



# St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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

Monthly Newsletter

February, 2017



## ***GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK***

***“Let all that you do be done in Love.”***

**1 Corinthians 16:14**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The month of February is a time of change and preparedness. February brings the first 100 days of school which means we are more than half way through the year. It also brings Valentine's Day and the hope and wishes for an early spring. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be selecting their high schools and we will soon be welcoming new families to St. Joseph's. All of these only touch on a few of the many wonderful things that go on at St. Joseph's every day.

We start the month of February with the Celebration of Catholic Schools Week. This is truly the one time of year where we celebrate the great gift of a Catholic Education. On behalf of the entire Faculty and Staff we would like to thank each and every one of you for choosing St. Joseph's as your home for your child's education. We appreciate and acknowledge all of the sacrifices that it often takes to provide your child with a Catholic Education. We love every moment we have to be able to educate your children. Our hope as always is that your children are able to “Live in such a way that those who know them but don't know God will come to know God because they know them.” We are blessed to see them live this message every day. We look forward to seeing everyone during Catholic Schools week and help us celebrate all of the great things that happen here at St. Joseph's.

I am happy to share with you that Archbishop Lori will be celebrating Mass with us on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, in honor of Catholic Schools Week and Saint Joseph School's reception of the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence. Dr. Edmondson, the Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, will also be in attendance. We invite all parents and guardians to join us in celebrating Mass at 8:15 followed by a reception in the Parish Center. This will be the kick-off to parent visitation day.

Thank you as always for your continued care and support for your children and the school. We truly are a family that work together collaboratively in the presence of Christ.

Blessing and Peace,

*Kenneth J. Pipkin*

Kenneth J. Pipkin  
Principal  
St. Joseph School Fullerton  
[kipkin@stjoefullerton.org](mailto:kipkin@stjoefullerton.org)



## ***UPCOMING ACTIVITIES***

### **Catholic Schools' Week Celebrations**

Attached is a copy of the Catholic Schools' Week Celebration schedule that was sent home with students.

### **RE-REGISTRATION**

Re-registration packets were due on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. New student registration begins on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> for any open spots not currently saved. Please call the office if you have any questions or concerns.

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE/FAMILY GRANT (FINANCIAL AID)**

All applications for tuition assistance/family grants are filed through the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment website ([www.factsmgt.com](http://www.factsmgt.com)). Additional information and direct links can be found on our website ([www.stjoeschool.org](http://www.stjoeschool.org)) under Admissions – Financial Assistance. Deadline for all applications is February 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or need any help with the application process please contact Mrs. Biggerman at the school office (410-256-8026) on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

### **FACTS**

Saint Joseph School will be transitioning to the use of the online tuition program called FACTS. Information regarding this program was sent home at the beginning of January.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday this year. It begins the season of Lent – a time for us to do a bit of 'spring cleaning' of the soul. Christians are asked to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Students will attend 8:15 Mass and receive ashes. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence for Catholics according to their age. Again this year, the HASA will sponsor the Seafood Sale at Bill's Seafood located 9016 Belair Road. A portion of all the sales that day will go to our HASA for school support.

### **HASA Information**

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

### **PRIVATE TOURS STILL AVAILABLE**

Although our Annual Catholic Schools Week Open House was Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, if you know someone who is considering a Catholic education for their child, please have them call Mrs. Troiano to set up a private tour and get information about the 2017-2018 school year. As we all know, there is nothing better than word of mouth advertising. Share your good experience with friends and family. Our website is also full of information for prospective parents, [www.stjoeschool.org](http://www.stjoeschool.org). We are also on Facebook!

### **ARE YOU A HAPPY CAMPER?**

Our school's Happy Camper Book Fair will be held February 27-March 3 during your child's regular Library Class. Reminder flyers will come home as the month rolls on, but please remember to place money for your child in a CLEARLY MARKED envelope or baggie with their name and homeroom. Parents and/or grandparents are invited to shop with our students during their Library class. Just sign in at the office and meet your child/grandchild in the Library during their class time. Parents and/or grandparents can also "secret shop" anytime during the school day! It's a great time to find some cool books for Easter! Stop in after drop off or pull up a little early for pick up any day that week. If you are available to volunteer for our Book Fair, please send a note with the day(s) and time(s) you are available to Mrs. Beres. Students need help in deciding if they have enough money for their choices, and we always need help at the cash registers (it's easy!) Thank you!

### **SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about financial literacy in Library class by way of the Junior Achievement Program. Students learn about taxes, checkbooks, credit cards, leasing vs. owning, stocks, bonds, bank accounts, and working within a budget. After six sessions in the classroom, the students move to our school's Computer Lab for a 4-session virtual simulation experience. They are given an identity, job, and salary, and are "placed" in a virtual town where they have to find a way to live within their means. It's an eye-opening experience for them as they realize the Mercedes and beach house are.....not possible.

