



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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

Monthly Newsletter



April, 2018

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"God's love is unbounded; it has no limits."

- Pope Francis

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

According to the calendar, Spring has arrived but we are still waiting for Mother Nature to catch up. As we look forward to warmer weather and the flowers blooming we head into the home stretch of the academic year. When we return from Easter there will only be 44 days left before summer break begins. I wanted to share a few reminders of upcoming events that should be highlighted on your calendars.

IOWA testing for grades 2 – 8 starts on Wednesday, April 11th and ends on Wednesday April 18th. We have a very small testing window so it is critical that students are in school and on time these days. We appreciate all of your support and encouragement to your student's success. Please make sure they eat breakfast and have #2 sharpened pencils with them.

On Tuesday, April 17th we will hold our first "State of the School Address" at 6:30 in the Parish Center. The evening will let you find out where we are for the year and the exciting places we are going from the perspective of the school and HASA. It will also give you an opportunity to share your concerns, ask questions, and provide suggestions on the future of the school. We will be drawing the winner of the "Tuition Raffle" that night. Light refreshments will be provided so we look forward to everyone being in attendance.

I want to thank you as always for all of the support and love that you give to our children each and every day. Please also know how much we appreciate your feedback and input. Communication and teamwork are the cornerstones to solving the issues and concerns that are placed in front of us but together as a family there are no problems we cannot conquer together. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, we wish each of you a Happy and Healthy Easter and hope that you all get time to rest and enjoy each other's company over the break.

Blessing and Peace,

Kenneth J. Pipkin

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



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

A Few Openings Remain for 2018-2019

We are still accepting applications for the 2018 – 2019 school year for PreK-4, Kindergarten, and 3rd Grade. If you know someone who is considering a Catholic education for their child, please have them contact Mrs. Troiano at admissions@stjoeschool.org to set up a private tour and get information about the 2018-2019 school year. Remember if your name is listed as a referral source then you will be entered into a \$500 tuition drawing. The drawing will take place on June 1, 2018.

OUR VERY OWN BGE VIDEO COMING SOON!

Our fifth grade students helped our school get \$5000 last fall for their BGE gas safety art entries. They are at it again! They have been working very hard on a BGE Wires Down video that could win our school up to \$10,000! Dressed as knights, princesses, and peasants, we put together a 45 second video featuring the BGE Wires Down song. The public voting phase of the contest begins **April 9 and ends April 22**. Our entry will be uploaded to www.BGEvideochallenge.com. Individuals age 13 or older can vote for our St. Joseph entry! Let family members and friends know we need their support! The six contest entries in each participating county will go to the Finalist Judging Phase! **WITHOUT THE ONLINE VOTES WE CAN'T GET THERE!** The students worked hard to put this together, and we'd love to win (MORE!) money for our school! Thank you for your support!

Tuition Raffle

Feeling lucky? Our tuition raffle is now underway until April 12. We are asking each student to sell three raffle tickets for a chance to win free tuition for the 2018-2019 school year or \$5,000 cash! More tickets are available by contacting our school office - 410-256-8026. Good luck! The winner will be drawn on Tuesday, April 17th at the *State of the School Address*.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

HASA has been working hard to put together the 1st school wide yearbook through TreeRing. Attached is a flyer to show you how you can purchase and personalize the yearbook for your student. The yearbook team is in need of 4th grade pictures to place in the yearbook. Any help is greatly appreciated.

STUDENT TESTING

IOWA testing for grades 2 through 8 will be taking place April 11th – 18th. As you may remember the IOWA took the place of the Stanford test given in the past.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Project Continues

The **Student Awareness Committee (SAC)** of St. Joseph School distributed collection boxes for the CRS Rice Bowl Project on February 14th. Students were given individual boxes and were asked to fill them with their spare change. Students are asked to return any remaining boxes after Easter. These are to be given to the Homeroom teacher. Thank you all ahead of time for helping to make this SAC Lenten Project a successful one!

