



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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Monthly Newsletter

April, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*That they may arise and declare God's Law
to their children,
that they may set their hope in God –*

Psalm 78:6-7

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

No doubt many of you heard that I recently became a grandmother. Imagine my pride as the daughter that I gave birth to and nurtured for almost 30 years held a little girl in her arms – all pink and plump. Imagine my thoughts that now my daughter was going to experience all the joys and opportunities and responsibilities of raising a child of God. Then, I smiled to myself and said, “I hope this little one will give her a run for her money just the way her mom did to me”. (They say that a grandparent ‘delight’ is that they can play with them and then give them back. I say that it is the retribution of the generations that is a true grandparent’s ‘delight’.)

In reality, however, it is both parents’ and grandparents’ responsibility to form each generation in the family values held by their culture and their faith. The younger generation looks for support and guidance to nurture their talents and to orient them in the direction of good moral decisions. However, the resistance that some children deliver back in response makes some parents cringe every time they attempt to stir the waters.

Take heart. After about 25 years of setting this beautiful daughter of mine on the right path and after 25 years of her rolling her eyes to tell me “Nobody else’s mom thinks the way you do”, I almost believed I was “the meanest mother in the whole wide world”. However, she came around – took in all the ‘good stuff’ and is living each day with the strong faith and family values that were drilled into her.

It wasn’t easy. No one said it would be when you had your children. But hang in there and don’t waiver when you sense that something feels wrong to you. You won’t be the meanest mom in the whole wide world – someone else has that title. Pray for them and for yourself.

My hope is that your next generation will follow the Psalmist above. While you are encouraging your child’s love of learning, establish in them a love of their faith and the responsibility to pass it on. It is an investment in your future as well.

Peace,

Mrs. Phyllis Kariko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April	
1	Stations of the Cross Gr. 3 to 8 1:30
4 to 12	Standardized Testing Grades 3 to 8
6	Interims distributed in Kindergarten to Grade 2
7	Reconciliation Gr. 2-5 10:45, Gr. 6-8 1:00
10	HASA Fashion Show
11	Spelling Bee, Grades 2 & 3 1:30 in Parish Center
12	Spelling Bee, Grades 4 & 6 1:30 in Parish Center, HASA Candy delivered, Market day delivered, Seafood Orders #2 due
13	Spelling Bee, Grade 6, 6 & 8 1:30 in Parish Center
15	Student Retreat Day, Stations of the Cross; Begin Summer Uniform
17	Band festival at NDP
19	HASA Seafood Sale #2 delivery
20	Noon Dismissal – Beginning of Easter Break
21 to 29	School Closed - Easter Break
May	
2 -5	Field Days
6	Professional Day – School Closed

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Standardized Testing

Children in Grades 3 to 8 will be taking the Stanford 10 Standardized Test from **Monday, April 4th through Tuesday, April 12th**. While we do not recommend that you put any pressure on your children to study for these tests, we do suggest that they receive a good night sleep and eat breakfast each day. Special testing accommodations can be made for children who possess a formal IEP or similar documentation. We hope to receive the results of testing just before the end of the school year. If so, we will place them in the final Progress Report.

HASA Fashion Show

On **April 10th**, The HASA Fashion Show begins at 3:00 in our Parish Center. The theme this year, “Swing into Fashion”, will have us wild for the clothes that will be modeled by our students, teachers, parents and parishioners. Look for more information in HASA weekly *Constant Contact* and on the flyers that have been coming home, or call the office for more details.

Spelling Bees

Our annual **Spelling Bees** will be held on **April 11th** for grades 2 & 3, on **April 12th** for grades 4 & 5, and on **April 13th** for grades 6, 7, & 8. Class representatives compete at their grade level and the winner advances to the next level until school wide winners are named. Family members are welcome to come and cheer on the contestants.

Student Retreat Day

This year's Student Retreat promises to bring our students to a deeper relationship with Our Lord. On **Friday, April 15**, all our students will participate in a day of reverence and reflection. A committee of teachers had organized a full day of prayer, learning sessions, music,

Summer Uniform Option

Beginning **Friday, April 15th**, student may wear their summer uniform as an option. This year transition to optional PE and regular uniform will begin the same day. Since this is our Student Retreat Day, we ask that students wear their PE uniform to school with tennis shoes. As a reminder, summer uniform includes the walking shorts with the belt in lieu of jumpers or long pants. Ties are no required for our older boys.

Band Competition

On **Sunday, April 17th** our Advanced Band students will perform at 12 noon for rating in the Instrumental Music Competition held this year at Notre Dame Prep. Best of luck to our band who have consistently performed exceedingly well at these competitions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Disaster in Japan

The student Social Awareness Committee is still collecting donations to be send to Catholic Relief Services until April 8th. Student donations may be brought to the homerooms or placed directly in to container in the office. Remember to keep all those affected by this recent tragedy in your prayers.

