



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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Monthly Newsletter

February, 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*Train up a child in the way he should go, and
When he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With each year on the job, I find it becomes harder and harder for me to act spontaneously. If you are anything like me, your day is planned out from beginning to end. I live with my planner book by my side and, with the help of an occasional ping from my phone, I move from appointments to meetings, to classes, to visits with my extended family. Inevitably, interruptions will occur to change my day dramatically. I will grumble because I lost 'The Beat' and feel frustrated that I was not able to continue what I had been doing. At times like these, it is hard to find that smile that I know I should share with everyone.

I have also learned, however, that while the interruptions are frustrating, they can be some of my most productive moments of the day. These unexpected occurrences are like the *teachable moments* that good teachers should capitalize upon to bring the class back to the here and now with real life activities. They are also opportunities to be aware that the Holy Spirit is at work and will be available to help to resolve the problem.

This is the time of year when each day is filled to the brim with activities. Gone are the days of hunkering down for a long winter's nap. No – we all continue to stay on the treadmill - gulping down breakfast, folding the laundry while looking through the backpacks, planning who needs to be where and when, checking homework during indoor soccer, eating dinner in shifts. It is only when something unexpected happens that all this *fun* comes to a grinding halt.

I pray that you can find the good in the unexpected. Realize that it is God's way of letting you know that He is in control. Rely on the Lord to get you through the day to day and happily learn to say 'Oh well....it is what it is!' when things don't turn out as planned. Use the interruption as a teachable moment for your child. Try to show your child how to handle stress by modeling how you react to change. And...don't sweat the small stuff....or the big stuff either. Give it to the Lord to work it out on your behalf.

Peace,

Mrs. Phyllis Karko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Visiting Day – Open House Hospitality at 7:50 in PC. School doors open at 8:30 |
| 1 | Seafood orders forms go home |
| 2 | CSW Liturgy 8:15 – Blessing of Throats - All Welcome, Catholic Challenge 1:00 in Parish Center |
| 3 | Students Appreciation Day Activities, Noon Dismissal followed by HASA Bowling at Perry Hall Lanes beginning at 1:00 |
| 8 | Market Day online orders due |
| 9 | Registration for siblings of current students 8:00 to 11:30 PC Lower Level |
| 10 | HASA Family Movie Night in Parish Center 6:30 PM |
| 13 | Jump Rope for Heart Begins and continues until Feb. 24 th . |
| 14 | Valentine's Day - Market Day delivery |
| 15 | Franklin Institute Science Show for Grades K-2 and 3-5 |
| 15 | Lenten Seafood #1 order forms due |
| 17 | School Closed – Professional Day for teachers |
| 20 | School Closed – President's Day Holiday |
| 22 | Ash Wednesday – 8:15 Mass and Ashes Distributed |
| 22 | Seafood Delivered |
| 23 | New Student Registration (K & Pre-K) 8:30 to 11:30 PC Lower Level |
| 29 | New Student Registration (Pre-K and K) 8:30 to 11:30 PC Lower Level |

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Catholic Schools Week

Sunday, January 29th marks the official beginning of Catholic School Week. We begin with our annual **Open House** on that day from 1:15 to 2:45. Guests are invited to tour our school, meet with teachers and other parents, listen to our award winning band and attend the Book Fair. Pre-registration applications are accepted for the 2012-2013 school year. Please invite your family and friends to tour, particularly if they have a young child who would benefit from the education we offer at St. Joseph School.

Throughout the week, the Book fair will be open in the School Library. Parents are welcome to shop on Sunday or to come in during the regular Book Fair Hours during the week. Class visit times have been sent home with the students.

On **Monday, January 30th**, we honor our teachers and staff as part of **Teacher Appreciation Day**. Our HASA has provided a special lunch for each staff member and each

person will be selected some time during the day for the ‘gift of the hour’. Other surprises are also in store in the classrooms.

On **Tuesday, January 31st**, we show appreciation for our nation and the world community by opening with a Patriotic Song followed by the 6th Graders presenting **Biography Day**. Parents and classes are invited to listen as the students portray a person from history whom they admire.

On **Wednesday, February 1st** we again open our doors for parents and visitors to enjoy **Visiting Day**. After morning hospitality in the Parish Center beginning at 7:50, guests are welcome to sit in on classes as follows:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Grades 1 to 8 | 8:30 – 11:30 and 1:00 – 2:30 |
| Kindergarten | 8:30 – 10:30 and 1:30 – 2:30 |
| Pre- K | 8:15 – 9:30 and 12:15 – 1:30 |

To honor those in our community, each class will thank a person or group who has assisted our school on **Thursday February 2nd**. We will celebrate our Catholic School Week Special **Liturgy** at 8:15 and compete in the **Catholic Challenge** at 1:00.

