



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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

Monthly Newsletter

October, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*I will instruction you and teach you
The way you should go.*

Psalm 32:8

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Here is a first for me. Instead of writing an essay about children or good parenting, I am going to use this space tell you about a major change in one of our most important procedures – dismissal! Yes, you heard me right – we are going to change the way we dismiss the cars from the parking lot at 2:50 each day.

Let me explain why we are making this change. Every year I have heard legitimate complaints about how space on the front of the parking lot (Belair Road side) has been rendered inaccessible by drivers who do not move their cars to the next available row in front. Instead they block the access lane, in an attempt to be the last car in a lane that dismisses earlier. As a result, cars cannot pass behind them to get to the lanes in the front of the lot.

Effective on Monday, October 3rd the “Starter” teacher will move to the two lanes closest to Belair Road, FIRST. Please park so that the lane closest to Belair Road can head north out of the driveway at the light (Lane #1) and the second line (right next to it) can head south at the light (Lane #2). Cars should try to park in the appropriate lane but you will have plenty of time to jockey for your correct lane as you approach the light. If you are in the wrong line, just look and move carefully to the correct lane as you exit. When these lanes have emptied, the teacher will move to the next two lines. All the lanes will exit two by two until we get to the top when single file is appropriate. When you park, turn your car to face south. The access lane is not a dismissal lane. Kindergarten Express Lane will remain as is, with dismissal at 2:40. Please do not fill up the curb lane until the Kindergarten parents have all exited. Hopefully, this change will allow all the cars to fit on the lot avoiding the waste of space.

There are three other new projects that are just getting off the ground. Please read this newsletter to learn more about our new website launch, the Scrip program and the newly completed Sports Court.

Despite record breaking rain, our school year has gotten off to a smooth start. I pray that you have peacefully established the routines needed to make the year a success.

Peace,

Mrs. Phyllis Karko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

4	Feast of St. Francis 8:15 Liturgy All Welcome Hot Lunch Program begins (Chick-fil-A), Band Begins
5	HASA Individual Pictures, 8:30 – 1:00 in Parish Center
5	Interim Reports distributed for Grade K to 2
6	Principal's Scholars' Dinner 6:30 Parish Center (by invitation)
7	HASA – Wine Tasting 7 – 11 pm Parish Center
10	School Closed, AOB Religious Education training for teachers
11	<i>Flu-mist</i> distribution program Market Day delivery
16	Parish Fall Chicken Dinner & Bazaar
17	Winter uniform required
18	Joe Corbi form sent home
20	Innisbrook orders delivered, Individual Picture Make-ups
24-28	Red Ribbon Week for Anti-Drug Education
28	Red Ribbon Week Parade, 1:00 Parking Lot

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

St. Francis Liturgy

Please join us on Tuesday, October 4th at 8:15 Mass as we honor St. Francis of Assisi on his Feast Day. We are especially connected to this saint as our school was served by the Franciscan Sisters for many years. Our 8th graders have arranged for a special liturgy to recognize this saint for his unselfish service to others.

Interim Report Cards

Interim Progress Reports will be distributed to students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 on Wednesday, October 5th. 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. Remember to use the login and password you created.

Individual Pictures

Our Home and School Association will sponsor Individual Picture Day on Wednesday, October 5th. 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

Each year, we are proud to recognize those students who made the Honor Roll in the 4th through 8th grade during Principal's Scholars Dinner. This dinner for family and friends of our scholars will be held in the Parish Center on Thursday, October 6th at 6:30. Students who earn Honor Roll status in all three marking periods of the previous year and have satisfactory conduct and effort were invited last June. They and their 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. This is Mrs. Richards' last year as chairperson since Steven is a freshman now. She will pass the torch to Mrs. Stacey Coffman who will serve as chair next year.

Harvest Moon Grape Escape

For a chance to sample great wines and micro-brews, don't miss the fourth annual Harvest Moon Grape Escape Wine Tasting Evening on Friday, October 7th in the Parish Center. The event includes food and hors d'oeuvres catered by Bill's Seafood, 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. Contact Andrea at amscherm@comcast.net or 410-515-1148.

School Closed – Professional Training

School will be closed to students on Monday, October 10th so that teachers can attend the required archdiocesan training in the new Equip for Ministry program. 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

Our Innisbrook Wrapping Paper fundraiser is over but the final count is not yet in. Three of our homerooms - **4B, 5A, and 7A** – achieved 100% participation in the sale and, as a result, those students may come out of uniform on Wednesday, October 13th. 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.

