



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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

Monthly Newsletter December, 2011 and January, 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*Did I not tell you that if you believed
you would see the glory of God?*

John 11:40

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As a child I could not wait to be all grown up and on my own. I had this independent streak that forced me to attempt everything without any support or assistance. It was this stubborn resistance from relying on others for help, caused by an overdose of pride, which made me believe that I was capable of tackling all things by myself. I was convinced it was a special gift and I could not understand why family members sarcastically called me "Miss Independent".

Fortunately for me, I was also 'blessed' with a series of obstacles that forced me to cooperate and to depend on others. I had some difficulty with this at first, learning to bite my tongue and wait for someone else to step up. Eventually, I found more patience and learned to actually enjoy approaching problems with group effort and recommendations. I learned that it actually takes the pressure off and frees up time to see the big picture.

This teamwork approach goes far beyond personal interactions. It has become an important trend in education. In the future, students must be prepared not only for the content of work they will encounter but also for the method that they will attack that work. Our children must learn how to solve problems co-operatively. They must learn how to gather information then collaboratively apply it in creative solutions. During our Professional Days this year, our teachers are being trained in differentiated instruction which include techniques in presenting material in various ways to assure that the children are actively engaged in learning and applying the skills and content. Furthermore, at St. Joseph School our children are taught to ask the Holy Spirit to help them to use their gifts wisely and appropriately. We believe that God is also 'actively engaged' with us each and every day.

As we share the Christmas season with one another, let us show our children ways of working together. Giving means more than sharing toys and not being greedy. It is that spirit of flexibility and willingness to work with people even if the outcome is not what was planned.

May you and your family have a most Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Phyllis Karko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 1 Advent Prayer Service follows 8:15 Liturgy
- 3 HASA Lunch with Santa 11:00 Parish Center, 8th Gr. High School Testing #1
- 4 HASA Raven's Party 3:30 @ Amped Up
- 5 Reconciliation gr. 3-5 at 10:45, gr.6-8 at 1:00
- 8 Immaculate Conception Liturgy 8:15
- 9 Santa's Secret Shop
- 10 8th Gr. High School Admission Testing #2
- 13 Band Concert & Play 1PM for school, 7 PM family & friends, Market Day Delivery
- 16 Pre-K Show, Parish Center
- 22 Classroom Christmas Parties, Noon Dismissal (No Pre K AM or PM)
School Closed Until January 3
- 27 HASA Ice Skating Party @ Ice World

January

- 3 Classes resume for all grades
- 4 8th grade Composite Pictures; HASA Hot Spot Parking Lot Raffle sale begins
- 5 Blessing for the New Year 8:15 Liturgy, Hot Lunch packets distributed
- 9-20 Midterm Exams –Grades 4-8
- 13 Noon Dismissal – Technology training for staff
- 16 School Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
- 17 Market Day Delivery
- 19 Hot Lunch Packet orders and money due
- 20 HASA Fathers' Club Snowball Social Family Event
- 25 HASA Ledo Pizza Night
- 27 Noon Dismissal – Professional Activities, HASA at Chick-fil-A fundraiser lunch
- Jan 29-Feb 3 Catholic Schools Week
- 29 1:15 Open House & Band Concert
- 30 Teacher Appreciation Day
- 31 Biography Day – Grade 6

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Advent Services

Following 8:15 Mass on Thursday, Dec. 1st, our Grade 1 students will present an Advent Prayer Service. During this special time of year, we try to keep our children focused on the birth of Jesus as individual grades are scheduled to join our parishioners for Daily Mass. Students in Grades 3 to 8 will go to confession on Monday, December 5th. On December 8th, the Feast of the

Immaculate Conception, all students will attend the Parish 8:15 Mass. We invite you to join us for any and all liturgies.

Lunch with Santa

Ho, Ho Ho! Listen hard and you can hear the bells as Santa arrives for our 7th annual HASA *Lunch with Santa* held on Saturday, Dec. 3rd in the Parish Center. St. Joe school children and CCD students are invited to a pizza or hot dog lunch, games, crafts, face painting and visit with Santa. Tickets are still available through the school but going fast. As of this writing, we do not know if tickets will be available at the door.

Ravens' Party at Amped-Up

There are just a few days to go to cheer our Ravens on to victory against the Cleveland Browns. Why not join your friends and watch the game together at the HASA Ravens' Party to be held at Amped-Up on Route 43? Kick off has been changed to 4:05 so the doors will open at 3:30. For tickets or more information call Renay Grasso at 410-227-7325.

Santa's Secret Shop

No peeking!!! Our HASA is again sponsoring Santa's Secret Workshop for our children to purchase gifts for their loved ones on Friday, Dec. 9th. The youngest children will be assisted with their shopping by their 'Buddies' in the older grades. You can help you child by preparing the lists and giving us some hints of who they need to buy for.

