

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February 15, 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

St. Joseph School has recently adopted the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing program. It has seven different levels of focus that allows for creativity as well as structure. The program uses a series of age-appropriate, leveled rubrics to allow students to improve their own writing with easy-to-understand options. Since we have started the writing program, the classrooms have been taking the framework and applying it in so many different directions!

The first graders are learning about adjectives and how to increase the complexity of their voice with them. They used these to write appreciation cards to their room parent. Second graders are working on comparing and contrasting the characters in their book, and using the conventions rubric to edit their own writing. Students in the third grade are writing a piece called, "Designing my Favorite Bedroom," using the rubrics for both word choice and conventions to edit their pieces.

Fourth graders are studying poetry, and having to apply their organizational skills and their voice to their writing, and then use a conventions rubric to edit. Even to poetry! Fifth graders are focusing on plot development while they write short stories. They are looking for a well-developed beginning, middle and end. Sixth graders are also writing short stories, but their focus is connecting unique ideas in bizarre ways. They will edit their work with a rubric on ideas.

The seventh grade is focused on word choice, looking at how words are used and abused. Their writing is helping them to develop the ability to utilize strong, meaningful words thoughtfully used. The eighth graders are working on a research project about the wetlands. The rubrics they will be using include organization, word choice, and conventions. By the end of this year, we expect our students to be masterful editors!

Deb Dewar, Principal
St. Joseph Catholic School

Valentines Class Parties

Tuesday was the day for chocolate and frosting as classes celebrated Valentine's Day with their friends. Some classes had projects while others played games, but all got to share something special with each other. It's nice to be in a place where people feel welcome and loved, and everyone gets to share something with each other. It was a great way to spend the day before Lent!



Ash Wednesday



Wednesday was a special day as the entire school came together at Mass to celebrate the beginning of Lent. Monsignor ushered us into the season, asking us to look above, within, and without as you connect with God, reflect and fast, and give alms. Classroom discussions centered around self-reflection as students thought about ways that they could make themselves better people as we all prepare for the Easter season.

Knights of Columbus

We would like to send a huge "THANK YOU" to our Knights of Columbus chapter. They donated \$4,000 to our Tuition Assistance program. Without the generous help of organizations like these, we couldn't do what we do for so many families. Thank you for being such a valued member of our parish!

Open Enrollment



February is enrollment month for returning families. Enrollment packets were sent home at the spaghetti dinner during Catholic Schools' Week (January 30th), and have already started coming in! This time is designed to guarantee your family a spot in next year's class. Open enrollment for new families begins on February 23rd, the day after our **New Families' Open House at 5:30 pm on February 22nd**. Please make sure that you get your enrollment packet turned in on time, so that your spot in the class is saved!

NO School February 16th—20th

This is a great weekend to be a kid! Friday, February 16th, the St. Joseph faculty will be hard at work on the accreditation self-study project that needs to be completed this year. Monday, February 18th is Presidents' Day. Tuesday, February 19th is an Archdiocesan curriculum in-service day. Teachers will be gathering together to do some math subject mapping and unit design, to further improve our program. Classes will not be held on these days so that all this important work can get accomplished. See you Wednesday!



Thank You

Last November, we talked about our growing tardy problem. October had almost 300 tardies! We instituted a late policy, where students who received 5 or more tardies in a term would receive a detention, in the hopes of alleviating some of our issues. I am happy to report that by January, we cut our tardies almost in thirds! Thank you to everyone who is making that morning transition easier for our students. What a difference!

\$1,000 REWARD!



Check backpacks for the envelope with your Ambassador Cards today. St. Joseph is offering a \$1,000 Reward to our families who bring in new families for next year. If you find a family who brings your Ambassador Card in when they tour the school, and they end up enrolling in the school for next year (K-8), then you could qualify for \$1,000 credit towards your tuition next year! Find your envelope with your Ambassador Cards for details!

PIE Hours—Auction

Here is yet another way to earn those PIE hours and fulfill your auction donation item. The first opportunity is for anyone that donates tickets to a sporting event (Ducks, Beavers Blazers, Winterhawks, etc.) by Wednesday, February 21st, three PIE hours will be earned. Even if you have already procured/donated an item, this is a great way to earn those hours.

If you turn in a themed gift basket valued at \$75.00 by Wednesday, February 21st, you will earn two PIE hours.

1,000 Soles Shoe Drive



In 2016 nearly 1,000 students in our community were homeless. Being a student can at times can be challenging enough without the added stress of not having a home or a decent pair of shoes.

In 2012 several students at South Salem High School decided to assist the homeless students in our community by putting together a shoe drive. These South Salem High School students noticed that the homeless students often times wore shoes that were falling a part or just did not fit. What we consider a necessity, those students considered a luxury.

This year St. Joseph Catholic School is going to join in their efforts to help the homeless youths in our community. Please donate any gently used shoes that you and your family no longer need. Ask your friends, family and coworkers for any shoes they might be willing to donate to this very worthy cause. All types of shoes are needed, tennis shoes, dress shoes, shoes that high school students can wear to prom, etc.

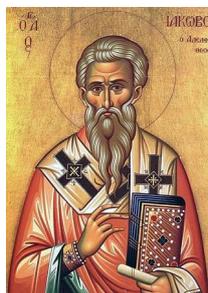
The shoe drive will run from February 26th to March 9th.

SLE of the Week

This week's SLE of the Week is: **Applies religious knowledge by making good choices**

Students can work on attaining this goal by:

- Remembering their studies of God through scripture
- Doing what is right because it is right
- Actively pursuing a saint-like like
- Putting the needs of others before your own.



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:

In the morning before school, pray the Morning Offering for at least one week.



O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen.

Important Dates for Week of February 19th

Monday, February 19th— No School

Tuesday, February 20th—No School

Wednesday, February 21st—6th Grade Mass—Student Awards

Thursday, February 22nd—February birthdays free dress

Friday, February 23rd—Stations of the Cross