

St. John the Evangelist Regional
Catholic School
Monthly School Newsletter



December 2018



Principal's Message:

During this season of Advent, we are instilling in the children that they are to be spiritually preparing themselves for the birth of Christ. They are being encouraged to do acts of kindness as well as practice self-discipline. The children have a daily prayer service to remind them of the anticipated arrival of the Christ child.

All of us at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School wish you the very best holiday season and continued health and happiness for the new year.

St. Nicholas Visit:

On Thursday, December 6th, we will celebrate St. Nicholas Day. The morning will begin with a prayer service for the students at 9:30 a.m. followed by St. Nicholas visiting the classrooms and bringing a treat.

School Closing and Delay:

Notifications will be sent regarding school delays/closings or any other important information through a text. Hopefully this will be one more avenue to relay pertinent information. If you do not receive texts from the school, please contact the school office. Or, if you prefer, you can listen to WPQR 99.3 FM and WMBS 590 AM. Also, our school follows the Laurel Highland School District bus schedule. Our school's status will also be listed separately on television stations KDKA, WTAE, WPXI.

If a parent does not send his/her child to school during inclement weather, that is their choice. However, if school is in session and a child is not present, he/she is marked absent.

Also, for the safety of the students, the school is not responsible for the students who arrive earlier than one-half hour before classes begin.

Reminder:

If you chose the two-payment tuition plan, your second payment is due December 1st.

School Calendars:

The calendars are ready and are included with your family packet. A special thank you to Mrs. Palya and Ms. Paull for spearheading this endeavor.

Confessions:

As we approach Christmas just a reminder that as Catholics (adults and children) we should make every effort to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as Holy Communion.

Please avail yourself for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to one of the Penance services listed below:

Thurs. - Dec. 6th - 7:00 p.m. - St. Francis of Assisi
Masontown

Sun - Dec. 9th - 3:00 p.m. - St. Joan of Arc
Farmington

Tues.-Dec. 11th - 7:00 p.m. - St. Peter/St. Cecilia
Brownsville

Sat. - Dec. 15th- 1:00 p.m. - St. Therese /St. John the
Evangelist at St. John's

Thurs.-Dec. 20th- 7:00 p.m. - St. Joseph/St. Mary at
St. Mary (Nativity)

Sat. - Dec. 22nd - 1:00 p.m. -SS Cyril & Methodius/
St. Hubert - Fairchance

Conferences:

We want to thank all of the parents who came to the conferences and expressed such pleasure and satisfaction with the school.

Your compliments meant so much to all of us. Thank you for your expression of gratitude.

Traffic:

Our office has been asked to once again advise parents to please stay in your car at dismissal. The teachers bring the children to the cars. Please be careful / mindful of the children being dropped off in the morning. Please do not speed on school grounds.

Donations needed:

We are starting to prepare for the Spaghetti Dinner which will be held in February. We are asking for dish towels to be donated for the kitchen. Any help will be appreciated.

Important Dates:

Religious:

Dec. 6 – 9:30 St. Nicholas Day - Prayer Service
Dec. 10 - 9:00 Mass (Grade 3)

Secular:

Dec. 3 - 2:30 – 3:30 Choir Practice
Dec. 5 - Bake Sale sponsored by Team Chris
Dress Down Day - \$1.00
Dec. 6- 12:30 - Early dismissal - Teacher's Mtg.
Dec. 7- Deficiencies will be mailed
Dec. 11 – 6:00-7:00 Santa Secret Shop set up
Dec. 12-13 Santa Secret Shop
Dec. 14 - Grades 4,5,6,7,8 will see "The Nutcracker" at the
State Theater
Dec. 21 - 10:00 a.m. Christmas Program
Dismissal after the program
Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 Christmas Vacation
Jan. 2 - School Resumes

Girls' Basketball:

Congratulations to the JV & Varsity Girls' Basketball Team for a great season! Thank you to the coaches Jason Taylor, Keith Frankenfield and Kalie Davis for all their time and effort. It is greatly appreciated.

Boys' Basketball:

The boys' varsity and JV basketball season has begun. We will be looking forward to a great year! Many thanks to Justin Goletz, Lauren Goletz, Ray Kazmierczak, Chris Johnson, Rich Shumar, Eric Vitikacs and Vince Zapotosky for coaching the boys.

