

“Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.”

Helen Keller

Life is just full of lessons, isn't it? I try to look at each experience and determine what the lesson was that I needed to learn. Sometimes, I can fully see the lesson in front of me. Sometimes, it takes a long time to find the lesson. And, to be honest, there are still some experiences out there that I haven't quite figured out what the lesson was! So, the question of the day on Thursday that seemed to float from classroom to classroom, teacher to teacher, parent to parent, and all through the St. Joseph School grounds was what is the lesson with TWO canceled Teacher Appreciation & Game Day? Well, we heard some interesting answers! Are these fabulous teachers just not meant to be appreciated? Not a chance! Did it mean that we are not supposed to have the Teacher vs Student Game day? That question had some unique answers! Some people thought it was God telling us that someone (probably a teacher was the general consensus) would be hurt at our game day, and we are not meant to have the day. Someone wondered, "If Miss Scheffler re-schedules the day for the third time and the locust come down, will she get the hint?" (For the record, I think that I would get the lesson if the locust came down. I think.) So, we have a snow day cancellation and a water pipe break. What does that teach us? One lesson to be learned is that we can not control everything. **Check....lesson learned!** Next lesson, we really do not enjoy emergency closings. **Check....lesson learned!** Next lesson, we really love our Schoolreach, and it is worth every penny! **Check....lesson learned!** Next lesson, we really need to have our parents listen to their voicemail before calling Mrs. Baxter and saying, "I just saw St. Joseph School called. What is going on?" Please check your voice mail before calling back to SJS.....it added some difficulty to an already difficult situation. Please, please, please check your voice mails before calling! **Check...lesson learned!** Next lesson, when facing a problem at SJS, there will be many people to the rescue! This is one lesson that I do not need to learn! God takes care of us and sends us the best of people to help us! A special thank you to Greg Bickus of Bickus Plumbing who dropped everything to save the day! We also thank Ray Peckler of Ray Peckler Excavating who heard the message and called to tell us that he would be right over to help. And, along with Ray Peckler, we had Ken Jagodzinski come right over to join our rescue team. And, of course, the team would not be complete without hearing the familiar "Hi Miss Scheffler, how is your day today?" from Andy Weis. One more dad to add to the rescue team! As one of our teachers stated upon looking out our water pipe mess, "It is so nice to look out and see all of our dads helping us." Indeed, it was great to see them! God takes care of St. Joseph! **Check, check, check....lesson learned!** The looming question is what did I learn about rescheduling Teacher Appreciation & Game Day? I have thought long and hard about this question and finally, I decided on the lesson. The final lesson of the day.....maybe the teachers just needed to be appreciated with a few hours off for the afternoon! **Check....lesson learned!** Yep, that is what I am going with today. So, stay tuned for a new Teacher Game Day. We couldn't possibly disappoint the children nor the teachers who dreamed of free throws, relay races, and scooters all night long! We will work on choosing a new date and keep you posted. And, if the locust or any other disaster comes our way, it may just be another lesson that I need to learn!

Thank you for all your cooperation, patience, and promptness for the emergency dismissal on Thursday. It was greatly appreciated! If you did not receive a call or wish to add another phone number to our emergency school reach call list, please contact Mrs. Baxter at ritabaxter@comcast.net or call the school office with any updates. If you have changed addresses or phone numbers, please notify our office as soon as possible.

Congratulations Sydney Bartecki and Eric Hennenfent

Just when we think that we couldn't be any prouder.....our students kick it up a notch! Last week, we received a phone call from Providence Catholic High School letting us know of a HUGE accomplishment and honor for our 8th graders who took the entrance exam. Our students have always performed very well on entrance exams regardless of which high school they attend and place in many advanced placement and honors classes. As a staff, we are always so pleased to see our students challenged and so successful in the next stage of their education journey. This year, we were simply overwhelmed with pride to learn from Providence High School that TWO of our 8th graders will be receiving a \$1000 scholarship for having TWO of the 15 highest scores on the entrance exam! Each year, Providence Catholic awards the 15 highest scores with a \$1000 scholarship. We have been honored to have our students win that award several times, but this is our first time with TWO of the top 15 scores! With over 390 students taking the entrance exam, it is quite an honor for our school to have TWO students this year as recipients! Congratulations to Sydney Bartecki and Eric Hennenfent! We are so proud of your achievements and look forward to sharing in your celebration of this prestigious award at graduation! Keep up the great work! The Class of 2011 continues to amaze and inspire us with their talents and honors! Stay tuned.....I believe they will continue to experience success as the year continues!

