Starting the Year With Mercy

As our school community begins another wonderful school year, we are also beginning a new faith theme of being merciful. Our articles in this first issue celebrate the ways in which our students and staff share their works of mercy through positive school spirit. Articles include school events, welcoming new staff, and student perspectives. The issue also includes a special Halloween edition with artwork and writings. It is our hope this year to continue giving service to others, and showing what it means to both receive and give mercy. We hope you enjoy reading our first issue. Thank you to our school community for your support! Here’s to a great start for our new school year!

Contents

School News
- Running for a Cause
- Welcome New Staff
- Giving Thanks
- Titan Sports

Entertainment
- Student Perspectives
- Halloween Spooktacular: Spooky Stories, Recipe, Ideas, and Poetry
Running for a Cause: Terry Fox Run/Walk 2016

On September 21, our school excitedly participated in the annual Terry Fox Run/Walk. Students and staff started the event by assembling in the gym and watching a presentation about Terry Fox and his legacy. Afterwards, they headed off outside onto the back field. Despite the cloudy weather, our school community walked and ran together with enthusiasm and inspired hearts. Students and staff were invited to bring in Toonies for Terry donations and raised over $340 to the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research. Thank you Titans!
Welcome New Staff

Spotlight: Mrs. Castillo

~ by Cheyenne D. and Erika O.

Mrs. Castillo is our new Spanish teacher at St. John XXIII. In our interview, we learned more about a new teacher and an excellent person.

When we asked Mrs. Castillo why she came to St. John XXIII, she said that “the Spanish program made me come here... but I just love to help people learn.” We asked her why she even learned Spanish in the first place, and she told us that she started out learning French, but then wanted to learn Spanish instead. She also learned Spanish because her husband is from Mexico. Mrs. Castillo also enjoys teaching at our school, “but most of all,” she said, “I like the Spanish program.”

Mrs. Castillo used to work at St. Benedict, but before coming to our school, she also taught English to people in Mexico. We asked her when she began to learn Spanish and she responded, “I started to learn Spanish when I was 16 years old.” We further asked what she majored in university, and she answered, “Besides education, I also majored in linguistics.” Mrs. Castillo first started teaching in 2001 when she lived in Mexico. This year, Mrs. Castillo teaches Social Studies, Health, and Phys. Ed., but said that her favorite class to teach is Spanish. We asked her if she had any memorable experiences with the teachers at St. John XXIII when she first met them, and she told us, “The teachers were all very helpful and welcoming.”

What inspired Mrs. Castillo to be a teacher? She explained that she always wanted to be a teacher, and was inspired to continue with teaching when she taught ELL students in elementary school. “I love to help people learn,” she replied. “I like it when I am teaching a language and at the end of the teaching time I can see that the student has a good understanding of the language.” Mrs. Castillo likes to be involved in people’s learning. “I like to share what I know, and I like to see people further their learning.” Finally we asked her what made her want to teach Spanish, and she told us, “I like to teach language and if I got the opportunity to teach any language I would most definitely take it.”

We learned a lot about Mrs. Castillo, like how she loves to help people and how she loves to teach language. Thank you Mrs. Castillo for being a great teacher! Let’s welcome her into the “Home of the Titans” with open arms and help her learn a little bit about our school!
Welcome to our new teachers: Ms. Wickstrom (gr 1), Ms. Plaxton (gr 2), Ms. McGahan (gr 2), Ms. Bainbridge (gr 3), Ms. Reeves (gr 6), Ms. Castillo (Spanish), Ms. Nguyen (gr 7), Mr. Keating (gr 8), and Mr. Zappone (grade 9).

Welcome also to our new Assistant Principal Ms. Kumick, our new Support Staff and Education Assistants.

Ms. Nguyen
(our awesome new Art teacher)

Mr. Keating
(our cool new Math teacher)

Spotlight: Mr. Keating
~ by Isabelle L.

