



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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Monthly Newsletter



November, 2016

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."

Saint Mother Teresa

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we enter into the month of November it is the perfect time to reflect back over the first 10 weeks of school and give thanks for all of the wonderful gifts we have to be grateful for each and every day. Walking through the halls and into classrooms I am always excited to see all of the hard work and success of each of our students. This makes me so grateful to work at such a wonderful school with the best teachers, staff and students who are supported by the greatest parents. As Mrs. Ashby and I head off to the Blue Ribbon Ceremony on November 7th and 8th in Arlington, VA please know how humbled we are to represent each and every one of you.

We have some great news to share. Our school will be highlighted on Channel 2 Sunday, November 6th between 6:40 – 7:00 pm. The clip is called Maryland Spotlight.

Soon the holidays will be upon us and everyone's schedules will begin to get busier. Please make sure to keep an eye out for all of the wonderful opportunities we will have to celebrate together as a school family. Flyers will be going home soon for a "Blue Ribbon Celebration" on Wednesday, November 23rd, our First Annual Canned Food Drive contest and the First Annual Schoolwide Christmas Show on Thursday, December 15th. Please know there will be lots of opportunities for us to be together as a family and give thanks for all that God has provided.

Please remember to reach out to us with any needs, concerns or suggestions this year.

Blessing and Peace,

Kenneth J. Pipkin

Kenneth J. Pipkin
Principal
St. Joseph School Fullerton
kpipkin@stjoefullerton.org



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

IN THE NEWS

SET YOUR DVR

Saint Joseph School will be highlighted on Channel 2's "Maryland Spotlight" on Sunday, November 6th between 6:40 – 7:00. It is a 5 minute segment within that timeframe.

Catholic Review

Check out this month's Catholic Review Magazine covering Saint Joseph School Blue Ribbon Award Announcement.

Please also check out the Catholic Reviews website at www.catholicreview.org/ for other great news highlighting Saint Joseph School.

School Closed

St. Joseph School will be closed on Monday, November 7th for a Professional Development Day.

Physical Education Winter Uniforms Begin

Physical Education winter uniforms begin on Tuesday, November 8th. Please check your uniform inventory now so the clothing will be ready. See your handbook (pages 7 to 9) for details.

HASA General Meeting

The fall Home and School Association General Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Our guest speaker Jacqueline Stilling, LCPC, will be covering the topic "Mindfulness". This will be followed by an open forum with Mrs. Ashby and Mr. Pipkin. We look forward to seeing everyone at this wonderful event.

HASA Information

Please keep a look out for HASA information in the weekly blast.

FACTS

Saint Joseph School will be transitioning to the use of the online tuition program called FACTS. Information regarding this program will be sent home after the New Year.

ST. JOSEPH IS RACING FOR EDUCATION NOVEMBER 4TH!

Our students will be RACING FOR EDUCATION this Friday, November 4 on our campus. Students will do walking or running laps with their homerooms to raise money for technology and classroom improvements at our school. We want to thank all our parents who gave up their precious time to fill out mailing labels so we can contact your relatives and family friends about this event and ask for their sponsorship. This event normally raises over \$40,000 for our school, thanks to your help. If anyone asks, we will gladly accept donations even after RACE DAY, and we normally receive checks through January! We also want to thank all those wonderful parents who showed up to help on CLASSROOM MAILING DAY, and volunteered to work the day of the race. There is also a group of ladies who help Mrs. Beres with the processing of the paperwork and donations: Mrs. Hudson (Mariana, 4B), Mrs. Figas, (Niko, KB,), Mrs. Arnold (Victoria, 3B, and AJ, KB), Mrs. Boze (Liam, 2A), Mrs. Rosenberger (River, 1B), Mrs. Ellis (Zachary, 3A, Katie, 5A, and Nathan, 8B), Mrs. Brown (Tyler, 4B, and Jacob, 7A), and anyone else who kindly showed up at the Library doors and said, "I have an hour to spare!"

OPEN HOUSE DATE APPROACHING!

St. Joseph School, Fullerton students score significantly higher than national and Catholic school averages on standardized tests. We were one of only 50 private schools in the nation awarded the BLUE RIBBON this year for our outstanding academic program and long list of student services! In addition, our caring faith community provides a safe and positive learning environment, where Catholic values are incorporated into all our curriculum areas. On Friday, November 11, from 8:30-11:30 am, our staff will be on hand to offer tours and answer questions about our wonderful school (by appointment only). If you know someone who might be interested in our school, please have them call our school office at 410-256-8026 to schedule an appointment. We will also have an Open House on Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 1:30-3:00 pm. (no appointment necessary) Please help spread the good word! There is nothing more effective and powerful than word of mouth advertising!