Information

Upcoming Events

2/24-2/27

- 7th grade girls' & 8th grade Boys' Basketball Tournament 2/25
- 7th Grade Girls at 6:30pm
- 8th Grade Boys at 7:30pm

2/28

- Mass at 9:15am

3/2

- Grade 5 to Cathedral of St. Raymond

3/4

- Teacher Institute – NO SCHOOL
- 8th grade Night at SJS-Last home game for 8th grade boys at 7pm

3/6

- SJS Roller Skating Party

3/8

- Spring Pictures

3/9

- Ash Wednesday Prayer Service at 2pm
- 4th grade basketball clinic- 5-6:15pm (A.C.)

3/14

- 4th grade basketball clinic – 5 to 6:15 pm (A.C.)

3/16

- 4th grade basketball clinic – 5 to 6:15 pm (A.C.)

3/18

- Mass at 10:30am-St. Joseph Day
- St. Joseph Luncheon

3/21

- 4th grade basketball clinic – 5 to 6:15 pm (A.C.) 3/21
- 1st grade parent auction meeting- mandatory

SJS Parent Club Scoop:

Valentines Parties: Our children had a wonderful time at their classroom Valentines Day parties! Thanks to all our room parents who worked hard to create a fun-filled afternoon for our little cupids. A special thank you to Kathy Giacomo for taking on the childcare during the day. Several room parents were able to attend the parties because of her help. Thanks Kathy!

Please have all receipts turned in no later than Monday, February 28th attached to the reimbursement form.

Auction Projects: All descriptions for auction projects should be in to Carrie Ray. (CaRay02@hotmail.com) Please have your completed project into the office by March 1st. If you have a problem, please contact Carrie.

SJS Roller Skating Party: Please check your family packet for the Roller Skating party on March 6th and come join us! There is still time to join the fun! It has always been a great time for our children!

Teacher Appreciation Day: We love our staff at SJS! Thank you to our volunteers that kept our children quietly occupied while our wonderful teachers, aides and staff were able to enjoy a much deserved break and delicious lunch.

St. Joseph Day Luncheon: On Friday, March 18th we will have our namesake celebration. If you have volunteered for this event, you may be contacted to help shortly.

7th/8th Grade Winter Dance: Get your dancing shoes out 7th and 8th grade! St. Joe's will be hosting a dance on Saturday March 19th. Watch for a flyer to come home soon.

PC Meeting: The next SJS Parent Club Meeting will be on March 9th at 8:45 in the extended care room. Please plan on attending if you would like to find out more about what Parents Club is all about. We welcome new faces and input. Please call the office if you plan on attending in case the meeting has been cancelled.

March is just around the corner.....that means only one thing.....Spring is near! (That and shamrock shakes!)

Have a wonderful weekend,

Carrie Ray, SJS Parents Club Secretary

2011 Raffle Tickets

The 2011 Raffle Tickets were included in your family envelope on December 17th. If you are missing your Raffle Tickets, please let Mrs. Baxter know. We have additional tickets available in the school office. All raffle tickets must be returned by the end of February. And, believe it or not, February is ending on Monday! Thank you in advance for your assistance!

SJS Tuition and Parish Commitments

In your family envelope today, you will receive communication from the parish book keeper on your parish contribution status. For our families who are able to give generously and over the \$20 weekly minimum, we are so grateful for your gifts. For our families who are meeting the weekly requirements, we thank you for helping us maintain our budget needs. For our families who have contacted us and are giving what they can, we thank you as well. For those families who are receiving reminders, we hope this is an oversight. If you have financial needs, please contact Fr. Tom or our school office to help. We are ready and willing to help anyone in need. If this has been an oversight, please send the required amount to help our parish and school meet our budget. As a parishioner, you have received the letter from Fr. Tom about our parish need and need for assistance. We really do need these contributions to pay our bills and try to clear our debt. In order to maintain your child's placement for next year, your family's tuition and parish contributions must be up to date. It is critical that your payments be brought up to date to maintain positions at St. Joseph. At this time Kindergarten, 1st grade and 7th grade are full with a waiting list for the school year 2011-12. 3rd and 6th grade are very close to maximum class size. If your tuition or parish contributions have not been met at this time, you are in GREAT danger of losing your placement. We will need to review these positions and the waiting list in April when we meet with the Parish Finance team. Please contact our office for more information and to hold your placement for next year. We are help to help our families but we can not help families in need if we are not hearing from you.