### **SIXTH GRADE MARCH MADNESS INVOLVES DOGS AND SNOW**

Our sixth grade Library students are ready to learn all about the Iditarod, the annual Alaskan dog sled race. During February, they learn all about the race and adopt a musher. We then follow the race from beginning to end (start date: March 4). It's a fun way to learn the proper way to do research, and find out who will "win the buckle".

### **KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS SET TO GET FIRST LIBRARY CARDS**

On February 14, our kindergarten students will receive their very FIRST LIBRARY CARDS from the Baltimore County Public Library during their regular Library Class. Applications have already been sent home. If your child already has a library card, they will receive a certificate instead (we celebrate EVERYONE!).

Mrs. Jennifer Riley from the Baltimore County Public Library, Perry Hall Branch, will visit and award the library cards or certificates to the students. Our kindergarten students will be surprised to find their fourth grade reading buddies waiting for them to help celebrate the day with a small reception.

### **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)

## **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

## **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.

## **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. Please note that SJS is NOT part of the Hereford Zone.

## ***CONGRATULATIONS***

### **ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT**

We would like to congratulate the following students for their outstanding work at the Robotic Tournament on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at Boys Latin High School. We want to send out a special shout-out to the Robotix Rangers who won first place for Core Values. Their trophy stands proud in the main entrance.

**Robotix Rangers:** Kris Jesionkiewicz, Nathan Ellis, Bryce Esposito, Sam Stitz, Logan Schermerhorn, Elizabeth Ramoy, and Amelia Petr (first place in Core Values)

**TechnoCrashers.MD:** Clarisse Dapul, Jacob Brown, Ethan Floyd, Jayden Sutton, Jan Iringan, Timothy Villanueva, Sarina Saison

## ***THANKS TO...***

Thanks to School Board member **Dr. Marvin Tan and the Filipino Community** for all the new signage for St. Joseph School. Your thoughtfulness and support of the school is greatly appreciated.

## ***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***

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **Counselor's Corner**

I hope everyone's 2017 has been off to a great start!

Here are a few quick updates from my "corner" of the school:

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mediators have been faithfully meeting twice weekly since late October, and will be completing their training over the next month. I have been impressed with their level of commitment, understanding of key concepts and application of the skills involved in practicing to become an effective mediator.

In addition, the Finding Kind Committee is busy preparing for classroom presentations with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls over the next few months in their ongoing effort to spread the message of kindness among girls.

On another note, Abracadabra, and just like that, our clubs program now has a Magic Club for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who, in addition to sharing new tricks with one another, are planning to perform for the younger students in late spring.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Recess Refs are currently on hiatus until warmer weather returns, but they are prepared and eager to assist.

It is always so gratifying to visit classes to provide lessons on a range of topics which reinforce and add to our Bucketfilling and FISH philosophy programs. Your children are truly amazing! Moving forward, I encourage you to send me any suggestions on lesson topics you feel would benefit your child's classroom.

A quick reminder that I am here to help you and your child in any way that I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me by calling the school at 410-256-8026 or by emailing me at [gvernick@stjoefullerton.org](mailto:gvernick@stjoefullerton.org).

My best,

Gail Vernick, LCSW-C

**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](http://www.knottscholar.org).



### ***Sunday, January 29: Our Parish***

- ✧ School families will present Offertory gifts for all masses both weekends
- ✧ Open House 1:30 to 3:00. The band plays at 2:15
- ✧ Teachers, administrators, staff, and parent representatives will be available.

### ***Monday, January 30: Our Faculty and Staff***

- ✧ Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day

### ***Tuesday, January 31: Our Nation***

- ✧ Prayer, Pledge, and patriotic song during morning announcements
- ✧ Special treat at lunch for students (peanut & tree nut free ice cream sandwich)

### ***Wednesday, February 1: Our Families***

- ✧ **8:15** Mass followed by Superintendent Edmonson's address
- ✧ HASA will provide hospitality (beverages and donuts) for visitors in the Parish Center from after mass until 10:00
- ✧ Parent Visitation Day
  - ~ Grades K to 8: 10:00 – 11:30 and 1:00 – 2:30
  - ~ Please note that no visitors will be allowed in classrooms until 10:00.
  - ~ Prek: after mass – 10:25 and 12:15 – 1:30
  - ~ Due to space limitations K and Prek limited to school parents only

### ***Thursday, February 2: Our Community***

- ✧ Each grade will recognize and thank our community helpers i.e. police, fire dept., mail carrier, trash collectors, maintenance staff, etc...
- ✧ Catholic Challenge 1:00 in the Parish Center

### ***Friday, February 3: Our Students***

- ✧ Student Appreciation Day – Fun activities planned all morning for students
- ✧ Students may wear Phys Ed uniforms
- ✧ Half Day with noon dismissal
- ✧ HASA event at Skateland at 1:00