



The Cougar Column

ST. JOSEPH - NEWSLETTER

Jan. 9, 2019

A Message from the Principal...

I wish a very Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone! It is hard to believe that Christmas is already over and we have begun our New Year! Our Christmas concert was well attended and a great success! Thanks to everyone who attended and those who worked hard to make the performances so wonderful. A suggestion to make it even better was to have it videotaped so that those seated further back and unable to see their children or the performers clearly, could review it later at their leisure. We will definitely look into this idea for next year! The calendar for January can be found with this newsletter. It outlines the activities we have planned for this month.

We once again welcome Mrs. Furlott who will be replacing Ms. Lachance while she is off for knee surgery. Keep her in your prayers this month and until her return!



Mrs. Pichette

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Mrs. Weltz – our Director is attending

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019
at 6:00 pm

Everyone welcome!
(Daycare project update)



FOCUS ON FAITH

Our monthly mass will be celebrated on January 17th at 9:30 at St. Joachim Church.

The Virtue of the month is:

Respect and Responsibility.

The goal of this virtue:

Mutual respect is the way we live in harmony with one another.

- ☺ Respect helps us to see others as God sees them—to accept them as they are and to treat them with dignity.
- ☺ When we respect others, we see goodness in them.
- ☺ Responsibility is the ability to make choices to act in a just and fair way.
- ☺ When we take responsibility for our actions, we are acting bravely, choosing to follow God's will.



CITRUS FRUIT – ALLERGY

We once again have someone with citrus fruit allergies – so please feel refrain from sending these items in lunches again. We understand how difficult it is at times to choose healthy snacks for your children, but it truly is for their safety. Thank you for your cooperation.

SWIMMING



Swimming will begin on January 29th and take place on the dates below for the students. Please

review these dates on the monthly calendar so children come to school prepared for swimming with a bathing suit and a towel.

Dates: January 29, 31 and February 5, 7, 12 and 14th

Times:

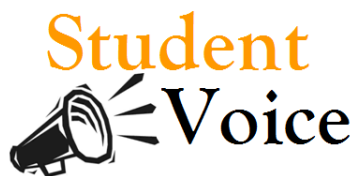
1:05 to 1:40 pm - Grade 3 → Mrs. Meehan
(bus pickup at 12:45)

1:40 to 2:15 pm - Grade 4 → Mrs. McCord
(bus pickup at 1:55)

NOTE:

The bus cannot wait if the children return late from lunch.

The Gr. 4 bus will return from the pool in time for buses home; however, we cannot give a precise time it returns so please do not book appointments at the end of the day on swimming days for your children, to avoid being late or missing them.



One of our goals for School improvement this year is for students to have more of a “voice” in the school. To date they have done surveys about equipment they would like to play with outside (and most was purchased), activities that they would like to during lunch recess – such as intramural sports, crafts and computer game time – all of which we have provided. To this end, students are sending persuasive letters and taking risks in asking for things they think will improve our school. This is great

progress! They have indicated a wish to have after school activities other than sports, and we are working hard to get some of these going. We had plans for after school dance starting in January to March break but those have fallen through – but we do have plans for it in the spring so don't despair!



ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is directly related to success in school and later in life – at work.

Research has shown that:

☞ Students may suffer academically if they miss 10 % of school days or about 18 days. That can be just one day every two weeks, and that can happen before you know it!

☞ It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.

☞ Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.

☞ Preschool is a great time to start building a habit of good attendance. Studies show that poor attendance in preschool can predict absenteeism in later grades.

☞ By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.

So – send your children to school daily to help them later in life!