



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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

Monthly Newsletter



May - June, 2017

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

“He fills my life with good things.” – Psalm 10 3:5

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we wrap up the school year I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your support and prayers over this school year. It truly has been a wonderful year at St. Joseph School, Fullerton. Each moment we have had as a family has made us stronger and closer as a community. I am so grateful for each and every one of you and your children for making this the best school and job that I have been a part of in my life. We have accomplished so much this year which is just the beginning of what St. Joseph's is capable of becoming in the future.

Tuesday, May 16th is our Spring Concert and the last HASA meeting. I encourage each of you to attend this event to hear our award winning band as well as to hear the “State of the School Address” which will review this year, and plans for next year and beyond. Please also join us for the Spring Play, “Princess Whatsername” on Thursday, May 18th. Ticket information is at the end of the newsletter. Due to scheduling issues we have rescheduled the “80's Dance” to November 4th of 2017, please mark your calendars for this amazing event.

We are excited to announce that in working with the “Robotics League of Baltimore” we will be offering two Robotic Camps at St. Joseph's this summer for grades 3 – 5 and 6 – 8. The flyer and cost are at the end of the newsletter. There is an early bird offering.

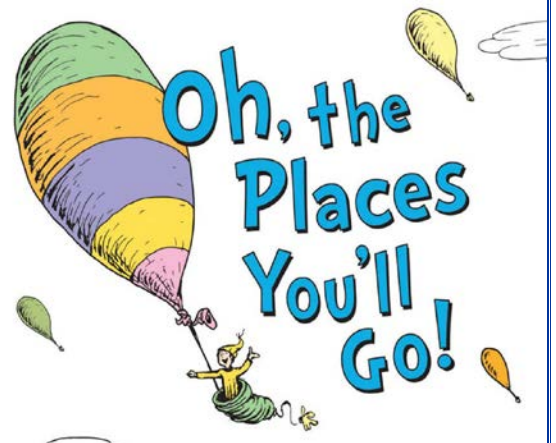
Please have a safe and restful summer filled with time for family and friends. School office summer hours from June 12th – September 1st are Monday – Thursday from 8:00 – 1:00 with school reopening on Tuesday, September 5th. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, thank you again for a wonderful school year and we look forward to seeing you back for the 2017 – 2018 school year.

“Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.” – Dr. Seuss

Blessing and Peace,

Kenneth J. Pipkin

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



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Holy Communion

On **Saturday, May 6th** our second graders will make their **First Holy Communion**. We want to congratulate all of these students and their families on this journey to build on their relationship with God.

Blessed Mother Month

Our annual **May Crowning and Living Rosary** will be held in the Church on Wednesday, **May 10th** at 1:45 pm. A procession of the second graders in their First Communion outfits will bring flowers to Mary as an older student crowns her as our Queen of Heaven. Then students from each grade will recite the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary and pray the decades in honor of the Blessed Mother. Please join us as we sing with joy to Our Lady during her month of May.

School Closed – Faculty Professional Days

School is closed on **Monday, May 8th** and **Friday, May 19th** for a Professional Development Day and Faculty Retreat so our teachers can work on **Professional Activities** including planning and preparing for next year.

Band Competition

Our **Advanced Band** will perform and compete against other east coast middle school bands at Hershey Park on **Saturday, May 13th**. We wish them a safe and successful trip.

HASA Spring General Meeting

Don't miss our annual end of the year **Band Concert and Recorder Performance**. Come and hear our award winning band perform and listen to our 3rd graders play their instruments in public for the first time. The program begins after the **HASA General Meeting** on Tuesday, **May 16th** at 7:00.

Volunteer Day

Each year, the school takes the opportunity to thank all the fine men and women who have served as school or HASA volunteers. Whether you helped with recess duty, copies, milk, in the classroom or with one of the HASA projects, we want you to join us for Mass and breakfast on **Wednesday, May 24th**. Please return your RSVP, mark your calendar and don't miss out on the fun of **Volunteers' Day**.