Field Days

Our annual **Field Days** are right around the corner. In the past many, many parents have helped us by volunteering to assist with activities. So that you can plan accordingly I would like to remind you of the dates for Field Days as follows:

Monday, May 3rd – Grades 4, 5 & 6

Tuesday, May 4th – Grades 1 & 2

Wednesday, May 5th – Grades 6, 7, & 8

Thursday, May 6th – Kindergarten

Volunteer sheets will be coming home when we return from Easter break. Mrs. Goldbeck says that parents make these Field Days happen. **Mrs. Goldbeck still needs STAND approved parent volunteers especially from grades 3-8.** Please e-mail Mrs. Goldbeck or send in the volunteer slip. She needs everyone's help and is thankful for anything that you can do.

Baltimore Reads, Inc presents Books for Kids Day May 7th

The Student Outreach Committee will be collecting books for kids for the Baltimore Reads Project from April 18th – May 6th. They are asking that you use this opportunity to carefully choose one or two books your child has read, enjoyed and is willing to donate to children who have few or no books of their own. We accept picture, chapter, and young adult books.

Books can be new or very gently used. No torn pages, writing, or chewed corners please. Books will be delivered on Saturday May 7th.

Opening Day for 2011-2012

The first day of school for students for the fall of 2011 will be Monday, August 29th. This year, all school in the archdiocese will have a common start day so that teachers will all be available for archdiocesan professional activities during the week prior. While this is a change for some schools, St. Joseph School has used this schedule for many years. Please mark your calendar and make arrangements accordingly.

Jump Rope for Heart

St Joseph's pledged \$8,767 to the American Heart Association this year. We had 23 students who raised over \$100 or more for this great cause. Thank you to all.

CLASS NEWS

Grade 7 Science Fair

Each year our 7th Grade students complete a Science Fair project, working either individually or in pairs. Students select a problem, form a hypothesis, test variables, gather data, form a conclusion, and present their findings with a display board and a written abstract. The Top Three

winner are eligible to enter the Baltimore Science Fair, which is held at Towson University on March 27 this year. Congratulations to the Top Ten winners, with special applause to the Top Three!

Top Three:

Andrew Benson – “Respiratory System: The Study of Lung Capacity”

Abby Hultquist – “Which Tooth Polish is ‘Eggsactly’ the Best for Stains”

Jordan Mosco – “Which Grows Chia Grasses the Fastest?”

Remainder of Top Ten:

Bobby Robinson – “Paper or Leaves”

Taylor Rekus and Sara Tolentino – “Chemistry of Baking Ingredients”

Bryan Mellendick – “Non-Newtonian Fluids ‘Does Temperature Affect It?’ “

Anthony Laue and Nick Menikheim – “Caution Hot Metals”

Cari Middlecamp and Shannon Czapla – “Frenzy Flouride ‘Eggs’ periment”

Nicole Rogers and Chrysoula Vasilakopoulos – “Bacteria and Thawing Methods”

Ian Leppo – “Distillation Purification”

Grade 7 and 8

Several 7th and 8th grade students volunteered to participate in *Letters About Literature*. This signature program of the Maryland Center for the Book is a program that inspires young people to write to an author of a book that has somehow changed their worldview or themselves. We are proud to announce that two of our students, 8th grader Matthew McDonald and 7th grader Bobby Robinson placed as state finalists. They will be recognized at an Awards Ceremony at the Enoch Pratt Free Library on April 16th.

Grade 8

Each year on March 14th (Pi Day) our Math Teacher, Mrs. Myszkowski, challenges students to memorize and recite digits following the 3.14 that we traditionally use to determine Pi. This year’s record holders for reciting the pi digits were:

- #1 Bacht Panchal (Grade 7) - 274
- #2 Alexis Coballes (Grade 7) - 155
- #3 Ogechi Iwumune (Grade 8) – 129

Middle School Play

Without a doubt, the highlight of the season was the 7th and 8th grade production of *Everything’s Groovy!* This musical, complete with choreography, brought the house down on March 16th. Everyone’s performance was stellar with credit going to many hours of long hard work and diligent practice. Praise and applause to those listed below for a job well done.

