



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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

Monthly Newsletter



December, 2017 and January, 2018

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them...And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:9-11

Dear St. Joseph School Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as the holiday season is underway and we are all preparing our homes and hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ. The holidays are a gift to all of us to spend time with family and friends. With all the shopping, sporting events, parties and other activities keeping all of us busy I challenge each of you again this year to take time and be mindful of what the holidays really mean and to help your children truly understand all of the wonder and joy that you bring into their lives by being present for them. Christ has given all of us the wonderful gift of our children and at Saint Joseph we are grateful to you for sharing your gifts with us as well as your time and talents.

We look forward to sharing holiday cheer with all of you at the Band Concert, the Christmas Play, Lunch with Santa, the Christmas Liturgy and other events. These events will give us the opportunity to celebrate the holidays together as a family. Please join us in as many events that you are able, so that we can continue growing as a family.

I personally want to thank you for the outpouring of support and prayers that you provided my family over the last two weeks. Your kindness and care was very overwhelming and affirmed how much each of you are my family and that I love calling St. Joseph's Home. Please know how grateful my family and I are to each of you.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessing and Peace,

Kenneth J. Pipkin

Kenneth J. Pipkin

Principal

St. Joseph School Fullerton

kipkin@stjoeschool.org



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2nd Annual Christmas Play

As we kick off the holidays we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2nd Annual Christmas Play – “Three Wise Men and A Baby” on Wednesday, December 20th. (Please see the attached flyer with all of the details.)

Santa’s Secret Shop

Keep your eyes closed when the children come home from school on Friday, December 8th. They may have a secret Christmas gift for you among their school supplies. HASA Santa’s Secret Workshop is held for our children to purchase gifts for their loved ones. The youngest children will be assisted with their shopping by their ‘Buddies’ in the older grades. You can help your child by preparing the lists and giving us some hints of who they need to buy for. Shopping during school hours is for students only.

Lunch with Santa

Just listen for the sound of the sleigh bells as Santa arrives for our annual HASA *Lunch with Santa* held on Saturday, December 16th in the Parish Center. St. Joseph School children and CCD students are invited to a pizza or hot dog lunch, games, crafts, face painting and visit with Santa. Tickets are only available online through the school but they do sell fast. We cannot promise that tickets will be available at the door. It has been a sell out in the past.

Christmas Band Performance

To help you get in the spirit of Christmas, we welcome you and your family to our annual Christmas Band Concert. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 12th as our award winning School Band will perform twice - once at 1:00 for students and again at 7:00 for families and friends. We hope to see you there.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The 1st Trimester Progress Reports will be distributed on Friday, December 8th.

Blessing of the School

Each year, we call upon Our Lord to extend His blessing on our school as we turn the page of the calendar for the New Year. After the 8:15 Mass on Wednesday, January 3rd, the celebrant, deacon, our 4th grade ‘Three Kings’, and student body will process from church to school as the year in numerals and the initials of the Three Kings (20+C+M+B+18) are written in chalk over the front door. This is a beautiful tradition that reminds us that God will protect us in a special way throughout the entire year.

HASA Information

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

Christmas Information

- The last day of school before the Christmas Break is Thursday, December 21st. We will be having a noon dismissal this day. School will be closed from December 22nd – January 1st. School will resume on January 2nd.
- Students will be able to participate in several activities during the holiday season thanks to our **Student Activities Committee (SAC)**.
 - On December 20th students are allowed to wear their favorite “Christmas Sweater” with their uniform.
 - On December 21st classes will have their Christmas parties after Mass to celebrate the holidays. Please look in your child’s folder for further information regarding their class’s festivities.
 - December 21st - students may wear Christmas Holiday clothes and Festive Gear, it is an out of uniform day

RE-REGISTRATION

Re-registration packets will be sent home mid-January.

School Schedule

- School **dismisses at noon on Thursday, Dec. 21st** and **resumes on Tuesday, January, 2nd**. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.
- Students in Grades 4 to 8 take various mid-term exams during the weeks of January 16th and January 22nd. Exams are generally ‘worth’ the same as two chapter tests but the content is cumulative from the beginning of the year. Please check with the children for their exact schedule, and students should make every attempt to be present. Other classes and homework continue during exams weeks.
- School will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- School will be closed on Friday, January 26th for teachers’ professional development day.

Father/Daughter Dance

H.A.S.A. is preparing to host the Father-Daughter ‘Dinner’ Dance again this year. Mark your calendar for Friday, January 26th and look for details for this social event to be held in the Parish Center from 6:30-9:00. More information will be coming home via Constant Contact.

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). Additional information and direct links can be found on our website (www.stjoeschool.org) under Admissions – Financial Assistance. Also please see the letter attached at the end of the newsletter. Deadline for all applications is February 28th. 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 Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

High School Placement Test Reminder

HSPT is this Saturday, December 2nd or next Saturday, December 9th. We wish our 8th grade students much success.