ROBOTICS CAMP AT SJS

We are proud to announce that the Baltimore Robotics Club will be hosting a Robotics Camp this June at Saint Joseph School Fullerton. Grade 3 -5 will be held June 19-23 and grades 6-8 will be held June 26-30. Both camps run from 9 – 12 and will take place in the Library. Early Bird Pricing ends May 31st. A flyer with more information is at the end of the newsletter and one will be sent home with your students.

Track Meet

The annual **Youth Bowl Track Meet** is this **Saturday, May 6th** at Dundalk High School. This full day program offers a venue for students from Archdiocesan Catholic elementary schools to show their school pride by doing their best in track and field events. St. Joseph always competes in the ‘large school’ category with our 60 plus students participating in all the areas of competition. Please join us as we cheer on our students to do their best. Good Luck, boys and girls!!

Annual Awards Assembly

Each year we take time to recognize our students in grades K-8 at our **Awards Assembly**. Parents and guests are welcome to join us in the Church at 12:45 on **Tuesday, May 23rd**. We are so proud of all of the accomplishments and works of service that our students have given to the school and to the community.

Used Uniform Sale

Students will be able to wear different combinations of our school uniform from **May 22nd until the end of school**. For these **Mix and Match Uniform Days** children may wear PE clothes with regular uniform, winter with summer, etc. Then parents can wash and prepared those gently worn uniforms that won't fit next year to sell at the **Used Uniform Sale on Wednesday, May 24th** in the Parish Center at 6:30. Bring your clean and tagged clothing to the Parish Center in the morning on May 24th.

So Long and Welcome to our Little Ones

Kindergarten Orientation for parents will be held at 8:00 am in the Parish Center on **Thursday, May 25th**. Our Pre- Kindergarten celebrates their last day during their Closing Ceremony at 9:15 immediately following the parent orientation for next year. We wish them a blessed and safe summer until we see them again.

Commencement Activities

Nothing is more exciting than cheering for our 8th graders as they leave campus on their last school day on **Wednesday, May 31st**. The ‘**Drive-Off**’ parade begins at 2:50. The eighth graders and their families will circle once completely then exit at the light after they pass the front door for the second time. I hope the sun shines on them. Regular dismissal from the lot will follow. Please follow the directions of the parking lot helpers prior to dismissal that day. Kindergarten Express Lane will dismiss a little early that day.

Field Days and Picnics

From **June 1st through June 6th**, students will participate in our annual **Field Days**. Children enjoy non-competitive outdoor sports and games as parent volunteers and teachers help out with supervision. Mr. D’Adamo has planned the events for various grade level groups to have fun and to show sportsmanship during the morning of each day. In the afternoon, classes will return to their own grade for their **Class Picnics**. After the food, the fun will begin again with games and activities to round out the day. We will need lots of parent volunteers for these days.

Eighth Grade Graduation

Graduation takes place on **Thursday, June 1st** beginning with Mass in Church at 6:30. Following the ceremony, families and friends are invited to a light reception in the Parish Center sponsored by the 7th grade class and the HASA.

Closing Schedule

On **June 7th and June 8th** students will dismiss at noon so that teachers can do the final preparations of their classrooms and records keeping. Please make arrangements for pick-up for your child. Our **Closing Liturgy will be held at 8:15 on June 9th**, our last day. Please join us to pray for our children as they begin summer vacation. School dismisses at 10:30 on the last day so that the teachers can close the required record keeping.

School is closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th.

REGISTRATION

We are still accepting applications for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Please contact Mrs. Troiano to get information and set up a tour. 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. We are also on Facebook!

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.

2017-2018 TUITION REMINDER

All 2017-2018 tuition payments must be paid through FACTS Tuition Management. Payments cannot be accepted by the school office. The link to set up your account is available on the school website at www.stjoeschool.org. The payment plan options are explained when you set up your account. Also listed are your payment source choices. All accounts should have been set up by April 12, 2017. If you have not set up your account, please do so as soon as possible. Contact Ann Biggerman (410-256-8026) or abiggerman@stjoefullerton.org with any questions. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for instructions.

