



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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Monthly Newsletter

March, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*He raises up the poor from the dust,
He lifts the needy from the ash heap.*

1 Samuel 2:8-9

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This month I am asking parents to take a very different approach to encourage learning. I invite you to join us in a school wide service project that will help strengthen reading comprehension and math skills in your own child. In addition, through this project, your child will be supporting children around the world. To add to the appeal, all this happens while our children are playing video games.

Freerice <http://www.freerice.com> was created in 2007 as an educational tool for children. Input from Harvard University and the United Nations have earned the site high status as a reliable, safe and effective way for children to merge technology, academic knowledge and gaming while being of service to others.

By solving academic problems in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies etc., children earn grains of rice that actually transform into bowls of rice to be distributed around the world. Since 2007, the site has fed over 4.3 million people. We want our students to be part of that success story.

As you know, service is an integral part of our Religion Curriculum which requires our students to develop an appreciation of service and community outreach as an integral part of Catholic-Christian life. In addition, they must develop a social conscience and keen awareness of social justice as a fundamental right and responsibility of all people. Participating in the **Freerice** program will accomplish this.

Children will not just be playing the game to practice math facts and vocabulary words. While experiencing the pride of a correct answer, they will see the bowl fill as they actually provide food for people around the world. The game itself is motivating but the incentive of playing for others will keep your children coming back for more.

I have personally signed up for the site myself, enjoy the games and appreciate the newsletter that tells me about the children they are serving. There are no ads or hidden catches when you sign up.

As always, I encourage you to monitor your children when they are on the computer and limit the time they are ‘gaming’ to prevent obsessions and compulsivity. However, I believe this game will provide rewards both for your student and for the global community.

Peace,

Mrs. Phyllis Karko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

2	Progress Reports Distributed
6	Parish Chicken Dinner & Bazaar
7	Track Try Outs begin (3 to 4 pm)
8	HASA Candy sale begins
9	Ash Wednesday, 8:15 Mass HASA Seafood Sale Pick up
14	Pizza Lunch in memory of Fr. Cronin
15	Market Day delivered
16	Middle School Play 1:00 pm in Parish Center
18	Stations of the Cross, Gr. 3-8 1:30; HASA Family Bingo Night
21	School Closed – Professional Day - Faculty Retreat
23	Class Picture Day 8:00-12:30
29	HASA Seafood #2 sent home
31	Grandparents’ Day- 11:00 Mass and lunch

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be distributed on **Wednesday, March 2nd**. Children will receive their Progress Report at the end of the school day. Parents, remember that tuition must be up to date before the Progress Report will be sent home.

PowerSchool Parent Access is currently closed for Progress Report preparation, and will re-open on **March 3, 2011**. If you are subscribed for email reports, however, those will not resume until later in the month. The email reports are now a centralized function and cannot be enabled until all Archdiocesan elementary schools have completed the Progress Report process. You may

login to <https://www.archbalt.powerschol.com> to check your children's grades after March 3, 2011.

Cluck Cluck – Chicken Dinner is Coming Up

Mark your calendars for the weekend of **March 4, 5 & 6**. We really need your help with our spring Chicken Dinner. Friday's jobs include slicing and dicing from 8:00 to around 10:30. (Pre-K am have traditionally stepped up to help for the first time.) Saturday is more meat and potatoes – our Father's Club members prepare the chickens while those less timid (like me) work with the spuds. Sunday offers a variety of opportunities to work. Don't forget, we need those dinner sold – and sold early. Please help in any way you can.

Ash Wednesday

Easter is very late this year with Ash Wednesday falling on **March 9th**. Please join us for Mass and distribution of ashes at the 8:15 Mass. Seafood will be available for pick-up following the mass.

In Fr. Cronin's Memory

In memorial of his dear friend and mentor, Fr. Kevin treats the children to a pizza lunch each year around Fr. Cronin's birthday which is March 17th. Since that is already a Pizza day, we have chosen **Monday, March 14th** as Fr. Cronin's Pizza Day. Children will be given a slice or two of pizza but they must bring their own snacks and drinks. Milk will be served. Please remember to thank Fr. Kevin and to remember Fr. Cronin in prayer.

Middle School Play

Although this is an 'off year' for the Talent Show it is definitely not a year that lacks demonstration of the talents of our students. Our Middle School students, under the direction of Mrs. Peggy Radziminski, have been working extremely diligently on their production of *Everything's Groovy*. This musical features the talents of our 7th and 8th graders as they sing and dance to a story filled with flower children and peace signs. The production begins at 1:00 in the Parish Center on **March 16th**. All are welcome to come and enjoy a terrific performance.