Then on **Friday, February 3rd**, we all get to enjoy **Student Appreciation Day**. Students will participate in a variety of activities, both within the regular classroom and as a group in the Parish Center. It is an out of uniform day for students but the guidelines for acceptable dress for school must be followed. Following noon dismissal, all are encouraged to attend HASA Bowling at Perry Hall Lanes from 1:00 to 3:00.

Wrapped around all the festivities, several of our families have volunteered to represent the school at Mass during the weekend of January 28-29 and February 4-5. As a family, they will be taking up the offertory gifts during Mass.

Sibling Registration

We are blessed to have many brothers and sisters of current students who will be attending St. Joe’s next year. Registration of these siblings will be held by appointment on Thursday, February 9th in the lower level of the Parish Center.

HASA Family Movie Night

The HASA has planned the annual **Family Movie Night** for **Friday, Feb. 10th**. This is a delightful evening for families to get together in the Parish Center for a movie, munchies and relaxation. Get comfortable with your children as you pretend you are outdoors under the stars. More details will be coming home.

Presidents’ Day Holiday and Extended Weekend

School is closed on **Friday, February 17th** for teachers to participate in a Professional Day Workshop with teachers from St. Michael’s, St. Stephen’s and St. John’s Schools. School is also

closed on Monday, February 21st for the Presidents' Day Holiday. Enjoy the four day weekend.

Ash Wednesday

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. (Easter will be April 8th). Children will attend 8:15 Mass and ashes will be distributed at that time. You are welcome to join us. Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence for people 14 years and older. We encourage our children to abstain from eating meat on Friday's during Lent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weather Announcements

As you know, the Archdiocese has asked that all school follow the decision made by the public school system in the area with regard to closing for inclement weather. We are no longer allowed to make a separate announcement about St. Joseph School unless it is for a closure that does not apply to the Baltimore County System. Please listen to the TV or radio to learn if Baltimore County is changing its schedule in any way. As a result, I ask that you continue to check all the media regularly to see what the day will bring. Oftentimes, an unexpected condition will arise during the day or night that warrants that schools close, delay or dismiss early.

Jump Rope for Heart

For many years our children have participated in the American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Our PE Teacher, Mrs. Goldbeck, coordinates the event as children gather sponsors who encourage them as they jump away. Jump Rope for Heart for grades 1 thru 8 starts on February 13th and continues until February 24th. The donation envelope, with permission slips attached, will be sent home with all students. Again, you may donate on-line. Thank you for your support.

Book Fair

Our annual scholastic Book Fair will take place during Catholic School Week. All classes will have the opportunity to purchase books during their regular Library period. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to help and to those parents who shopped during our Open House on Sunday, January 29th.

Talent Show

Our teachers have volunteered to co-ordinate a Talent Show for our students to entertain us with their skills in music, dance, and a variety of other venues for our listening and viewing pleasure. This year's show will be held on Thursday, March 29th and, by popular request, we will include an evening show for our families. Tryouts will be held on Thursday, February 23rd from 3:00 to

4:15. (Parents may not view the tryouts.) Get your act together now so you will be ready to present to the audition committee. A flyer will be coming home with more details.

Student e-books

Do you know that many of our older students can access their entire textbook and other resources at home? In very recent years, a few of the elementary publishing companies have offered the textbooks available on line if the school purchases a hard copy series for in school use. As a result, our middle school students do not have to take home their Language Arts and Social Studies textbooks. Other company resources are available on-line in other subject areas. Teachers are using them with their various classes.

Financial Aid Applications

Application Forms are still available outside of our office for families who are planning to apply for any type of financial aid. The deadline, however, is February 29th. Please be aware that in completing the FACTS form you are applying for both financial aid from the archdiocese and from Fr. Kevin. You do not need to be a member of the parish to apply for archdiocesan financial aid.

Remember that if you are planning to return to St. Joseph School next year, your re-registration must be back by February 9th. We did have a very robust Open House with many children interested in coming to SJS at all grade levels. We really need to know about your commitment for next year in order to tell these families if there is space for their child.

From the Superintendents Office

At the end of the newsletter you will find a letter from the Dr. Barbara Edmonson in which she sends greetings and thanks for your support. The Division of Schools plans to communicate with parents in this way a few times each year.