Read about my interview with our new Math teacher, Mr. Keating:

Isabelle: What was your first impression of the school?
Mr. Keating: I know it will be a challenge with bigger classes, but so far it's been great.

Isabelle: How's Calgary been treating you?
Mr. Keating: Really good. My wife and I enjoy going to the mountains. Calgary is really sunny, and so far it's been awesome.

Isabelle: What do you think of the students?
Mr. Keating: I'm really blessed to meet these great kids. It will be a challenge getting to know everyone. My goal is to get to know everyone's strengths and weaknesses. I also hope to learn from the students this year.

Isabelle: How have the other teachers been treating you?
Mr. Keating: Really good! It's really interesting to teach with so many teachers with different backgrounds and experiences. I've learned so much from the teachers this year.

Thank you Mr. Keating for being a wonderful teacher! We are very happy to have you at St. John XXIII School!
Giving Thanks: CCC Buddy Activity

In preparation for Thanksgiving, our Elementary and Junior High students worked together in their buddy groups to create Thanksgiving acrostic poems. The poems were displayed in all the hallways around the school to remind us of the many special blessings we have. It was wonderful to see our students reflect together and be grateful for what they have been given.

Titan Sports
~ by Julia L.

Senior Girls Volleyball had a great start this year. They had many great games that showed how strong they are as a team; their spikes support that. After many games since the beginning of the year, they still continue being strong. We hope that they will continue working together in the future to bring our school a great sense of pride for sports.

Senior Boys Volleyball has given a great deal of effort in their games since the beginning of the season. They have given our school a great deal of pride in our sports team this year. A wide range of skills were introduced to the team this year, and they continue to evolve into better players both physically and mentally. We hope that they will continue to show us their love and devotion to the sport of volleyball throughout this season and continue to bring pride into our school.

Our school has a fresh new team of players this year in Junior Girls Volleyball. With a great deal of power flowing throughout the team, skills are being introduced to these girls. Their hard work has been shown throughout their games and practices as they continue to strive for a great team dynamic. The two coaches, Mr. Chaulk and Mrs. Soucy, have been directing the team into a bright path this year. We hope that future games will reflect the power and devotion throughout the entire team.

Junior Boys Volleyball has started this season with a blast! After winning three sets in their first game, the team has proven their unique skills to us. With much dedication to their practices and games, they have shown great improvement in their skills. We hope to see more of this in future years at St. John XXIII. Go Titans!
Check out these new designs for apps and school logos created by our CommTech 7 and 8 students!

Entertainment

- **Titan App**
  - Price: Free
  - Function: This app allows you to find any jobs that are close to you and you can get a great amount of money if you do the job right.

- **ST. JOHN XXIII App**
  - Price: Free
  - Function: Keep trying no matter what happens. NEVER EVER GIVE UP.

- **Go Titans App**
  - Price: Free
  - Function: Our school will ensure you that you will grow in faith and fulfill your goals.

- **Icandy App**
  - Name: Icandy
  - Price: free app
  - Function: You can buy candy from different stores and cities.
    - 20 candies for $10 and 40 candies for $20.

- **iTube App**
  - Price: Free
  - Function: Playing music on the go. No need for data or wifi. Organize songs in an easy to use format.
Student Perspectives

Getting Used to Grade 9
~ by Danielle A., Ramona E., and Gabriel M.

To the grade 9s: it's your last year here so make it count!

Ramona: It's really mind bending to transition from grade 8 to grade 9. You have to fulfill a lot more expectations. The stress of being the leaders of the school, and handing in projects and assignments on time - it's very mind blowing. Tip for new ninth graders: study hard, and keep your cool. Be good leaders.

Gabriel: Yeah, you could mess around a bit in grade 8 but now, it's time to prepare for your future. Your jobs, careers, etc. If you don't get in the courses you want, you can't get the jobs you want. Good luck everyone.

Danielle: I like grade 9 but grade 8 was better because my homeroom was loud. I suggest grade 7s don't share pencils since they will all get stolen. I have lost all my pencils just in the second week. All of the subjects are difficult so I suggest you start fooling around in grade 8 and get serious in grade 9.