HASA Family Bingo

Bring your family and friends to an evening of fun and games at the annual Home and School Association Family Bingo Night in the Parish center on **Friday, March 18th**. The doors open at 6:00 with food available for purchase. Tickets are available to order through the school office.

Professional Day

School is closed on **Monday, March 21st** so that our faculty can attend our annual retreat. We will be going to St. Mary's Retreat Center in west Baltimore where Mother Seton first arrived. It is a joy to pray together and learn more about the roots of Catholic Education in Maryland.

Class Pictures

On **Wednesday, March 23rd** Class Picture will be taken from 8 am to 12:30. Students are to wear their full school uniform including school shoes. Tennis shoes may not be worn. If your child has PE that day, they are to bring their sneakers in a bag. They do not need their PE uniform – the PE activities will be appropriate to school clothes. Individual pictures in the school uniform will also be offered that day.

Grandparents' Day

Again this year, we invite our grandparents to visit with our children on **Thursday, March 31st**. We begin in church at 11:00 with an appreciation talk presented by Deacon Bill. Then the grandparents will join their children for lunch. Please return the RSVP as soon as you can. There is significant planning that is involved in seating our guests to keep families together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appointment of Superintendent

On Thursday, February 17th it became official. Dr. Barbara Edmondson was appointed as Superintendent for the Archdiocese of Baltimore Division of Schools. Her appointment follows her service as Interim Superintendent since July. Dr. Edmondson is highly qualified and has demonstrated her expertise as a leader during the 11 years I have known her. She is dedicated to students and committed to the success of our Catholic School system. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Edmondson on her appointment.

St. Joseph School Board Marketing Survey

Our School Board wants to do more marketing of the school in order to keep enrollment at the high level we are currently enjoying. To that end, school board members, Mrs. Michaud and Mrs. Karko have developed a survey asking parents what they like about St. Joseph School. The survey will be sent through our Constant Contact email list and must be answered online. It should take no more than 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Please look for it to be out before the end of this month. We appreciate you thoughts.

Standardized Testing

Children in Grades 3 to 8 will be taking the Stanford 10 Standardized Test beginning Monday, April 4th through April 11th. Please make every effort to have your child attend school these days since we will not be able to re-test after the closing date.

Track Team

You will be receiving information from Mrs. Goldbeck about try-out for our track team for the Youth Bowl competition in May. Try-out will be held from March 7th through March 17th. A full schedule of the day for each event is listed on the calendar. The Track Meet will be held at Archbishop Curley High School on Saturday, May 7th.

Snow Days

At this time, we are close to the break even point with regard to lost days due to inclement weather. Should nothing else change, we will follow our original schedule to close on June 8th for the summer.

CLASS NEWS

St. Joseph's Little Carpenters News - Lights Out Day

The Pre-K children celebrated the unit of God's Gift of Light and JESUS the Light of the World with a Day of LIGHTS OUT!! We began our time with the light of a camp fire, and read a story titled, "While the World is Sleeping". After the story we watched a short video clip on Learn 360 about the lights we see at night; the planets which show reflective light and the stars which have their own light. We looked closely at the constellations: Orion, Leo, the Great Bear or Big Dipper and the Swan. We made a bar graph to determine which constellation had the greatest number of stars. (Orion of course).

The stars are on our own ceiling of the classroom and the children truly had the joy of star gazing (lots of fun). Then, you will never guess, but the fireflies came out and we enjoyed our time chasing them around the room with our flash lights. Continuing on with our activity each child made their very own constellation. After snack, while resting our little heads on our pillows, we enjoyed watching the Magic School Bus Sees Stars. Our Lights Out was a wonderful day at school and your children were engaged and beautifully responsive.

Elementary Grades Attend Franklin Institute Traveling Science Show

On Wednesday, February 23rd, students in grades K to 5 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA. The topic this year was 'Weather'. Ms. Allison, our instructor, created wind, clouds, lightening, and thunder. The students learned about the components of weather and loved watching and participating in the demonstrations and experiments – some of which were 'explosive'. We can't wait until next year's show.

SKYPING

During Catholic School Week, several of our classes held a video meeting with St. Joseph School in Florida. Children in KA, 2A and 8th grade asked their peers questions about the weather, Catholic School Week traditions, academic subjects, class procedures and many other things. The children loved to see that we had so much in common. It was a wonderful chance to experience Skyping technology.