Also on that day, the 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 Monday, October 17th. 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 she will inform the students.

Chicken Dinner

The famous St. Joseph Parish Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 16th. The meal is known 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. (Dads, I think Fr. Kevin would love for you to lend a hand in cutting up the chickens on Saturday morning.) In addition, we will be asking families with students in grades 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 24th, 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 28th 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPORTS COURT

After more than one month of anticipation that the rain would not stop, the final coats of 'latexite' paint was spread on Monday, September 26th. The field, funded by the previous Race for Education, was designed to include 6 goal areas – two for full court games and 4 for half court. It also includes two hopscotch courts and two 4 square courts. While it is still 'curing' as of this writing, Mrs Goldbeck already has the equipment and is anxious to get the children out there to teach the new activities.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Brian Petr for his dedicated efforts in securing the contractors and following through with the construction. He also spearheaded the efforts of the Fathers' Club in framing the playground edge to keep the mulch secure. Thanks so much to all the men for their help in getting this wonderful project complete. I'm sure our children will get many years of service from this facility.

RACE FOR EDUCATION

Every other year, our School Board, through the school Development Office headed by Mrs. Primrose conducts the Race for Education to benefit our school. We have used the proceeds to build the Tot Lot Playground, to complete the Sports Court, to purchase technology and support the operating budget. This year the profits will go to the operating budget to update technology, particularly to purchase teacher computers because of their increased need for capacity to power the Mimio and projection systems and saved voice and video. We hope you will make every effort to make the Race for Education a success. Labels are due on October 3rd and the race will be held on November 7th (weather permitting).

SHOP WITH SCRIP to BANK FAMILY TUITION SAVINGS

Have you started Shopping with Scrip yet? Now is the time to start earning dollars toward YOUR tuition bill for the 2012/2013 school year! One family has already earned \$17 toward their tuition, and another earned \$23.95 after spending just \$50 on a Restaurant.com gift card!

It's simple... Sign up with ShopWithScrip @ <http://www.shopwithscrip.com>. The SJS enrollment code is LD4BL1393L119. Create your account, then set-up PrestoPay. Since we're "going green", this fundraiser will be check-free -- only online payments please! The PrestoPay set-up takes a couple days, as the company will place two small deposits in your bank account that need to be verified to complete the registration. But after that is done, it's time to SHOP!!

ShopWithScrip offers gift cards from hundreds of retailers. The retailers sell the certificates at a discount... you purchase the certificates at full face value and redeem them for full face value... and SJS gets the difference! Here's the best part -- the HASA is only keeping 1.5% of the face value -- YOUR FAMILY banks the remainder of the rebate toward next year's tuition!

The next order will be placed on Monday, October 3rd and another on Monday, October 17th. Family orders must be submitted online by midnight on Sunday. More info will be shared at the November HASA Meeting on 11/3.... but why wait?! Start now and start banking those tuition dollars!

NEW ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL WEBSITE!

After months of tedious and painstaking construction, our new St. Joseph School website will be launched during the weekend of October 8-9th. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Maria Starcher and Mr. Brian Petr, our new content managed site has much more information, video clips, graphics and interactivity. Most impressive is the button on the home page that allows parents to report absences electronically. We strongly encourage you to spend time exploring our website and contact us with your comments.

HASA FAMILY DIRECTORY

Next week you will receive a flyer from the HASA that we ask you to read and return by the deadline. The flyer will describe how our annual directory will be distributed this year. It will also be your only means of letting us know if you do not want certain information printed. Your name will appear, however. Please keep an eye out for the flyer.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The summary of the financial report of the 2010-2011 school year can be found on the new website. Last year, because of sound enrollment, was a good year for us financially. Pie charts that report income and expenses can be found at www.stjoefullertonschool.org as soon as the new website is up and running (weekend of October 8th).

REWARD AND BONUS PROGRAMS

It's time to re-register or sign up as a new Giant Bonus Card user. Shopping at Giant starting October 7 earns dollars for our school. Our school ID number is 01647, but you must re-register every year. If you need a new card because you've lost it, simply call 1-877-366-2668. You can also sign up for PEAPOD, the home grocery delivery service and those points also go toward the school! As a last bonus for simply shopping at Giant or thru PEAPOD, you receive 10 cents off for every \$100.00 dollars spent at the store for up to \$2.20 off per gallon at participating Shell gas stations. So, you don't have to do anything but buy groceries or have them delivered to your door and you will be earning money for St. Joseph's! PEAPOD service is dependable, courteous and they even take your coupons! So get on board and sign up today to earn cash for our school.

