Donation Drive

St. Joseph's Legacy News

Fall 2026 Issue











Thank you!

The Power of Giving

Thanks to your generous donations we were able to raise $15,000 for classroom furniture, and two classes got fresh desks to start the school year.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It's time for our annual legacy drive and this year we are raising money to purchase or lease new ipads for our students. Keeping up with technology allows us to provide better learning opportunities for our classrooms.

We are reaching out to connect with our alumni and friends in an effort to continue to build the community that has supported our school over generations. Thanks to your generousity, previous legacy drives have raised money for roof repairs and upgraded student desks and chairs. We hope that this year we can come together again and provide another resource to our school.

St. Joseph's School has a long-standing tradition of providing an education rooted in academic excellence, faith and strong moral values. With every contribution, regardless of size, it makes a difference in supporting the students and future of St. Joseph's School. We are grateful for your continued connection and support!

With gratitude,
St. Joseph's School

SHARE & SCAN ME
For any alumni or friends who may want to be apart of our legacy and get added to our mailing list.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

For Cara Polanin, St. Joseph's School has always been more than just a school; it has been a place of belonging, connection, and lasting memories. Having attended St. Joseph's as a child, Cara has a special appreciation for the traditions and sense of family that make our school unique.

Inspired by her kindergarten and Grade 1 teacher, Miss Kowal, Cara knew from a young age that she wanted to become a teacher. After completing her degree in General Studies with a minor in Curriculum and Instruction, she began her teaching career in a Grade 2/3 classroom in Vanderhoof, BC. She later had the opportunity to return to her childhood school, St. Joseph's in Smithers, where she has continued to grow professionally. Becoming principal was always a goal, and taking on this leadership role is the professional achievement she is most proud of.

Some of Cara's favourite school traditions include Camp Emmaus, Thanksgiving lunch, and Shrove Tuesday lunch. However, her favourite is the annual trip to the movie theatre on the last day before Christmas holidays!

Outside of school, Cara enjoys spending time with her kids, walking the dog, and skiing together in the winter. She especially loves watching her children fly down the hill before warming up together in the lodge over lunch.

Kindness is a value Cara holds especially close. She believes it goes a long way and hopes to instill the importance of kindness, hard work, and empathy in both her children and students. Her advice to students is simple: always try your best and be kind to those around you.

Having experienced St. Joseph's as a student, teacher, and now principal, Cara feels fortunate to be part of a community that has always felt like family. She hopes to create the same welcoming and meaningful experiences for today's students that made such a lasting impression on her.

Witset Church, Mass with Father Dennis 2026



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Blast from the past?

...from our 2026/2027 grade 7 class





Fall District Soccer Tournament...

"the district soccer tournament (at Muhiem) is always fun and eventful because you have the opportunity to meet new people from other schools and experience working with a team."



Youth Group...

"it's a fun way to meet your friends after school and play fun games like 'bigger and better,' and hide and seek in the whole school."



Thanksgiving Lunch...

"I love thanksgiving lunch, the food is amazing and the parents do a really good job. It is really about giving thanks and praying for our food and families."



Christmas Concert...

"One of the most exciting events at our school is the Christmas concert. It gives kids a chance to go up on stage in front of people and sing for fun."



Remembrance Day Poster Contest...

"the school enters the legion competition and each grade and student draws a poster honouring and remembering soldiers."



Buddies...

"buddies means alot to me because when I was little I looked up to my big buddy both literally and figuratively and I hope my little buddy thinks the same."



Choir...

"Carolfest is one of the best times of the year. It can be a little nerve racking because of all the people watching but it ends up being so fun singing with everyone."



Intramurals...

It's important to me because I love sports. I get to play with my friends making it more competitive and fun.



Pancake Lunch...

"What I enjoy most is sitting in the gym with my friends eating delicious pancakes with syrup and butter. It is an important day for our school."



Carnival...

"you can participate in the cake walk where you could win some sweet treats, get your face painted, and play lots of fun games like sponge throw and sucker pull."



Catholic Spring Soccer Tournament....

"it happens every year for grade 6&7 where all catholic schools verse eachother and the winning team gets the Northern Spirit Cup trophy."



Camp Emmaus...

"I made memories with new friends and challenged myself by stepping out of my comfort zone by being away from home."



Grade 7 trip (Camp Ness)...

"is a new adventure I eagerly await and I am excited to make new memories with my friends."

Track Meet...

"It's a multi-sport event at the high school put on by the school district. At the track meet, I can hang out with my friends and compete together."





Fun Day...

"a friendly competition where the school competes against each other in their colour teams and at the end of the day we do a big tug of war against the other teams and grades."