

St. Joseph's School

February 2008



Winter

Mother nature brings winter
The snow, the frost, the sleet.
The hedgehog goes into hibernation
But the robin tweets and hops along.

Drinking hot cocoa by the fire,
Looking at the glistening snow,
Throwing snowballs everywhere
Sledging down the hill.

By Daniel Tran and David McPadden—Year 4

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back after our snow days!! I am sure you enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to enjoy the amazing snowfall....build snowmen and do all those exciting things!!! It's been just over a month since the Christmas holidays and walking through the school I'm amazed at how quickly we all get back into the flow of school and work. At this time of year I'm always hopeful we can carry the spirit, hope and joy of Christmas with us throughout the year.

There are plenty of good things going on in our school as we race into the second half of the year.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 25th February we will be having a prayer service in the School Hall at 9:15a.m. when everyone will be given their ashes. You are all very welcome to join us. Please remember that each child will be given their charity collection box for the 'Westminster Catholic Children's Society' for the Season of Lent. We ask for these boxes to be returned as full as possible by Monday 30th March.

Buddy Assembly

I hope those of you who were able to attend our 'Buddy' Assembly enjoyed the opportunity to see your child/children formally welcomed into our school community. The new reception children were introduced and welcomed by the other children in the school. We feel that the Buddy system has been a great success. The younger children have so enjoyed having an older 'Buddy' to chat with and the older children seem to have taken on the responsible role very well indeed.

Book Week

Our Book Fair continues to be a great success. We thank you for supporting the Book Fairs so well. The school benefits from the sales and the money goes straight towards our school library. Every sale makes a difference!! The book fair continues until the Thursday after half term so please take the opportunity before then to purchase from the wonderful selection of books.

Dinner Money

Please remember to give a half-term's notice (six weeks) in writing if your child is to change from sandwiches to dinners and vice versa as we have recently experienced some changes without notice.

Planetarium Visit

A couple of weeks ago we welcomed the Astronomy Roadshow Planetarium to school for what was a memorable day for all concerned! Each class visited the planetarium during the course of the day and were treated to an audio-visual treat about different aspects of the solar system.....I'm sure you heard all about it when your children got home! Many thanks for the time and effort spent on some splendid costumes on the day...you did yourselves proud! May the force be with you!!

Year 4 'Winter' Production

As you know the Year 4 Winter Production had to be cancelled last week due to.....well, Winter! Whilst this was an inconvenience it did allow the Y4 children to 'fine-tune' their performance so that the Year 4 parents were treated to a seasonal treat when the production finally took place. Let's hope that any future Summer productions are cancelled due to a heatwave — chance would be a fine thing!

Sports Update

Both football and netball teams have a number of fixtures after half-term and recent practices have been going very well I've been informed. In addition to this, there is a Tag Rugby Tournament on Thursday 26th February at Cheshunt Rugby Club for children in Years 5 and 6. Any children involved will be informed by letter immediately after half-term.

Mother's Day Treat

On Friday 20th March there will be a 'Mother's Day Afternoon Tea' in the School Hall from 3:00pm where any mums, aunts or grandmas can come and enjoy a bit of pampering and a little chat. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible for this special treat!

Sainsbury's Vouchers

The Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' vouchers scheme is now in operation once again. You receive a voucher for every £10 spent in store and these vouchers can then be redeemed for a wide range of educational resources, including visiting specialists for various PE activities. In the last 5 years, thanks to your generosity, we have been able to acquire some superb resources for the school which all of the children have benefited from. The collection box is in the School Hall or children can simply place their vouchers in the class tin. Please keep spending and sending!

Class Reps

After half-term, four children from each class will be elected as 'Class Reps'. The reps will meet with members of staff on a fortnightly basis to discuss any matters that their classmates want discussing in relation to school matters. We hope that this will be a very productive initiative and will provide the children with an additional 'pupil voice' in the school.

Year 1 Class Mass

Year 1 will celebrate their Class Mass on Tuesday 24th February in the School Hall. All Year 1 parents are warmly invited to attend.

Animal Assembly

On Wednesday 11th February the children enjoyed a wonderful assembly provided by 'visitors' from Paradise Wildlife Park. As well as keepers from the park the visitors included a snake and an owl — and both were very well behaved!! It is wonderful to be able to have specialist visitors in school to share their expertise and enthusiasm with the children...especially when they bring wild animals with them! The children presented the visitors with a cheque for £50 as a donation to help them look after the animals and continue the wonderful conservation work they do. Next time we are hoping for a tiger and a giraffe.....we'll let you know how we get on!!

Reports and Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations for this term will take place on Friday 27th March 2009. The school will close at 1 p.m. on this day. The consultations will run from 1:15pm—6:30pm in the School Hall and appointments can be made in the usual way from Friday 20th March. You will have received your child's report prior to the consultations and will be able to discuss the content of the report with the teacher during your appointment.

St. Joseph's Day

On Friday 20th March there will be a whole school mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Joseph. You are all very welcome to attend. Mass will begin at 9:15a.m. in the School Hall.

Term Dates Academic Year 2009/2010

Spring Term 2009

Friday 13th February - school closes normal time for Half Term

Monday 16th Feb. - Friday 20th Feb. - Half Term

Monday 23rd Feb - return to school

Friday 3rd April - last day of term - school closes 2.00pm

Summer Term 2009

Tuesday 20th April - first day Summer term

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday - school closed

Thursday 21st May - school closes normal time for Half Term

Friday 22nd May - INSET day

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - Half Term

Monday 1st June 2009 - return to school

Thursday 4th June—Polling Day—School Closed

Friday 17th July - last day of term - school closes 2.00pm

Monday 20th July - INSET day - school closed

Tuesday 21st July - Occasional day - school closed

Autumn Term 2009

Wednesday 2nd September school closed for INSET day

Thursday 3rd September—First day of Autumn Term

Friday 23rd October—school closed for INSET day

Thursday 22nd October—school closes normal time for half term

Half Term—Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Friday 18th December—last day of the Autumn Term

School closes at 2p.m.on this day.