Please continue to save those Boxtops, Campbells' labels, and to sign up for the reward programs at **Giant, Safeway, Target**, and any **E-script*** (Safeway's) program. (*This is not the same program as Shop with Scrip (aka SCRIP). It is the Safeway and affiliates bonus program.)

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

PARENT SURVEY

Last spring our parents completed a survey that was focused on the best ways to Market our school. Parents used this opportunity to let us know what we should stress as we spoke about St. Joe to prospective parents. They also expressed some things that they thought we could strengthen. While, there were no real areas that were consistently mentioned, a few things were addressed.

To increase support for students that have difficulties, in addition to our Resource Lab pull out program, we have changed our Reading program to include differentiated instructional groups in Kindergarten to 5th grade. We also have added a Reading Enrichment Program for students in Grades 4 and 5 for the more gifted learner. Additionally, the new Mimio technology will help teachers bring material to life, helping students engage more directly with the content.

CLASS NEWS

Last Year's Grade 5 Helps Ronald McDonald House.

The children in fifth grade collected can tabs as one of the service projects last year. Each week messengers would collect the can tabs from the other classrooms on hot lunch days. Others brought baggies full of can tabs from home to add to our collection. Several bars collected the tabs and sent them to school in large plastic jars. By the end of the school year we collected five large cardboard boxes full of tabs. Mrs. Keefer and Mrs. Radziminski took the boxes downtown to the Ronald McDonald House. There the tabs are recycled. The monies earned from the weight of the tabs were used to help shuttle the visiting families between the Ronald McDonald House and the Hospital. We received a letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Pagnotti, thanking all those who helped make this possible. Last year's fifth grade students thank all who contributed.

(Submitted by Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Keefer)

CONGRATULATIONS

National Junior Honor Society

Congratulations to the following 7th and 8th grade students who were inducted into the St. Joseph School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. To qualify, they must have earned all A's or above for the previous year end (a B+ allowed in Enrichment Math), and demonstrated service, leadership, citizenship and character. During the ceremony on Thursday, September 23rd, past members read the criteria and welcomed the new inductees. We are very proud of:

6th Gr. (current 7): Mya Buschman
Alyssa Doverte
Hannah Laue
Ryan Manning
Erin Urbanski
Zachary Urbanski
James Ellis, Jr.
Adria Pirozzi
Darius Pirozzi
Ianna Pirozzi
Tyler Sosnowski
Clyde Tubal

7th Gr. (current 8): Nicholas Menikheim
Jordan Mosco
Ian Leppo

JOHNS HOPKINS CTY PROGRAM

This is the time of year that Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth begins its search for qualified students. You can learn about the program at ctyinfo@jhu.edu.

Angela Estavillo (in Grade 5 last year) and Darius Pirozzi (in Grade 6 last year) took the SCAT exam as part of the program and were recognized for High Honors in the Reading/Verbal portion of the test.

THANKS TO...

..... all the families that participated in the **Innisbrook Sale** this year. Congratulations to our many prize winners including top sellers Gabby Cruse, Christian Stecco and Dylan Long. Three homerooms (4B, 5A and 7A) had 100% participation in the sale so those students can come out of uniform on October 13th. A special '*Thank You*' with a big hug goes out to **Mrs. Cindy Christy and Mrs. Kelli Szczybor**. They and their committee members are deeply appreciated.

.....**Brian Petr** who is the parent of Alex and Amelia, husband of Julie, School Board member, Fathers' Club vice president, and technology superstar in my book. Brian has given

countless service hours to our school in the construction of the Sports' Court, our new website and inaugural year of the Fathers' Club. His wife and children are also to be thanked for sharing him with us. Brian, St. Joseph School deeply appreciates all that you do.

BITS AND PIECES

Many of you shop at Target and use your REDcard. Target donates up to 1% of the purchases to the school that you have designated. As a result of last years' sales, St. Joseph School received a check for \$1,020.35! This money is used for student support services including our clubs, prizes and gifts for the students and the like. Thank you so much for supporting our school.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Fall is upon us and so are many allergies and illnesses! Reminder that if your child suffers from *seasonal allergies*, please make sure they are taking the proper medication to help ease their symptoms. I have been seeing a lot of students with complaints of headaches, nasal congestion and sore throats from post nasal drip. Keeping your child ***well hydrated*** also will help with some of these symptoms. This also is the time that students with Asthma tend to have exacerbations, closely monitor your child.

