



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

8416 Belair Road Baltimore, MD 21236 Phone: 410-256-8026 Fax: 410-529-7234

Monthly Newsletter

October, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*Train children in the right way,
And when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6*

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Here is a little vignette that made me recall the 'good old days' when my children still lived at home. It reminded me that there is always another way to solve a problem even when we are tired, frustrated and feel a little like everyone's servant.

I'm looking at three inside out socks, a dozen plastic action figures, a half- empty juice box, and popcorn kernels. So far, it has been a peaceful evening – everyone in a good mood and it's almost bedtime. I could pick this stuff up and lecture her tomorrow or....I can tell her to pick up her mess – risking tears, resistance and an end to the harmony. Oh, and by the way, did I mention that I am tired, too? I really don't have the energy for a scene.

"Come here sweetie". I hear myself calling. "I've discovered the secret hiding place for your toys. They even have goodies to nibble during the night while they are tucked in their sleeping bags"

It is the responsibility of parents to teach children to make good choices. Children need to be given the parameters of your expectations and be taught how to apply those guidelines to similar situations. To do this effectively, parents should explain what is expected and allow children to practice because when the child fails to follow through, the conflict can get ugly.

Using humor can take the edge off the confrontation. It can soften the situation by making the people involved feel comfortable and more receptive to what you are suggesting. With children, it can serve as a 'warm fuzzy', as they learn the responsibilities that are part of growing up. It also lets them feel valued and empowered as they solve the problem while recouping a bit of self esteem. Did I mention how important this is as they get older? The power struggles only get bigger as they resist being told what to do by any authority. Lightening-up with a joke or smile can go a long way in making them your ally again.

The job of raising kids is unbelievable. We at St. Joe's are here to help you along the way. Please don't hesitate to seek us out before things get out of control.

Peace,
Mrs. Phyllis Karko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

4	Feast of St. Francis 8:15 Liturgy All Welcome
5	Hot Lunch Program begins, Band Begins
6	HASA Individual Pictures, 8:30 – 1:00
7	Principal's Scholars' Dinner 6:30 Parish Center (by invitation)
8	HASA – Wine Tasting in Parish Center 7 -11 pm
11	School Closed, Columbus Day Holiday
12	Market Day delivery
14	Parent Access Training 2:05 in Comp Lab (rescheduled from 9/30)
15	Winter uniform required
17	Parish Fall Chicken Dinner & Bazaar
20	Innisbrook orders delivered, Joe Corbi form sent home
21	Individual Picture Make-ups
25-29	Red Ribbon Week for Anti-Drug Education
29	Red Ribbon Week Parade, 1:00 Parking Lot

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

St. Francis Liturgy

Please join us at 8:15 Mass as we honor St. Francis of Assisi on his Feast Day on Monday, October 4th. We are especially connected to this saint as our school was served by the Franciscan Sister for many years. We try to follow St. Francis's charism of unselfish service to others.

Interim Report Cards

Interim Progress Reports will be distributed to students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 on Wednesday, October 6th. These reports are made available to the parents of our younger students because they are not recorded on Parent Access. Parents of students in grades 3 to 8 should view their child's progress on Parent Access periodically to keep abreast of their progress.

Parent Access Training

The Parent Access Training session that was not held on September 30 due to the early dismissal is rescheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 2:05 in the Computer Lab.

Individual Pictures

Our Home and School Association will sponsor Individual Picture Day on Wednesday, October 6st. All children will have an individual picture taken here at school. Children may wear their school uniform or they may wear nice clothing to school. It is the parent's choice. Children should wear tennis shoes. Please do not dress your child in shoes that might cause them to slip (no backless shoes, slippery dress shoes, heels or boots). The picture will not show the shoes. Tennis shoes are required if your child has gym that day. These pictures make great gifts and will be ready in time for Christmas.