ROBOTICS CAMP

We are happy to announce that we will be offering a Robotics Camp again this summer through the Baltimore Robotics Club. The camp is available for grades 3 – 8. A flyer was sent home but it is attached to the newsletter as well.

HASA INFORMATION

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

PLEASE CHECK AT HOME FOR LIBRARY BOOKS!

We have quite a few overdue books in our school library. We have been handing out quite a few YELLOW REMINDER NOTICES (did any of them make it out of the backpacks?). It's very sad when our students aren't able to check out a book because they haven't returned the last one checked out. Our school barcode is on the BACK INSIDE COVER of the book (we don't use the UPC that stores use). Please check with your child to see if they received a yellow reminder notice from Mrs. Beres, and if so, please remind them to check at home and in their desk and locker for the book. It's getting to the end of the year and students cannot end the year owing a book to our library. Thank you for your support.

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. You can send the books in with your child or email Mrs. Beres pberes@stjoeschool.org to arrange delivery. Some of our books get worn very quickly because of their popularity! Thank you!

ARCHDIOCESE PRAYER SERVICE

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is hosting an Ecumenical and Interfaith Prayer Service at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Thursday, April 12th at 7:00pm. The Prayer Service is to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. An invitation from the Archbishop and a copy of the flyer are attached to the newsletter.

EDUCATION SAVINGS PROGRAM

Attached is a flyer from NCEA regarding education savings opportunities for Catholic School Families.

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 3:00pm 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 at kloraditch@stjoeschool.org or Mrs. Veise at cveise@stjoeschool.org if you are interested in more information.

HOMEWORK CONNECTION FOR GRADES 1 – 3

Our school's Homework Connection has expanded to Grades 1 – 3. Please read the attached flyer for information and details.

THANKS TO...

BOOK FAIR WAS PURRRRRFECT!

We are so pleased to announce we are able to spend over \$7000 on new books for our classrooms and school library from the proceeds of our Book Fair! We couldn't have done it without the support of our wonderful volunteers, and families who supported this event.

TALENT SHOW

Thank you to Mrs. Starcher and Mrs. Sosnowski for organizing and running the amazing Talent Show. We also want to thank Miss Wertlieb and Mrs. Hirsch for all of your help as well.

CONGRATULATIONS

SCHOOL BAND

We would like to congratulate the St. Joseph School Band for receiving the award of **Superior** while performing in the Forty-First Annual Instrumental Music Program Festival held at Notre Dame Preparatory School on Sunday, March 25th. The band was also the recipient of the **2018 Supervisor's Award**. This award was received by the band because they have displayed both a commitment to improvement and a high degree of band spirit. Both trophies are in the main lobby.

We would also like to congratulate the following students for their performance in the representation band on Wednesday, March 28th at Mercy High School. They did a great job representing the St. Joseph family.

Brendan Brooks

Jacob Brown

Jillian Seay

Sam Smith

Paige Sokolowski

Andrew Villegas

TALENT SHOW

Congratulations to all of the students who took part in the school wide Talent Show that took place on Monday, March 26th. All of the performances were amazing and truly showed all of the talents our students have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

As Easter Break approaches, I wanted to share a link to a wonderful opportunity for you and your children to experience.

On Sunday, April 8th, Dr. Schreiber-Pan will be discussing the positive connection between nature and our well-being. She has researched this link and has a wealth of information to offer you and your family. The program will be held at Genesee Valley, which many of you may know is a beautiful setting in Northern Baltimore County. What a great way to spend the last day of the break! (and I am optimistic that the weather we have been waiting for will finally arrive for the break.)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/plug-in-to-nature-an-afternoon-with-dr-schreiber-pan-tickets-43315558000>

Attached to the newsletter is a summer resource offered by Loyola University.

Have a wonderful holiday and a safe and enjoyable week!

