



St. John Brebeuf School Connection

Living, Learning, Serving in Christ

Students are hard at work preparing for our annual Christmas concert, the **Miracle at Midnight**. Actors from grades 6, 7, and 8 are diligently rehearsing to bring you the story of Mayor Mayer and the townspeople of Bethlehem who are about to witness a miracle! Each grade will perform a song to bring the story to life. Mark your calendars for December 19 - with a 1:30 pm matinee and an evening performance at 7:00 pm.

Give a Gift of
Opportunity for \$50

Education of Children
Kalyanpur, India

Give a Gift of
Love and Care for \$25

Health & Nutrition
Program

Diang, Bangladesh

Give a Gift of
Health & Relief for \$75

Harvesting
Rainwater Project
Sohra, India

Christmas Gifts That Make a Difference

St. John Brebeuf students, in partnership with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, will be giving gifts that make a difference to assist some of the poorest, most neglected and marginalized people in our world. Each classroom will be collecting funds and contributing to these life changing projects that make a difference in the lives of those in need. If you wish to purchase one or more of the gifts featured above, please contact the school office. All donations of \$20 or more will be issued a charitable donation receipt.



St. John Brebeuf Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 24th,
5pm Christmas Eve Mass with
the Children
7:30pm Christmas Eve Mass
10pm Christmas Eve Mass
(Caroling begins 30 min. prior to
Christmas Eve Masses)

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, December 25th,
10am Christmas Mass



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Christmas season is so special for children: full of wonder, awe, and excitement. It is my favourite time of year at the school and one of the many reasons I love working in a Catholic environment. Being able to celebrate Christmas with our students within the context of our faith tradition is a special privilege for an educator, and it fills me with gratitude.

Our students and staff have been working hard preparing for our Christmas concert *Miracle at Midnight*. Both performances - the matinee and evening - are on the same date: Wednesday, December 19th. The parent advisory council will be hard at work providing a reception after each concert, and once again organizing the beloved pancake breakfast on Friday, December 21st. I thank them for their service to the school and the invaluable community building that accompanies this service.

In this season of warmth and generosity, thoughts inevitably turn to social justice, a cornerstone of our programming here at St. John Brebeuf School. There are several initiatives during Advent that give our community the opportunity those in need, both locally and globally.

Our grade seven students will be continuing the student-led *Christmas Gifts that Make a Difference* campaign for the month of December. This campaign was a huge success last year and we look forward to being able to support the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions once again. Their initiative provides critical medical care to some of the most vulnerable and impoverished people in our world.

As in the past, each classroom will be responsible for a Christmas hamper in support of the N.E.E.D.S. center. In addition to the classrooms, the school staff also provides a hamper, bringing the total number of families we help to thirteen! Comprised of food items and presents, these hamper are delivered to newly arrived families in Canada, most of them refugees.

As always, none of these endeavours would be successful without your support. I thank you for your commitment as families to supporting our social justice initiatives and am proud to belong to a community where people come together to support the needs of the less fortunate so consistently.

Wishing you all the best of the season,

Cara Campbell



PARENT COUNCIL

Parent Council is excited to be part of some exciting initiatives this festive season.

We are offering a short reception on December 19th after both Christmas concerts. The Hilary Druxman sterling silver cross necklaces will be available for sale at each reception. The cost is \$40 for one or 3 for \$100 which includes the necklace, a velvet pouch, gift bag, and a St. John Brebeuf School

donation card. All proceeds from the sale will be allocated to our school!

Plans are underway for our annual pancake breakfast and SJB Idol on Friday, December 21st. This is a very exciting day for our students! The talents of our students participating in SJB Idol are amazing.

There's still time to donate winter coats for the less fortunate. The bins will be in the front lobby until Friday, December 7th.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!
Mrs. Jennifer Melo, Chair

OPEN HOUSE & KINDERGARTEN

The 2019-20 registration deadline for new students is Monday, Feb. 11, 2019. Families with children already attending St. John Brebeuf School who wish to register another child in Kindergarten for 2019-20 are asked to submit the application form available on the school website. The Open House for families interested in St. John Brebeuf School is on January 30th at 7pm. Please share this information with any families interested in our school.

On November 29th, the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools (MFIS) hosted a reception at the legislative building for MLAs. MFIS supports choice, diversity, and excellence in education. Our principal, Mrs. Campbell, sits on the board of this important body that advocates for independent schools in our province. Our schools were well represented at this event by administrators and students from over fifty member schools.