How Things Have Changed
~ by Erika O. and Helena V.

It was a big jump from last year to this school year. St. John XXIII got their own school sign out in the front and even two new portables, but what else changed? Let us take a look at all of our school’s changes.

As you may or may not know, multiple staff members have left over the summer but many new staff members have been welcomed to this school. Along with the staff leaving, students also left. But many new students came to our school to enjoy the experience. There has even been changes in the students’ schedules. This school year, every Period 1, the students in Junior High meet with their homeroom teachers for attendance. In addition to that, there is also a new period called “Period X” when homerooms meet up and have buddy activities, celebrate school events, and do work to help with students’ skills.

Even though our school changed so much, there are things that were kept the same. We hope you'll have a great year here!

A Poem
~ by Danielle A.

Truth, lies, love confessions
People in around the world burning down nations
I be striving to learn from right and wrong
Even happiness, light is gonna be gone
Depression, anger, relationships
It’ll keep me off track
These people keep on stabbing my back

So gone
I be so gone
My life me a mess
In this world full of ugliness
So I be so gone
Well baby listen to the true purpose of this earth
We supposed to be sharin love and treating people with more worth
So let me ask you this do you really care
Or are these words too much for you to bear
So you be so gone
A Prayer For Halloween

Father
We thank you for your many blessings, in particular for all the holy men and women we celebrate on All Saints Day.

Help us to contemplate their holiness on this eve of that holiday.
And may your protection be upon all those involved in Halloween festivities during this night.

We pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen.
- David Bennett

Halloween is just around the corner, have you decorated your house already? If you are planning to decorate but didn't have time until now, here are some ideas and essentials for Halloween decorating!

Of course, starting off, you need a carved pumpkin. Now if you are one of those people who celebrate Halloween to its fullest potential, take the time out of your day to carve your pumpkin and do whatever design you like best, maybe doing multiple pumpkins. If you have no time at all, it’s okay - the best decision is to buy a fake pumpkin from the store that already is “carved” or if not, paint it. Next thing that you definitely need are some fake cobwebs. They add a level of spookiness but not enough so you don’t scare the kids on Halloween night. Make sure to get a few fake spiders for those people that have arachnophobia (fear of spiders). The next items you can add to your decorations list are some spooky skeletons. If you’re an artist, you can also draw them yourself and stick it to your windows. You don’t need to add these to your decorations if you don’t want to, but these skeletons are really cool.

To add onto the Halloween atmosphere, maybe not outside but inside, you may add a pumpkin spice candle or just any normal candle to make it more cozy or even more scary. Try to avoid things that have glitter or things that are irrelevant to the season. But of course, it depends on your preferences. Lastly, some things that aren’t really decorations but some things to set the spooky Halloween scene could include some spooky music and our favourites, all the Halloween movies! You don’t need to follow this completely.

Decorating for Halloween is YOUR way to express your Halloween spirit and your creativity. These are just ideas for you. There are many ways to decorate for Halloween. Get creative!
Rock Candy
~ by Isabelle L.

Thinking of making homemade candy this year? Here’s a recipe for homemade rock candy!

You’ll need these ingredients:
- 2 cups of water
- 4 cups of granulated white sugar
- Optional food colouring
- Optional flavouring

You’ll also need:
- A stick or pencil
- A string
- Some wax paper

You’ll also need the help of an adult.

1. Heat the water to a boil. You’ll definitely need your parents’ help with this step. If you can, use purified water.

2. Add in the sugar ½ cup at a time, and make sure to stir.

3. Take the pot off the heat, and let it cool for 15-20 minutes.

4. Time to get creative! Add food colouring and/or flavouring if you want to.

5. Pour this mixture into a jar, where you will “grow” your rock candy. Make sure the jar is clean.

6. Take something like a pencil and a string, and connect them to make a T. Put the string hanging down into your liquid, and rest the arms of the T on the jar. Dip it in, and then lay it on a piece of wax paper. Make sure to lay it out straight. Then leave it to dry.