My best,

Gail Vernick

St. Joseph Lenten Seafood Sale

When: Friday March 30, 2018

Time: 9am – 8pm

Where: Bill's Seafood
9016 Belair Road

Stop in Bill's Seafood for the Lenten Seafood Sale and let them know you are with St. Joseph's School. With each purchase, 10% will come back to St. Joseph.



Robotics Summer Camp!

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

Grades 3-5	June 18-22	8:30am-11:30am
Grades 6-8	June 18-22	12:30pm-3:30pm

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



\$220 Early-Bird Pricing!! (Ends 4/15)

Register Now @

Star-Academy.com/Camps

Capture Your Memories in this Year's St. Joseph Fullerton Yearbook!



Add Photos & Memories to Your 2 Free Custom Pages

- » Add photos from your computer, Facebook & Flickr.
- » Add memories & photos from throughout the year. Share them with your classmates to include in their personal pages.
- » Send and receive Bling and signatures. A great way to share expressions of friendship!

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook*:

*Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to www.TreeRing.com/validate
- 2 Enter our school's passcode:
1014879532772250

Yearbook Price: **\$25.00**

Deadline: **May 2**

TreeRing

Tired of struggling with your child to get their homework done?

Homework Connection Primary!

Dear Parents,

We would like to introduce you to the **Homework Connection Primary (HWCP)** at St. Joseph's! Homework Connection Primary is an after school program which runs for an hour, **Monday through Thursday from Dismissal (3:00PM) until 4:05PM. It is held in Room 2. Students will be dismissed from the Library's back door.** Our purpose is for students to have the opportunity to learn good work habits and complete their homework with the support of a teacher.

Students (Gr. 1-3 only) can:

- Work on written and study homework with the support of Homework Connection staff.
- Enjoy a small snack to get energy to tackle their work.
- Work on their homework after school in a quiet, safe environment so that you can enjoy more family time at home.

Teachers (Ms. James, Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Visalli) will:

- Be on hand to aid students with any difficulties they might encounter with their work.
- Review homework and offer corrections.
- Actively study with students by quizzing, reviewing (i.e. math facts-flash cards), and asking questions.

NOTE: This is a group setting; therefore teachers cannot be tutoring individuals.

The cost of the Homework Connection would be \$9 per day with a minimum commitment of two days/week per session. Anyone coming less than two days/week per session will be considered as a drop-in and charged \$12 per day. Payment is due by Thursday of the first week of the session. Any payments received after will be assessed a late fee of \$15. Staffing is based on number of students enrolled on any given day of a session. No refunds for students who are absent or don't attend. **Make checks payable to Kathy James.**

Enrollment is open each session. If you would like to drop in, you need to email the teacher as soon as possible to make sure there is enough room for your child. *Unless you have teacher confirmation via email or phone call that there is space available, your child CANNOT drop in.*

Please send in the attached slip c/o HWCP - Ms. James and you will receive confirmation from the Homework Connection Primary staff.



Homework Connection Primary!

Upcoming Sessions:

Session #5	02/05-02/08	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	02/12-02/15	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	02/20-02/22	Tues, Wed, Thurs
	02/26-03/01	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Session #6	03/05-03/08	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	03/12-03/15	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	03/19-03/22	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	03/26-03/28	Mon, Tues, Wed
Session #7	04/09-04/12	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	04/17-04/19	Tues, Wed, Thurs
	04/23-04/26	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	04/30-05/03	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Session #8	05/08-05/10	Tues, Wed, Thurs
	05/14-05/17	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	05/21-05/24	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	05/29-05/31	Tues, Wed, Thurs

Child's name: _____ Homeroom: _____

I am registering for session # _____ My child will attend (circle): Mon Tues Wed Thurs

I would like drop-in services only: _____ Any specific day/dates? _____

My child will be picked up by: _____

Parent's name(s): _____

Parent's email: _____ Parent's phone: _____

Is there anything you would like us to know about your child? Is there a particular subject or type of homework (written/study) that you'd like us to have your child focus on while at HWCP?