Announcing the Parent Council
2019 Spring Gala Fundraiser for St. John Brebeuf School

CASINO ROYALE



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF COCKTAILS & CASINO GAMES

Saturday April 27, 2019

Like us on Facebook SJB school for regular updates and information for the event.



GRADE 5 VOLUNTEERING AT THE CHEER BOARD



KINDERGARTENS CELEBRATING CHRIST THE KING



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

It is that time again! That's right, getting ready for Catholic Schools Week! It will be here sooner than we think. In the new year, we will be spending the week of February 11th- 15th, celebrating **Fellowship, Festivals, Fun, and Faith.**

We have many events scheduled throughout the week to promote our SJB community, and all that it stands for. Let's hope Mother Nature is on our side for those outdoor activities! Stay tuned for further details!

Your Catholic Schools Week Committee





Hello from Grade 2!

Fall came and left quickly for 2M! We started off the year with our first field trip to the Corn Maze. It was a fun, community building experience. Some of our favourite parts included playing on the hay bales and having a bonfire (with smores!) . Our other field trips included watching Comet in Moominland at MTYP and spending the day at the Manitoba Museum/Science Gallery learning more about our local community and solids, liquids, and gases.

We were lucky to extend our learning about the community through important St. John Brebeuf community members... our parents!

Our special guests came to speak about their jobs and how they contribute to our community. We learned about working in immigration & citizenship, realty, nursing, being part of the Canadian Armed Forces, physiotherapy, being a scientist, and being a jeweller (we even got to see a demonstration of a ring being made right in our classroom!). We took what we learned and thought about what we want to be when we grow up. We wrote a report called "When I Grow Up..." Please visit our bulletin board to read them!

We are very excited for the rest of the year in grade two!



Hello from Grade 3C!

This year, we are discovering all of the reasons why each of us is unique, and why we “sparkle” and “shine”. From the onset of the school year, our class has learned about respect and the golden rule. Bullying prevention is at the heart of our classroom, and we are excited to announce that we will be participating in our very first Pink Shirt Day in February. This year, our classroom stuffy is a narwhal named Sparkles. Each student receives the opportunity to spend a weekend with Sparkles. Weekly, we elect a new VIP student that gets to sit at the VIP desk. In math, we have been learning about patterns, place value, and mastering our double-digit addition and subtraction before moving onto triple-digit addition and subtraction. In language arts, we have been working on creative journaling, reading to self, proper sentence structure, and paragraph writing (sandwich model). For Halloween, students worked hard on a persuasive and descriptive writing piece, where they pretended to be real estate agents. Their role was to sell a haunted house. The culminating activity involved building their haunted houses and eating them too! In science, we have been learning about the parts of a flowering plant, different leaf classifications, and distinguishing between tree types. The students are looking forward to surprising their parents with a special Christmas gift that is closely linked to this science unit. In social studies, we have been learning about rights and responsibilities of Canadians, and the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Most recently, our class studied the Canadian national anthem in Cree. We have been on two field trips so far, to Fort Whyte, where students built a soil profile, and to the WAG, where students studied Inuit Art and were able to create their own Inuit prints. We are currently busy gearing up for the Christmas concert, as we will be practicing the finale song and our individual song in class! We wish you a memorable holiday season spent with loved ones! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from 3C !



Science in 3K “All About Pumpkins”

Students in 3K enjoyed learning all about pumpkins in the months of October and November. They identified the parts of the pumpkin and explored the function of each part of the plant. The students learned about the life-cycle of the pumpkin and learned how to use the scientific method by hypothesizing and recording their observations of our class science experiment. The pumpkins, donated by the Kostyniuk family, were used to solve this question: If we put soil and water in a pumpkin, will the seeds grow? Our experiment proved that under the right conditions the seeds would indeed sprout. The students were very excited to see science happening in their classroom. The students also sprouted their own seeds and made sure to water them each day. Our class window provided the seedlings with plenty of sunshine. Each week students measured their sprouts and recorded the height in their science journals. Students are in the process of placing their data in bar graphs to show their plant's growth. In the end the kids loved putting the large pumpkins in the school compost knowing it would eventually turn into soil. It was a wonderful way to use the produce of the season as a scientific journey.



BOBCAT BEAT!