Christmas Performances

Our annual Christmas Play and Band Concert is just what we need to get into the spirit of the season. Mark your calendar for December 13th as our award winning School Band will perform twice - once at 1:00 for students and again at 7:00 for families and friends. Our Fourth Grade will present their annual Christmas Play following both concerts. This year's performances will not disappoint.

Pre-K Annual Christmas Show

Each year our 4 year olds take to the stage as the present the *Best Thing about Christmas*. These children perform the Christmas Pageant as only the littlest of God's creatures can. If you want to feel what Christmas is all about, you are welcome to come to their performances on Friday, December 16th at 9:45 or 1:45.

Student Social Awareness Committee Activities

The Middle School Social Awareness Committee has organized several activities for the Christmas season. The first and largest is a Christmas collection for the Baltimore Pregnancy Center. This collection has traditionally been a wonderful testament to the generous nature of our students and their

families. Your donations are a blessing to the center and very much needed and appreciated. Your child received a wish list before Thanksgiving. Items will be collected until Thurs. December 8th.

Next, Santa's Helpers will soon be decorating our halls. Student elves from each of the homerooms will design a Christmas tree that is uniquely their own. Everyone is looking forward to the transformation of our halls and seeing the ideas from each class.

Finally, on December 22nd, our last day of school before Christmas holidays begin, students will be allowed to come to school dressed in their own red, green, or Christmas themed clothes. Clothing must be appropriate for both school and church and may not contain any offensive words or pictures.

Blessing of the School

Our parish priest and deacon will bless our school after the 8:15 Mass on Thursday, January 5th to begin the new school year with God's blessings. The celebrant, our 4th grade 'Three Kings', and student body will process from church to school as the year in numerals and the initials of the Three Kings (20+C+M+B+12) are placed over the front door. This is a beautiful tradition that reminds us that God will protect us in a special way.

Noon Dismissal on January 13th Begins Long Weekend

This year our teachers are all using the 'Smartboard' type system called Mimio. To effectively use all its components, teachers were supposed to receive round two of training during our half days in late August. Mother Nature had other plans, however, and due to the hurricane, school opened later that week. This training has been rescheduled to the afternoon of Friday, January 13th. School will close at noon that day so that teachers can attend the in-service. School is closed on Monday, January 16th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Fathers' Club Snowball Social

Mark you calendar for Friday, January 20th and look for details for the First Annual Fathers' Club Snowball Social to be held in the Parish Center. Families will dress up in their Sunday Best and enjoy a night of music and festivities to get us out of the winter doldrums. More information will be coming home via Constant Contact.

Ledo Pizza Night

Our HASA will again sponsor a night at Ledo Pizza on Campbell Blvd on Wednesday, January 25th. Come early! Word is it gets very crowded as families don't want to leave. This is a family dinner out event that promises to be a fun evening for all.

HASA Chick-fil-A Lunch

In order to prepare for Open House and other Catholic School Week Activities, School closes at noon on Friday, January 27th. Students and families are encouraged to meet at Chick-

fil-A on Belair Road near Joppa Rd. for a luncheon fundraiser for the Home and School Association.

Catholic School Week

Each year Catholic Schools throughout the country celebrate all that is special about Catholic Schools. This year, Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 30th, with our *Open House* tours of the school from 1:15 to 2:45. Prospective and current parents are guided through the building by the faculty, invited to speak with staff and listen to our school band. Our Book Fair will also be open for anyone to purchase books and materials. Pre-registration for new students opens that day. Please invite your families and friends to come and see what a quality education St. Joseph School can offer to them.

The festivities continue on Monday, January 30th with *Teacher Appreciation Day*. In the past our HASA has treated the teachers to lunch and classes have prepared something special for their teachers. On Tuesday, our 6th grade students dress up and present famous characters from history during *Biography Day*. *Visiting Day*, on Wednesday offers a chance to see our students in action during the school day. Our *CSW Mass* and the *Catholic Challenge* will be held on Thursday, Feb 2nd and *Student Appreciation Day* (with noon dismissal) is on Friday, Feb 3rd. (HASA Bowling is scheduled at noon that day.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Schedule

School **dismisses at noon on Thursday, Dec. 22nd** and **resumes on Tuesday, January, 3rd**. We wish you a Merry and Miraculous Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.

Students in Grades 4 to 8 take various **mid term exams** during the weeks of January 9th and January 17th. Exams are generally 'worth' the same as two chapter tests but the content is cumulative from the beginning of the year. Please check with the children for their exact schedule and make every attempt to be present. Other classes and homework continue during exams weeks.

