

January 2009



ST. PAUL'S JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Communicator

Semesterized Courses

Semester 1 courses (Religion, Health, Home Ec, Tech Ed, Art and Music) end on Friday, 30 January. Students will switch to Semester 2 courses beginning on Monday, 2 February. All students will receive a new schedule. A mini-report card for Semester 1 courses will be sent home on Thursday, February 5th.

School Website

We have been experiencing difficulty with our website and are not currently able to update it. The website is still available for viewing and all the links still work, such as the links to teacher email and web pages and a link to the school calendar of events.

While we are working on the problem, Mr. Hounsell is posting updated school news on his Principal's webpage. Go to www.k12.nf.ca/stpj, click "What's New" and then "Principal's Webpage" on the left navigation bar.

Professional Development Day

There will be no classes for students on **Tuesday, February 3rd** due to a Professional Development Day.

Winter at St. Paul's

Winter has arrived! With the colder weather come a couple of reminders:

1. Outdoor supervision

During the fall and spring, on fine days all students must go outside for the second half of lunch and supervision is provided for the parking lot and field. However, during the winter our parking lot and field can be icy even if the weather is nice.

So, **beginning Monday, January 29th and until further notice, there will be no regular outdoor supervision during lunchtime on most days.** Students may continue to go out for lunch (with parent/guardian's permission) and are expected to leave the school premises. If they do remain on school premises (such as the back field), there will be no outdoor supervision on most days. If the weather is mild enough and field and parking lot conditions permit, the teachers on duty will determine if there will be outside supervision.

2. Snowball policy

With winter comes the snow...and with snow comes snowballs. However, snowballs can lead to injury or property damage. Students have already been informed that we do not tolerate students throwing snowballs, on or off school property. If a student is caught throwing snowballs, the matter will be referred to the office. For the first incident, parents will be contacted and a letter will be sent home and placed on file. Depending on the situation, other consequences may also be put in place. A second incident would result in more severe consequences from the office. When appropriate, the RNC will be contacted. We strongly encourage you to speak to your child to make sure that she or he is clear on our snowball policy.

Student Information Sheets

With this newsletter you are receiving a Student Information sheet. It is very important that you complete this sheet and return it to the school as soon as possible. We need accurate contact information for effective communication about your child's progress and attendance, as well as in case of emergency. Once we have updated our database we will begin implementation of SynreVoice, our new voice and email message program.

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There has been plenty of excitement within the music department lately. Here are a few highlights:

New band and choir shirts

Yes!!! We finally have a proper performance uniform which we can be proud of. The band shirts arrived in December, complete with a new music department logo designed by Grade 8 student Martha (Mardi) Galea. Thank you, Mardi!!!

Performance at the Health Science Centre

On December 16th, members of our school choirs as well as the symphonic and jazz bands brought a little Christmas cheer to visitors and staff at the Health Science Centre.

Christmas Concert

There was standing room only at our annual Christmas concert. Audience members were treated to outstanding performances by our school instrumental and choral ensembles.

St. Paul's Idol

Congratulations to Brianna Gosse, winner of the 2008 St. Paul's Idol Competition. Way to go, Brianna!

Volunteers needed for café night

Shortly before Easter, the music department will be hosting a "café night" (*date TBA*). This will be an evening of delicious desserts accompanied by our school choirs, jazz band, and Grade 7 band. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Mrs. Coady or Ms. Pope.

Paula Coady, choral music
paulacoady@esdnl.ca

Sandra Pope, instrumental music
sandrapope@esdnl.ca

Quebec Trip

The next payment of 650\$ is due this Friday, January 16, 2009. We have also received word from French Programs that we were awarded a grant! Mme. Mitchell will be in touch regarding the amount of the final payment on March 16, 2009.