Welcome to winter! Over the last two months, the students have been busy in the gym! Kindergarten to grade 2 students have been working on their jumping and rolling skills. They have now begun their striking unit, including floor hockey and volleyball lead up games. The grade 3-4 students learned how to play flag football and other flag games. The grade 3s are now completing a floor hockey unit, and the grade 4s are being introduced to Pickleball. The grade 5-8 students completed a flag rugby and volleyball unit, and are now gearing up for a fitness/Pickleball unit. Everyone participated in the endurance challenge, and many students joined the one, two and three minute clubs! Way to go!

The Bobcats volleyball teams came roaring into the 2018 season. The developmental boys team finished with a record of 3-3, and really showed their skills in their final tournament at St. Maurice on November 17, winning all 3 of their tournament games. The girls volleyball team have had a few exhibition games this season against other teams, and are currently gearing up for a grade 5/6 tournament at St. Maurice on December 6. The competitive boys team really showed great improvement this season, finishing with an overall record of 7-1. Go Bobcats!

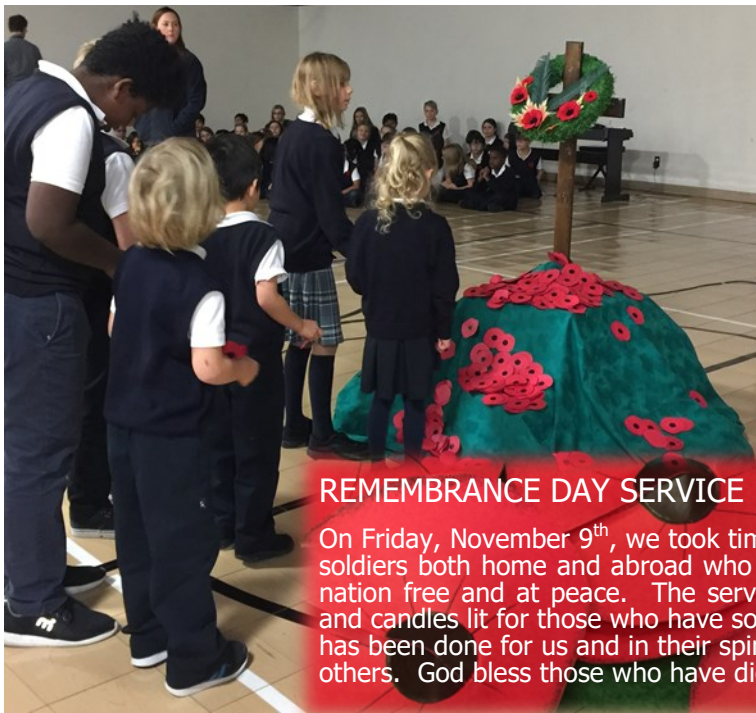
The Bobcats wrestling team is up and wrestling! Boys and girls have joined their coaches on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to learn the basic movements before the wrestling season begins. Take a look at the portal for all practice and tournament updates.

The Bobcats basketball tryouts are coming up, and we expect many new and returning players to come out for the team this year. With two back-to-back championships, the Bobcats look to put together a solid team to start the season this year! Keep an eye out for tryout dates and times, as well as the full schedules inside the gym doors!

The intramural program started this October with the grade 2-3 students playing tag games on Mondays and Wednesdays. The grade 4-5 students started the year with teams of 5-7 players facing off in heated games of kickball. The grade 6-8 students had intense Ultimate Frisbee battles this October and look to face off in the intramural showdown at the end of the month. Coming up in December are throwing games for grades 2-3 and floor hockey for grades 4-8. See you in the gym!

Ms. Craig





REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE


On Friday, November 9th, we took time to honour the veterans, peace keepers and the Canadian soldiers both home and abroad who have dedicated and sacrificed their lives to keep our great nation free and at peace. The service took place in the gym with readings, prayer intentions and candles lit for those who have so bravely given their lives for us. Let us not forget what has been done for us and in their spirit, always do our best to live in peace, harmony and serve others. God bless those who have died for us and protect those who continue to keep us safe.

Coming February 4-7, 2019

A Masquerade Book Fair!

Parent volunteers needed!

Email library@sjbcommunity.ca



NOTES from the MUSIC ROOM

It's been a busy year with our music clubs in full swing, our Remembrance Day ceremony on November 10th, and with preparations for the Christmas Concert well underway! Our concert on Dec. 19 will feature songs by each grade, as well as the Violin Club and Boys and Girls choir.

