



## Upcoming Events

**March 4** – District Faith day, no classes

**March 16** – Open House/Registration Night, 6:30 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,  
3:30-5:30, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> to 11:00am on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:ewelinat@eics.ab.ca)



### BADMINTON

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



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!!

### DRAMA NEWS

The St. John Paul II Drama Club would like to invite you to see our spring production, 'A Murder is Announced.' "An announcement in the local paper states the time and place when a murder is to occur in Miss Blacklock's Victorian house. The victim is not one of the house's several occupants, but an unexpected and unknown visitor. What follows is a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, a second death, a determined Inspector grimly following the twists



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and turns, and Miss Marple on hand to provide the final solution at some risk to herself in a dramatic confrontation just before the final curtain."

There will be two matinee productions as well as an evening show on **June 2, 2016** at The Shell Theatre. We will have a few fundraising events throughout the

semester to subsidize some of the production costs. Please join us on Wednesday, March 16th for our Open House where The Drama Club will be raffling off a number of gift baskets, tickets will be \$2 each. Thank you for your continued support!

### 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. JPII 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!





#### **AN UPDATE FROM THE REFUGEE COMMITTEE:**

**Say Reh, on behalf of his wife Bae Meh and their 2 young sons (2 and 7years), would like to express a personal, and very big thanks to everyone from the parishes, schools, and CWL for their overwhelming support.**

The daily life of our sponsored family is filled with full time ESL classes (Dad), evening ESL classes (Mom), Grade 1 in St. John XXIII School, part time employment, and adapting to our very foreign culture and lifestyle.

The family arrived this fall, after living in Ban Mai Nai Soi Refugee camp, on the Thai border with Burma (now Myanmar) over a decade. They are Karenni, a minority culture from Burma. For more information on the situation from which they came check out: [www.burmalink.org](http://www.burmalink.org)

Photo next page.

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## KIDSPORT

Make a difference in a child's life. Join the KidSport Fort Saskatchewan board.

KidSport Fort Saskatchewan began helping our community's children in 1999. Since that time, it has provided financial support for countless low-income families in our area so that kids can take part in organized sports led by qualified instructors.

Every child should have the opportunity to participate in sports – family income should not be a barrier.

The commitment is small for the opportunity to make a large impact. KidSport Fort Saskatchewan meets once every month. Board meetings consist of application adjudication, fundraising discussions, community event opportunities, and our partnership with KidSport Alberta and KidSport Canada.

Interested? Need more info? Contact the KidSport board chair:

<http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/alberta/fort-saskatchewan/> or call [780 998-3783](tel:7809983783)

## RUGBY

Join us, the Strathcona Druids Rugby Club to be a part of our healthy, fun and structured rugby season April – July 2016. Where your children will make friends, learn how to play rugby, learn all about sportsmanship, teamwork and really enjoy themselves! We invite all ages to come out to try Rugby as it is a sport for all body types and we encourage players to work towards learning the game, improving skills as well as their fitness. We currently have a Junior program that consists of U5, U7, U9 co-ed programs that are non – contact. With our Jr U11 co-ed team being introduced to safe contact. U13 and U15 players, male and female, are encouraged to join the club to learn the game, a great head start on joining a high school team in Grade 10. U17 and U 18 players are welcome to train with the Druids club after their high

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school team has completed competing in the High School Season, the season for U17 and U18 starts end of June to August.

No prior experience necessary!

No tryouts as no one is turned away and all play!

There is a team for everybody!

The “Druid Outlaws” are committed to providing the best environment for both young players and their families. All family members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the club atmosphere! For information on the upcoming season, please visit our website: [Druidsrfc.com](http://Druidsrfc.com) or email our Jr coordinator: [thegallaghers69@hotmail.com](mailto:thegallaghers69@hotmail.com) Registration starts March 1st, 2016.

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