Teacher Interns

It is our pleasure to welcome four teacher interns to our school. They will be with us until the Easter break. Teacher interns learn a lot while at our school, but they also bring lots of new energy and enthusiasm to the classroom. We wish them every success! Our interns are:

Mr. Cole (Guidance intern with Mr. Osmond)

Ms. Ridgeley (Core French intern with Mr. Hollett)

Ms. Earle (Language Arts intern with Ms. Power-Goodridge)

Mr. Shave (Phys. Ed intern with Ms. Lilly)

Memorial Assembly for John Bullen

Many members of our school community knew John Bullen. He was a student at St. Paul's from September 2005 until June 2008. John lost his courageous battle with cancer in December. Our deepest sympathies are extended to John's parents, John Sr. and Teresa, as well as to his sister Samantha who was also a student at St. Paul's.

We will remember John at a memorial assembly on Friday, January 30th at 11:15 am. As well, our next school dance on January 29th will be a fundraiser in honour of John. All funds raised from the dance will be donated to the Candlelighters, a charitable organization that supports families of children with cancer. John's family are active participants in Candlelighters activities, including Camp Delight, a summer camp for children with cancer and their families.

School Dance and Fundraiser for Candlelighters

Our next school dance will be held on Thursday, January 29th from 7:00 until 9:00 pm. As noted above, this dance will be a fundraiser for the Candlelighters. Admission will be \$5.00 and must be paid in advance. Refreshments (hot dogs, drinks, snacks) will be sold in the cafeteria. Please note: students must arrive by 7:30 (except by prior arrangement) and all coats and bags must be checked at the coat check. Students must be picked up promptly at 9:00 pm. Students are also reminded that no food or drink is to be brought into the gym, and that they are not permitted to re-enter the school once they have left the building.

We are always in need of **parent chaperones** for our school dances. If you can help out for an hour (or more!) please contact Mme. Webb at jessicawebb@esdnl.ca or 753-6630. Chaperones rotate every 15-20 minutes (depending on numbers) between the gym, the foyer and the cafeteria. Ear plugs are recommended!

Science Projects

It's that time of the year again – all students are required to do an independent science project. However, with the new curriculum in Grade 7 and 8, there are a few more choices this year than last year. Your child's science teacher has or will provide details about these projects but here are some key dates to keep in mind.

Grade 9 – students must do an experimental or model project. The topic is due on Friday, January 16th. The full proposal is due on Friday, January 30th. The completed project is due during the week of February 23rd – a schedule for in-class presentations will be given to students.

Grade 8 – students have a couple of choices but must let their teacher know which project they intend to do by Friday, January 16th:

1. Experimental or model project – due dates are the same as for Grade 9.
2. A project from the optics unit – building an optical device. This project will be due the week of March 23rd since we have just started the optics unit..
3. French Immersion students only may also choose a project on the Water Systems unit. The proposal is due on Friday, Jan. 30th and their work will be presented during the week of Feb. 23rd.

Grade 7 – students have a choice as well:

1. Experimental or model project – the topic is due on Friday, January 23rd. The proposal is due on Friday, February 6th and in-class presentations will begin on Wednesday, February 25th.
2. Ecosystems project – students will present the biotic and abiotic factors of a particular ecosystem using a poster display, PowerPoint or diorama. The due date for English stream students is Friday, January 16th and for French Immersion students the due date is Friday, February 6th.

January/February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
18	19 Day 3	20 Day 4	21 Day 5 - NL Improv Games—Jr. High Night 7pm DF Cook	22 Day 6	23 Day 7 - Recycling - Fitness Walk	24
25	26 Day 1	27 Day 2	28 Day 3	29 Day 4 - School dance/ fundraiser 7:00—9:00	30 Day 5 - Recycling - Fitness Walk - Semester 1 courses end - Memorial assembly for John Bullen	31
1 Feb	2 Day 6 - Semester 2 courses begin	3 Day 7 PD Day—no classes for students	4 Day 1	5 Day 2 - Mini-report cards for semesterized courses released - Grade 9 course selection	6 Day 3 - Recycling - Fitness Walk	7
8	9 Day 4	10 Day 5	11 Day 6	12 Day 7	13 Day 1 - Recycling - Fitness Walk	14
15	16 School Holiday	17 Day 2	18 Day 3	19 Day 4	20 Day 5 - Recycling - Fitness Walk	21
22	23 Day 6	24 Day 7	25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27 Day 3 - Recycling - Fitness Walk	28