Cast

Andrew Benson
Khrystelle Estrella
Alison Maddox
Jordan Mosco
Maddie Samons
Nicole Rogers
Will Villamayor
Marty Wilson
Rebecca Vincent
Christian Mananghaya
Ogechi Iwumune
Meghan Beck
Tim Coffman

Noelle Acaso
Shannon Czapla
Chimaobi Iwumune
Ezinwa Nwakama
Taylor Rekus
Olivia Kaiss
Rachel Venanzi
Rachel Contreras
Steve Vickers
Andrew Brandt
Arnelle Fonlon
Matt McDonald
Nicole Price

Stage Crew

Maria Esteban (Costumes/Scenery)
Brooke Rosenberger (Costumes/Props)
Chrysoula Vasilakopoulos (Costumes/Props)
Alexis Coballes (Costumes/Scenery)
Sara Tolentino (Costumes/Make Up)
Brittane' Stinebaugh (Costumes/Make Up)
Bryan Mellendick (Scenery)
Ally Westfall (Scenery/Set)
Noah Basmaci (Scenery/Set)
Josh Tamayo (Scenery)
Kelenna Nwakama (Lighting)
Abby Hultquist (Lighting)
Nick Menikheim (Lighting)

Todd Wojeck (Sound)
Jude Makhmreh (Sound)
Steven Appel (Sound)
Matthew Verleur (Sound)
Connor Freeburger (Set)
Bobby Weidle (Set)
Cari Middlecamp (Set)
Bhakti Panchal (Set)
Keegan Kelly (Set)
George Kataxenos (Set)
Trevor Monroe (Set)
Anthony Amodeo (Set)

Faculty Committee

Maria Bowser
Marianne Burke
Michele Freeburger
Julie Martin
Barb Owens
Maria Starcher
Peggy Radziminski

Parent Volunteer (Lights and Sound)

John Vincent

CONGRATULATIONS

Word just in... Saint Joseph's had two state winners in this year's **Zaner Blozer Handwriting Contest**. Congratulations to **Jamie Iringan** in 4B and **Rebecca Vincent** in 7A. These girls were judged against over 200,000 entries. They will receive an engraved medallion at this year's Awards Assembly, a \$200 Zaner Blozer gift certificate for the school and engraved pens for their teachers.

Congratulations to the boys for their successful participation in *Letters About Literature* program mentioned in Class News . 8th grader **Matthew McDonald** wrote to Cornelia Funke about her story "Inkheart" and 7th grader **Bobby Robinson** wrote to Derek Jeter for "The Life You Imagine." As indicated above, they both placed as state finalists among 70,000 entries nationally and 2,375 entries in Maryland. They will be recognized at an Awards Ceremony at the Enoch Pratt Free Library on April 16th.

Congratulations to **Jordan Mosco** who was selected and invited to perform in the Thirty-first Annual representational Band Concert which will be held at Notre Dame Prep on Friday, April 15th.

THANKS TO...

Middle School Play Kudos

While the following 'Thank You' was written by Mrs Radziminski, there is no one who deserves more recognition than she for the outstanding effort she mustered in coordinating and directing this year's production. Countless long afternoons were spent coaching our children in the drama skills that they needed to be effective. Her untiring dedication to our 7th and 8th grade students left a lasting impression on these kids. We are very appreciative for all she has done this year.

Mrs. Karko

Everything's Groovy!

The Middle School production of the 1960's tribute *Everything's Groovy!* was a rousing success! The acting, singing, and dancing were superb. The stage crew did everything perfectly. Now that the lights of the stage are off, and everything is back to normal (whatever that is!), I would like to express my appreciation to a number of people who made this such a hit:

- To Mrs. Karko for her trust in us that we will come through with a topnotch production and her support in all things theatrical!
- To Mrs. Michaud, Maintenance, and the Faculty and Staff (especially the Middle School teachers who had to put up with disruptions in spite of our assertions that there will be none!) for their support and encouragement
- To the parents who encouraged their child to work so hard for this production and for their willingness to make special runs after school for the many late pickups.
- To the terrific audience made up of family and friends who inspired us to give such a great performance
- To anyone who lent us costumes and props
- To a friend who lent us the spotlight
- To homeroom 7B for putting up with all the chaos the play created in the classroom
- To Mr. John Vincent who provided us with invaluable technical support regarding sound and lights as well as his enthusiasm
- To the Faculty Play Committee:
 - Mrs. Bowser for her work with the student artists on scenery and the tie-dye t-shirts
 - Ms. Burke for her chairing the props subcommittee and creating some wonderful props with the students as well as her support at after school rehearsals
 - Mrs. Freeburger for her work with the performers on dialogue, her after school assistance with rehearsals, and her work with the stage crew for the performance
 - Ms. Martin for her work with the singers, in groups and solos
 - Mrs. Owens for her assistance at after school rehearsals and her job as performance prompter
 - Mrs. Starcher for her wonderful choreography

And, most importantly,

- To the seventh and eighth grade students who performed so well and worked so hard to make this musical a success as well as those students who volunteered for the awesome backstage work on the crew!