OPEN HOUSE & CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK PREVIEW

Each year Catholic Schools throughout the country celebrate all that is special about Catholic Schools. This year, Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 28 with our Open House from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Please help spread the word about our school. There is nothing more effective than word of mouth advertising!

Catholic Schools Week festivities will continue throughout the week of January 28 with a different theme each day. Parent Visiting Day will be on Wednesday, January 31. More details to come in January about this exciting week.

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.

STAND 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 STAND 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

Closings or delays announced on TV or Radio This is a reminder that St. Joseph School-Fullerton follows Baltimore County Public Schools in regards to weather related delays and closures. 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.

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK FAIR DATES HAVE BEEN SET!

Our Book Fair will be held February 26- March 2, 2018 during your child's regular Library class time. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join your child during their Library time. We could also use volunteers if you are free! Please contact Mrs. Beres if she hasn't reached out to you already.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MASCOT'S NAME

We would like to introduce you to our mascot "WOLFIE" the "WOLF"! The WOLF'S name was revealed on Wednesday, November 22nd.



ARE YOU IN THE FINANCIAL FIELD?

If you are in the financial field, Mrs. Beres could use your help with the 8th Grade Junior Achievement program. She normally has guest speakers who talk about (the danger of) credit cards, the importance of a budget, bank accounts, etc. She will be happy to send the workbook home to give you ideas! Please contact her at pberes@stjoeschool.org if you are interested and available. She meets with 8th grade on Tuesdays.

CONGRATULATIONS

The We Can Do IT! Canned Food Drive

The SAC would like to thank everyone that donated to the We CAN Do IT canned foods drive.

Did We Do It? No, but we did a great job of feeding many hungry and needy families. We collected a little over 3,800 cans in a three-week period.

The SAC coordinators would like to thank:

- All of the Grade 8 SAC Core members, thank you for all of your collecting and counting each and every day.
- Mrs. Myszkowski and Mr. Ripley, thank you for letting us use your classrooms for storage.
- Mr. Pipkin and Mr. Ripley, thank you both for helping to count the canned goods as well.

A representative from St. Clements' Food Pantry arrived for the pick-up on Tuesday morning, November 21st. We were once again able to fill two pick-up trucks! The SAC Core members helped in loading up the trucks.

Thank you everyone for all of your help and donations. St. Joe's families are the best!

RACE FOR EDUCATION DATA ENTRY HELP NEEDED

If you are able to submit names and addresses to a website link (from any computer – even from home!), please contact Mrs. Beres at pberes@stjoeschool.org. We need to thank our donors with a thank you postcard. We will probably start this process in December. Thank you.

Awesome Cross Country Performance at Curley

The Cross Country team completed their season on Wednesday, November 8th at the Annual Curley Cross Country Meet. We wanted to congratulate all of the students on the wonderful job they did this year. Each student represented St. Joseph School proudly.

Race for Education was a Huge Success

On a beautiful November day, our students and faculty did walking/jogging laps around our campus to help raise money for our school. Mr. Smith (dad of Ava and Tyler) graciously gave up his day to serve as our DJ to make the atmosphere festive. The students enjoyed each other's company as well as the opportunity to do something good for our school. Over 6000 letters were mailed out to your family and friends, asking them to sponsor our students and staff on this day. We are proud to say over \$40,000 has been raised thus far for needed physical improvements to our building and more student-centered technology. We wish to thank all our parents for providing mailing labels for the sponsorship letters, helping on mailing day, and showing up on Race Day to support their children and provide help. We also thank all the parent volunteers who help Mrs. Beres and Mrs. Isom open and process all the donations. Special thanks go to Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Boze, Mrs. Rosenberger, Mrs. Figas, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Zelaya, Mrs. Luby, Mrs. Sipes, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Haffer, and anyone we missed who helped process the donations. Even though the event itself has passed, donations are still coming in (and normally do through January).

Mammoth Manic Monday Meltdown!

Do you remember watching Manic Monday on WJZ TV back in February? Do you remember a group of St. Joe's students and teachers singing and dancing with our school mascot and our giant Blue Ribbon? Maybe you were even a part of the show. Well guess what? We were invited back for the Manic Monday Meltdown on Monday, November 20th!

Better than just being invited back, we won the Valentino Award for 2016-2017!

We hope everyone watched St. Joe's win the Valentino Trophy that morning. If you did not see the presentation, then please visit and see our Valentino Award proudly displayed in our school hall! We want to thank the middle school students, teachers, parents, Mr. Pipkin, and Mrs. Ashby, and all that attended the event and helped to make it a success! Go St. Joe's!!!!