SJS Spelling Bee Champ

It was an honor and privilege to once again to attend the Will County Spelling Bee and cheer on our Eric Hennenfent! Since 6th grade, he has represented SJS at the Will County Spelling Bee. Last year as a 7th grader, he made through many rounds to be the top 6th speller in Will County. As always, it was with great pride that we watched him represent St. Joseph as one of 53 of the top spellers county wide. As he calmly asked for the "word of origin, the definition, the word used in a sentence, an alternate definition, or the word repeated," he spelled with great confidence and articulation. It is such an incredible privilege to participate in this spelling bee. However, to be able to represent St. Joseph School for the past three years is exceptional and a true legend here at SJS! While he wasn't the top speller at the Will County Spelling Bee, he is certainly the TOP SPELLER in our hearts! Congratulations, Eric for three GREAT years of Spelling Bees and three great years representing SJS! It is with great pride and honor that you have represented the BEST of SJS! Congratulations, Eric and thank you for past three years!!!!

Enrollment 2011-2012

Please encourage families with 3 and 4 year olds to join our Early Childhood Program and get a wonderful start at St. Joseph! If you have family, neighbors, or friends who will be applying, please let our office know and be sure to have your family and friends include your name on their application. We are offering a special incentive for a tuition credit for students that are recommended by a current family. The incentive will be for new families with students in grades 2, 5, and 8th grade for the 2011-12 school year.

We do have openings in our 8th grade, 6th grade, 5th grade and 2nd grade for next year. If you recommend and we accept new 8th graders for next year, we will offer a \$500 tuition refund to you family! We have a wonderful group of 7th graders and would like to offer the opportunity of an exceptional 8th grade year filled with faith to new students. If you have family and friends who would like to learn more about SJS, please send them our way! Expanding our SJS family with your friends and family builds on an already incredible community! Thank you for all the families that you have recommended to SJS! We are excited to welcome more families to St. Joseph next year. Almost as excited as they are to be here!!!!

Athletic News and Updates

PACK the PLACE

It is time to fill the stands and pack the place tonight! This is the last weekend of basketball tournaments for our 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys! I hope you can join us for a few games this weekend! Please see the attached tournament brackets and come on out and cheer them on! As you may recall from a previous newsletter, our 8th grade boys were very impressed with the fans in the bleachers for the 5th and 6th grade tournaments and wondered why there stands seem to be fairly empty. Please come on out and join us to cheer both the boys and the girls for the last home tournament! So, let's try to make the 7th and 8th grade tournament on February 25th special and fill our stands for our 7th and 8th graders! Our 7th grade girls play at 6:30pm and our 8th grade boys play at 7:30pm. All students with SJS wear will be admitted for free! Come on over and join the last of the basketball at SJS!

Co-Ed Volleyball

Last call for everybody and call for coaches! We are looking for a few interested coaches for co-ed volleyball and any athletes that may want to play. Co-ed volleyball is a short season and so much for the kids! If you have a 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boy or girl who would like to play a fun sport with friends, please contact Jennifer Cunnane at jenniferm@comacast.net. We are gathering information about the season time frames from our conference league we recently learned that our conference will be offering 5th-8th teams. If you would like your child to play, your last chance to sign up to play is Monday! Don't forget.....5th graders are welcome and able to join! We hope to have enough athletes to field a team at each level. If you would like to coach or assist in coaching, please contact Jennifer Cunnane as well.

3rd and 4th Grade Clinics

This is the last call! If you would like your 3rd or 4th grade daughter to participate in the remaining clinics, please contact Yolanda Jesse at yolandajesse@yahoo.com. The 3rd and 4th grade girls' basketball clinics will begin in March. We will also be scheduling the 4th grade girls' and boys' volleyball clinics soon. Before your child can participate, you must return the clinic registration form and medical information. If you need a new registration form, please contact the school office. **Last call.....really....last call to join in the fun and learn new skills!**

Last Home Game-8th Grade Night

After six years of basketball at SJS, our 8th grade boys will take the home court for the last time on March 4th. These young men began six years ago learning the skills of basketball in third grade clinics and over the year have developed into a great group of athletes who demonstrate Christian sportsmanship, teamwork, and incredible talents. I hope you can join us for a special night for this great group of boys! We will have a special parent presentation before the game starts at 7pm. All 8th grade parents are asked to arrive at 6:30pm.

