

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

September 14, 2017

NEWSLETTER

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Dear St. Joseph Families,

Another school year has started. It's great to hear all the happy voices filling the hallways. The teachers have spent this past week with diagnostic testing, procedures discussions, and getting to know all of this year's wonderful students!

This year has started off with a bang. We jumped right into Jog-a-Thon season, kicking it off with an assembly in the gym. This year, we are collecting pledges each week, and offering challenges to win prizes. Check out the details below to catch up on this week's challenge! We also get to celebrate Oktoberfest in Mt. Angel this week. The fourth graders were busy wrapping potatoes on Tuesday in preparation. Join us Thursday through Sunday to celebrate!

Next week brings the Back to School BBQ and Open House on Thursday the 21st, and the following week holds Family Bingo Night on Friday the 29th. Both events start at 5:30. We have also moved our middle school anti-bullying retreat to Friday the 22nd. We would like to have it in the park, in a relaxed atmosphere so that we can also incorporate some team-building games with it. This permission slip will go home early next week.

We are looking forward to settling into our academic routines. Enjoy a (hopefully) smoke-free day.

Many Blessings,

Deb Dewar, Principal
St. Joseph Catholic School



Jog-A-Thon Update

This year, we are collecting pledge cards EACH WEEK in order to offer more incentives to our students. Our first challenge was to bring in a \$20 pledge on the very first day, for a lunchtime ice cream treat. We raised over \$2,000 just in that first day! This week's challenge is a class-wide goal. If every student brings in at least a \$10 pledge on Thursday morning, then the entire class will get donuts on Monday, September 18th! 100% participation is our goal this week!

Next week's goal is for each student to bring in a minimum of \$25 in pledges on Friday, September 22nd. Each student that achieves that week's goal will receive a MopTop pen and stylus!



Each student who reaches their month-long goal of \$120+ receives a "Get Out of Class Free Card" for a Friday in October to enjoy a movie and popcorn day. We are encouraging students to talk with relatives, neighbors, and family friends to find pledges. Please help your students find opportunities to talk with people with whom you're comfortable.

The 8th grade class has received an extra incentive from an anonymous donor. The donor will match up to \$1,000! If the 8th grade class is able to accomplish the entire \$1,000 match, they will earn an ice cream celebration.

We are still looking for sponsors for this fun event with some great incentives to those that sponsor. Each student will receive a Jog-a-Thon t-shirt with sponsor names and logos placed on them. There are just a few days left to get your sponsorship information in. Deadline is Wednesday, September 20th. If you have or know of a business that may be interested in being a sponsor, please contact Teri Martinez at 503-581-2147 for more information.

In an effort to be conscious of the Fit for Life program, this year's Jog-a-Thon event will be extended. In the past, students have run for only 30-40 minutes. This year, second grade and older will be running for approximately 2 hours. Students will be encouraged to stay fit and healthy, doing their part to support our school. Every ten laps, students will be given a rubber bracelet, a glass of water, orange slices, and a short break. Parents are asked to bring in healthy snacks and water bottles for your class's table, to help keep them going. It should be a great day!



Spirit Shirts



We wish to sincerely thank our anonymous donor for the purchase of St. Joseph School logo t-shirts! All students will receive a red t-shirt with our white logo. On Spirit Days, students will be able to wear these shirts along with jeans or other free dress appropriate bottoms.

“Hunt the House” Hurricane Relief Drive

Our first spirit day will be held this Friday, September 15th, and will be in conjunction with our Hurricane Relief efforts. Students are asked to “Hunt the House” for any spare change they can find. Students who bring in coins for our Hurricane coin drive this Friday, September 15th, may wear free dress. All proceeds will be sent to the hurricane relief efforts.



Hot Lunch Fridays

Our hot lunch program will start up again on Friday, September 29th. In order to help simplify your lives and ours, we will be selling hot lunch cards (similar to our milk cards). A single lunch ticket will cost \$4.25, while a hot lunch card purchased in \$20 or \$40 increments will save you .25 per lunch. Lunch cards may be purchased through the front office for cash or check, or will be available for purchase on our web page through PayPal. Also, at the beginning of each month you will be able to visit our website for the hot lunch menu.

Profits from our hot lunch program help to assist in offsetting costs from some of our larger field trips, along with helping with general budget needs.

We are currently looking for additional volunteers to assist on Fridays from approximately 9:30 to 2:00 p.m. We have a wonderful crew of volunteers from last year, but are in need of additional help. Please contact Teri Martinez if you are interested in occasionally assisting with hot lunches.



P.I.E. (Volunteer) Opportunities

There are a number of parent volunteer opportunities listed on our new Volunteer web page. Check them out today to see if some of these opportunities are up your alley. And make sure that you're up on your Child Protection videos. The new video asks you to print out a certificate at the end. This will need to be turned into Michelle Bartholomew in the front office.