Principal's Scholars Dinner

The annual Principal's Scholars Dinner to recognize our students who have attained high academic grades will take place on Thursday, October 7th. Students who earn Honor Roll status in all three marking periods of the previous year and have satisfactory conduct and effort are invited to a recognition dinner. Families fill the Parish Center as the students receive a certificate for their efforts. It is also a homecoming for our more recent freshmen as they are acknowledged for their work in 8th grade. An advance 'Thank you' goes out to Mrs. Joanne Richards who spends her summer coordinating this huge event.

Harvest Moon Grape Escape

Once again our HASA is sponsoring an enjoyable evening out with food and friends at the third annual Wine Tasting Evening on Friday, October 8th in the Parish Center. The event includes catered food and hors d'oeuvres, samplings of wine and micro-brewed beers, silent auction, sports memorabilia, music and entertainment. Tickets are \$40 or get together a table of 10 for \$350.

Columbus Day

School will be closed to students on Monday, October 11th for the Columbus Day holiday. Enjoy your three day weekend. Eighth graders are encouraged to 'Shadow' at one of the high schools of their choice on this day.

Innisbrook Tag Day

Only two of our homerooms **2A and 5B** reached 100% participation in the Innisbrook Wrapping Paper Fundraiser. As a result, they may come out of uniform on Wednesday, October 14th: Children may wear modest, appropriate school clothing. Please make sure that the clothing does not have words, symbols or pictures that are offensive, violent or critical. Children should wear tennis shoes (required if they have P.E). Make-up, jewelry, unusual hair etc. are not allowed on out of uniform days.

On that day, students who have sold 45 items will have their turn to grab as much cash as they can in the Money Machine. We have a big group of children who qualified and we wish them each Good Luck .

Winter Uniforms

As listed in our handbook, students must wear full (winter) uniform beginning on Friday, October 15th. Students in Kindergarten to 8th Grade will not be allowed to wear the shorts, etc. until April 15th. Please check your uniform inventory now so the clothing will be ready in mid-October. See your handbook (pages 7 to 9) for details. Mrs. Goldbeck will determine when PE uniform changes and inform the students.

Chicken Dinner

Our parish famous Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 17th. The meal is famous far and wide for quality and value that can't be beat. Parents, we really need your help to prepare and serve the dinner. Please volunteer on Friday or Saturday morning and especially during the event on Sunday. In addition, we will be asking families with students in grade 4 to 8 to bake or buy bake goods to donate for the cake stand. Fr. Kevin will provide a party to the class that brings in the most cakes. It has also become a tradition for the Pre-K parents to volunteer on Friday morning as slicers and dicers. Miss Brenda will give you more details.

Red Ribbon Week

During the week of October 25th, children will be presented with anti-drug and anti-tobacco education. Our Social Awareness Committee of Middle School Students will develop a theme and plan activities for this week.

Anti Drug Parade

At 1:00 on Friday October 29th we will have a great time spreading anti-drug ideas through our annual parade. Look for details on the flyer that will come home with your child. We are trying to include a special guest for this year's parade to help the children defend themselves against drugs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNOTT SCHOLARSHIP

For many years, the Knott Family has provided scholarships to children who perform exceeding well academically. Catholic students in the 4th and 8th grades are eligible to apply. Complete details are available on a flyer at the end of this newsletter

REWARD AND BONUS PROGRAMS

Please continue to save those Boxtops, Campbells' labels, and to sign up for the reward programs at **Giant, Safeway, Target**, and any **Esript** program

ALERT NOW

I hope you have adjusted to being notified via email and phone through our *Alert Now* system. As you can imagine, it has been a behemoth task to enter and keep up with the data that allows us to notify you. We thank Mrs. Starcher and Mrs. McGuire for their hard work on this system. However, it is very important that you keep the office informed immediately should any of your phone numbers or email addresses change.

Additionally, if we close early, that dismissal time becomes our 'regular dismissal' time for that day. As a result, if anyone other than the parent wants the child released earlier than that time, we require approval from the parent. This is especially important if you have children at daycare centers should they ask to take the children before dismissal.

CLASS NEWS

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED

Our Art teacher, Mrs. Maria Bowser, is on the lookout for a few things...

