



# *Saint Joseph School, Fullerton*

*Monthly Newsletter*

*November 2005*

## **M**ESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*“As there is one loaf, so we, although there are many of us, are one single body, for we all share in the one loaf” 1 Corinthians 10:17*

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Advent this year. During Advent we remember that Jesus came down from heaven, was born of the Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit and became a human being. We celebrate this event with great fanfare and joy because the very thought of Jesus coming to earth is awesome.

But each day, during the sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus comes to us again in a very real way. We have cause to celebrate all the more because we can join in with the Eucharist as our food and drink. Jesus becomes part of us and, more than that, He creates a unity among all of us present at Mass. By eating the same bread and drinking the same cup we become the Body of Christ, present to each other in church as a unified family.

When you take your children to Mass, you help them create a spiritual unity with all the other people in church. They feel that they are part of a large family and through that family they will get to know one another in Christ.

In a parish as big as ours, it is difficult to know everyone and this sometimes leads to a feeling of being left out. One of the best ways to feel connected is to take part in parish activities. We have prayer groups, outreach organizations and our Youth Ministry is always seeking volunteers. Our parish has been particularly good to our school in terms of support. Mark your calendar now to volunteer at the winter Chicken Dinner on February 19<sup>th</sup>. I guarantee you will feel welcome and meet some wonderful people.

We are blessed to have this school in which our children are not just taught what to know and what to do, but they are taught what and who to become. It is important for our children to see themselves as part of the Body of Christ and part of the Church. I urge you to help your child be connected with the Eucharist, our parish, and the church.

Peace,

*Mrs. Phyllis Karko*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

By far, our biggest event of this season is our **Race for Education** on November 11th. Plans are for the children to walk or jog around a marked course through the back of the church property, completing as many laps as they can during the allotted time. They should all wear their gym uniform. You are welcome to join us because we need many volunteers to keep track of the laps and provide drinks and encouragement for our children. Please give us your name and the time you will be here so we can make you part of our team. The responses from your friends and relative have been overwhelming. I'm sure they will be asking how the children did. Pray for good weather. (Our rain date is Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>)

We invite you to attend Mass on November 1<sup>st</sup> as we celebrate **All Saints Day** at the 10:30 Parish Liturgy. All Saint's day is a Holyday of Obligation.

Our last training session for **Parent Access** to the grades on the Progress Reports will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 in the Computer Lab. All parents of students in grades 3 to 8 need to be trained and issued a password in order to view grades as they are posted.

**Juggling Night** was so successful last year that we decided to do it again this year. Students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade proudly show off their skill at juggling scarves, balls, beanbags and other objects while their parents are challenged to match their skill. Our Home School Association provides snack for a great evening of family fun. The program begins at 7:00 in the Parish Center on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please put a circle around and make plans to attend the **Home School Meeting** on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. This important meeting will feature our new school consultant, Mrs. Gail Vernick, who will address some very important child social issues. This is also conference sign up night. All parents are expected to meet with the teachers during conference time (Dec. 1 from 12 to 8 or Dec. 2 from 8 to 1). Don't miss your chance to get the time that is best for you.

Do you have something to share with me or discuss with other parents? '**Koffee with Karko**' is the time to sit down and brainstorm whatever is on your mind. This year the topic is open ended. Even if you don't have an idea, I welcome you to join me for some cake and beverage so we can get to know one another better. I hope to see you on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> downstairs in the Parish Center right after Mass.

Finally, **Progress Reports** will be sent home with your child on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. This will give you time to think about questions you might want to ask the teacher during the conference. Remember that your financial obligation must be current in order for your child to receive his/her Progress Report.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beginning on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, students must wear the **winter sweat suits** on their gym day. In the spring, we will announce when they may return to the option of wearing shorts again.

In order to dismiss all our children in a timely manner from our **parking lot**, please return to your cars immediately after locating your child. If you are not in your car when the cars begin to move you hold up the line. Please be courteous.

There are two changes to events that are listed on the annual calendar. First, the Home School Chick-fil-A Night has been changed to Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> (from Nov 21<sup>st</sup>). Second, Our school Advent Prayer Service will be held in church on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> right after 8:15 Mass. We have moved it up from December 21<sup>st</sup>.

St. Joseph Youth Ministry has been working closely with the school and the HSA to provide a program for our middle school children. Please go to [www.stjoefullerton.org/SJYM](http://www.stjoefullerton.org/SJYM) for details about upcoming events.

On Thursday, December 2, nurses from the Baltimore County Health Department will be here to offer scoliosis screening for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. We ask that all students being screened wear their St. Joseph gym uniform that day. Please look for further information coming home in the next few weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact St. Joseph School Nurse, Mrs. Engel, R.N. @ (410) 256-8026 or email [dengel@stjoefullerton.org](mailto:dengel@stjoefullerton.org).