LOOKING FOR HOMEWORK HELP?

Our school's **Homework Connection (HWC)** is here to help your child with their homework! Homework Connection is an after school program which runs **Monday through Thursday from Dismissal (2:50pm) until 4:00pm, and is located in our school library. Students will be dismissed from the Library's back door.** Students have the opportunity to learn good work habits and complete their homework with the support of a teacher. There is a fee involved. Please email Mrs. Loraditch or Mrs. Veise if you are interested in more information.

kloraditch @stjoefullerton.org

cveise@stjoefullerton.org

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST REGISTRATION OPEN

High School Placement Test Reminder

Please remember to register to take the HSPT on either December 3 or December 10. The deadline to submit documentation for HSPT accommodations is Friday, November 11. Families may complete their registration at <https://baltimore.stsusers.com>. Please contact Laura Mooney at laura.mooney@archbalt.org with any questions.

Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities and programs are posted on the new bulletin board, presented to students in class and sent home on a weekly basis. Please keep a look out for all new opportunities as they become available. (FLYERS AT THE END)

Student Awareness Committee (SAC) Purple Fridays

The SAC (Student Awareness Committee) will be sponsoring PURPLE FRIDAYS for all Ravens' home games. Each week that there is a home game, students will have the opportunity to show their purple spirit. They are invited to wear a Ravens jersey, shirt, or purple shirt over their St. Joe's uniform bottom. Participants are asked to donate \$1.00. The SAC will be sending the donations to various charities decided upon by the student members. This is a great way to show purple spirit and also help those less fortunate. Go RAVENS!!!

SAC Canned Food Drive Contest

The SAC (Student Awareness Committee) will be sponsoring a Canned Goods Food Drive with a twist. Not only will we be collecting canned goods, but we will be competing against four other schools for the honor of winning the WE CAN DO IT! Trophy. The schools we will be challenging are: St. Ursula's, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Michael's Overlea, and St. Stephen's Bradshaw. The drive will be from October 31st through November 21st. Our canned food items will be distributed to St. Clement's Catholic Church Food Pantry. The other schools will also select donation sites. Make St. Joseph's # 1 by sending in canned goods with your child. We CAN win and we will! We put down the challenge and we will announce the winner on, Wednesday, November 23rd. Please help the SAC bring home the first annual trophy!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We are excited to announce that our first school-wide Christmas show will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 7pm in the Church. All students in Pre-K through 8th grade will have a role in *The Christmas Chronicles: A Christmas Musical*. Students have already begun to work on their roles during music class. Please plan to join us for a community-wide celebration of the miracle of Jesus' birth as portrayed by our fabulous St. Joseph School students!

Shield The Vulnerable Training Reminder

We are very excited to have many volunteers take part in any and all activities that we host here at St. Joseph School. We just need to make sure that anyone who wants to volunteer to work with or around children has completed the Archdiocesan Shield the Vulnerable Training. Please contact Mrs. Brooks in the school office. The process involves online training and confirmation that it is complete before you are allowed to attend and/or volunteer around the children.

END OF THE FIRST TRIMESTER

This is a friendly reminder that the 1st trimester ends on Wednesday, November, 23rd.

CROSS COUNTRY

We would like to congratulate all of our students on doing such a great job representing Saint Joseph's at the cross country meets this season. There are three meets left.

Perry Hall Elementary – Tuesday, November 1st

St. James Academy – Wednesday, November 2nd

Archbishop Curley Invitational – Wednesday, November 9th

Please stop by to support our great runners.

Library

- Some of our Library classes have met their...older and wiser Library buddies! Older grades are paired with younger grades and meet 4-5 times throughout the year to read together and do a craft to give them time to get to know one another. It's heartwarming to walk around the room and listen to these wonderful conversations. The older students truly step up and take on the responsibility to make this program work on many levels.
- Fourth grade students are starting to do research on Alcatraz, 7th grade students are learning about newspaper writing (we had a guest speaker from the Catholic Review), 8th grade students are learning how they are targeted in advertising (and are about to do a blind taste test on their schoolmates), and the younger students are learning about some wonderful children's authors (especially the ones that make Mrs. Beres laugh) and how to navigate their way around the library.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – Hear about closings or delays on TV or Radio

This is a reminder that if St. Joseph School Fullerton is closed because of inclement weather, please listen to WBAL television or radio to learn the status of Baltimore County Public Schools. If they are closed, opening late, or dismissing early due to inclement weather or other natural disaster, we will do likewise. There will not be a separate announcement for St. Joseph School unless there is something specific and different that needs to be announced. In addition, we will not be sending a direct message to your phone or email unless Baltimore County Public School is already closed that day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

We are thrilled to announce a new position for Saint Joseph School Fullerton. We have recently hired a new Marketing & Advancement Director for our school. Please help me in welcoming Mrs. Francesca Troiano to our family. Her first day was Monday, October 31, 2016.