PAPER TOWEL tubes- about 120
GALLON sized milk jugs- About 8

Also, if you have a roll of paper towels you could spare, please send it with your child to the art room. All of the classes will paint this year and it helps her out tremendously.

CONGRATULATIONS

National Junior Honor Society

Congratulations to the following 7TH AND 8TH students who were inducted into the St. Joseph School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. During the ceremony on Thursday, September 23rd, past members read that to become a member, students must maintain a high grade in academics and demonstrate service, leadership, citizenship and character. We are very proud of:

Noelle Acaso
Meghan Beck
Tim Coffman
Khrystelle Estrella
Olivia Kaiss
Ian Leppo
Christian Managhaya

Nick Menikhein
Cari Middlecamp
Jordan Mosco
Bhakti Panchal
Steven Richards
Chrysoula Vasilakopoulos
William Villamayor

Matthew McDonald
Brian McGuire

Allyson Westfall

THANKS TO...

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the families that participated in the **Innisbrook Sale** this year. Despite a tough economy you really stepped up to help us come close to our goal. To date we have raised more that \$21,000 which will go a long way to support our fundraising efforts. We would really like to extend the new technology equipment to all our classrooms.

A special 'Thank You' with a big hug goes out to Mrs. Kelli Szczybor and Mrs. Cindy Christy. They put in countless hours to make the sale a success. Thanks also to the committee members who helped process the orders. We really appreciate all that you do.

BITS AND PIECES

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

I was told, but have not been able to verify, that there have been incidents of suspicious dark colored vehicles driving slowly, etc. in the Fallston and Kingsville areas. While this might be an isolated occurrence, I hope that all of you are carefully as you send your children out to play and that you communicate with your neighbors should you feel uncomfortable about anything you see.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Please check back for news from the HASA.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

The school year is well under way and so are allergies and viruses! If your child takes allergy medication it is important to keep them well hydrated. Most allergy medication has an antihistamine effect which is drying. Perhaps pack an extra water bottle in addition to the milk they have at lunch. It is important for all children to stay hydrated. If your child needs to have a water bottle on their desk you must obtain a Physician's note.

While the CDC is not projecting as much of the "hype" as last year in regards to the flu. I encourage every child to get immunized against the flu this season to help keep your family, school and parish healthy. And please remind your children and family the importance of good old-fashioned

handwashing! It still is the best prevention against illness. Review and practice proper coughing and sneezing technique – into your sleeve.

As a reminder, a Physician's order must be submitted for any medications to be administered at school (this includes even Tylenol, Motrin, cough medicines etc...). I can only administer cough drops (with a parent note) and apply calamine lotion without a Physician's order. Please send in the medication with the order in the original package. The medication needs to be delivered by an adult to the Health Suite. If you need order forms please contact me and I can send them home with your child.

To ensure a healthy and safe school year:

- Eat healthy meals and snacks- poor eating habits can lead to a tired, cranky and even sick child! Try to give your child something, even if it is small for breakfast- I see a lot of kids that complain of a stomachache in the morning from not eating breakfast. You can't drive your car on an empty tank- and your child can't perform at school with an "empty tank".
- Try to maintain a routine bedtime – kids ages 6-12 need 10 to 11 hours sleep a night. A tired child can have complaints of headaches and stomachaches!
- Drink plenty of water- a sign of thirst in children is a late indicator of dehydration.
- Regular exercise and playtime- aim for 60 minutes a day and limit the "electronics" and TV time.
- Buckle up in the car and insist on use of a helmet when riding a bike, skateboarding, etc.
- Visit your Doctor and Dentist regularly to maintain health.
- Stay in touch with your child's emotional well-being as well as their academic and physical "health".

During the school year, it is important to update the Nurse as to any changes with your child's health, allergies (food or meds), or illnesses. This enables me to take the best possible care of your child if they should visit me and track for prevention regarding illnesses.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

September is always such a busy time. Back to school, back to demanding schedules and juggling multiple commitments for our families. Hopefully, your child is adjusting to the routine of school and enjoying the structure and stimulation provided by the learning environment here at St. Joe's. If you feel your child seems unusually anxious during this transition time, please do not hesitate to call me and we can work together to ensure that your child can get back on track for a positive, successful school year. Some parents have approached me for help with study skills for their child. I am always available to work with your child and can share tips and resources to improve his/her effectiveness in any area of weakness.