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our **Red Ribbon Week Parade** was a huge success. The floats, banners, wagons, cars, and costumes and outfits were wonderful. Congratulations to our parade winners. For their float named “Don’t Get Hooked on Drugs” Julia Tich and Sydney and Brooke Menikheim were great as Captain Hook, Tinker Bell and Mr. Sneer. For their banner “Smokers Finish Dead Last”, Allison Beres, Allie McWilliams, and Nicole Trawinski looked dead as dead can be. Congratulations to our Pizza Party winner, Megan Bollinger in 3B whose name was selected from the list of participants who decorated scarves with the anti drug theme. We were honored to have as judges Delegate Eric Bromwell and State Senator Kathy Klausmeier.

Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls who participated in **The Catholic High School Math Olympiad** on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The girls competed in team and individual events based on their working knowledge of Mathematics. In the individual competition Nicole Acaso, 8A, came in third place among all the contestants and she is now eligible for a half scholarship to Catholic High. In the team competition, one of the St. Joseph teams took First Place! This team's members were Nicole Acaso, Kristen Eisemann, Chelsea Gaviola, and Mindy McGuire. They were awarded a large trophy for their outstanding performance. Great job, girls! And... great job to their teachers, Mrs. Myszkowski and Mrs. Loraditch

Shaun Baxley successfully completed the **Center for Talented Youth** (CTY) summer program course entitled "*Inductive and Deductive Reasoning*". Shaun was commended for his personal contribution and indepth investigation of difficult concepts in Mathematics.

## BITS AND PIECES

At the request of a few of our parishioners, the Beltway Movies will feature a special engagement of the movie 'Therese' on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. The movie tells the story of St. Therese of Lisieux. Please call for more details (410) 882-5911.

## THANKS TO...

Mrs. Michaud, Mrs. Collins and the Social Awareness Committee for their excellent job in organizing all the activities around Red Ribbon Week. Your efforts helped us all to see and learn more about the dangers of misuse of drugs and alcohol.

Thanks to all our children and their families for the contributions made to the Katrina victims. We collected \$710 for the NCEA collection and two weeks later collected \$530 for Dr. Valenti to give to the Shreveport Catholic Schools. In addition, our families collected more that \$4,000 and countless household items for the 6 families that we relocated from Louisiana. Thank you for your generosity.

## A Message From Your School Consultant

As you know, St. Joseph School celebrated Red Ribbon Week the last week in October. I wanted to follow-up with some ways that you can reinforce the concepts your children learned during this important campaign. Remember, parents who state clear, strong messages about drugs make a big impact on their children.

Don't make Drugs "off limits" to your child. That means discussions about drugs! I encourage you to bring up discussions about the harmful effects of illicit drug use with your child early on in life. The following suggestions may help you to communicate better about the dangers of drug use:

Talk to your child about healthy and unhealthy choices. These include choices in what we eat, whom we play with, and our behavior in general. Reward and praise good choices.

Model those good choices yourself. Allow your child to witness your self-control and ability to make healthy, productive choices in your life. You are the most important role model for your child, so make sure you are practicing what you want them to imitate.

Educate yourself. Be armed with the latest information on tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana (see the web sites below) so that you can have an informed discussion with your child.

Encourage your child to say "NO" to drugs. Encourage them to feel confident and assertive in difficult situations. Try to role play ways that they can say "no" to friends who may try to pressure them to make poor choices involving use of drugs and/or alcohol.

Keep communication open. Create an atmosphere where your child feels loved and accepted so that they are free to talk to you about peer pressure and other problems.

For more information, here are some helpful websites on drug awareness and prevention:

[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com): You've seen the commercials and now you can get the parent newsletter with lots of interesting information. There is a teen newsletter as well.

[www.philipmorrisusa.com](http://www.philipmorrisusa.com): The makers of cigarettes now have a prevention site full of great info. and free brochures/magazines.

Baltimore County Bureau of Substance Abuse: 410-887-3828 or on the web-  
[www.co.ba.md.us](http://www.co.ba.md.us)

If you have any questions or would like to meet with me, I am available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 –3:00pm. Also, if there are other topics you would like me to address in upcoming newsletters, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thanks!

Take care,  
Gail Vernick, LCSW-C

## **FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE:**

Many thanks to all parents who are calling in the morning to inform me of their child's absence. It is essential that I am aware of absences due to illness in order to track any trends that may occur. Again, thank you.

Here are two websites that are very good for children and parents alike: [Scrubclub.org](http://Scrubclub.org) and [KidsHealth.org](http://KidsHealth.org). These are both interactive and very informative. Try them out and see what you think.

With colder weather on the way and more time spent indoors, it must be emphasized how important good hand washing is in the prevention of spreading germs. Please remind your little ones.

### ***Is It a Cold or the Flu?***

Your child is sent home from school with a sore throat, cough, and high fever - could it be the flu that's been going around? Or is it just a common cold? Find out here!

To read more, go to

[http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/infections/cold\\_flu\\_review/flu\\_vs\\_cold.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/infections/cold_flu_review/flu_vs_cold.html)