CONGRATULATIONS

Catholic Challenge

Every year, during Catholic Schools Week, our school challenges children to brush up on their catechism by participating in the Catholic Challenge. The event was held in the Parish Center on February 3rd. All the contestants did a superior job and we commend them for their effort. Our winners this year were:

- 1st Place - Clyde Tubal (6A)
- 2nd Place – Olivia Kaiss (8A)
- 3rd Place - Angela Estavillo (5A)

Handwriting Contest

Zaner-Bloser, the publishers of our handwriting curriculum, sponsors an annual handwriting contest. Our school grade level winners are:

- 8 Christian Mananghaya
- 7 Rebecca Vincent
- 6 Alyssa Doverte
- 5 Rhea Santos
- 4 Jamie Iringan
- 3 Russel Reside
- 2 Colin Armentrout
- 1 Colin DiIorio

Egg Drop

St. Joseph School is very proud of Emily Meyerl, Merina Novak, and Lauren Jenkins. On Saturday, February 5, 2011, this team – Team Electra!- won First Place among 7th and 8th graders in Notre Dame Prep’s Third Annual Egg Drop Contest. The challenge for the team of middle school girls was to construct a device/capsule which holds an egg, drop it from a height of four meters towards a target on the ground, and have the egg survive the drop un-cracked and unbroken.

Also recognized that day were the members of Team Smores – Jamie Teramani, Allyson Westfall, Noelle Acaso, and Olivia Kaiss. They were named the Most Creative of the day. Other participants included Rebecca Vincent, Alexis Coballes, and Jordan Mosco, known as The Three Amigos. We are very proud of all the girls for their efforts to demonstrate Science in action.

For their successful efforts the girls each won a notebook computer and earned one for our school. Congratulation and Thank you!!!

THANKS TO...

Our Annual Book Fair

The 2011 Scholastic Book Fair was another huge success selling \$7,800 worth of books. This earned our school \$1,400 in free books and \$1,500 in cash! Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to the volunteers who make the week so much fun for our school. We couldn't have done the week without Mrs. Grasso, Mrs. Reitz, Mrs. Bonnett, Mrs. Cover, Mrs. Szczybor, Mrs. Meyerl, Mrs. Haffer, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Goeller, and moms who pitched in while shopping with their own children. We have the best volunteers!

BITS AND PIECES

We receive a letter from Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger which informed us of House Resolution 61 that recognized Catholic School for excellence in education. We are thankful for his support. A copy of the letter can be found at the end of this newsletter.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Look for HASA News in your Constant Contact email. Archived copies are on the school website.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

A few reminders for all, please remember to call the office each day your child is absent from school, even if it is not illness related. It is also acceptable to e-mail the nurse and the homeroom teacher as to why your child is absent. I track illnesses from these calls/e-mail in relation to the absentee list daily. It is a vital part of the process in keeping the school community healthy! This then allows me to track trends and give advice to parents when they call as to what illnesses are circulating. Following an absence, a note from the parent/or physician is required when returning to school stating name, homeroom, dates absent and reason for absence. It is also acceptable to e-mail a parent note for absence to the homeroom teacher/nurse.

To date, strep throat is starting to circulate around school. Symptoms can occur within 1-5 days of exposure. So please be vigilant with monitoring your child if he/she complains of a sore throat, fever, tender/swollen neck glands, or develops a rash on the face/neck/body and follow up with a physician. Generally, after 24 hours of antibiotics an individual is no longer contagious. And please notify me if your child tests positive for strep throat, even if it is over a weekend and no school is missed. This also holds true for anything contagious: strep throat, chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever, flu, pink eye and head lice.

I appreciate your consideration and assistance in helping to keep our school community as healthy as possible!

Yvonne Rekus
School Nurse



Catholic Center 320 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Contact:

Samantha Hall
410-547-5455

**ARCHBISHOP EDWIN O'BRIEN NAMES
DR. BARBARA EDMONDSON SUPERINTENDENT OF
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Announcement Comes at Launch of Principals Leadership Institute

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, today named Dr. Barbara Edmondson Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Msgr. Richard Woy, Vicar General for the Archdiocese, made the announcement today at Loyola University Maryland's Graduate Center in Timonium at a gathering of all Catholic school principals and assistant principals for the launch of the Archdiocese's inaugural Principals Leadership Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Edmondson had held the position in an interim capacity since July 2010.

"It is my privilege to serve as Superintendent of Catholic Schools at a time of renewed commitment and dynamic change," Dr. Edmondson said. "I thank Archbishop O'Brien and the Archdiocesan School Board for this appointment and the opportunity to partner with my colleagues in the Department of Schools, school leaders, faculty and staff in our mission to educate and enrich the lives of more than 29,000 students who meet Christ each day as they enter our schools."

The announcement follows a year-long national search to replace former superintendent, Dr. Ronald J. Valenti, who retired in November 2009 after serving 20 years in the position. A search committee led by Dr. Mary Pat Seurkamp, President of College of Notre Dame of Maryland, made the recommendation to the Archbishop to appoint Dr. Edmondson to the position of superintendent, which was a key focus of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Catholic Schools' June 2010 *Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools*.