"(Paul prayed) that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19

As a community, we call to our Father in heaven with our requests. Do you a prayer request to share? Simply email your request (please put "Prayer Request" in your email subject line) to singingsportfan@yahoo.com. If you prefer to jot your request down on paper, your prayers are perfect in any format! Just write down your request and send it to school with your child. You can send your request and ask that it be shared throughout the semester, or you can ask that it be shared once, or you can give an end date. We are flexible! If you shared a request in 2010 that you wish for us to continue to pray for in 2011, please notify the office so we can update our prayer sheet. All prayer requests will be printed at the earliest possible date. If you submit a prayer that does not get printed, please resend it, just in case we missed it. **We welcome your partnership in prayer!**

Diocese of Joliet tuition Assistance Grants

DEADLINE: March 1st

The Diocese of Joliet Education Foundation provides \$500-\$1000 grants to students to help with tuition costs based on need as determined by the FACTS application. The last chance to apply is March 1st. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. The application may be completed on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com.

Spring Pictures on March 8th

Spring pictures are strictly optional. Every child will have a picture taken and come to school in dress up clothes, but no pre-order is necessary. Once we receive the pictures, you have the opportunity to purchase the pictures or decline. It is a win-win! Please review the handbook guidelines on dress up day clothes. More information is included in your family folder

Salute to the Blue...

SJS Dinner Dance and Auction on April 2nd

Way to Go First Grade Parents!!!

First grade parents have been hard at work collecting donations for our Annual Dinner Dance "Salute to the Blue." Start marking your calendars. Governor's State has donated four tickets to "Beauty and the Beast" on April 9th at 3pm. The Rialto Square has donated two tickets to "A Night with Lucille Ball" on May 6th at 7pm. And for all you Black Hawk fans we have four tickets to the April 6th game against the Blues.

First Grade Mandatory Meeting

The Mandatory First Grade Meeting will be held on Monday March 21st at 7pm in the School Activity Center. This meeting will be fun!! Miss Scheffler loves to teach and she will be teaching all the fun "jobs" you will have the night of the auction. Food and Beverage will be provided. If for any reason you are unable to attend, please contact Miss Scheffler.

Baskets, Baskets, Baskets Cindy Way and Sue Morgan, our Raffle Basket co-chairs, have been hard at work securing some great items for the raffle baskets but they need your assistance. They are looking for medium and LARGE baskets. Please contact Cindy at theways@sbcglobal.net if you have any baskets. Thank you.

Auction Items

While the first Grade parents are doing wonderful, we still need your assistance. We are looking for Hotel and Luxury items! We would love a hotel in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin Dells, and/or Branson. Jewelry would be nice ...blue jewelry even better. Please contact our Auction Donation Chair, Julie Dixon, at jdixon16615@comcast.net. She would be happy to provide you with our Blue Ribbon Letters. It is an incredible feeling to have the honor to present the letters with the Dept of Education/Blue Ribbon Seal to businesses, friends and/or families.

Auction Sponsorship

We cannot stress it enough. We are finding our corporate partners are proud to be associated with a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This is an excellent opportunity for you to discuss sponsorships with your employer, your friends or your family. We have included a list of our sponsorship levels. Please contact our **Salute to the Blue** sponsorship Chair, Amy Galetti at agaletti@sbcglobal.net if you have any connections or ideas for sponsorship opportunities. Please see your sponsorship flyer in your family packet.

Advertisements

This is our year for Ads!!! We are convinced our auction booklet is nothing less than Blue Ribbon Quality and any company would be proud to showcase their company. Our Ad Chair, Yolanda Jesse, would love to hear from you! Please contact her at yolandajesse@yahoo.com if you have any companies who might be interested in advertising in our Blue Ribbon Auction Booklet... which is sure to be a collector's item!!!

Raffle Tickets

Do not forget Raffle tickets are due on Monday February 28, 2011!!! The office has additional raffle tickets available if you misplaced your tickets from December.