The Baltimore County Health Department will be conducting a free **FluMist** clinic here at school on October 11th. Consents were sent home last week. Please have consents back no later than Friday September 30th. If you choose not to participate, I urge you to have your child immunized by their Pediatrician. A second dose is required if the student was not immunized last year and/or 8 years and under. The second dose will be administered November 8th. Your child will receive a paper stating they were vaccinated. So far, many parents are taking advantage of this great (and free) opportunity!

Baltimore County will be conducting the **Hearing & Vision Screenings** in November, packets to be coming home in mid October. Grades tested are: Pre K, Kindergarten not screened in Pre K, 1st, 4th & 8th grades and any student transferring in that is new to Baltimore County. Teachers may also refer any student they feel needs to be screened.

Remember to reinforce proper **hand washing** and **coughing techniques** with your children at home. It is still the best way to reduce exposure to illness! Even though this is reinforced at school, please reinforce this at home and the importance of keeping hands out of faces/mouths!

As a reminder, please remember to notify the Nurse if your child is diagnosed with strep throat or any other highly contagious illness. And notify the office/Nurse each day your child is absent.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

I am pleased to announce that our speaker for this upcoming HASA meeting is Dr. Gail Liss, who is a Psycho-educational Consultant and a Psychology Associate. Dr. Liss has been working in the field of education for over forty years and is a highly respected resource in the community. In her role as consultant, she provides testing for children and develops educational programs that can be implemented in schools or used by tutors. She also serves as a case manager and liaison between the family, school and other service providers. She has served on the board of The Cathedral School along with several other private schools in Baltimore for many years.

Dr. Liss is planning to address the issue of Organization, which can be challenging for many children (and adults). She will identify the various types of difficulties children struggle with, such as time management, keeping materials organized, following through, and will then offer effective strategies parents and teachers can then use both at school and at home. I encourage you to come hear her as I know you will come away with invaluable insights and practical ideas to help improve your child's organizational skills.

In addition, I wanted to provide information on another useful resource in the community. Sandy Acaso-Mack, is a licensed certified counselor and founder of Loving Families. Many of you may recognize her name since she has been a parishioner at St. Joseph's for 20 years and has two wonderful daughters who both attended our school. Loving Families offers assistance for families in a number of ways: In-Home Counseling is a unique service which includes an initial observation and consultation with your family followed by goal setting, intervention strategies, and follow up. The program is designed to meet the specific needs of your family in the comfort of your home and is offered for 6-8 weeks. Sandy is also offering Parenting Education Groups that meet once a month for eight sessions (approximately 1 ½ hours per meeting) to discuss a range of concerns and topics. Some examples are: teaching effective discipline techniques, improving parent-child communication, and dealing with challenging behavior.

For more information on these or other programs offered by Loving Families, please contact Sandy at 410-227-6339 or by e-mail at sandy@lovingfamilies.biz.

On a final note, our Peer Mediation Program is in full swing again. The new Mediators have been announced and will be training for the next several weeks. Our eighth grade Mediators are available now and are eager to assist students who need help resolving their conflicts. Please

encourage your child to try this program if he/she is struggling with a peer conflict that he/she cannot work out on his/her own. We have had very good success rates and the disputants and Mediators all come away from the experience feeling positive about themselves and the process. It is truly a WIN-WIN experience!