Pictures will be taken in December but the date is not known. You will be notified when the date has been determined.

Christmas Program:

Our annual Christmas program will be held on Friday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. It will be televised on HSTV Channel 77. We thank the Taylor Family and the Kuritz Family for sponsoring the program this year. Dismissal follows the program.

Sports Ticket:

The winner of October's sport ticket was Alicia Bergstedt. The number was # 835 and was sold by the Pletcher Family.

Deficiencies:

Deficiencies will be mailed on December 7th. If your child(ren) receives a deficiency, please contact the teacher(s) involved to correct the problem.

Yearbook:

Mrs. Palya and the eighth grade class always create a memorable yearbook. If you wish to order a yearbook, please fill-out the enclosed form and return it to the school office. The cost of the yearbook is \$30.00 Please make checks payable to St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School. Mrs. Palya is in charge of the ads. Mrs. Kurosky tracks the payments and orders. **Every 8th grader is responsible for placing an ad in the yearbook.**

If you are interested in placing an ad, please see the enclosed flier. All ads are due by December 1st. Please mark your envelope "Yearbook Ad" and send to school the office.

Santa Secret Shop:

The Home and School Association will be having the Santa Secret Shop on December 12th and December 13th. The children will be able to shop for their loved ones at a cost of \$2.00 per item. Please see the enclosed form. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, December 12th :

8:30 - 9:30 Grade K with buddies
9:30 - 10:30 Pre-4
10:30 - 11:30 Grade 4
12:20 - 1:10 Grade 2
1:10 - 1:40 Grade 3

Thursday, December 13th:

8:20 - 9:20 Grade 1
9:20 - 10:20 Grade 5
10:20 - 11:00 Pre-3
12:20 - 1:00 Grade 6
1:00 - 2:00 Grades 7 & 8

Boxtops Update:

Our fall submission to Box Tops for Education was \$233.40. Keep up the good work! Ask your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help clip and save Box Tops, Labels for Education, and Tyson Project A+ labels.

Bookfair

The book fair was a huge success thanks to the efforts of all involved. Kristen Shumar spearheaded the event. Many parents helped to set-up and work the fair. Several of our staff and faculty also helped to set-up. All of you are truly amazing!!

Thank you to:

- Mark Doorley for the marathon prizes.
- Mrs. LeDonne for donation of marathon prizes.
- Mrs. Palya for the marathon prizes.

Curriculum Mapping:

All of the schools in the diocese are a part of the curriculum mapping initiative introduced by Dr. Marsteller.

Curriculum Mapping is a linear concept K-12 that ensures that all students are introduced to all the concepts needed for that grade level as well as future grade levels. Please talk to your child's homeroom teacher for more details.

Attendance:

It is very important that when your child is tardy, the parent must come into the office to sign him or her in. Also, when your child is absent, they need an excuse when they return. If the absence is 3 days or more, a doctor's excuse is needed.

Math-a-thon:

Students in Grade Pre- K through 8th recently participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon. We are happy to report that we collected \$1,187.00!

A special thank you to all the families for all the support for this great cause!!

CFFC Idea Fund:

Two of our teachers were awarded a grant from Community Foundation of Fayette County.

Over the last few years, Mrs. Poninsky and Mrs. Palya have been working to expand the student body's experience with coding and robotics. This year, they received the grant to purchase 18 Edison Robots to be used with our 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades. These robots add to the robotic mice used by K-2, and the Lego EV3 Robots used by 6-8.

Renovations:

As many of you have noticed, we have replaced the awnings on all of the entrances of the school. After 10 years, they were in desperate need of replacement.

Also, we changed all the lights in the Preschool. We purchased the lights and Vince LaCaffinie and Sons provided the labor free of charge. Many thanks, Vince!!!!

Dances:

The dances were a huge success thanks to the hard work and dedication of many of our parents. Thanks to Kristen Shumar and Vicky Crable for spearheading the dances. Thanks to: Jennifer Stacoviak, Mike and Kelly Fisher, Kellie Bolish, Sue Blanda, and Barb Duda for helping to decorate.