CLASS NEWS

Every fall many of the students at Saint Joseph School submit poems to the poetry contest for **Creative Communication**. Just recently we received notification that the poems of numerous students were accepted for publication. Those winning entries will be published in the spring. We congratulate the following students in Grades 7 and 8:

Grade 7

Colin Alexander
Ogechi Anyanwu
Alexander Blanco

Brenden Hollingsworth
Sarah Jasinski
Hannah Laue

Dylan Roman
Erin Sagisi
Noah Santos

Mya Buschman
Bryn Daly
Alyssa Doverte
James Ellis
Megan Ellis
Nicole Flegel
Shagasbie Georges
Melissa Hedding

Ryan Leshko
Gina Liberto
Ryan Manning
Maya Moskunias
Alyen Mouring
Jordyn Oster
Ianna Pirozzi
Leanna Robinson

Clyde Tubal
Lauren Tyler
Erin Urbanski
Spiro Vasilokopoulos
Ryan Waugh
Lauren Wolford
Megan Young

Grade 8

Noah Basmaci
Meghan Beck
Andrew Benson
Alexis Coballes
Shannon Czapl
Maria Esteban
Arnelle Fonlon
Chimaobi Iwumune
George Kataxenos

Brian McGuire
Bryan Mellendick
Trevor Monroe
Jordan Mosco
Emily Navarro
Bhakti Panchal
Nicole Price
Nick Randolph
Taylor Rekus

Bobby Robinson
Nicole Rogers
Brooke Rosenberger
Brittane' Stinebaugh
Josh Tamayo
Sara Tolentino
Chrysoula Vasilokopoulos
Rebecca Vincent
Todd Wojack

Special recognition goes to Grade 5. Creative Communication notified Mrs. Keefer, the fifth grade Language Arts teacher, that every student had his or her poem accepted for publication! Congratulations, Grade 5 and Mrs. Keefer, for an awesome achievement!

Grade 5

Ben Archacki
John Basmaci
Emily Beck
Michael Berg
Ryan Berger
Stephanie Berger
Annemarie Bonner
Sarah Coffman
Bayley Deisher
Sophia Edwards
Jonathan Ellis
Allison Floyd
Alex Garing
Nicholas Getz
Paulo Gonzal
Emily Hartman
Michael Hermosa

Patrick Hurdle
Jamie Iringan
Ashley Jensen
Nada Jokhadar
Abigail Kaiss
Eleni Kataxenos
Ryan Leppo
Marissa Lesko
Zachary Mananghaya
Connor McSharry
Anna Montelibano
Sarah Padilla
Garrett Poist
Sydney Powers
Beau Quaerna
Kristin Rekus
Cassidy Roberts

Scott Rock
Amanda Rogers
Eliana Santico
Sydnee Sapack
Desmond Singh
Catherine Smith
Nicole Tien
Christian Tolentino
Catherine Valentine
Stacy Villanueva
Caitlyn Warfield
Madison Warren
Hailey Wienecke
Kearson Williams
Molly Williams
Garrett Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS

Champions of Courage

Again this year the 8th grade participated in the Champions of Courage Black History Month Essay Competition. This competition salutes community heroes who inspire youth to be the best they can be. We are proud to announce Jordan Mosco as a finalist in this competition. Jordan was invited to FOX 45 Studios for a taping session of her winning essay. She will also attend an Awards Luncheon on February 25th at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore and will receive a \$100 savings bond. Congratulations Jordan on a job well done!

Egg Drop Competition

On Saturday, January 28th several of our girls participated in the annual Egg Drop Contest sponsored by Notre Dame Prep. Their challenge was to build a device that protects a raw, large, Grade A egg as it is dropped from a height of 4 meters to the ground and participate in an on-site engineering challenge. Thank you to the girls who stepped up to the challenge and congratulations to the team of Arnelle Fonlon, Bhakti Panchal, and Nicole Price who finished in 2nd place in the 7th and 8th grade competition. You did a wonderful job and we are proud of you!

Handwriting Champions

Once again this year our students participated in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting contest. There were many beautiful entries with the grade level winners listed below. These student's entries have been sent on to compete at the state level. Good Luck to all!

- 8 Arnelle Fonlon
- 7 Alyssa Doverte
- 6 Rhea Santos
- 5 Jamie Iringan
- 4 Heather Shanty
- 3 William Zittle
- 2 Jan Iringan
- 1 David Sanico

Ultimate Fan

Prior to the Raven's Play-off game at M & T Bank stadium, many of our classes participated in the Giant Food Store contest to wish the Ravens "Good Luck" by writing cards and making posters. We were so proud when First Grader Brendan Brooks won the Ultimate Fan Package. Brendan won 4 tickets to the play-off game, parking and hospitality for his family to enjoy with him on January 15th. What an honor!!!

