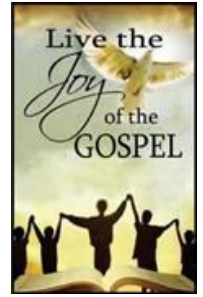


# ST. JAMES NEWSLETTER #1

September 2, 2014

School website: [www.stjamesvernon.com](http://www.stjamesvernon.com)



## **WELCOME TO THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

Welcome back to school! Our theme this year is *Live the Joy of the Gospel*. It is wonderful to have new students join us in the following grades: Kindergarten, Grade One, Grade Two, Grade Three and Grade Five. I know that our existing families will make our new families feel most welcome. Remember, we are always open to visitors and to your questions and suggestions.

*Mrs. Dianne Wilson, Principal*

We have six classrooms to serve the needs of our students this year:

- Kindergarten with Mrs. Thompson
- Grade 1 with Mrs. Moore
- Grade 2 with Mrs. Inzunza and Mrs. Wilson
- Grade 3/4 with Mrs. Routley and Mrs. Johnson
- Grade 5 with Ms. Bouchard
- Grade 6/7 with Mrs. Monaghan and Mrs. Durfeld

We also have other excellent staff members to support our students and staff:

- Vice-Principal/Music Teacher/Special Education Coordinator - Mr. Rossetti
- Learning Resource Teacher - Mrs. Flaherty-Specht
- Education Assistant - Mrs. Trepanier
- Education Assistant - Mrs. Alexander
- Education Assistant - Ms. Macleod
- Education Assistant - Mrs. Holland
- Library Clerk - Mrs. Kelly
- Secretary - Ms. Bowcock
- Maintenance & Custodian - Mr. Pfannschmidt

School starts tomorrow, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** with a full day in session (**8:30 – 2:45**). We will begin with a Welcome Assembly in the gym at 8:30. All parents are invited to attend. You are also invited to our first school Mass of the year; it will be held this Friday at 9:00am at St. James Church.

### **School Theme for the Year**

This year we have chosen the theme, *Live the Joy of the Gospel*. This same theme will be used throughout the province during Catholic Schools Week in February. As a staff we will be discussing the many ways that we can live out this theme in our school community.

### **New Religion Program**

We are excited about the new Religion programs that we will be using with our students. Both programs are published by Our Sunday Visitor. Kindergarten students will be using *I am Special* and Grades 1 through 7 will be using *Alive in Christ*. If you would like to find out more about the Alive in Christ program, go to <http://www.osvcurriculum.com>

## Upcoming Events

<b>September 5</b>	First School Mass @ 9:00am at St. James Church; families welcome
<b>September 10</b>	Barbecue and Meet the Teacher evening @6:00pm
<b>September 14</b>	Commissioning Mass for teachers at Our Lady of the Valley @10:30am
<b>September 15</b>	PSG meeting at 6pm in the staff room; ALL parents are welcome
<b>September 16</b>	School photos (individual, class, whole school); full uniform required
<b>September 17</b>	Landed Learning gardening "wrap-up" for last year's grade 4 students
<b>September 19-20</b>	CISKD School Council training at Cache Creek
<b>September 24</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Erase Bullying ProD day followed by the start of the staff retreat
<b>September 25-26</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Staff members from all 5 schools attend the CISKD staff retreat
<b>September 29</b>	School Council meeting @6:30pm in the staff room
<b>September 30</b>	Uniform sales from 2:30 to 4:30 and 6:00 to 8:00pm
<b>October 3</b>	First Friday Mass in AM; WALKATHON in the PM (details to follow)

## FIELD TRIP CONSENT FORMS

Each year, families are asked to sign-off on a general field trip form to cover walking over to St. James Church and for Daily Physical Activities (DPA) that take students off-site. Attached to this newsletter is a form to be completed; please complete ONE form for EACH of your children who attends St. James. Completed forms can be returned to the school office or to the classroom teacher by Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> as our first Mass is on September 5<sup>th</sup>. **This same form was attached to the July 7<sup>th</sup> newsletter so, if you have already completed and returned your forms, thank you so much.**

**School Supplies Reminder:** As we did last year, we are collecting a school supply fee of \$10 for students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 and \$15 for students in Grades 5 to 7 to help cover the cost of additional supplies that students will need. This money should be given to the teacher or handed in to the office. Cash or a cheque made out to the school are accepted. Thank you for your support.



## **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

School personnel and School Council have been concerned about student safety as our parking lot has been getting more and more congested. Phase One of the project has already taken place; this was the removal of the basketball post and nets. The next phase will be the repainting of all lines, including a new traffic flow pattern. Students are to be dropped off near the set of stairs closest to the adventure playground - not at the first set of stairs. Your cooperation and careful driving is greatly appreciated.

## UNIFORM NEWS

The August sale was a big success; thanks to all the families who came out to it and to Jan Barnard for organizing it. Uniform sales will be held on the last Tuesday of each month from 2:30-4:30 and 6:00-8:00pm. If you have a uniform "emergency", you can reach Jan at 250-308-0567. Please remember that Jan, not the school office, is the "go to" person for all your uniform questions and needs.



## **St. James School Walk-a-Thon on October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Our big student fall fundraiser in support of field trips and other special student events will be held on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Be sure to mark this important date on your calendar and come out to support our students. An information letter and pledge forms will be sent out with the September 17<sup>th</sup> newsletter.

### **Other Important Calendar Dates for 2014-2015**

- October 13 - Thanksgiving Day, no school
- October 24 - Parent/Teacher conferences; no school
- November 10 - School Pro D Day; no school
- November 11 - Remembrance Day; no school
- December 19 - Dismissal at Noon for Christmas holidays
- January 5 - School reopens after Christmas holidays
- February 9 - BC Family Day; no school
- March 13 - Last day of school before Spring Break
- March 30 - School reopens after Spring Break
- April 3 - Good Friday; no school
- April 6 - Easter Monday; no school
- May 15 - School Pro D Day; no school
- May 18 - Victoria Day; no school
- June 24 - Last day of school for students; dismissal at Noon

### **Parent Support Group (PSG) NEWS**

The first general meeting of the PSG will be held at 6:00pm on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in the staff room. ALL parents or guardians of our students are encouraged to attend. To date, the executive members for the upcoming school year are:

Carmen Point - Chairperson

Katrina Redgwell - Vice-chairperson

Anna Toporchak - Treasurer

PSG is still seeking an interested parent for the executive role of **Secretary**. The main duties of the Secretary are: record the minutes of executive and general meetings; distribute the minutes to the designated people; and ensure that notifications of regular, special and Annual General Meetings are posted. Please contact the school office if you are interested in serving the school community as PSG Secretary.

### **Attachments:**

- Field trip general consent form for going to St. James Church and for going off-site for Daily Physical Activity (DPA)
- September calendar
- Parish Spiritual Calendar