First time ever to volunteer at St. Joseph? You will need to sign up with Michelle Bartholomew to take a Called to Protect class on Tuesday, September 19th. The class will begin at 5:30 at the school; please check in to the front office. This class is required for anyone who is interested in volunteering for field trips or class parties at any point during the school year. Please contact Michelle Bartholomew to register for this class, (503)581-2147 or michelleb@stjosephchurch.com.

For any questions in regards to the various volunteer opportunities, please contact Teri Martinez at (503) 581-2147 or terim@stjosephchurch.com.

STAR Testing

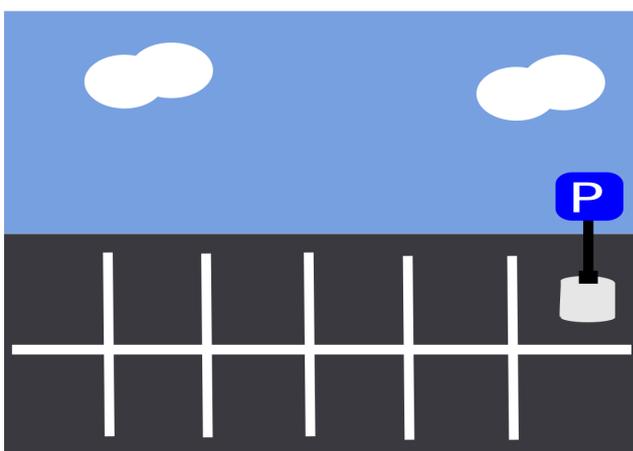
This is the first of our three-week window to complete our initial STAR testing in reading and math. All archdiocesan schools use the STAR testing data to track growth of our students throughout the year. Please encourage your children to do their best, as you're excited to see the results. Students will be tested again right before parent conferences, so that you can see their progress so far through the year. Teachers will set goals for students in order to encourage their progress and track their results. Teachers use these results throughout the school year to assist in skill diagnostics. We should have 4-5 tests total by the end of the school year.

Thanks for your support!

Drop Off and Pick Up Diagram

Attached please find a diagram of the playground showing drop off and pick up procedures for the St. Joseph playground and parking lot. Our biggest issue right now is the number of people who walk through the driving zones. We ask parents who park and walk in to retrieve their children to please walk AROUND the driving cars, not through them. If you park in the far lot, please walk through the Parish Center to reach the school building. If you park near the exit fence, please walk along those parked cars. Walking through the line of driving cars causes a lot of nervous agitation to the drivers who are trying to be safe.

A second pick up line has been created during the beginning of pick up in order to bring more cars into the lot and off Center Street. Having the line of cars back up into traffic is a huge safety concern. Please follow the line of cars that “snake” through the parking lot, so that no one is left in an unsafe position. During the two pick up lines, please leave a lane in between, so that cars that are loaded and ready to leave have an exit space. The more space we have, the easier it is to see children being loaded into cars.



Please don't park in the spaces closest to the school building during drop off, unless the doors are already closed. Those spaces are the drop off drive-through, and parking here creates unnecessary obstacles for parents trying to get to work. If you wish to park and walk your students in, please do so along the perimeter, not in the center.

If we can work together to meet everyone's needs, then we can all have a safe, happy experience! (Parking Diagram - please see link located next to newsletter link of September 14th.)

Back to School BBQ

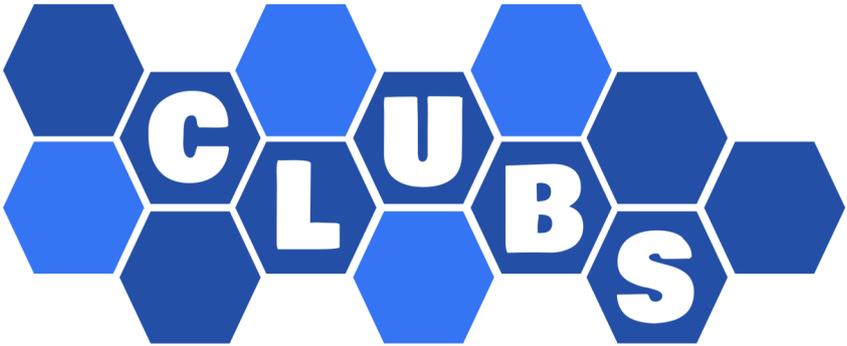
Our Back to School BBQ is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st at 5:30. Join us for hot dogs and fun as we ring in a new school year. Come to meet all the teachers and get a briefing on what's new for this year. Stop off at our Family Photo Booth to document how big everyone's getting! See you there!



After School Clubs

We're setting up our after school clubs to begin in October. Our first set of clubs will run from October through December.

If any parent is interested in running a club one day a week, please call Michelle in the front office at 503-581-2147. Don't miss your chance to make a real difference in a child's life!



Helpful Hints

We are noticing a number of younger students who are coming to school very tired or emotional during this second week. The school schedule is full and hectic, and can be overwhelming to young people used to laid-back summers. If you're having difficulty getting your child ready to go in the morning, please consider a bedtime that's 30 minutes earlier than usual. Happier, healthier students get so much more out of their education.

