

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

January 4, 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! It's a new year full of promise and joy, and we are looking forward to everything this year has to offer. January holds a number of growth activities, including the second Strategic Planning meetings for each of the five committees that we have. If you missed the first meeting, please feel free to drop in to the next one. All are welcome! We also have our next round of STAR testing assessments, to track the growth of our students in both math and reading comprehension. And the end of the month brings National Catholic Schools' Week, a week-long celebration of Catholic education.

We have a few days this month to make sure to calendar. Monday, January 15th is Martin Luther King Day, a federal holiday, and there will be no school. Friday, February 2nd is the last day of Catholic Schools' Week, and that will be an Archdiocesan in-service day, and no school. Because this year is an accreditation year for St. Joseph, there are a few extra in-service days that we will need to take in order to complete our study. Friday, January 19th is our next accreditation in-service day, and there will be no school.

We hope that your Christmas vacation was filled with family and friends, joy and laughter. We feel renewed in our faith and our spirits after our brief respite. We look forward to the coming months. The cold, brisk air keeps us alive and fresh, and moving towards the future. We hope that you and your families have a wonderful winter, moving forward in Christ..

Many Blessings,

Deb Dewar, Principal

Masquerade Ball Raffle Tickets

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Raffle tickets are now on sale!! We have 475 tickets to sell and are asking each family to assist with selling them. Tickets are only \$20.00 each with fantastic prizes to be won. Winner will be announced at the Gala on April 28, 2018. Lucky winners need not be present to win.



1st Prize: Wild Pear catered dinner for 8, with server (value \$500)

2nd Prize: One night stay at the Oregon Garden (value \$250)

3rd Prize: Samsung 3 Chromebook (value \$159)

Please contact Teri Martinez to check out a book today!

Tardy Policy



In an effort to curb our current tardy rates (which averages to over 50 per week), we have instituted a tardy policy, published in previous newsletters. This policy states that students who are tardy more than five times in one trimester will serve detention on Thursdays until 4 pm. After that, three additional detentions will warrant additional detentions until the end of term. We began our count at the beginning of Winter Term, which started on November 27th. Our first detention session will be held this Thursday. Please try to make sure that your students arrive at school between 7:40 and 7:55 am, to avoid this. Thank you!

STAR Testing

Our next STAR testing window happens between January 8th and 26th. Please encourage your students to do their best -- we use this data to track their growth!

Clothing and Food Drive Update

Our Student Council led two recent drives to help our community. On Friday, December 15th, Student Council officers delivered multiple bags of articles of new clothing to St. Vinnies on Lancaster. We also delivered many cans of tuna and mac & cheese boxes to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank to help them aid the hungry of our community. We are very proud of our students for holding community service so high in their list of priorities.



We will continue to collect food through the month of January, with a focus on pasta and tuna. The Student Council is holding a Spirit Day on Friday, January 26th, with a theme of New Year, New Outfit. If you bring in 2 cans of tuna or boxes of pasta during January, you can wear a new outfit (maybe something you received for Christmas) on the 26th. Thank you so much in supporting our community!

Blessing of the Doors

With Epiphany rapidly approaching, we are looking forward to one of our favorite St. Joseph traditions: The Blessing of the Doors. After morning prayer on Friday the 5th, Monsignor Huneger will visit the school and bless each of our classrooms.

The letters marked above each door have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “18” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes (in our case, classrooms) so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

Strategic Planning Meetings

January holds a number of dates for the second round of Strategic Planning Committee meetings. All meetings will be held in the seventh grade classroom at 5:30, and will be limited to an hour. All are welcome to attend!

- Enrollment Committee: Tuesday, January 2nd
- Marketing & Development Committee: Tuesday, January 9th
- Facilities & Safety Committee: Tuesday, January 16th
- Finance Committee: Thursday, January 18th
- Catholic Identity Committee: Tuesday, January 23rd



Catholic School's Week

We are looking forward to celebrating Catholic Schools' Week this year! CSW is a great opportunity to have some fun in the classroom, reinforcing all the things that we love about being in a Catholic school. We work so hard throughout the year, and we look forward to this week to smile and think outside of the box a little. It all starts with a school Mass on Sunday, January 28th, along with a pancake breakfast in the Parish Center. Stay tuned for updates!



Family 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: As a family, put together a box of clothing, toys, and household items you no longer need, and give the items to the poor. Make sure your child chooses which toys to give away. Make your child a part of the giving process as you deliver the items.



SLE of the Week: Demonstrates Knowledge of Catholic faith, prayers, traditions, and history. How do we show this in our everyday [life](#)?

- Actively participate in saying daily prayers with your classmates and your family.
- Actively participate in our daily morning prayer and weekly school Mass.
- Understand and emulate the lives of the saints.

Show the Light of Christ from within in everything that you do.