OLA or St. John Paul II who are interested in registering, we encourage you to make an appointment with Principal Steve Tymko to begin the process. Towards the end of March, on-line course selection will take place for all students who are registered.

21st Century Learning Opportunities

- **Personalized learning plans**
- **Career Pathways Model**
- **Strong community partnerships**
- **Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)**
- **Work Experience in grades 10-12**

- **Stong Fine Arts Program**

Innovative Thinking

- **Choices in teaching and learning formats**
- **Distance Learning experience to supplement programs**
- **Flexible learning environment**
- **Peer Mentorship**
- **Community Volunteerism**
- **Personal Fitness and High Performance Training programs**

St. JP II Offers You

- **A warm, caring, Catholic environment**
- **Christ centred learning**
- **Focus on emerging technology**
- **Small class sizes**
- **Leadership skills and opportunities**
- **Student retreats building a stronger community**
- **Dynamic and energetic staff**
- **Personal contact – where every student matters**
- **Academic, personal and faith-based counselling**

Proud Traditions

- **Academic excellence**
- **Strong athletics program**
- **Competitive teams**
- **Faith formation**
- **Service learning**
- **Vibrant student leadership**
- **Second language learning**
- **Great extracurricular experiences**
- **Positive inclusive learning environment**

GRADUATION 2016

Graduation this spring will be held on Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, June 18. On May 14 there will be the grad banquet and dance at the Shaw Conference Centre. On June 18 we will have the grad mass at 3 p.m. followed by the commencement exercises at 7:00 at the Shell Theatre.

*Graduation Banquet will be Saturday, May 14 at 5 pm. Tickets sales will begin Monday, April 18 at 8:00 am and close on April 29 at midnight. When you purchase your tickets, you must fill in a seating/food requirement sheet along with a list of all your guests.

*Grad photo retakes are on March 22. Please book online at www.lifetouch.ca/northernalberta

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* Valedictorian applications are available in the front office.

Please check the Grad page on our website for all pertinent information.

JAPAN STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2016

St. John Paul II is very excited to have 16 Japanese exchange students in our school from April 18-28. Please contact Ms Zaleschuk if you have any questions.

THINKfast

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish; and he will eat for life; but what happens when all of the fish are gone?

St. John Paul II is hosting a ThinkFast at the school! ThinkFast is an overnight educational fundraiser event held at the school! All St. JP II students are welcome to participate! The students who participate will be going without food for 25 consecutive hours; from 10:00am on Friday March 11th to 11:00am on Saturday March 12th. Students will stay at the school for the duration of the ThinkFast and will be leading the Stations of the Cross at OLA Church at 6 p.m. on Friday. Please support the fight for Social Justice and donate to this cause sponsored by Development and Peace – the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. The students hope to raise \$1000. For further information about ThinkFast and donations, please contact Mrs. Tully at the school or by email at ewelinat@eics.ab.ca



We are so proud of our student, Chandler Grainger, a grade 12 student who is one of 80 students nationwide to receive the Horatio Alger Canadian Scholarship worth \$5,000. Besides being one of our top academic students, Chandler is a gifted athlete. She hopes to pursue a bachelor of science degree next year in a post-secondary institution which hasn't quite been decided yet. We congratulate Chandler, and wish her a bright and happy future!!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

...to order school portraits!

Order on line at mylifetouch.ca, or call 1-866-457-8212 if you have lost your proof sheet or order form.

BADMINTON

Senior Badminton tryouts are scheduled for Thursday March 3rd from 3:15 to 4:30 PM. If you enjoy playing badminton, come out and try for the school teams.

Patriot Rugby 2016

We are getting organized for the 2016 rugby season. If you (guys or gals) have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dave Robert.

CURLING

Our St. JP II curling team, Rebecca Bartz, Emily Bartz, Shaylin Sharpe, and Talia Mullen, won zones this past week and will be heading to provincials in Ponoka on March 4 and 5. Congratulations girls, and best of luck in Ponoka!!

SKI TRIP 2016

This year's trip was another resounding success. The weather was amazing, the kids were fantastic! Many stories will come from this trip from spills and tumbles to karaoke on the bus coming home from Banff!

(More photos, pages 7,8)



St. JP II Basketball

Basketball season revving up! We are moving to playoffs for all of our teams. All the hard work and practice time is about to be put to the test. The senior girls begin their playoff run Tuesday March 1st against Old Scona in our home gym at five o'clock. Stay tuned for more game times and get ready to cheer our Patriots on to victory!

The Sr. Boys basketball season is winding down with our last league game on February 24. Please wish us luck as we head into playoffs and zones. Thank you to all of our supporters throughout the season.





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More ski trip!



