

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

November 9, 2017

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

It's time to ask you to Get Involved! We are starting our Strategic Plan Committees. These committees will look at the long-term options for our school, to help us set goals and stay on track. But the only way this process works is with **YOUR HELP!**

We have five committees that will look at different aspects of the future of our school. Enrollment, Finance, Marketing/Development, Catholic Identity and Facilities. We will be introducing these committees more in detail in our **Rollout Meeting Tuesday, November 28th** at 5:30 pm in the Parish Center. Come and be a part of the force that will be the movers and shakers of the future of St. Joseph School.

We promise we are only asking **THREE MEETINGS TOTAL**. The first meeting of each committee will occur between November 30th and December 7th (exact dates for each committee will be listed on SchoolSpeak Announcements and on the web page Calendar). This first meeting will review the last set of goals, where we stand on meeting those goals, and discussing potential new goals. The second meeting (scheduled for Tuesdays in January) will finalize the goals that we want to have for our immediate future in each category, and discuss what resources and personnel are needed to accomplish these goals. The third meeting (scheduled for Tuesdays in March and April) will focus on finalizing the overall long-term plans, with timelines and resources specified. Each meeting will have one representative that prepares a general report for the School Advisory Council.

Together we can make a difference! Choose your favorite subject, and sign up to speak up **TODAY!**

Deb Dewar
Principal



Sports Corner



We have great girls basketball program this year! 9 girls from our middle school have come out to represent St. Joseph School on the team. So far this season we are 2 and 1. Our last game was tied at half-time, and we pulled off a win over Livingstone Academy 42-18! Way to go girls! Our next home game is Monday 11/13 at 3:30 against Crosshill. They are 3-0 for the season, so it should be a great game! Come and spend an afternoon cheering for the home team!

Conferences

Last week, we sent home conference sign-up forms both electronically with the newsletter as well as a hard copy with the students. This week, we collected them and signed all families up for a specific conference time. Those times went home with your students on Monday or Tuesday of this week. If you have not yet received your time, please ask your student, or email your child's teacher. We have a Master List as well, so that we can coordinate family times. Please send back the bottom of the letter, so that your child's teacher knows that you can be there. Looking forward to it!



Book Fair



The Book Fair is back, and just in time for some early Christmas shopping! Our Book Fair will be open this year from November 15th (Grandparents' Day) through conferences. We hope that you can schedule some time to visit during that week. This year, we have TWO VENDORS - our Scholastic Book Fair and JClub Catholic Books. Don't miss out on such a great opportunity!

Also, we are in need of two volunteers to assist with the book fair. If you are available, please contact Kathleen Kerchski at kkerchski@stjosephchurch.com.

Gala/Auction



It is time to get out and start procuring those auction items! This is a fantastic time of year to reach out to community members for auction item donations. The simplest way to procure items is to approach a business that you frequent and have a relationship with. Each family is responsible for procuring or donating an item(s) that equal \$75.00. Don't feel like getting out and procuring an item or purchasing one to donate? That's ok, we are happy to do the shopping for you. Just bring in a check for \$75.00 and drop it off at the school office. For all those that bring in an item during conferences, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$10.00 gift card to Starbucks. Please help us to make this auction our most successful yet! Our goal is \$75,000.

End of Trimester On-Line Grading

The end is upon us! Next Friday, November 17th, is the end of the first trimester. Teachers will be finalizing grades all week in preparation. Our program-based report card will be printed out and ready for viewing during parent conferences. Parents will also receive an individual sign-in for the SchoolSpeak grading program during conferences. With this, you can access school information at any time. SchoolSpeak will give us access to current student assignments, overall classroom grades, classroom as well as school-wide announcements, PIE Hour tracking, Auction updates, and so much more!



Grandparents Day/

Feast of St. Albert the Great



Grandparents' Day is this coming Wednesday, November 15th from 8 to 10 am. It happens to fall on the Feast of St. Albert, who is the patron saint of scientists. What a perfect opportunity to blend the two! So grandparents who get to join us for Mass at 8:10 get to stay for a STEM activity! Come for the children, stay for the fun!

New Student Council Officers

Just today, November 9th, our Student Council candidates stood before the older student body (4th and up) to give their officer speeches. Today during lunchtime, all older students have the opportunity to vote for the officers that they would like to best represent them in the Student Council. Winners will be notified this afternoon, and announced to the student body Monday morning. Next week, 4th through 8th grades will vote on two classroom representatives to join the student council meetings. Our theme this year: Community.

Birthday Desserts Next Friday

Friday, November 17th, we will hold our Birthday Dessert Day. Each student with a birthday in the month of November will get free dress and a special ice cream dessert from the principal. Birthday students should get reminder notifications at the beginning of the week. It's great to celebrate!



Called to Protect

Our final Called to Protect class for all volunteers in the school will be held on November 16th at 5:30. This is a class where we discuss sensitive material, including child predators. Please do not bring small children, as the subject matter is not suitable for them, and we have no daycare available.

Tardy Detention Policy



With the close of October comes the data that it produces. One of the most alarming bits of data was the tardy numbers for the month of October. During the 21 days that we had school, we also had over 300 tardy students! This is definitely a problem, and one that we need to take care of school-wide. So beginning in the second trimester (which will start right after Thanksgiving/Conferences), we will start a 5-strike detention policy. Once your child is tardy five times during one trimester, your student will receive a detention until 4 pm. After that, it only takes 3 tardies to get the next detention. However, this count will reset at each trimester, for a clean slate. We realize that this can be seen as punitive for the students when the parents are the drivers, but we need to get a handle on this behavior. Please plan on dropping your students off at school by 7:55 to alleviate these issues. Thank you for your support!

School Mass—Sunday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m.

In an effort to connect more with the parish side of St. Joseph, the school would like to host a Sunday Mass. So on Sunday, November 19th, please join us for Mass at 10:00 am. Students will be doing the readings, bringing up the gifts, altar serving, manning the collection baskets, and being ushers, as the rest of us gather in our school polos (preferably red, but any school color is great) for Mass. Thank you for the opportunity to be great Catholics together!

Family Prayer Corner

As your children grow, to help strengthen our Catholic faith and the values of our traditions, we would like to offer a weekly family activity to build in your understanding and practices together. This week's activity: Together, read the story about the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:1-32. Then, look up online Rembrandt's painting of the Prodigal Son. Ask your child to identify the characters from the story and describe what s/he sees. Ask how God is like the father in the story.



SLE of the Week: Develops Problem Solving Skills

For a St. Joseph student, that means:

- Taking the time to understand word problems in math class.
- What will happen if I change this variable in science class?
- How can I say this to make it more meaningful in writing class?
- How can my friends and I talk about something difficult without hurting anyone's feelings?
- How can I help someone in my family who is having a difficult time?