We encourage you to provide any information in the space below that could help us when working with your child. If you have any additional questions or concerns please email either:

Ms. James: kjames@stjoeschool.org



READING SKILLS AND SPEED READING PROGRAMS

For Children and Adults



OFFERED THIS SUMMER IN TOWSON and ON CAMPUS

Program for 4-Year-Olds and Entering Kindergartners

In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read. Children learn letter recognition, beginning phonics, and easy sight words. Your child will learn to read simple words and short sentences and will be excited about books and reading.

Program for Entering 1st Graders

In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read independently. Children learn phonics and sight words, build fluency and comprehension, and develop a love of books and reading. Your child will be excited about reading and get off to a great start in first grade.

Program for Entering 2nd Graders

In this fun summer program, your child will become a fluent, confident reader. Children build solid phonics and word-attack skills and develop reading fluency and strong comprehension. Your child will gain confidence, be excited about books and reading, and get off to a great start in second grade.

Program for Entering 3rd Graders

In this fun summer program, your child will become a strong, fluent reader. Children develop long-word decoding skills, reading fluency, and excellent comprehension. Your child will gain confidence, develop a lifelong love of books and reading, and get off to a great start in third grade.

Program for Entering 4th Graders

Program for Entering 5th Graders

In these fun and effective programs, your child will become a skilled, enthusiastic reader. Students develop strong comprehension skills in fiction, non-fiction, and textbooks. They build long-word decoding skills and learn to read more fluently and rapidly. Your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, be more successful in school, and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Program for Entering 6th-8th Graders

Program for Entering 9th-11th Graders

In these effective and enjoyable programs, your son or daughter will make substantial gains in comprehension and learn to read twice as fast. Students learn the best way to take notes, study for tests, and read fiction, non-fiction, and textbooks. Your student will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and enjoy reading more.

Program for Adults, Entering 12th Graders, and College Students

Transform your reading skills with our speed reading program! You will learn to read twice as fast in difficult material, such as textbooks and other challenging non-fiction, and triple your speed in easier reading. The comprehension, concentration, and retention techniques you learn will enable you to save time and get more out of everything you read.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

Call 1-800-903-0162

Mon.-Fri. 8am-10pm, Sat. 8am-7pm and Sun. 10am-6pm



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND
School of Education



Phonics

Fluency

Comprehension

Love of Reading

Textbook Skills

Speed Reading



PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE

Teachers

Programs are sponsored by Loyola University Maryland, School of Education. Classes are taught by instructors from the Institute of Reading Development.



"I'm so happy with the class and the teacher! Jennifer has gained confidence and a greater interest in reading. Not only is she reading faster and more easily, but her comprehension is so much stronger."

- Parent of 5th Grader



Class Schedule

All programs meet once each week. Tuition varies by program grade. Please ask about our family discount.

Choose the grade your child will enter in Fall 2018.

ON CAMPUS: Loyola University Maryland, Evergreen Campus.

4-year-old & K: Sat., July 28-Aug. 25, 9am-10am

1st Grade: Sat., July 28-Aug. 25, 10:30am-12:15pm

2nd Grade: Sat., July 28-Aug. 25, 1pm-2:45pm

3rd Grade: Sat., July 28-Aug. 25, 3:15pm-5pm

4th Grade: Fri., July 27-Aug. 24, 12:30pm-2:30pm

5th Grade: Fri., July 27-Aug. 24, 3pm-5pm

6th-8th Grades: Wed., July 25-Aug. 22, 1:30pm-3:30pm

9th-11th Grades: Wed., July 25-Aug. 22, 4pm-6pm

12th Grade & Adults: Wed., July 25-Aug. 22, 6:30pm-8:30pm

TOWSON: Towson University, 8000 York Road.