“Dr. Edmondson has done a remarkable job of building a talented and dynamic team and of implementing many of the exciting and challenging recommendations of the *Strategic Plan*,” Archbishop O’Brien said. “Her performance over the past several months as well as her accomplishments in building one of our most successful schools made her a clear choice to lead our school system.”

Among her many duties, Dr. Edmondson will work with the Archdiocesan School Board in leading the Archdiocese’s implementation of the *Strategic Plan*’s 56 recommendations. The recommendations are aimed at strengthening and improving the Catholic school system in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and focus on the areas of Catholic identity, academic excellence, governance and stewardship.

Among the recommendations was the creation of a Principals Leadership Institute for Advanced Study. The certificate program was developed by Dr. Edmondson and Associate Superintendent Margaret Dammeyer, in collaboration with the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Loyola University Maryland, and Mount St. Mary’s University. The program is intended to provide continuing professional development and best practices for school leaders, assistance for new principals, and foster a deeper collaboration and support network for principals and assistant principals throughout the system.

Dr. Edmondson was appointed the first principal of School of the Incarnation in 2000. During this time, the school’s enrollment went from 80 students to more than 800. Prior to this, she held the same position at St. Ambrose School in Cheverly, MD from 1995-2000.

Dr. Edmondson has broad classroom experience, having taught at the elementary level for the Diocese of Metuchen, NJ, and the Archdiocese of Washington, as well as the collegiate level having served as an adjunct professor for 10 years at George Washington University.

Dr. Edmondson holds degrees in Psychology (BA) and Educational Psychology (MA) from Montclair State College and a doctorate in Education, Human Development from George Washington.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Catholic schools provide an academically excellent, Christ-centered education that empowers students to reach their full potential. For more information about our schools, please call 1-800-5-Catholic or visit www.archbalt.org/aplacetogrow.

Maryland Alliance of Catholic School Families and Teachers

Winter 2011 Newsletter

JOIN US

March 16, 2011

BOAST Maryland Legislative Reception

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Maryland General Assembly
Miller Senate Office Building, West I & II
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Our 6th Annual Reception for Catholic and other nonpublic school students, teachers, parents and partners provides an opportunity to meet with your school's legislators, rally for BOAST, tour the Annapolis legislative complex to see your government in action, and join members of the General Assembly for a lunch reception.

Registration is required, teacher materials, and directions at www.mdathcon.org

Plan Now to Attend!!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maryland General Assembly began their 2011 legislative session on January 12, 2011. The state's budget deficit remains over \$1.2 billion; we must continue to remind our legislators that nonpublic schools save the state more than \$1.5 billion in per-pupil expenditures, and urge their support for:

- ✓ Initiating the BOAST Maryland Tax Credit for business donations to education
- ✓ Sustaining funding for the Textbook/Technology program at \$4.4 million

SIGN UP FOR OUR CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK

If you have not yet signed up to use our Catholic Advocacy Network, please do so NOW! This online service keeps you up to date during the Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Session on issues affecting Catholic and other nonpublic schools in the state, and enables you to easily communicate with the elected officials representing your legislative district. To sign up, go to www.mdathcon.org and click on the "Catholic Advocacy Network".

Contact Us:

Maryland Catholic Conference

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REPLY TO:

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THE ATRIUM

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www.dutch.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2002

February 2, 2011

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE
AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOMELAND SECURITY
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE
CHAIRMAN
TERRORISM, HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, AND
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION

Ms. Phyllis Karko
Principal
St. Joseph School, Fullerton
8416 Belair Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21236

Dear Ms. Karko:

I am writing to make you aware of a recent resolution passed by the 112th Congress.

I supported House Resolution 61 which recognizes the excellent education provided by Catholic Schools in Maryland and across the country. Nationwide, Catholic Schools continually provide evidence of the kind of high quality education that is available to young people. The education provided by Catholic schools is vital to the continuing growth of American communities. The values and lessons taught provide our youth with important skills, both academic and social, that will allow them to succeed later in life.

Thank you for your continued service to the youth of Maryland. Together, I have every confidence we can make progress towards ensuring all Maryland youth receive a quality education.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress

CADR: jnb

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Talent Search Information Meeting

***It's not too late to learn about CTY!
Baltimore area families invited...***

Date:

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Location:

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

1400 West Coldspring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21209

Time:

6:00 p.m.

Grades:

2nd – 8th

For directions, please visit www.maps.google.com

For the most current listing of open CTY information meetings and/or weather related closures, please visit www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/infomeet.html