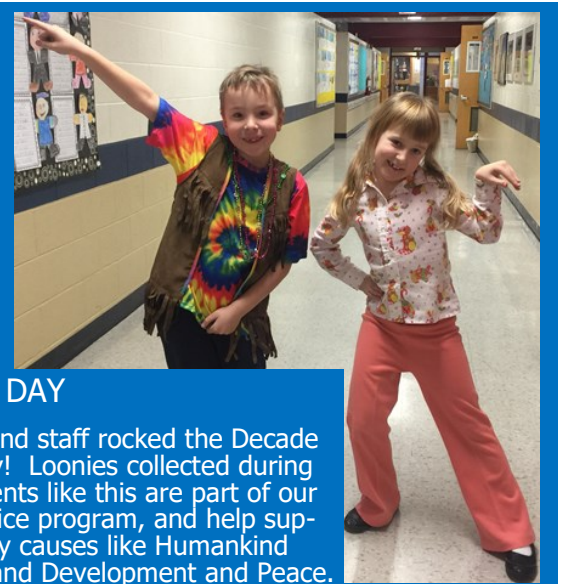
The Mass Choir, a dedicated group of grade 2-5 students led by Mrs. Walker, have met every Tuesday since the beginning of the year to help us celebrate our school masses. We have also been fortunate to have Mrs. Katy Hedalen, a voice professor at Canadian Mennonite University, come in to work with our Psalmists. We will continue to have a "vocal masterclass" with students in grades 3-8 who would like to sing the Psalm, or learn more about singing solo, on Thursdays at noon as announced.

Our grade 6 band has been working on a special Christmas song that they have adapted and written lyrics for that will be featured before the Christmas break. This group has an emphasis on having students create their own arrangements, and choose their own instrument (or voice). We had our first performance this past June, and are looking forward to sharing our music with you again soon!

The grade 2/3 classes will be attending a performance by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday, Jan. 15th.

Thank you for your support of the music program at SJB, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about classroom activities or music clubs. Merry Christmas!

Mr. Frykas



COLOUR DAY

Students and staff rocked the Decade Colour Day! Loonies collected during special events like this are part of our Social Justice program, and help support worthy causes like Humankind Academy and Development and Peace.

Junior Highers

GAMES NIGHT

Come one come all to Games Night on Thursday, January 17, 2019. There will be games a-plenty and fun to be had by all. The Games Night will be in the library and gym with concession. There will be a free will offering at the door. Check out the new games and some old familiar family favourites. So tell your friends or better yet, bring them on down for an evening of fun!



Each week the grade seven and eight students alternate working with the grade 3K class. They complete various projects and get to know their younger peers through buddy reading. Establishing a routine of leadership, generosity and service for others is a critical component to the development of students. More activities will follow throughout the year for the students to become active leaders here at SJB and take it with them wherever they may go.

In the event of a severe weather emergency, all Catholic Schools will close if the Winnipeg school divisions close their schools. Listen for school closures on CBC, CJOB, 99.9 FM, 94.3, 102.3 FM and 103 FM. In case of an emergency that requires us to evacuate, students will go to Ecole J.B. Mitchell. E-Blasts and/or website messages will be available in the case of any school closure or evacuation.

FLU & COLD SEASON

As the days get cooler, it is important that your child is dressed appropriately for patrols and outdoor recess. Like Winnipeg School Division, we use Environment Canada at The Forks to determine indoor or outdoor recess. Including the wind chill, we go outside at -25 or warmer and stay inside at -26 or colder.

Children should be kept at home when they are sick. A sick child has a difficult time concentrating on school work and may pass their illness to other students or staff. There are times when students are unable to take part in outdoor recess because of injuries they have experienced. Children unable to participate in recess due to illness however, should remain at home to recover.

Besides staying home when sick, children are encouraged to make healthy choices at school and at home such as washing their hands often with soap and water, and covering their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.



Student Council at the Remembrance Day Assembly

Patrol Reminder

Please be aware and mindful of our school patrols. Their main role is to ensure the safety of all people crossing at their intersection.

Patrols will only open an intersection for crossing once all vehicles have stopped and they have established eye contact with the driver. Your support and cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students and families are much appreciated.

Feeling Blue?

To report absences or late arrivals, please contact the school receptionist Ms. Slugoski at 204-489-2115 or email receptionist@sjbcommunity.ca before 9am.



St. John Brebeuf School

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