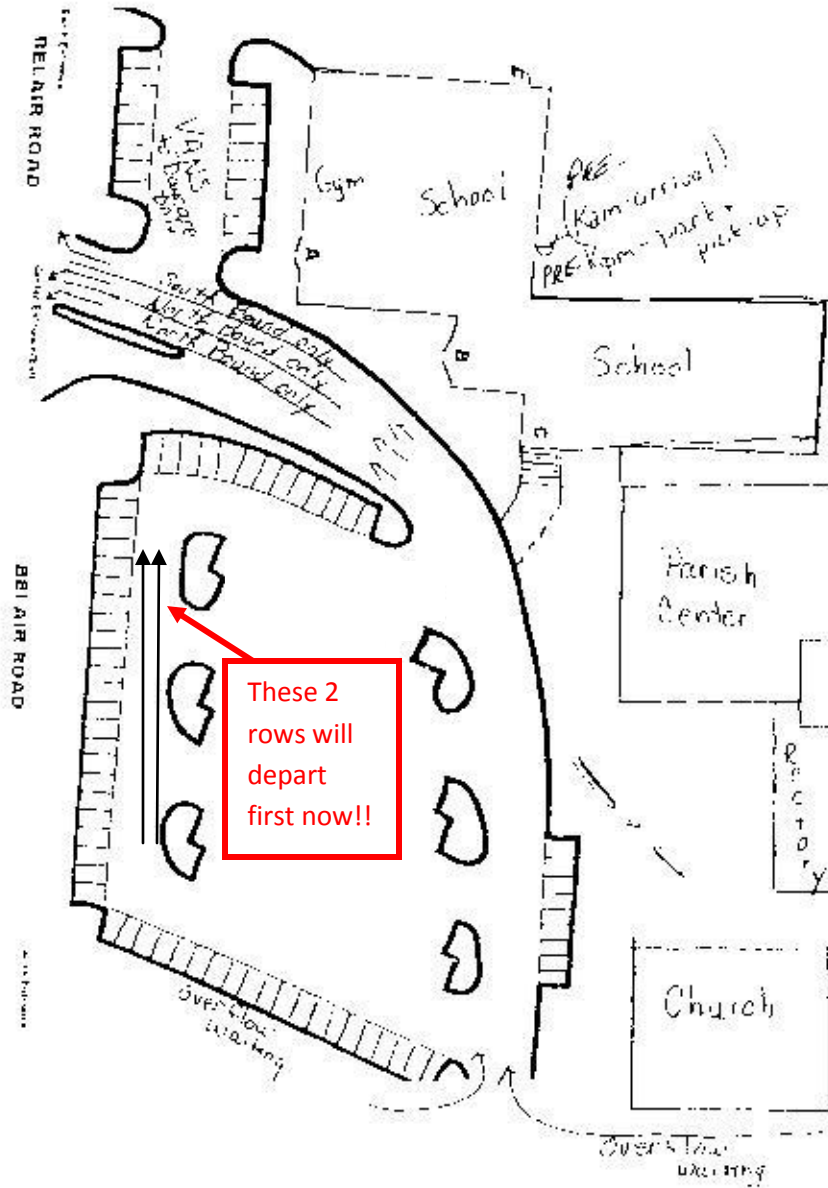
As always, I am available to help with any questions or concerns that may arise over the year. Please feel free to contact me at school or by e-mail at gvernick@stjoefullerton.org. I have a confidential voice mail should you prefer to leave me a message. My hours are: Tuesdays, 8:45 – 3:15, Wednesdays, 9:30-1:00 and Thursdays, 9:00-3:00.

Hope to see you at the Nov. 3rd HASA Meeting!

My best,

Gail Vernick, LCSW-C

P.M. Dismissal



Smart kids need CTY.

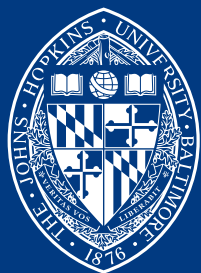
CTY is where bright kids discover just how much they can shine with advanced academic summer programs, online courses, awards, and more.



Please join us at a meeting near you to learn how CTY inspires the world's top students.

For a full calendar:
www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/infomeet.html

Can't wait?
Apply to CTY now:
www.cty.jhu.edu/discover



JOHNS HOPKINS

CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH

www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/infomeet.html



SCIENCE + MATH CAREER DISCOVERY DAY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS



motivating young women in science + mathematics

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

1–5 P.M.

STEVENSON UNIVERSITY

1525 GREENSPRING VALLEY ROAD

STEVENSON, MARYLAND 21153

COST IS \$25 PER PARTICIPANT AND INCLUDES SNACKS

The science and math career discovery day provides an opportunity for young women to meet female science and math professionals and participate in hands-on activities designed to motivate and excite an interest in these careers.

STEVENSON
UNIVERSITY

 **AAUW**

*The event is being co-coordinated by Stevenson University and
the Baltimore Branch of the American Association of University Women.*

www.stevenson.edu/expandingyourhorizons/



Shop at Safeway to earn money for our group

Renew or sign up with your Safeway Club Card today!

Renew by Nov. 1

If you participated last year, renew so our group continues to earn contributions.

- Go to eScrip.com
- Click on “**YES RENEW!**”
- Enter either your phone number, email, or Club Card number

OR

Sign up

Your participation can mean hundreds of dollars for our group.

- Go to eScrip.com
- Click on “**1-Sign Up**”
- Enter your Club Card number

What's new!

Safeway wants to do what we can to help every child stay fit and have access to nutrition programs. So we are asking schools and groups that receive Safeway donations to allocate 20% toward fitness and nutrition activities.