School dismisses at **noon on January 13th** and is **closed on January 16th** for the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday. School **dismisses at noon on Friday, January 27th** for teachers' professional activities following student dismissal.

Heads –up! Change in Schedule

As announced a few weeks ago in an Alert Now message, we had to make a change in the schedule of our spring Professional Day. As a result, school will be closed on February 17th for teacher Professional Development. School will be open on March 12th, however, (the original date for this professional training.). Please make a note of this.

Inclement Weather

I want to remind you that, as required by the Archdiocese, we have made a change in how we will announce that we are closed for inclement weather. **We will follow the decision made by Baltimore County Public Schools** and not make a separate announcement about St. Joseph School. There are occasions when our schedules conflict and we need to announce separately. I will use WBAL (NBC) should this occur. I will attempt to send email to families as an additional reminder if we are late or close in the morning but the system has not been reliable when used from a remote location, so please continue to listen to WBAL (NBC).

Absences

Please remember to call or send an email via the website to our school nurse each day that your child is absent. Whether it is an illness, doctor's appointment, or injury we need to know why your child is not in school. Homework requests may be made via the website as well. Please make your request before 9:00 so that the children can gather the work as they proceed through the day.

CLASS NEWS

Grades 4 & 5 Help Johns Hopkins Children's Center

On Monday, October 31st the 4th and 5th grades did a giving project. They decorated gift bags with really cute drawings of fall scenes. Then they filled the bags with small gifts, which were provided by The Ryan Foundation Inc. Each student was very thoughtful in choosing gifts that they felt would cheer up a sick child. The students were really excited to help out and give their time to help create a gift to cheer up someone less fortunate. Parents Kelli Szczybor, Katie Disney, Lori Cover, and Julie McKay delivered all the gift bags to Johns Hopkins Children's Center on the Cancer Unit on Tuesday. The children in the hospital were thrilled. It really brightened their day! They wanted to know all about the generous students that wanted to help give them such nice gifts, decorated so nicely too!

Student Retreat Preparation

In January and February, grade level workshops will be offered by Ann Gearhart and her dog, Spirit, to help our children see the importance of living in this world in co-operation with all of nature. This year the children in Pre-K through 5th grade have been filling each others' buckets with kind words and deeds while our Middle School have lived up the their pledges in the FISH Philosophy. We will continue to keep the theme of being kinder and gentler in the foreground so that the children will get the most out of our Student Retreat on March 9th.

CONGRATULATIONS

Knights of Columbus Poster Contest

Each Year the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Burgraff Council, sponsors a poster contest to encourage the theme of Keep Christ in Christmas. Congratulations to the following children whose artwork was selected as winners:

Grades 3-4: Kaylee Copenspire (3A)

Grades 5-6: Jana Mae Tan (6B)

Grades 7-8: Bhakti Panchal (8B)

The Knights will be here at our Band Concert on December 13th to present these students with a \$50 check and trophy. Their winning posters are being submitted to the State.

In addition there were six other finalists, who will be presented with a Finalist Certificate.

The finalists are:

Andrew Wells (3A)

Kyleigh Waugh (3B)

Sophia Edwards (5A)

Sierra Kurek (6A)

Leanna Robinson (7A)

Taylor Rekus (8B)

The Knights would like to thank Mrs. Bowser who coordinated this activity and the students for participating in the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest and again making this a wonderful Council activity. All of the posters we judged were excellent.

Cross Country Results from Mrs. Goldbeck

Curley Classic Cross Country Run Race was held on Monday, November, 14, 2011. Students from area Catholic Schools competed in various age groups, running on the hills and valleys around Curley's campus. St. Joseph's had 23 runners and all finished the long course. The top finishers were:

Grade 4 Boys: Eryk Sagisi 1st place and Sam Stitz in 3rd place.

Grade 5 and under Girls: Rachel Thomas 3rd and Marissa Lesko 9th.

Grades 5 & 6 Boys: Ben Stitz 1st and Emmanuel Sagisi 10th.

Girls 6, 7 & 8 Girls: Adria Pirozzi 2nd and Erin Sagisi 5th.

Boys 7 & 8: Zack Urbanski 4th.

Thank you to all runners and parents for another great season.

THANKS TO...

...The National Junior Honor Society and their moderator, Mrs. Kerry Loraditch who organized a very successful canned food drive for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Thanks, also, to our families who went above and beyond in some cases to bring in lots of food for the sisters. The Little Sisters were very appreciative of your generosity as they continue in their ministry to serve the elderly in need.

...To Mrs. Michaud, teachers, staff, and students for their outpouring of support on Principal's Appreciation Day. The cards, posters, flowers and Swedish fish kept me smiling all during parent teacher conference days and for many days to come. A big hug and thank you to all of you for making me feel so special

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Recent happenings and reminders can be found in the Constant Contact emails that are sent out every Friday. Make sure you keep the HASA aware of any changes to your email address.