THANKS TO...

Our Families

To mark Catholic Schools Week, the following families will be bringing up the Offertory Gifts at the indicated masses at St Joseph's Church:

Saturday January 28, 2012

4:30pm The Pirozzi Family

Saturday Feb. 4, 2012

4:30pm The Price Family

Sunday January 29, 2012

7:00am The Coffman Family

8:30 am The Berg Family

10:30am The Aparico Family

12:30pm The Edwards Family

Sunday February 5, 2012

7:00 am The Karko Family

8:30 am The Kemper Family

10:30 am The Fiorucci Family

12:30 pm The Rodriguez Family

We thank them for representing our school and for their support of Catholic education.

To Everyone

As always we are deeply appreciative to everyone who helped to collect Boxtops for Education. Thanks to your support we collected 10,500 in points which translates into \$1,055 dollars. Our class winner was Mrs. Arczynski and 1B who brought in 2,808 in points. Congratulations to our winners and a big thanks to all.

BITS AND PIECES

Parking Lot

Our arrivals have been a bit smoother thanks to our Safety Patrol members who have offered to work extra hours to direct traffic in the morning. Please pay attention to the Safety Patrol Member who stands closest to church and follow his or her direction with regard to stopping and yielding right of way to the 'snake' or to others leaving from the lane near the Parish Center. While it is their job to move the snake along, there are times that the other lane is impeding the entrance to the snake and the lane line must be clear to make room.

Please, please do not exit the parking lot by heading south behind the church and school. This is absolutely the wrong way to leave our campus during arrival, dismissal and school hours. We have seen families leaving this way in an attempt to avoid waiting at the light. It is very unsafe and simply not allowed. Please help us to enforce this rule by asking the violator to turn around.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Please continue to look for the latest from the HASA via Constant Contact. If you do not receive this weekly update, please call the school office.

Look for upcoming information on the Lenten Seafood Sale, Market Day, Family Movie Night, Bowling, and Easter Candy Sale.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

February 2012

I wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that you are all enjoying this reprieve from our last few winters of snow, snow and more snow (of course there is February...).

At the November HASA meeting, Dr. Gail Liss, who is a psychoeducational consultant, gave a presentation on the topic of Organization. I wanted to share some of her ideas and review tips and strategies that can help your child with this critical component of the learning process:

Dr. Liss initially discussed the types of difficulties that impede a child's ability to stay organized.

1. Temporal-Sequential – These difficulties are manifested in procrastinating, poor time management and problems with following steps to complete a task
2. Transitional - These are children who need ample warning about changes about to happen because they can become easily confused. They are slower to adjust to new settings and have difficulty following even established routines.
3. Prospective Retrieval – Children with this difficulty can be unfairly labeled as “undependable or irresponsible” according to Dr. Liss. They are just unable to remember or “retrieve “ the key information about what they need to do whether it is in the present or later, so they are seen as kids that do not “follow through” with tasks.
4. Materials-Spatial – Students with difficulties in this area are the most obvious because they are perpetually losing things, their binders are in a constant state of disarray and they have trouble remembering what to bring home for homework.

Though these types of problems may seem frustrating and difficult for us as parents, thankfully, there are many effective techniques and coping strategies that we can teach children to help them compensate. Here are a few that Dr. Liss recommended, along with other tips to consider:

1. Teach your child to keep “To-Do” lists. These are particularly helpful for students with prospective retrieval problems. In addition to lists, post it notes, recording on i-pods or tape recorders, are extremely effective ways to remember what needs to be accomplished each day. Your child will take great pleasure in crossing off things completed (I know I do).
2. Help your child learn to organize and prioritize homework assignments. If a child has a plan on how he/she will approach homework, the actual process will go more smoothly. Students have a tendency to put off the hardest assignment until last. Unfortunately, he/she may then be too tired by the time they tackle the work, becoming frustrated and discouraged. Start with work that is not too difficult, but do not leave the most challenging and longest for last. Of course, some students prefer to start with the hardest assignment because of the sense of accomplishment they feel when they can cross this off their “To Do” list. Notice and observe your child to understand what suits his/her style of studying best. Dr. Liss discussed using timers or stop watches to help with time management. She suggested a strategy of “renting time” with equipment such as i-pods, computer etc. for successful time spent working on assignments. She also distributed an excellent sample Homework Planner for parents at the meeting and I have others which I am happy to provide for you.