As you know, throughout the year, we try to offer programs that enrich and reinforce classroom learning. On November 3rd, I am excited to inform you that Ann Gearhart, the Director of Education for the Snyder Foundation For Animals, will be visiting some of our classrooms. The Snyder Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that has existed since 1898. The program has been dubbed "Maryland's best kept secret" by the Baltimore Sun and has invested "3,000,000 in educational programming for Maryland students." The Foundation provides curriculum that integrates character education through

learning about children's roles and responsibilities towards animals and the environment. Humane education emphasizes the relationship between how children relate to animals and their development of kindness and empathy towards others. It helps children to understand how interconnected they are with other living creatures.

Positive relationships with animals play an important role in many aspects of healthy development of children. They learn to think beyond their own needs. They learn that their actions affect others and begin to see their role and responsibility in the world they inhabit with other living creatures. In social relationships, they are more likely to empathize with a child who is more vulnerable or who is hurting as in a situation of bullying. A child's relationship with an animal can improve a child's self-esteem, lessen anxiety and foster good communication skills.

As parents, we have an opportunity to reinforce the importance of kindness towards animals. We can model for our children by treating our pet, or others' pets with love and respect. Children can learn responsibility by having an age appropriate job to do for a pet, such as walking a dog, filling a water/food dish etc.

If you do not have a pet, there are still ways that your child can develop an appreciation of animals. You and your child may volunteer at an animal shelter. Teaching your child about endangered species can spark an interest in helping to protect these vulnerable creatures. Trips to the zoo, nature centers, books with stories about animals can strengthen a child's connection with them and the environment.

Ann will be visiting our school again in the Spring, and in anticipation of this next visit our SAC Committee will be organizing a drive to collect much needed supplies for the Baltimore County Animal Shelter. Your child will be given information as her Spring visit approaches.

For more information on the Snyder Foundation, you can visit their website at www.snyderanimals.org. I have a comprehensive list of books recommended by the Snyder Foundation for children of all ages that I am happy to share with you.

Looking ahead, I have invited Sue Finkelstein-Edwards to address the topic Social Skills Development in Children at the November HASA Meeting. Sue is a Consultant in Development and Behavior and has been in private practice for over 10 years. She conducts social skills groups, consults with schools and lectures in the community. Sue has a wealth of knowledge on this topic. I hope to see you then!

As always, please feel free to contact me at 410-256-8026 at extension 137. You can now leave a confidential message for me and I will return your call as soon as possible. Also, please e-mail me at gvernick@stjoefullerton.org so I will have your address to contact you in the future. I am at school on all day on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and for half-day on Wednesdays.

Happy Fall!

Gail Vernick, LCSW-C



KNOTT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

1340 Smith Avenue, Ste. 200

Baltimore, MD 21209

Phone: 410-779-1255 Fax: 410-779-1259

Knottscholars@gmail.com www.knottscholar.org

Memo To: Secondary, Middle and Elementary School Principals, Admission Directors and Guidance Counselors in the Archdiocese of Baltimore

From: Michelle Burke, Director

Date: September 15, 2010

The enclosed flyer announces the Knott Scholarship competition for the 2010-2011 school year. The information applies to all students now in grade 4 and grade 8 who meet all the requirements described in this flyer.

If you are aware of any potential candidates, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship. The enclosed information and application forms may also be found on our web site at www.knottscholar.org.

This year, applications for both elementary and secondary scholarships must be in our office no later than Friday, March 25, 2011. Announcement of results will be mailed on or about Monday, April 11, 2011.

As a result of last year's competition, we awarded twenty-one elementary and secondary scholarships with an estimated four-year tuition value of more than \$1,600,000. It is our hope to continue making awards at this level again this year.

Thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to call with questions at any time.