4-year-old & K: Sat., June 23-July 21, 8:30am-9:30am

4-year-old & K: Sun., June 24-July 22, 9:30am-10:30am

1st Grade: Sun., June 24-July 22, 11am-12:45pm

2nd Grade: Sun., June 24-July 22, 1:30pm-3:15pm

3rd Grade: Sun., June 24-July 22, 3:45pm-5:30pm

4th Grade: Sat., June 23-July 21, 10am-12pm

5th Grade: Sat., June 23-July 21, 12:45pm-2:45pm

6th-8th Grades: Mon., June 18-July 16, 1:30pm-3:30pm

6th-8th Grades: Sat., June 23-July 21, 3:15pm-5:15pm

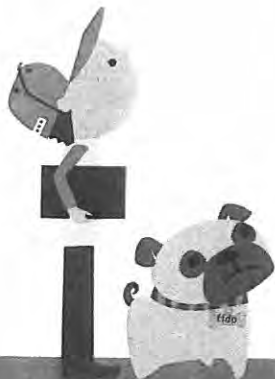
9th-11th Grades: Mon., June 18-July 16, 4pm-6pm

12th Grade & Adults: Mon., June 18-July 16, 6:30pm-8:30pm



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

School of Education



More reading classes are scheduled at nearby locations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

Call 1-800-903-0162

Mon.-Fri. 8am-10pm, Sat. 8am-7pm and Sun. 10am-6pm

INQUIRE EARLY! CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED.

Education Savings Opportunities for Catholic School Families

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children . . . and have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. Public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and of ensuring the concrete conditions for its exercise" (CCC #2229).

There are various ways in which federal and state governments can provide opportunities for families to be supported in their choice of schooling for their children. Some of these options (vouchers, tax credits, and education savings accounts) have been explored in earlier editions of the NCEA Parent News. The new 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act law has created another parental choice option with the expansion of 529 savings plans.

More than two decades ago, the Internal Revenue Code Section 529 created tax-advantaged investment accounts designed to encourage saving for college costs. The legal name for 529 plans in the tax code is "qualified tuition programs" and they are offered by states. Earnings on funds invested in these programs are not taxed federally when used for "qualified higher education expenses." While college expenses include tuition and fees, room and board and computers, the expansion for K-12 usage is earmarked for withdrawals up to \$10,000 a year per account only for tuition for private and religious schools.

The deposits into the 529 accounts are not deductible for federal tax purposes, but the earnings on the accounts accumulate tax free over the lifetime of the account. Additionally, some states provide tax deductions or credits for all or part of the contribution to a 529 account. Those who wish to create a 529 account may do so directly through a state's college savings program website or through a financial adviser.



Any U.S. citizen or resident alien 18 years old or older can open a 529 account for any beneficiary. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, other relatives or friends may open separate accounts for a child or contribute to a single plan. There is no limit to the number of plans one can set up and there are no income restrictions on either the contributor or the beneficiary. The availability of an account with state tax advantages for contributors may incentivize assistance from friends

or family who may not have otherwise assisted with tuition contributions. The control of the fund remains with the contributor.

The 529 expansion is a significant step in the ongoing quest for financially supported school choice. 529s benefit many families who can contribute funds into accounts for their children where the gains may be withdrawn tax-free. In many states, the money contributed to the plan is deductible for state income taxes but state laws on this point vary widely.

For those families, immediate and extended, who can contribute to a 529 account it is important to follow implementation guidance from the IRS as well as consultation with an accountant or financial adviser to determine if a 529 account is appropriate.

However, many families of modest or low income may not be able to take advantage of such a program and will need assistance such as tax-credit scholarship programs, vouchers, education savings accounts and other choice programs to enable them to exercise their right to select the best school for their children. Parents, educators and church and public officials would do well to unite in efforts to advocate for parental choice programs at the state and federal levels that will support parents as the primary educators of their children.