A few little known tidbits of information related to the play:

- Mrs. Starcher was helping to choreograph Curley's production of *Oklahoma!* at the same time we were working on our play here at St. Joe's. What a trooper!
- Just several weeks before the production, a student was unable to continue in a role in the play and two eighth grade boys who had not even been part of the production volunteered to take over the role of Swashbuckler: Steve Vickers and Andrew Brandt. We tweaked the part so the two of them could do it, and they filled in flawlessly.
- On the morning of the production, Tim Coffman who was playing the part of Beads, a key hippie in the show, was quite sick and unable to perform. We persuaded Matt McDonald, an eighth grader who already had one part, to assume the second role. He did so with good humor and even learned the second character's lines and gestures. Even a very quick costume change did not seem to faze him!
- The show hinted at a romance between two of the characters, and they reluctantly had to sing a "love" song. It was reported that more than one student in the lower grades was moved to tears since the performance of the song was so "romantic!"

What a groovy time we had in putting on this show! All I can say is it was outta sight, man!

Mrs. Radziminski

BITS AND PIECES

Cell Phones

The following paragraph appeared in last years' April Newsletter. I want to again remind parents that our Handbook clearly states that students may not carry cell phones into the building. Cell phones and other electronic equipment may **not** be brought into the classrooms and may **not** be kept in bookbags, desks, or clothing during the day. Please speak with your children to make sure they are not violating our policy.

In this age of rapid communication, many of our children have access to cell phones. Some children need to call parents after the school day and therefore, want to bring the phone to school. According to our policy, children who need to have a cell phone for use before or after school, must bring the phone to the school office for safe keeping during the day and pick it up at dismissal. This policy has been effective in allowing the child to be in touch with the parents when necessary and, at the same time, avoiding disruption during the school day.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

For archived copies of the weekly HASA email, visit the St. Joseph School website:
<http://www.stjoeschool.org/hasa.html>

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

In February, I highlighted an activity, Mix It Up Day, that was implemented in the eighth grade to help build positive relationships. For the past month grades K – 3rd were introduced to the theme of feeling good ourselves by being good to others, which can be found in the book, Have You Filled A Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud. It is a simple, but very effective concept that is illustrated by teaching kids that everyone has an invisible bucket that is filled by the good deeds we do for others. The author addresses the problem of "bullying by using the term" "bucket dippers" – kids who think they can fill their bucket by dipping into others' buckets. Students quickly and enthusiastically grasped the message of the book. When asked how they

could fill someone's bucket, students generated a wealth of examples such as sharing, saying hi, helping someone, asking someone to play, helping at home, giving their teachers a hug etc. I was particularly taken with a kindergartener who volunteered his idea that we could help people in Japan.

If you walk through the elementary school hallway, you will see a display table, complete with buckets, sand, flip flops and the words "Be A Bucket Filler", which several teachers created to reinforce the concept. In every class, students drew pictures and wrote about one way they were going to fill a bucket. Their work was then rolled up and placed in a class bucket, to be reviewed and discussed in 1 – 2 weeks.

I would encourage you to ask your child about what he/she has learned about "bucket filling". One of our teachers mentioned to me that her daughter, a first grader, taught her about the idea and they now incorporate this as a part of their everyday vocabulary in discussing ways to be kind to one another at home. I hope you too find it to be valuable for your family.

On another note, a quick update on other activities during the month of March: Ann Gearhart, from the Snyder Foundation for Animals returned to our school to present to 2nd, 4th, 6th and 7th graders. Second graders topic was "Living in Our World, while fourth graders learned about Animals in the Bible. Sixth graders were taught about Endangered Species and seventh graders learned about The Connection Between Animal Cruelty and Violence Towards Others. It was an enjoyable and stimulating day for all. In addition, Lisa Palmer, coordinator for Kids On the Block Puppets, and her assistant, performed for second and third graders on the topic of Bullying and Conflict Resolution. Lisa commented that she was impressed with how well our students participated and shared such thoughtful ideas on these two issues.

If you have any other ideas of presentations or programs you would like me to pursue for our students, please feel free to contact me at school. You can either e-mail me at gvernick@stjoefullerton.org or call me at 410-256-8026.

I wish everyone a wonderful Easter and a safe, enjoyable and much needed break week!

My best,
Gail Vernick, LCSW-C

Catholic school students, families, and teachers— Make your voice heard!



Urge your lawmakers to support the **BOAST Maryland Tax Credit.**

The BOAST Maryland Tax Credit, House Bill 932, is sitting in the House Ways and Means Committee with just a few weeks remaining this legislative session. BOAST could significantly assist Catholic families by giving businesses a tax credit for their donations to organizations that would:

- ▶ Increase scholarships for Catholic school students.
- ▶ Provide grants to Catholic school teachers for professional development.
- ▶ Help stabilize enrollments at Catholic schools.
- ▶ Benefit public school students with greater access to extracurricular and afterschool education programs.

Contact your delegate by email or telephone today, thank him for his support of BOAST and ask him to urge his colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee to do the same

Delegate Joe Boteler, District 8
Ways & Means Committee

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