Upcoming events include:

Saturday, December 3th – Lunch with Santa 11 -2pm in the Parish Center

Sunday, December 4th - Raven's Party – 3:30 at 'Amped-up'

Sunday, December 4, 11, 18th – Scrip Orders due by midnight

Friday, December 9th – Santa's Secret Shop per schedule – Parish Center

Tuesday, December 27th – Family Ice Skating at Ice World

Wednesday, January 4th - Hot Spot Raffle Flyers go home

Thursday, January 5th – Hot Lunch Packets distributed

Wednesday, January 11th – Market Day Orders Due

Tuesday, January 17th – Market Day Delivered

Thursday, January 20th – Hot Lunch Packets due

Wednesday, January 25th – Ledo Pizza Night
Hot Spot Raffle Chances due

Friday, January 27th – Chick-Fil-A for Lunch after Noon Dismissal

Where are we now?

Where are we headed?



Catholic School Advocacy in Maryland

Each family embraces their own educational values and should have the opportunity to choose the school that best suits their child's needs, interests, and talents. Working with our Catholic schools and partners throughout Maryland, we seek to advance legislation that will provide families with the financial resources they need to secure the best education for their children.

Our Mission

- ◆ Ensure that Maryland families can provide their children with the best education possible.
- ◆ Provide financial support to low-income families who wish to provide their children with a Catholic school education.
- ◆ Grow enrollments at our Catholic schools by enabling more families to afford private school.

Your Support Counts!

Let's make sure that our legislators know that Catholic school families need their support too!

Sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network to receive updates on our legislative efforts. We'll let you know when it's time to contact your legislator about key votes affecting support for Catholic schools!

To sign up, visit www.mdathcon.org and click on Catholic Advocacy Network.

Legislative History

The BOAST Tax Credit legislation would have provided businesses with a 75 percent state tax credit for donations to organizations that support nonpublic school students and teachers.

The Good News

- ◆ The Maryland Senate passed BOAST during the 2008 and 2010 legislative sessions.
- ◆ Governor Martin O'Malley publically expressed support for BOAST in 2010 and 2011.

The upcoming session will be **pivotal** for advancement of legislation that would provide families and students with financial assistance through scholarships. We will be working hard to advance this legislation but need widespread and committed support. Join us as we work together to support our Catholic school families and students.

For more information, contact:

Ellen Robertson
Maryland Catholic Conference
erobertson@mdcathcon.org
410-269-1155



CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK

“To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.”

-Pope Benedict XVI

The Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN) is an outreach of the Maryland Catholic Conference. The Conference advocates on behalf of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington for public policies that promote the dignity of the human person and social justice. Help bring Gospel values to the public square by joining CAN, which features:

- E-mail alerts on legislation under consideration by state and federal lawmakers.
- E-mail messages relevant to issues you choose: education, family life, respect for life, or social concerns.
- Quick, easy-to-use, pre-drafted messages to send to your elected officials (as-is, or modified to suit your style).
- Strict protection of your information, which will not be shared with other organizations.

www.mdcathcon.org

JOIN TODAY!

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

(E-mail required)

Parish/School: _____

I would like to receive alerts about:

- Education** (Catholic schools)
- Family Life** (marriage, adoption, family/work issues)
- Respect for Life** (the unborn, pregnancy support, bioethics, end-of-life, death penalty)
- Social Concerns** (poverty, health care, immigration, criminal justice)
- All of the above**

10 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

410-269-1155 / 301-261-1979

Fax: 410-269-1790

Nonpublic Education Funding in Maryland & Nearby States 2010-2011

New York

\$160 million for 488,000 nonpublic students

Reimbursement for Mandated Services	\$103 million
Academic Intervention	\$920,000
Technology Grants	\$3.25 million
Pre-K Programs	\$8 million
Textbooks	\$58.25 per pupil
Software	\$14.98 per pupil
Library Aid	\$6.75 per pupil
Computer Hardware Aid	\$12 per pupil

New Jersey

\$149.5 million for 164,000 nonpublic students

Transportation	\$70 million
Auxiliary Services	\$27.1 million
Special Education	\$31 million
Nursing	\$10.6 million
Textbooks	\$7.5 million
Special Education Transportation	\$3.1 million

Pennsylvania

\$264 million for 277,000 nonpublic students

Textbooks	\$26.2 million
Auxiliary Services	\$86.3 million
Transportation	\$76.6 million
Education Improvement Tax Credit	\$75 million

Maryland

\$4.4 million for 109,924 nonpublic students

Textbooks	\$4.4 million
-----------	---------------