

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

August 31, 2017

NEWSLETTER

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Dear St. Joseph Families,

School is about to start, and we are all so excited! The teachers started back to work this past Monday, busy setting up their classrooms and getting ready for students. This is also the teachers' week for meetings and trainings, discussing policies and going over procedures. We want everything in place for September 5th!

We ask that you keep the Borrego family in your prayers. Mrs. Borrego's National Guard unit was activated this past week to take part in Operation Smokey, to help fight Oregon's wildfires. We hope that they can not only make a difference in protecting the area, but that they all remain safe and healthy. We are hoping to have her back in time for the first day of school, but our beloved Mrs. Mertes is ready to stand in for her during the first few days if needed, so Mrs. Borrego can relax and know that second grade is in good hands!

Thursday night we have a New Parent Orientation at 5:30. If you are a new parent, or have questions, please join us. We look forward to getting to know you!

Thank you to all of the parents who have stopped by to welcome me to St. Joseph. It has been a wonderful transition, and I feel very supported. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve such a devoted parish, and anticipate many happy moments here.

See you next week!

Many Blessings,

Deb Dewar, Principal  
St. Joseph Catholic School



## Drop Off/Pick Up

For all of our new families: St. Joseph has a drop-off and pick-up line that snakes through our parking lot, for easy and safe transitions. Please enter the parking lot through the first driveway on Center Street. Make sure that there is enough room behind you so that traffic is not blocked on Center. That is a busy street, and we want all of our families to be safe. If that means curving around the right lane of the west lot, that's much better than causing traffic difficulties. Once cars get to the east lot (nearest the school building), there are one or two lines of cars that pull up to pick up students (or one line for drop-off). Parents can also choose to park.

Please be aware of available school times. Students cannot be dropped off before 7:45 am, as that's when the doors open. Students who arrive before the morning teacher meeting/prayer is finished may wait at the front office for their teacher. Once teachers leave the meeting, students are free to go to their classrooms. Attendance is taken right away after the 8:00 bell, since students leave quickly for morning prayer in the church. Please avoid tardies by making sure that your student is in his/her classroom by 8:00 am.

Students are dismissed at 3:00 pm, and pick-up lasts 15 minutes. Students who are still at school after 3:15 will be sent home with a registration packet for extended care. Extended care has hours both before and after school. Click here for more information. <http://www.stjosephchurch.com/extended-care>.



## First Week Activities



**Tuesday, September 5th:** Coffee and Donuts for Parents. Come and celebrate the first day of school with us in the Parish Center. Right after drop-off, relax and enjoy your morning, knowing that your students are in good hands.

## Morning Prayer Service

St. Joseph Catholic School always starts our day with a school-wide morning prayer service that all are welcome to attend. Please feel free to join us any weekday (even our regularly-scheduled Wednesday morning Mass) to start your day with a prayer.



## Middle School Anti-Bullying Program— Wednesday, September 6th

Students will have an opportunity to learn about and discuss the different ways that bullying presents itself in middle school. There will be presentations and discussion sessions to help fully define these concepts, so that we're all talking the same language. We intend this to be the beginning of a year-long conversation about acceptable behavior and treating each other with respect.

## Jog-a-Thon Kick-off Assembly— Thursday, September 7th

That's right, Jog-a-Thon is right around the corner, and we're doing things a little differently this year. In order to promote Fit for Life, we're extending the running times for our students. Students will be going home on Thursday with pledge cards, and the first incentive prize is for that very first Friday! Stay tuned for more info.



## Volunteering

Volunteers are an integral part to the success of our school and make our lives and our student's lives so much richer.

Volunteer opportunities will begin the week of September 25th. As in the past, we like to give our teachers and students a time to settle in before our volunteers begin. This is also a wonderful opportunity for all volunteers to fulfill the necessary requirements needed before volunteering.

If you plan to volunteer less than four times during the school year, only a background check is needed. For those parents that plan on volunteering more than that, you will not only need to complete a background check, but to also complete the Called to Protect class being held on September 19th at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Michelle Bartholomew in the office to register for this class and for additional information on the background check. (503) 581-2147 or michelleb@stjosephchurch.com.

## Parent Club and P.I.E. (volunteer) Opportunities

# Parent

# C L U B

We are looking for members of our community who are interested in lending a helping hand. With the thought that many hands make light work, and the thorough understanding that no one likes meetings, the Parent Club this year will be an online organization that you can plug into at your convenience. Pop onto the web page at any time, and see what is needed for all-school events, for your child's classroom, or for volunteer hours in general. We are currently constructing a volunteer link to our webpage and will have it up and running by our next newsletter on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned.



## A Warm Welcome to our Newest Staff Members

### Rachel Hansberry, Pre-Kindergarten teacher



Rachel is thrilled to be the new Pre-school teacher at St. Joseph. She grew up in the Portland area and was active in the church from an early age. She moved to Salem in 2000 where she met her husband while helping with the St. Edward youth group. With a background in early childhood education through

Chemeketa, she comes to us from Willamette ESD where she was a teacher's assistant in their early intervention pre-school.

Rachel believes children are naturally drawn to Jesus and this amazing world he created. Her goal is that every child who comes through her door will discover that school is a safe and exciting place to learn and grow in knowledge and faith. She is also eager to help ease anxious parents who are entrusting their children to school for the very first time. Rachel loves spending time outdoors hiking with her family and tending her chickens.

### Kelsey Hunt, Kindergarten Aide

Kelsey Hunt will be the new part time kindergarten aide. She has been in the child-care field as a nanny for nine years. Currently, she cares for two students who attend St. Josephs.

Kelsey spent time volunteering at Queen of Peace prior to volunteering here at St. Josephs last year. Kelsey is also a part time student, attending Chemeketa Community College where she is enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program.

Kelsey is a native Oregonian. She spent part of her childhood in Monmouth then moved to Salem in Jr. High and went on to graduate from South High School.



Kelsey plans to continue her passion in childcare after earning her degree and pursue a career as a teacher. She hopes to one day be able to open her own daycare/ preschool. Kelsey is very grateful and excited for the opportunity to continue to learn and grow as a teacher and student.

## Brian Lange, PE Teacher



Brian joins the St. Joseph staff with a wealth of experience in the area of physical education and coaching. As the father of four St. Joseph students, he is passionate about building a solid Physical Education curriculum for the community. He believes a well designed physical education program creates a better learning environment for all students, and is excited to implement modules that will exceed Archdiocesan standards. Brian is excited to work in a Catholic environment where prayer is acknowledged as an integral component of the daily schedule. Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, students will begin to see the implementation of Pangrazi's Dynamic Physical Education program. We are happy to welcome Brian to the St. Joseph team.

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