HASA INFORMATION

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

SAVE THE DATE

Grades 7 & 8 will be performing in the 2017 Spring Musical "Princess Whatsername"!! The Musical performance will take place on Thursday, May 18th. There will be two performances one at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Ticket information and flyers will be coming home.

It's A Totally Awesome 80's Dance Party

The Adult Only Dance Party has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 4th. Mark your calendars for this amazing event.

SPRING CLEANING?

If you find books that your children have outgrown, please consider donating to our school library. If Mrs. Beres cannot use the books, she will drop them off at Good Will or Savers on her way home. Please email Mrs. Beres if you would like to donate, pberes@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. mkbrooks@stjoefullerton.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fidget Spinners

Due to the overwhelming number of fidget spinners entering the building we are asking that all fidget spinners are left home and no longer brought to school unless it has been agreed upon by the teacher and administrator. They have become a distraction and as we head into the final weeks of school we want to continue to promote a positive learning environment.

Personal Information Changes

Should any of your contact information change, please notify school as soon as possible. We appreciate hearing about the changes during the summer as they occur so that we can update your records in a timely manner. Summer office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 to 1:00 but you can email us at any time at office@stjoefullerton.org

SECOND ANNUAL BOOK SWAP COMING THIS MONTH!

For each 1-2 gently used book brought to the Library from May 22 - 26, your child will receive a BOOK BUCK that will allow them to select another gently used book of their choice during their Library class from May 30 – June 2. The book(s) your child brings in to exchange must be appropriate for their age range (for example, an older student may not bring in a picture book) and must be in good condition. A flyer will come home soon with all the details. It's a great way to get new exciting reading material without spending a dime! Our sixth grade students are spearheading this project and they are very excited!

BOOK DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Remember the St. Joseph School Library if you have books your children have outgrown! Our library can always use them! You can send them in with your child, or give Mrs. Beres a call and she can meet you at the door!

SPEAKING OF BOOKS – THAT MAY BE OVERDUE

This is the time of year notes come home if your child has not returned a library book to our school library. Please take a moment to help your child look through their bookshelves, backpacks, and bedroom for SJS library books. Our school library books have a property stamp in them, and a bar code on the inside back cover.

CONGRATULATIONS

Recognition by Mercy High School Freshmen

Congratulations to several of our current teachers who were recognized and valued by our graduates as having a positive influence on their lives. Mercy Freshman recognized Mrs. Myszkowski, Mr. D'Adamo and Mrs. Diggs. They were honored at a ceremony at Mercy on May 2nd.

THANKS TO...

Boxtop Collectors

A big 'Thank-You' and a note of appreciation goes out to all the families and friends who continually save Boxtop points for our school. We are so thankful for the contribution that typically earns us around \$2,000 to be used for support services for our school children.

COUNSELORS CORNER

Our annual Student Retreat was held this past Thursday. Your children were given the unique opportunity to literally “retreat” from the hustle and bustle of their normal busy lives to connect with themselves, others and with their faith.

In the morning, students rotated through three sessions: Growth Mindset, Mindfulness and Adoration.

The portion devoted to Mindfulness also included yoga, thanks to the tremendous efforts of one of our parents, Mrs. Comey, who enlisted yoga/mindfulness teachers from her place of work. I am very grateful to her and all the teachers who generously volunteered their time to work with our students.

Students truly “learned by doing” and came away with a better understanding of how yoga and mindfulness complement one another.

The volunteer instructors were so impressed with how engaged, open and respectful the students were during their time together, and it is our hope to continue to offer opportunities for you and your children to build on the knowledge they have gained from this experience.

In the months preceding the retreat, I visited all classes to introduce the concept of Mindfulness, the benefits and application in education, sports etc., as well as the role it plays in their Catholic faith. Students practiced mindful listening, as well as other exercises, such as deep breathing, providing tools to manage stress and approach situations more calmly and thoughtfully.