7. You may want to ask an adult for help on this step. When the string is completely dry, you may see some crystals on it. Pick up the string by holding the pencil, making sure not to knock off any crystals, and put it back into the liquid. The string should hang straight down, and make sure that it doesn’t touch the jar. Tape the pencil to the jar so that it doesn’t roll.

8. Put a paper towel over the opening of the jar, and place the jar somewhere so it won’t be disturbed. If you want big crystals, try putting your jar somewhere cool and dark, though it will take longer. If you want to make them quick, try putting the jar somewhere sunny or warm. Your crystals may turn out smaller though.

Hope you enjoy making and eating your rock candy! Happy Halloween!
A Spooky Story
~ by Isabelle L.

Based on a true story (just a little exaggerated though)... Imagine yourself in my place. I’m about four or five years old, and I’m sitting in the room with a T.V. I’m playing a game, when suddenly I feel hungry. I think I want to get some snacks from my mom. I get off the bed, and start towards the door- What? The door is closed. I reach towards the handle, turn it, and tug towards me. It won’t open. At first, I’m confused, and check if anything is blocking the door. Nothing. I tug again, using more strength this time. The door won’t open! Suddenly, I hear a sound behind me. The game, which I left on, is making strange sounds. I’m starting to panic, and ran to the T.V. I frantically press buttons. I even accidentally turn up the volume, which scares me more, and finally I turn off the T.V. I ran to the door, and began pulling frantically. Tears flowing down my face. I cry for help, pounding my fists against the door. I am alone. I sit against the door, crying out. My throat aches from crying so much. I am shouting, even screaming, but it seems like no one is in the house. No one but me. I just give up. I can’t take it anymore. I tuck myself into a ball of sadness and cry. Why is this happening to me? I just want to get out. I don’t know how long I sat there. It feels like shards of glass. My eyes ached. My stomach feels like it is caving in. I find the strength to try and get up, and pull at the door one more time. I shakily reach towards the handle, and turn the knob. The door opens with a slight squeak, and I feel the cool air entering the warm room. I am free. I don’t know what I feel, but I ran out of the room, and down the stairs. I am finally free.

Another Spooky Story
~ by Ramona E. and Zia D.

Tis’ the night of Halloween, and all through the night, kids of many costumes roam the streets to ask for free candy. Treat bags in hands, and many cavities, kids are laughing and munching on the sweet confections. But as the mini adults are running around the street, one girl is perked up in her house. Forced to stay at home, and stalk the candy goers. While her friend messages that she had many treats in her little gym bag, she looks out the window. She sees her on the street, waving. Pleading to come join her. The girl in the house says, “My dear mother will not allow me. She dislikes Halloween. It’s scary, and involves monsters.” The friend tsk’s. She asked, “Then why are there many princesses running around? They do not seem scary.” All her friends teased her because she didn’t have candy. Little did she know, something was in store for her the next day... The next day, the girl’s father buys an entire shelf of candy. Twenty seven boxes, and sixteen bags of delicious goodies. She makes a throne of the many packages and boxes. “I am the ruler of Candy Land,” she proclaims. All her friends begged for her to give her candy, but the rightful ruler of Candy Land wouldn’t give them mercy. True Story.
Halloween Celebration Ideas
~ by Alex Q.

A traditional Halloween celebration is going trick-or-treating with friends and family. I mean who doesn't like getting free candy? Halloween is when we dress up in different costumes each year at the end of October. We go to houses and say, “Trick or treat!” We either get tricked or just given candy.

If you prefer not to go trick-or-treating, you could always have a sleepover with your friends. Eating candy and having a scary movie marathon sounds like a lot of fun. Not only that, but you can make your own Halloween themed treats. I do this every year with my best friends and I love it. For those who can’t sleep over with friends, there is always the option of going to the mall. You could watch a scary movie in the cinema and chill.

These are some great options you can do for Halloween. Enjoy!