Salute to the Blue

ITEM SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

ALL OPPORTUNITIES BELOW INCLUDE SPECIAL MENTION IN THE AUCTION PROGRAM

CHILDREN'S FURNITURE \$1500 – Company/family name plaque displayed on furniture during auction

APPETIZERS \$1,000 – Signage prominently displayed during preview party

INVITATIONS \$1,000 – Your Company name printed on the back of each invitation (Commitment by 3/1/2011)

ADVERTISEMENT BOOKLET \$800 - Signage in the ballroom plus full page ad

ENTERTAINMENT \$500 – Signage plus announcements before and during the party acknowledging your gift

DECORATIONS \$500 – Tent cards on each dinner table advertising your sponsorship

AUCTION KEEPSAKES \$500 – Full page ad in the auction program

SILENT AUCTION TABLE \$250- Signage in the silent auction section

*Please contact Amy Galetti for more information:
agaletti@sbcglobal.net, 815-609-5219.*

St. Joseph School Prayer Requests

*“Deep waters cannot quench **love**, nor floods sweep it away. Were one to offer all he owns to purchase **love**, he would be roundly mocked!”*

Song of Songs 8:7



St. Joseph, pray for us....

In Adoration: “I **love** You, Lord, my strength, Lord my rock, my fortress, my deliverer; my God, my rock of refuge, my shield, my saving horn, my stronghold! Praised be the Lord, I exclaim!” (Psalm 18:2-3a)

In Contrition: “For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:16-17) Please forgive us our words and actions that are worthy of Your condemnation. We are so blessed that through Your **love**, we are not condemned but are saved!

In Thanksgiving: Thank You for Mr. Bickus, Mr. Peckler, Mr. Jagodzinski and Mr. Weis, who **love** our school and fixed our water problems! Father, we thank You for the gift of **love**. For the **love** parents have for their children, modeled first and best by You; for the **love** shared by couples, described so poetically and passionately in Song of Songs; for the **love** we share in friendship and fellowship; and most importantly in the mutual **love** You have with Your people. This spiritual union that we are given with You is a bond of **perfect love**!

In Supplication: **For good health and swift recovery:** Please be with all of our friends and family members who suffer from illness, especially **baby Ryan**, born very early and struggling to thrive; **Ellie**, a brave 6-year-old in treatment for a malignant brain tumor; **CeCe Babinek** as she continues to battle with health issues; Patrick and Sean McCarthy’s grandpa **Neil Gutsch** for a speedy recovery from surgery; Alison Marcione’s Aunt **Donna Hayes**, as she heals from treatments for breast cancer; **Judy Hennenfent**, as she recovers from surgery; our own **Joe Jesse**, that his immune system continue to be strengthened in his treatments; **the Pollard family**, especially **Lucy** (finger injury), **Michael** (surgery) and **Jordan** (knee surgery); **Papa Sabick** who is recovering from hospitalization; **Laura Sandoval** as she seeks treatment for a new illness; **Annie Sweeney** as she continues her recovery and heads back to school; and **Anna Hope Zaroogian**, 7-year-old friend of the Barteckis, recovering from surgical removal of her left lung. Please guide our worldly physicians to make wise decisions in treating our loved ones.

For all those who have entered into Your kingdom: especially **John Voltarel**, friend of Sheila and Bob Kaminsky. May he feel the peace and love of Your heavenly embrace, and may his family and friends find themselves wrapped in the comfort and peace that only You can give.

For their protection, guidance, and safe returns- Please watch over all of the brave young men and women who are in the armed services, especially **Dominic Mers** in Iraq, and Kathy Galeher’s cousin **Lt. Colonel Dan Wagner** in Afghanistan for his third tour, and bring them safely home to us. **For those burdened financially in these tough economic times-** for all who have lost their homes, jobs, or whose work has been reduced, and even more in fear of a layoff; please help them to give their stress to You and for their financial burdens to be eased, their depression to be lifted, and for the economy to grow stronger, if it be Your will. **For the victims of violence in the Middle East, those affected by the earthquake in New Zealand, and for all the children still seeking their forever families,** that they may find peace, comfort and **love** in Your name. We also pray for our Special Intentions. Thank You Father, for hearing our prayers. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.



*“In the arithmetic of **love**, one plus one equals everything, and two minus one equals nothing.”*

Mignon McLaughlin