

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

October 26, 2017

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

In an effort to look ahead at the viability of our future, St. Joseph School is working on writing a Five-Year Strategic Plan, to make sure that we are constantly working towards building and maintaining our school. Strategic Plans tend to cover multiple facets of the viability of our school. Among others, we are looking to plan for the overall safety of the building, to oversee the finances of our budget, and to find the balance between increasing enrollment and increasing tuition. We love our small class sizes, and need to find creative, community-based ways to maintain these small sizes without jeopardizing our financial stability.

We are looking for people with experience and ideas to serve on the committees that will help us to build our long-term plans, so we can move into the future with confidence and strength. This is just another step in the long road towards this year's accreditation. Thanks for any help that you can be in making St. Joseph the best place in town!

It is my goal to hold three meetings a year, with a maximum of one hour each. This does not have to be a big time commitment. We just need to get things done! Bring your opinions, and a can-do attitude, and let's build our future!

Deb Dewar
Principal



Fall Festival



Our annual Fall Festival will be taking place this Friday, October 27th from 6:00 to 7:30 in the gym. Cost per family is \$20.00 or \$5.00 per person.

In a previous email, we had announced that we would be selling a hot dog dinner for \$5.00. Unfortunately we have had to revamp that idea as the kitchen will be in use for the Chesterton dinner taking place on Saturday, October 28th. We will instead be selling pizza for \$2.00 per slice and Capri Sun or bottled at \$1.00 each.

Remember too that your students may be in costume, but students may not wear masks, bring pretend weapons, nor wear fake blood or anything gory.

We look forward to a ghoulishly good time!

Classroom Halloween Parties

Halloween falls on a Tuesday this year. We will be having regular classes during the morning hours. Students are asked to wear their uniforms and BRING their costumes so that the morning's classes aren't compromised. We will break at 1:30 so that students can change into their costumes. (It is preferable to have costumes that slip over their clothing. No masks, no weapons, appropriate costumes for a Catholic environment.) At 2:00 we will line up in the hallway for the parade, showing off our costumes and enjoying all the great variety of ideas. Then at 2:15 we will return to the classroom for our class parties. Any room parents who have volunteered to help can be setting up goodies beginning at 1:30. If you are just dropping off goodies for the festivities, please take them to the classroom. Looking forward to a great day!



Jog-a-Thon Update



We wish to extend a huge thank you to each and every student and their families for making this year's jog-a-thon another one for the record books. To date we have collected over \$17,000 in pledges. Last year we grossed over \$18,000 and we are well on our way to that number again. Thank you St. Joseph students!

Get Involved!

Looking for people who are interested in discussing marketing and enrollment of our school. We would like to attract involved, Catholic families of our parish and community to join us here at St. Joseph Catholic School, and are looking for new, fresh ideas. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Deb Dewar or Teri Martinez at 503-581-2147.



Student Council



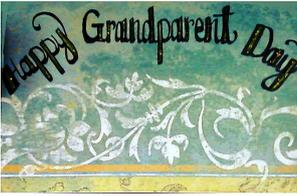
St. Joseph middle school students are eligible to run as Student Council Officers. This week, the officer packet was made available to all middle school students. Students who wish to run for the school-wide offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Public Relations Coordinator have until Thursday, November 2nd to turn in their packets. They must fill out the application with the appropriate signatures, write a letter of intent to run for office, and submit a copy of last year's report card and a picture in order to run. They will have one week to run their campaign. Student Council officer speeches will be held in the the morning on Thursday, November 9th, and voting will take place that same day during lunch recess.

The following week, students from grades four through eight will elect classroom representatives (two per grade), and we can begin having our Student Council meetings. Please encourage your students to take part in this important process. Bring your great ideas, and let's go make a difference!

Called to Protect

Our final Called to Protect class for all volunteers in the school will be held on November 16th at 5:30. This is a class where we discuss sensitive material, including child predators. Please do not bring small children, as the subject matter is not suitable for them, and we have no daycare available.

Grandparents' Day



This year's Grandparents' Day falls on the Feast of St. Albert the Great, the patron saint of scientists. In celebration of this union, our Grandparents get to experiment with us! On Wednesday, November 15th, our Grandparents are invited to come to Mass with us, and then come back to our classrooms to join the students in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) experiment. Build, experiment, measure and graph your results.

Book Fair

Our first Book Fair of the year is opening on Grandparents' Day! The book fair will run from Wednesday, November 15th through Tuesday, November 21st. We will have the Book Fair open to all students and their families before and after school and during conferences. Our media teacher, Kathleen Kercheski, is in need of volunteers to assist with the fair. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Kercheski at kkercheski@stjosephchurch.com.

**BOOK
FAIR
COMING SOON!**

Support the school as you support your child's education and love of literature. Come in and get your Christmas shopping done early!

Parent-Teacher Conferences



Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, November 20th and 21st. Please visit the St. Joseph School website to download the conference form. Please fill this out and return to the school office by Friday, November 3rd. Parents who don't send in their preferences will be assigned a time during those days.

Weekly Family Prayer Corner



As your children grow, to help strengthen our Catholic faith and the values of our traditions, we would like to offer a weekly family activity to build in your understanding and practices together. This week's activity: During the week or after Sunday Mass, light a candle in your church and say a prayer for the soul of a departed loved one.

Key Dates Calendar

November

- 10 **No School - Veteran's Day**
- 15 **Grandparents' Day**
- 20 - 21 **No School - Parent Conferences**
- 22 - 24 **No School - Thanksgiving Holiday**

December

- 8 **Half Day of School (out at 11:45 a.m.), end of term**
- 12 **Confessions (3-5)**
- 14 **Confessions (6-8)**
- 14 **Christmas Program - 5:30 p.m.**
- 18 - 1 **No School - Christmas Break**