THANKS TO...

Red Ribbon Week & Anti-Drug Parade

During the week of October 24th, children were presented with anti-drug and anti-tobacco education. During this week, teachers offered information and advice on drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention as appropriate to each grade level. At 1:00 on Friday, October 28th, we had a great time spreading anti-drug ideas through our annual Red Ribbon Week Parade. I would like to send out a big thank you to Mrs. James and her team for an AMAZING “Red Ribbon Parade.” It was awesome.

HASA Trunk or Treating

The 1st Annual Trunk or Treat took place on Saturday, October 29th. Everyone had a great time. We would like to thank Joyce Dietrich and her committee for putting together an amazing event. We can't wait until next year!

BONUS PROGRAMS

During the year, through the efforts of the Home and School Association, funds are raised using a variety of bonus programs. Some of these programs are on-going; others have a beginning and ending point. But in all cases they raise money for our school by points you accrue through purchasing their products. We continue to do the following programs with great success and encourage you to send in your Campbell Labels and Boxtops for Education!!

Programs include:

Boxtops for Education

Giant

Campbells

*Coca Cola – We received a check for \$42.43 this week from your efforts.
Every dollar counts.*

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

I want to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming HASA Meeting, on Thursday, November 3rd.

If you follow the news, you can't help but come across articles, magazine covers (i.e.-Time Magazine), televised news segments etc. focused on the practice of Mindfulness and the ever-growing body of research supporting the myriad benefits it offers to parents and children.

We are fortunate to have a guest speaker for our meeting, Jacqueline Stilling, LCPC, who has a depth of knowledge and expertise on this topic. You will come away with a better understanding of the term, why it is so important for us to know about it, how it can help your child in school and finally

how a sense of calm can be instilled at home by incorporating the principles of this practice in your daily routines.

Ms. Stilling is a licensed counselor with a private practice in Towson. She was the Director of Guidance and Student Services at Mercy High School for many years until she recently turned her focus on building her practice.

Ms. Stilling has provided trainings and given talks for mental health professionals and educators. She is passionate about sharing how this powerful tool can help improve the quality of our lives.

Hope to see all of you next Thursday!

My best,

Gail Vernick. LCSW-C

St. Joseph School

We CAN Do IT!

Canned Foods Drive

October 31- November 21st

Several schools in our community have joined together in an effort to serve the less fortunate with a canned food drive. This event will include the following schools: St. Stephen's Bradshaw, St. Michael's Overlea, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Ursula's.

In addition to collecting canned goods, our school is also challenging the other schools in a little competition to see what school will bring in the most canned food items.

The **We CAN DO It!** Trophy will be awarded to the school with the highest percentage of canned goods. The **Student Awareness Committee (SAC)** will be overseeing this collection and the count of cans will be tallied daily. Our collection will be distributed to St. Clement Catholic Church Food Pantry.

Let's do it St. Joe's...remember...

WE CAN Do IT!

The Knott Scholarship Funds announce the availability of full tuition scholarships for the 2017/2018 academic year. These scholarships are for four years, beginning in 5th grade or in 9th grade, and are awarded based on exceptional academic achievement.

Catholic students currently in grades 4 or 8 living in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford or Howard County may apply.



Scholarships may be used to attend a Catholic elementary school or a Catholic high school located in these geographic areas of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

**All application materials are due on April 7, 2017.
Please see the website for additional details.**

Complete qualification requirements and application forms can be found on the web at www.knottscholar.org.

Scholarship Program

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus in partnership with the Knights of Columbus Insurance Advisors is the sponsor of several High School Scholarships for its members and for Catholic students in general. Below is a brief summary of these scholarships and information regarding eligibility for scholarship awards.

The Frederick M. Gossman Memorial High School Scholarship

Designed to assist those Brother Knights holding membership in councils within the jurisdiction of Maryland in paying tuition for their sons and daughters at accredited Catholic High Schools; three grants of \$1,500.00 per year, for up to four years, will be awarded. Awards will be made on the basis of academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. The children of deceased members are also eligible, provided the member was in good standing at the time of death.

The William J. O'Brien Jr., Memorial Catholic High School Scholarship

Three grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years will be awarded. This program is open to any **Catholic student** who is a resident of the State of Maryland to include children and grandchildren of a member of a Knights of Columbus council within the jurisdiction of Maryland. Applicants must have been officially accepted at or must be students at accredited Catholic High Schools. Applications will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need.

Application period is from October 1, 2016 to February 1, 2017. All applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than February 1, 2017.