Knights of Columbus Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest

Each year in art class, students in first through eighth grade participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Burggraff Council. Below are this year's contest finalists. Winners will be announced at our winter music concert in the parish center on December 12th at 1:30pm. Congratulations to all who participated.

K – 2nd Grade

Benjamin Los 1B
Sophie Cook 2A
Emily Pipkin 2A

3rd – 5th Grade

Mackenzie Dain 5B
Carly Altman 5B
Haley Rees 5B

6th – 8th Grade

Ella Smith 8A
Anna Christou 8A
Felice Mojica 6B

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Bowser for her help in making this a successful Knights' Council and school activity. The winners will be forwarded to the Maryland State Council for State judging. Trophies, certificates, and a check will be presented to the winners, hopefully, before the School's Annual Christmas Concert.

THANKS TO...

Mr. D'Adamo, Mrs. Sosnowski and Mr. Ripley who worked with our runners all during **Cross Country** this fall. They conducted practices and attended races at several area schools to support our children in this after school activity. We greatly appreciate your time spent with the students and congratulations on a great season!

Boxes of Joy

The SAC Coordinators would like the 7th grade SAC members that were responsible for being part of the Boxes of Joy collection that was held from November 3rd- 9th. Thank you also to, Mrs. Diggs, Mr. Ripley, and the following young ladies that stayed after school on November 9th to pack up the 40 boxes that were promised to be completed for the Knights of Columbus to ship overseas. Thank you so much to:

Stephanie Garst

Sydney Leard

Christiana Maximiano

Ella Del Rosario

They would especially like to thank all of you for making many children happy on Christmas Day!

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

HOLIDAY



SHOW

Saint Joseph School is very excited to be able to help share the holidays with our entire school family with the 2nd Annual Christmas Show on Wednesday, December 20th. The name of the show is the **“Three Wise Men and A Baby”**. All students will be playing a part in the show either as actors or singers. Each student is expected to participate. Below are all of the important details that you will need for this great event.

Christmas Show: Three Wise Men and A Baby

Location: Saint Joseph Church

Date: Wednesday, December 20th

Matinee Performance: 12:30 p.m. – (Doors will open at 12:00)

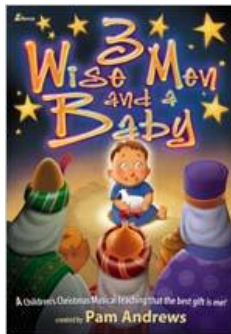
Evening Performance: 7:00 p.m. – (Students should arrive at school starting at 6:30 entering through the front door of school and going directly to homeroom. Safeties will assist with younger grades. All students will be in their homerooms when they are not performing. Doors to the church will open at 6:30 as well.

Tickets: Each family will receive three tickets for the matinee and three tickets for the evening performance. The tickets will go home with students on Monday, December 11th. (Due to limited space in the church there will not be any extra tickets available.)

Attire:

- **Matinee:** The actors will be in full costume. All other students will be in their dress school uniform that day. (No P.E. clothes this day)
- **Evening:** Actors will be in full costume. Stage crew will be in all black. All other students are asked to dress in their Christmas Sunday best.

Dismissal: We will follow normal dismissal procedures after the matinee performance. After the evening show all students will be in their homerooms at the end of the performance. We are asking that one parent/guardian go the student’s homeroom to pick up their child. Pre-K will arrive and dismiss from their normal location.





8416 Belair Road ~ Baltimore, MD 21236
410-256-8026 ~ Fax: 410-529-7234
www.stjoeschool.org

December, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Here at St. Joseph School financial aid has been available to eligible parishioners of St. Joseph Church. This year the Archdiocese of Baltimore will also provide some financial aid to other needy families whose children attend Catholic Schools.

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment will be conducting the financial need analysis for the Archdiocese of Baltimore and also St. Joseph School for the upcoming school year. Families applying for financial aid will need to complete an application and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by February 28, 2018. Applicants must apply online at <https://online.factsmtg.com>. Once an online application has been completed, the following information will need to be sent to FACTS to complete the application process:

- Copies of your most recent Federal tax forms including all supporting tax schedules.
- Copies of your W-2 forms for both applicant and co-applicant.
- Copies of supporting documentation for Social Security Income, Welfare, Child support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and TANF.

All supporting documentation can be uploaded in pdf format online. Documentation can also be faxed to 1-866-315-9264 or mailed to the address below. Please be sure to include the applicant ID on all faxed or mailed correspondence.

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment
P.O. Box 82524
Lincoln, NE 68501-2524

If you have questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-441-4637.

All applications must be made online. Information about the online application and links will be available on the SJS website. All forms and applications must be completed and submitted by February 28, 2018 for financial aid to be considered.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jesse Bolger
Pastor