

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February 1, 2018

NEWSLETTER

Page 1 of 5



Dear Parents,

I love the joy and chaos of Catholic Schools' Week. After twenty years of teaching, I have become very good at having an organized, ordered classroom. My students worked hard and learned a lot. But every now and then, you need to let your hair down a little and have some fun. Catholic Schools' Week was always a great time to do this. It was a chance to play a little with my students, a chance to celebrate together - to step back from the day-to-day struggles and get a look at the big picture. That big picture always made me smile. It is filled with children who love to learn, with faculty friends who are always there to help, and with friendly, supporting families. This week is a great time to remember WHY we do what we do, and it's all so clear.

While Catholic Schools' Week looks silly on the outside with its crazy socks and switching teachers, on the inside it's telling every student that they're valued and important enough to play with. It's a time to let them get to know a slightly sillier side of us, to make that human connection that can last longer than the school year ever does. Monday morning will see us back to the grindstone, but hopefully our hearts will be lighter, and our souls will be nourished with the love that we share at St. Joseph.

Thank you for sharing your children with us,

Deb Dewar, Principal  
St. Joseph Catholic School

## Geography Bee

It was a great honor to watch the Geography Bee on Wednesday afternoon. It all started about a month ago, when students from fourth through eighth grade focused their social studies efforts on studying for the big event. Then, each class had a small competition to discover who would go to the school finals. Wednesday afternoon, two finalists from each of these classes gathered in front of a large audience to see who would come out on top! Both group and individual questions were asked, and competitors could miss two questions before they were eliminated. In the end, Olivia Boyd won third place, Joshua Luna won second place, and first place was won by eighth grader Henry Sanders! Congratulations! He will go on to the regional meet next month.



## Visitor Badges

Please make sure that if you are visiting a classroom longer than to just drop off a student in the morning, that you pick up a visitor badge in the front office. We are having a larger than usual number of people in the building, and we would like to keep up security protocols. Thank you for understanding.



## A Message From Student Council

Hello fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

I am sure you all remember when Puerto Rico suffered from a hurricane last year, and they are still in need from this great disaster. For our February service project we will be doing a fundraiser so that we can help them rebuild. The items that we are asking you to bring in are: baby wipes, hand sanitizer, first aid kits (small), trash bags, and water purification tablets. I hope that you will join us in bringing in these items so that we can help the people in Puerto Rico.

Let us do the work of God through helping those in Puerto Rico!

Yours devotedly in Jesus and Mary,

Kristi Lange

## Basketball Free Throw Contest

The Knights of Columbus hosts a Free Throw Contest each year, and all of our older students participated. During their PE class, Miss Storey has had students focus on basketball skills, including free throws. This unit culminated in an event that leads all the way to a national contest! Winners from each age group in our school go on to the regional competition in a few weeks. Those winners are:

14 years old is Madi Ward (8th grade)

13 years old is Kristi Lange and Henry Sanders (8th grade)

12 years old is Megan Marchwicz (7th grade)

11 years old is Natalie Ward and Rigo Maciel in (6th grade)

10 years old is Emma Burlison (4th grade) Isaac Bravo (5th grade)

9 years old is Bryce Lange and Phoebe S (3rd grade)

Congratulations!

## St. Joseph T-Shirts

If you have not yet returned your students red t-shirts, please do so asap. Our printing company inadvertently left off the "c" in school. They have corrected this and we have new shirts for each student. Once your student returns the old shirt they will be given a new one.



## Registration has Begun

Your oldest students are bringing home enrollment packets this week for the 2018-19 school year. Please feel free to call Michelle or Deb with any questions you might have. All enrollment packets received before March 30th get a \$25 discount!

## New Family Open House

We will have an Open House for new and potential families on Thursday, February 22nd at 5:30 pm. Please reach out to families that you know who would be a good fit for St. Joseph, and invite them to come in and have a look. We'd love to give them a tour and get to know them. New family enrollment applications will begin being accepted on Friday, February 23rd.

## Accreditation Update

The St. Joseph faculty have been working diligently on accreditation all year. Our self study allows us the opportunity to take a hard look at who we are, what we do, and how we do it. This process has started a number of great conversations, causing opportunities to grow in curricular areas and in our faith. We have spent many staff meeting afternoons in deep discussion over the major topics that cover our self study. Our next step is to put these ideas from the discussions into narrative form, to describe both what we do now and what we would like to do in the future as our programs grow.

## Valentine's Day—February 13th



This year, because Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, we are asking that all classrooms celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13th. Class parties can be coordinated through the teacher or through a room parent. Check with your classroom teacher to find out how you can help. We will hold our

## SLE of the Week

This week's SLE of the Week is: Reads, writes and speaks fluently and effectively at or above grade level. This is a perfect SLE for school! We can show this in a LOT of ways!

- KEEP READING! Reading often can make you a better reader. Read every day!
- When writing, try to be in a quiet place. Thinking about what you want to say next, and then focusing on getting that down takes some concentration.
- When we are working on writing essays, make sure to use the rubrics to see how you can improve your work.
- Work on vocabulary. This helps you to improve your speaking ability, expressing different ideas in different ways.
- Practice speaking in front of people. Making sure that your voice can be heard throughout the whole sentence/ paragraph is a practiced skill.

We work on these skills often throughout the school day. Sometimes, if we pay attention to what these skills are and why we need them, we can focus on them and grow faster!

## Weekly 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: Jesus calls His disciples to service when he said, "You also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). As a family, volunteer to help at a local food pantry or soup kitchen. Or commit to helping an elderly neighbor or relative with weeding, shoveling snow, or other small jobs.



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## Important Dates for Week of February 5th

Monday, February 5th - Blessing of the Throats

Wednesday, February 7th— Mass (8th grade)

Friday, February 9th—School Spirit Attire Day