3. A master calendar is a must for children. This provides visual cues of how to manage their time. If a project is due in three weeks, it is posted along with other important events. You can then work with your child to indicate the steps and dates on the calendar that must happen within the allotted time frame. You can help your child to break down or “chunk” the work this way so that they know exactly what they must accomplish each week in order to complete the project by the due date. This is especially critical for students with “temporal-sequential” challenges. It also can mitigate the amount of confusion for a child with “transitional” challenges, as it enables you to prepare him/her for changes in the schedule due to events etc.
4. Keep notebooks/binders organized. You can use color coding for dividers and two pocket folders to keep materials organized and accessible. Having separate “to do” and “done” folders in each subject will help organize worksheets, notices and items to be signed and returned to school. In addition, you and your child must do regular binder checks to clean out the clutter that accumulates over time if left unexamined. This may need to occur on a daily basis for students who struggle with “materials-spatial” difficulties. In addition, designate a consistent study space that is fully equipped and organized with school supplies, good lighting and few distractions.
5. Establish a workable homework routine. This is especially helpful for students with “transitional” challenges. Adjustments will be needed for evenings that involve sports or other outside activities, but barring these types of obligations, predictability, and structure will greatly reduce the stress your child may otherwise experience. Be sure to teach your child to pack his/her backpack the night before rather than waiting until the morning.

Organization is such an important factor in your child’s success and well-being at school. It takes effort, consistency and active involvement in your child’s learning process to truly make a difference.

I have touched on some of the fundamentals necessary to promote organizational skills in your child. If you would like a copy of Dr. Liss’s presentation, just let me know. I have many other resources that I am happy to share with you as well as developing interventions tailored for your child’s particular needs.

As always, you can contact me either by phone at 410-256-8026 or by e-mail, gvernick@stjoefullerton.org. I am available to meet with you either during the school day or after school if that is more convenient. My hours are Tuesdays, 8:45-3:15, Weds, 9:30-1:00, and Thursdays, 9:00-3:00.

Here’s to a more organized 2012!

Gail Vernick, LCSW-C

Dear Parents and Teachers,



At the start of the celebration of **Catholic Schools Week**, I would like to thank our parents for their continued support of our schools. I recognize the great sacrifices you make to send your child to our schools and assure you that we are working hard everyday to build on the unparalleled legacy of academic achievement, personal and spiritual growth that are hallmarks of Catholic education.



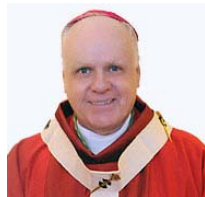
And what is a school without teachers? You nurture the God-given gifts that each of our children possess and help produce future leaders and adults that understand our call to service in the Mission of Jesus. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our students.

We recognize that parents and teachers have many options available and thank you for making our Catholic schools "A Place to Grow!"

Blessings in Christ,
Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Catholic Cardinals

On the occasion of the elevation of Cardinal-designate Edwin F. O'Brien to the College of Cardinals, students in our Catholic schools will be learning about the duties and role of a cardinal. Please [click here](#) to access the Q&A to share. Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson will travel to Rome for the consistory, when Cardinal-designate O'Brien will be formally elevated to the College of Cardinals -- on February 18th. Photos from the pilgrimage will be posted on our [Facebook page](#).



Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools Facebook page

We are pleased to add a Catholic Schools Facebook page to the current Archdiocese of Baltimore media outlets including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). Please check it out, "Like" our pages, and invite your friends to join our community!



JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION

January 2012

Dear colleague,

I am pleased to announce the opening of the application for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program, one of the most generous and prestigious awards for young students in the country.

Each year, the Young Scholars Program honors 50 to 75 seventh-graders who can demonstrate outstanding academic ability, accomplishments outside of the classroom, and substantial financial need. The award is extremely competitive, but those selected receive financial support for educational and extracurricular activities as well as one-on-one help applying to high schools, colleges, summer programs, and more.

I hope you'll inform eligible students and their families of this tremendous opportunity. As you do so, you may find the enclosed brochure helpful.

Students are encouraged to apply online by going to <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/how-to-apply/>, where they will also find instructions for requesting a paper application.

Applications must be received by Monday, April 16, 2012.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, which serves as a Regional Talent Center for the Young Scholars Program, assisting applicants from 20 states and the District of Columbia, will host two free, online information sessions about the application process on Tuesday, January 24 and Tuesday, March 6, each night at 7 p.m. EST. To register for either session, go to <http://cty.jhu.edu/ts/webinars.html>.

For more information about the Young Scholars Program, contact Lionel Foster at the Center for Talented Youth at 410-735-6270 or jkcinfo@jhu.edu. Thanks for spreading the word about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Sincerely,



Lionel Foster
Assistant Program Manager
The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth