



New Items:

- We have a few kindergarten spots available
- We are hiring!
- Tuition commitment forms sent home
- Pre K Reg - Next week

Upcoming dates:

- Mar 4th - Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Lunch**
- Mar 5th - Ash Wednesday - All school Mass**
- Mar 14th - Report cards home**
- Mar 14th - 28th - Spring Break!!**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: I hope you enjoyed the Family Day long weekend. I know I did! After January, it was nice to have an extra day to recharge. Last Thursday, we had the pleasure of watching students in gr. 3-7 race the cars they made. It was so fun to see all the different designs and how those designs affected performance. Thank you to Mrs. Kuemper for her work with students on those cars. On Friday, for our professional development day, we had a guest conduct a writing workshop with our teachers to help us grow in our ability to teach writing. It was very informative. When we take the time for professional development like this, your children benefit and as teachers, we work hard to be lifelong learners. Have a good week!

WE'RE HIRING!:

It's that time of year again where we start planning for next year. Based on what we know so far, St. Joseph's is looking to hire for the following teaching positions:

- 1.0 FTE Intermediate grades. Specific grade level dependent on the candidate and internal staffing re-arrangements.
- 1.0 FTE French/Music This can be a full-time position, or French and Music can be broken apart into two part time positions, or French and Music can be broken apart and paired with a classroom assignment. Specific assignment dependent on the candidate's strengths and internal staffing re-arrangements.
- 0.2-0.4 FTE intermediate grade: specific grade dependent on the candidate and internal staffing re-arrangements.

Applications are open to practicing Catholics and non-Catholics willing to be respectful of the Catholic faith and programs. You can find out more information about the job postings here: <https://cispg.ca/careers/> . There is an online application to fill out.

Also, you can contact Monique Vanderwart, Principal, at mvanderwart@cispg.ca or call the school at 250-847-9414 to find out more about the positions and how to apply. I'd love to hear from you. If you know of anyone suitable, please encourage them to reach out to me.

One last thing: If you happen to go to the website listed above, you might also notice a principal vacancy for St. Joseph's. I hear that some of you have already noticed and thought I should explain. As the first non-Catholic principal in BC, I was given a two-year contract so both of us could see if this was something that could work. Now that this contract is coming to end after this year, proper, transparent process requires the posting to go up. I've been invited to re-apply, so unless there is an application from a suitable, qualified Catholic candidate, my intention is to continue journeying with you all here at St. Joseph's.

A NOTE FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL: At our meeting last Wednesday, we became aware that people might not know that everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. We heard that perhaps there might be this thought that one has to be Catholic in order to attend meetings. This is not so. School Council meetings are open to all parents. Being a practicing Catholic is a requirement only if someone wants to be a member of council, but absolutely everyone who is a parent or guardian of someone at St. Joseph's is welcome to attend. So with that, if you love meetings and want to hear more about the decisions being made regarding St. Joseph's, our next one is Wednesday, March 12 at 5pm in the multipurpose room at school. We'd love to see you there!

TUITION COMMITMENT FORMS: These forms were sent home today with the youngest student in each family. Those families who are registering a K student will complete theirs at a later time. In order to aid us in our planning, hiring, staffing and budgeting for next year, we require these forms to be completed. Please have the forms back to the office by Feb 24th. Thank you :)

PRE K REGISTRATION: Pre K registration will be on Feb 24th in person at the school at 8am. Please bring your child's Birth certificate, BC Services card and a \$150 deposit. All children must be 4 years old or turning 4 by December 31st 2025. If you have any questions about registration, please call the school. 250-847-9414

SHROVE TUESDAY- PANCAKE LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for volunteers for our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake lunch. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the school.

PILGRIMAGES: the pilgrimages through town that were meant to happen last Tuesday were postponed due to cold and will happen Tuesday, March 11. Gr. 5-7 plans to walk to a senior's centre. Gr. 2-4 plans to go to the Cenotaph, and gr. K-1 plans to walk around the school and church.

NET CANADA - HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: We are still in need of host families for 8 young people: 4 men and 4 women. It can be a great experience having them stay at your place. They arrive April 1st sometime around dinner and would need dinner, a place to sleep, breakfast and a bag lunch for the next day. If you can help host, please contact the school. The date is coming up fast and we would love to confirm a place for them soon. Thanks for considering!

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER: Please make sure your children have appropriate wear for the weather. We're starting to climb the walls with all the indoor breaks we've had lately! We want to send them outside for breaks as much as we can, so hats, gloves and proper winter wear are a must for being able to enjoy the great outdoors at this time of year.

ALL SCHOOL MASS- SCHOOL IS LOCKED: When there is an " All School Mass" the school will be locked. All late students must be dropped off at the church. The next all school mass will be March 5th for Ash Wednesday.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY: In the event of a emergency before school starts, we will communicate via email and Facebook if school is to be cancelled or important information needs to be communicated. We will also have staff on site (if safe) to assist students who have walked to school or families who have missed any communications. In the event we need to evacuate the school and dismiss students, students will be taken to the church and families will be called at that time.

PARKING LOT PROCEDURES: We keep getting complaints about unsafe parking and drop offs. Remember these rules are in place to keep students and others safe while walking in the parking lot. If you have questions please contact the office for clarification.

-All traffic is to **enter** via **First Avenue** and **exit** via **Broadway Avenue**

-Vehicles are to follow the **one way** arrow and drive slowly, single file.

- **Vehicles are NOT to be parked along the school building from the double doors along the chain link fence to the small hall.** This is drop off traffic only. Please drop your children off **at the stop sign not after.**

-If a parent needs to get out of the vehicle for any reason, the vehicle must go park in a designated parking spot.

-Vehicles parked by the rectory are to have their headlights facing the school. **(back in)**

-Vehicles may park along the wooden fence, but must **back in.**

-Vehicles are to stop for pedestrians and cyclists. There is a stop sign at the crosswalk.

-Cyclists and pedestrians are to cross the parking lot at the crosswalk only. All must walk.

-Crosswalks are to be used to reach parked vehicles.

-No Parking in the parking space in front of the **Small Hall.**

-No parking across from bus drop off (Manitoba St) – no parking zone for the whole block.

- No drop offs at the crosswalk on Manitoba - we've had several complaints regarding this.

CHURCH NEWS:

Mass: 5pm on Saturday, 9am on Sunday, 5:30 on Tuesday, 9am on Wednesday & Fridays

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Fridays 5pm -6pm

Chapel of the Divine Mercy: Fridays at 1pm

Private adoration: is welcome at St Joseph's during office hours, Wednesday-Friday 10am -2pm

Flocknote: to get on Flocknote text **SMITHERS to 514-900-0130**

Confessions: are 15 mins before every Mass or by appointment

Sunday School: is offered during the 9am Sunday Mass for children 2 years old until 1st Communion.

PSG NEWS: Next meeting Feb 11 6pm - Kitchen

Chair - Tanya Flynn

Vice Chair - Carly Rosger

Treasurer - Paula Perestrelo

Secretary - Taryn Opel

February/March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 Family Day No School	18	19	20 Basketball after school 2-3:30 Grs 5-7	21 Gr 3-7 Mass Gr 5/6 Reading Grilled Cheese 
24 Breakfast Program Hot Dogs  Pre K registration	25	26	27 Basketball after school 2-3:30 Grs 5-7	28 Gr 3-7 Mass Gr 5 Reading Pasta 
3 Breakfast Program Hot Dogs 	4 Shrove tuesday Pancake lunch	5 Ash Wednesday All School Mass Gr 4 Reading	6 Basketball after school 2-3:30 Grs 5-7	7 No Students reading at Mass Chili 
10 Breakfast Program Hot Dogs 	11	12	13 Basketball after school 2-3:30 Grs 5-7	14 Gr 3-7 Mass Gr 3 Reading Pizza  Report cards sent home Spring Break starts!



Smithers Chapter

NatureKids BC helps families with children to get outdoors to explore, play, and learn about nature. Activities are aimed at ages 5 to 12, but kids of all ages are welcome. Free for families with kids to become a member

Smithers Explorer Days Saturdays 10:00 am to noon.

Model Solar System

When: February 22, 2025

Where: Lake Kathlyn Beach

What: Starting with a large grapefruit as the Sun and ending with Neptune as a blueberry we'll pace out the planets at scale.



Earth Day Party (co-hosted with Houston Chapter)

When: April 26, 2025

Where: Bulkley Valley Rec Site

What: Come explore the riverside woods; a scavenger hunt to locate and photograph signs of spring.



Wetland Wonders

When: June 21, 2025

Where: Willowvale Wetland, Pacific street parking lot

What: Discovery walk looking at birds, insects, aquatic and plant life.



For more information: <https://naturekidsbc.ca/>