Enclosures

The Knott Scholarship Funds award four-year, full-tuition scholarships to attend a Catholic parish elementary school or a Catholic high school located in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, or Howard counties. This flyer contains information on elementary and secondary scholarships. These scholarships look to honor Catholic students who excel in academics. To apply for these scholarships the student **MUST** meet **ALL** of the criteria described below. If the student does not meet all of these criteria, **DO NOT SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.**

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Student is a baptized Catholic or convert officially received into the Catholic Church by a priest.
2. Family legally resides in the one of the geographic areas listed above.
3. Family is registered and active in a Catholic parish in one of the areas shown above.
4. Student is now in Grade 4 entering Grade 5 in September 2011, or now in Grade 8 entering Grade 9 in September 2011.
5. Catholic student now attends a Catholic parish elementary school or has applied for admission to Grade 5 in a Catholic parish elementary school (elementary scholarships) in one of the above geographic areas, or Catholic student attends Catholic, public, private school or is home schooled, and has applied for admission to a Catholic high school of choice (secondary scholarships) in one of the above geographic areas. (Proof of high school acceptance will be required when completed scholarship application is submitted to Knott office.)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Student's First AND Second Trimester, or First AND Second Quarter report card (depending on system used in your school) in Grade 4 (elementary scholarships) or Grade 8 (secondary scholarships) must show A/A+ or number grades of 93-100 in major subjects—Reading, Literature, English, Writing, Vocabulary, Spelling (Language Arts), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies. If your school gives individual grades in Language Arts subjects, each subject must meet this grade requirement. If a student receives a grade of A- in any of these subject areas and this A- is equal to a number grade below 93, the student is not eligible to apply.
2. Fourth graders must score in the 95th percentile or above in Total Reading, Language, and Total Mathematics on a nationally standardized test given at your current school in spring of Grade 3 or fall of Grade 4. If your school did not offer a nationally standardized test in this time frame, please contact our office for additional information. We do not accept results of Maryland State Tests.
3. Eighth graders must score in the 95th percentile or above in Total Reading, Language, and Total Mathematics on a nationally standardized test given at your current school in spring of Grade 7 or fall of Grade 8. If your school did not offer a nationally standardized test in this time frame, please contact our office for additional information. We do not accept results of Maryland State Tests.
4. Eighth grade students must have a Composite Score in the 95th percentile or above on the Archdiocese of Baltimore HS entrance exam.

Students who apply are evaluated objectively based on:

GRADES 4 and 8:

1. Score in the 95th percentile or above in each of these areas: *Total Reading, Language, and Total Mathematics*.
2. Major subject grades of A/A+ or 93-100, on current grade first & second quarter or 1st & 2nd trimester report cards.
3. Principal's evaluation of student performance factors.

GRADE 8 Only:

1. Composite score in 95th percentile or above on Archdiocese of Baltimore High School Entrance Exam.

FINANCIAL NEED Knott Scholarships are primarily based on outstanding academic achievement. Although we do not offer financial need scholarships, a small amount of additional credit may be awarded for those families with extreme financial need. **YOU MUST MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS STATED ABOVE BEFORE FINANCIAL NEED IS CONSIDERED.** To determine eligibility for this credit we use the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) distributed through School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) of Princeton, NJ. If you have a PFS report sent to us by SSS, you must attach a copy of your **2009 Federal Tax Return** (not 2010) to your application when you submit it to our office. PFS is available on-line at www.nais.org/financialaid/sss.

APPLICATION DEADLINES Knott Scholarship applications are available after August 1st at the website, www.Knottscholar.org. All application with required forms must be received in the Knott office no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011**. Applications arriving after this date **WILL NOT BE REVIEWED REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR DELAY**. **Results will be mailed on or before Monday, April 11, 2011**. Scholarship application records are confidential and no information from any application, test score, grade report, evaluation or IRS return will be disclosed to anyone including, but not limited to applicants, parents, guardians, school principals or school personnel. If you do not have web access, please call 410-779-1225 to obtain an application. We are not responsible for lost, late, or misdirected mail. To check if your application has been received, please call our office.