Many of you attended the November HASA Meeting in which our speaker, Jacqueline Stilling, gave a presentation on this topic.

As more research and evidence continues to deepen our understanding of the role mindfulness can play in enhancing learning and growth both in school, we will continue to explore ways to integrate components of this practice in our program.

Please feel free to contact me for more information and resources on Mindfulness. There are wonderful books for all ages, videos, apps and articles on this topic.

Also, I can forward Jacqueline Stilling’s power point from the HASA presentation if you are interested and did not receive it.

On another note, I did want to mention that the controversial Netflix series, 13 Reasons Why, has been very popular among teens. I have gathered a lot of information about the show, and wholeheartedly agree with the concerns that have been raised about the show and it’s message.

I am including a link for you to review. I do not recommend that your middle schooler watch this series. It carries a TV MA rating and for good reason. If you would like to talk more or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

I hope everyone has a safe, happy, and healthy summer!

Enjoy!

Looking for specialized camps, tutoring etc. for your children over the summer, just give me a call at 410-256-8026 or email me at gvernick@stjoefullerton.org.

Warmest wishes!

Gail Vernick, LCSW-C



Robotics Summer Camp!

St. Joseph School Fullerton
8416 Belair Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21236

Grades 3-5 June 19-23 9:00am-12:00pm
Grades 6-8 June 26-30 9:00am-12:00pm

Learn

Learn basic robot mechanics from expert coaches, while working on Project Team skills in Programming, Teamwork, Competitive Strategy and established curriculum. State and World Champion level Instruction By coaches and league players!

Play

Drive and Program your robots to complete fun challenges and specific tasks! Even learn to fly a drone

Compete

Prepare and participate in robot competitions!

Awards

T-Shirt & Certificate of Completion



\$210 Early-Bird Pricing!! (Ends 5/31)
Register Now @
BaltimoreRoboticsClub.com/Camps

St. Joseph School, Fullerton Presents



**PRINCESS
WHATSERNAME**

by Brian D. Taylor

Music by Bill Francoeur

Lyrics by Scott DeTurk

May 18th at 1pm and 7pm
In the St. Joseph Parish Center

Tickets \$5

SJS Students and children under 3 FREE!

Please send order form and payment in an envelope to school on or before May 15th. Tickets will be sent home through your child's homeroom.

Tickets will also be available at the door. Current SJS students and children under 3 will not need a ticket.

Doors open 30 minutes before show time.



PRINCESS WHATSERNAME Ticket Order Form

After May 15th, tickets can be purchased in the school office or at the door

Students Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

1pm Show	# of Tickets _____ x \$5 = _____
7pm Show	# of Tickets _____ x \$5 = _____
	Total Enclosed \$ _____

Setting up a FACTS Payment Plan



Here are some items you may need:

- Customer or Student ID (provided by the school, if applicable)
- Financial Account information

SJS School ID #11179

1 Go to your school's website to find and select the FACTS information link. On the welcome page click the appropriate option: 'Create a username & password' or 'Sign in'.

- 2** Enter your demographic information (name, address, phone number, email).
- 3** Create a user name, password, and select security questions.
- 4** You are now logged in to your FACTS Account. Select Set up a Payment Plan.
- 5** Choose the appropriate term (school year) and click Continue.
- 6** Contact Information: Review the information and choose a correspondence method.
- 7** Students: Each student included in the payment plan must be added.
- 8** Plan Options: Select a payment plan and click Next. Note information about possible fees.
- 9** Payment Details: Enter your financial account information.
- 11** Payment Schedule: Select your payment date and review your schedule.
- 10** Review: You can select the links to the right to go back and edit the entries. Check the box to agree to the Terms & Conditions and click Submit.
- 12** Thank You: Print or e-mail your confirmation page. It includes your agreement number which can be used to reference your tuition payment plan with your school and FACTS.

You may contact a FACTS representative at (866) 441-4637 with questions.