

November 2008



ST. PAUL'S JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

# Communicator

## **Term One Dates**

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Term one ends on November 21, 2008. Student reports will be released on November 27, 2008. Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences are scheduled for Thursday December 4th.

## **School Website**

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Recently we have added a calendar of events on the school website. We hope this will help you stay informed of monthly events. Go to [www.k12.nf.ca/stpj](http://www.k12.nf.ca/stpj), click "What's New" and then "Calendar of Events" to view.

## **Terry Fox Donations**

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A total of \$1197.00 was collected from our recent walk for "The Terry Fox Foundation". Special thanks to the students, staff and families for supporting the cause. In particular, we would like to thank Mr. Hale for organizing this event once again this year.

## **Notes from the Music Department**

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The Christmas Concert is scheduled for December 17th. Once again, our band and choir students will also be visiting the Health Science Centre on December 12th to share their talents — details to follow.

## **Update: Home Economics**

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Ms Rowe would like any parents typing recipes to please email her at [jillrowe@esdnl.ca](mailto:jillrowe@esdnl.ca). She needs to be in touch with you regarding communications. Ms Rowe would also like to thank all of you who recently donated or helped out with the "Walk to Breakfast" fundraiser. Your support is, as always, gratefully appreciated. The students really enjoyed the fitness walk, the "Meal or No Meal" game and the fabulous pancakes. Our staff would also like to acknowledge Ms. Rowe's continued commitment to this worthwhile endeavor.

## **The Paul's Improv Team**

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St. Paul's will be participating in the Newfoundland Regional Improv Games for 2008-09. The team has been selected. Special thanks to high school student coach Ms. Allison French . Allison has represented the province twice in the National Improv Games.

## **Quebec Trip**

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A reminder to parents of grade nine students traveling to Quebec: The next payment is due on November 13th.

## **Social Studies Department**

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Grade Eight Students will have the opportunity to visit the Rooms this month as part of the Newfoundland History program.

## **Physical Education**

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Ms Lilly is looking for volunteers for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 – 1:00 to help out with our student recreation program. Also, the program is still in need of basketball coaches. Please contact Ms Lilly at 753-6630 or [valetierielillytorravaille@esdnl.ca](mailto:valetierielillytorravaille@esdnl.ca) if you can help out.

## **SynreVoice**

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We have just recently been trained in the use of a valuable tool for contacting the home. The system is called "SynreVoice". It will be used to send announcements, by telephone and email, to our school community — these announcements could relate to an up-coming school event, to school closures or for other reasons that the school deems necessary. This automated system will also be used to keep parents/guardians informed about their child's attendance at school. Normally, absence calls will go to the home telephone number. If you want calls directed to one additional telephone number (example a parent's cell phone) please email [thomashounsell@esdnl.ca](mailto:thomashounsell@esdnl.ca) to request that the additional number be added. This system will leave a message on an answering machine. The school receives a report of all calls made and the result of each attempt.

The Synervoice system can also send messages via email. If you want email regarding attendance and school announcements please email [thomashounsell@esdnl.ca](mailto:thomashounsell@esdnl.ca) to request that your email address be added.

At St. Paul's we strongly believe that contact with the home is crucial to the academic success of our students and look forward to implementing this system later this month.

## **Remembrance Day**

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Thank you to all students council members and teachers for organizing our recent Remembrance Day Assembly. Guests from the Legion were very impressed with the assembly as well as the exemplary student behaviour.

## **News From Student Council**

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Thank you to all the Student Council members, as well as staff and parent volunteers, for helping out with the Much Music Video Dance last month. Thanks to Ms. Webb, Ms. Coady and Ms. Pope for their work with the council and for organizing the dance. The students thoroughly enjoyed it.

## **Secure School Procedure**

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As you have probably seen in the media lately, the Eastern School District is taking major strides in getting schools prepared for threats to the safety of students and staff. Through the coming weeks we will be practicing our "Secure Schools" Procedure. This is a lower level of vigilance than a full lockdown for a more serious threat such as an armed intruder. We will use the "Secure School" procedure when we want to isolate our students for reasons such as police investigations, death of a student or other major disruptions. Basically, students will be confined to their classroom for the duration of the event; however, regular classes will continue.

## **School Development—Parent Surveys**

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Our school is currently in the process of developing a plan to help guide our school's direction for the next 3-5 years. In developing this plan we are completing a school-wide Internal Review based on provincially established criteria.

The Internal Review is a process of gathering information in four areas of the school environment: School Organization, Leadership, Teaching and Learning, and Climate and Culture. Information about the four areas is gathered, recorded, and analyzed by reviewing the school's actions and practices, student academic and achievement data, and student, parent, and teacher survey results.

A parent survey was sent home today for you to complete and return to the school by Friday, November 14, 2008. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Please return the survey to the school, or have your son or daughter return it. To ensure anonymity, there will be a box provided at the General Office to deposit completed surveys.

The surveys will be sent to the Department of Education for analysis and the results will be sent back to the school to be used in conjunction with other data gathered to complete the Internal Review.

# November/December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9	10 Day 6	11 Remembrance Day Holiday	12 Day 7 Parent surveys sent home	13 Day 1	14 Day 2 Parent surveys returned to school	15
16	17 Day 3	18 Day 4	19 Day 5	20 Day 6	21 Day 7	22
23	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5 Term 1 report cards sent home today	29 Skills Canada Competition
30	1 Day 6	2 Day 7	3 Day 1	4 Day 2 Parent- teacher conferences 1-4 & 7-9	5 Day 3 School Development —no classes for students	6
7	8 Day 4	9 Day 5	10 Day 6	11 Day 7	12 Day 1	13
14	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17 Day 4 Christmas Concert	18 Day 5	19 Day 6 Last day of school before holidays - Dismissal at 1:00 pm	20

Please visit the school website at [www.k12.nf.ca/stpj](http://www.k12.nf.ca/stpj) for an up-to-date Events Calendar