

# ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

We are VERY  
**blessed**



## Quick News

for the week of November 28 - December 2, 2011



Our **STUDENT COUNCIL** is sponsoring a PJ Day for St. Joseph's School students this Thursday, December 1st. Come to school dressed in your pyjamas.



St. Joseph's Annual **BOOK FAIR** ends tomorrow, November 29:

Nov. 29: 8:15 - 9:00 am

Hot Lunch this week is Pizza & Veggies

The **UNIFORM STORE** is **OPEN** this week on Thursday, December 1 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

Island Catholic Schools **Board of Directors** will hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 2011 in the Library at St. Andrew's High School at 7:00 PM.

**St. Joseph's Elementary School** has spaces in our 3 and 4 year old preschool on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please call Susan Clifford, Child Care manager, at 250-479-1232 ext. 120 for details.

### PAG News

**Thrifty Foods Smile Cards** are available for pick-up in the school office.  
**Dough Raiser Program** offered by **Cobs Bread** where 5% of our sales comes back to school.

Our monthly **St. Joseph's Journal** Newsletter goes home this week: Friday Dec. 2, 2011.

For full details on all our school's activities please visit:

[www.stjosephschool.ca](http://www.stjosephschool.ca)



## Superintendent's Message

November 2011

### ***Catholic Schools Plan: Strong foundations for a bright future***

The past two months have been busy but exciting as we have continued work on the *Catholic Schools Plan*. *The Catholic Schools Plan* is a vision for the future of Island Catholic Schools in Greater Victoria. In order to continue to provide safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable Catholic schools, the plan includes upgrading and amalgamating our schools in Greater Victoria. The *Catholic Schools Plan* includes upgrades at St. Andrews High School, St. Joseph's Elementary School, and St. Patrick's Elementary. St. Andrew's Elementary School will be relocated and students will be accommodated at either the expanded St. Joseph's School or the upgraded St. Patrick's School.

*Garyali Architect*, a Victoria based architect company, has been hired as the architects for all three school projects. *Garyali Architect* has completed numerous major projects including schools, university buildings, community facilities, and libraries receiving numerous awards for their innovation and design.

CitySpaces, a consulting company, has also been retained and have been coordinating the three school projects from conception and will do so until their completion. CitySpaces is a leading provider of consulting services in Western Canada, specializing in housing, health and education, development planning, community design and communications.

Early in September, through the direction of CitySpaces, there was an *Issues and Opportunities Workshop* at each of the schools scheduled to be renovated. The workshops were very well received and consisted of stakeholders from the parent body, school staff, administrators and central office. At the workshops participants were asked to list what was good about their existing school, what they did not like and what they wished for in the expansion.

These workshops were followed by a general Open House held at St. Andrew's High School. The Open House attended by approximately 100 people provided a further avenue for consultation. A review of the material and suggestions gathered at the three Issues and Opportunities workshops and the Open house was compiled by CitySpaces outlining the items to be included, those that were not feasible and those considered "wish list" type items. With this information in hand, *Garyali Architect* has started to work on preliminary drawings and design considerations.

Advisory committees have been established at each of the schools. These committees will begin meeting this week to review the Catholic Schools Plan and School Building Programs progress to date. They will continue to meet in the months to come reviewing conceptual draft designs and other related project considerations. Open Houses will also be held for parents, school staff, parishioners and others interested in following the progress of the *Catholic Schools Plan*.

Last week was the launch of the *Catholic Schools Plan* interactive website, linked to the Diocese of Victoria and Island Catholic Schools website. The website allows interested individuals an opportunity to track the progress of each project and provide feedback.

These are truly exciting times as we chart the path for a strong, viable Catholic system and build a solid foundation for our Catholic schools. Through the cooperation and collaborative efforts of all, we will continue to live out the mission and vision of our schools and *build strong foundations for a bright future*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Colistro', written in dark ink.

J. Colistro  
Superintendent of Schools  
Island Catholic Schools