

Saint Joseph Catholic School

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2 0 1 3 W I N T E R N E W S L E T T E R

Inspiring minds • Building character • Living faith



OUR MISSION

Saint Joseph Catholic School, a coeducational parish school for grades K4 through 6, exists for the purpose of providing Catholic education of the highest quality to the children of parishioners and other residents of the Columbia area. Central to the school program is a dedication to spiritual development and academic excellence based on Gospel values. Through opportunities to worship, to learn, and to grow in character, Saint Joseph students are prepared to be lifelong learners who practice and live their values in the Catholic, Christian tradition.

Have fun.

Be good.

Love the Lord.

— From the sermon of
Reverend Fletcher Montgomery,
Saint John's Episcopal Church

Saint Joseph Catholic School Welcomes New Teacher

**LAURI MOORE, SPANISH TEACHER
GRADUATE OF WOFFORD COLLEGE
SEVENTH YEAR TEACHING
FROM EASTMINSTER DAY SCHOOL**

Lauri Moore may be a native of the Upstate, but you wouldn't know it by listening to her speak Spanish. Moore is meticulous in her pronunciation.

As she tells her students, "We don't speak Pickens County Spanish." It's a mantra that defines her teaching style. Moore spends a lot of time making sure the children put the accent on the right word and syllable. The children are also learning little details like how the J is pronounced as an H in Spanish.

Moore spent the last seven years teaching pre-school. She says it's great fun, but also a challenge, to teach older children. She finds great reward in seeing a child understand a concept.

One of the things Moore has incorporated as she revitalizes Saint Joseph's Spanish program is a Spanish Bee. The mini competition gets the children excited about learning a new language. The children are also being immersed in different



Hispanic cultures. Before Christmas break, the students learned about holiday traditions in Puerto Rico.

When she's not at Saint Joseph, Moore spends time with her three school-aged children, although most of that time is spent in the car. Because as she would say, "Conduzco partidos de futbol toda la tarde!"

Catholic Schools Week



From the Principal



Rose Tindall, Principal

DEAR SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

I grew up in a family of musicians and actors. Do not hold this against me! As a young girl, I attended many plays and productions directed by my father, or wherein my mother was in the chorus. We had family friends on Broadway and in the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera productions. One of my favorite musicals was

South Pacific. I just loved the music, the romance, the beauty of the islands. One year, my mother got the record album of the soundtrack of the movie *South Pacific* as a present. (Yes, children, we used to listen to music on these big vinyl discs called “records.”) I listened to that soundtrack over and over. In the movie, an additional song was added that wasn’t always in the stage performances. It was entitled “You Have to be Carefully Taught.”

*You’ve got to be taught
To hate and fear,
You’ve got to be taught
From year to year,
It’s got to be drummed
In your dear little ear
You’ve got to be carefully taught.*

1949 — Rogers and Hammerstein *South Pacific*

As a little girl, I was confused by this song, and had to ask my mother to explain it to me. She told me that people don’t always like other people because they look different or believe different things and that we aren’t born to feel this way about each other. People learn this from their parents. She told me that this song was written to explain this. I remember feeling shocked and saddened at this idea. How could parents, the people we love most in this world, teach us to hate?

As I prepared to write this letter in the week after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the inauguration of our 44th President of the United States of America, the words from that song came to mind. As the cameras panned out to the audience on the Mall in Washington, DC, I saw a stunning tableau of Americans: white, Asian, African American, Hispanic, all clustered together keeping warm, waving American flags, and celebrating in the pageantry of this historic event. How beautiful indeed is our country! That beauty in diversity is reflected in the faiths of our students. Diversity that we celebrate each year at our Ecumenical Prayer service held in January.

As we make our New Year’s resolutions, let us remember the famous quote of the poet Audre Lorde: “It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” It is our duty as teachers and parents of our children to teach them to accept each other, love one another, and remember that we are all made in the likeness of our loving Father.

Many blessings,

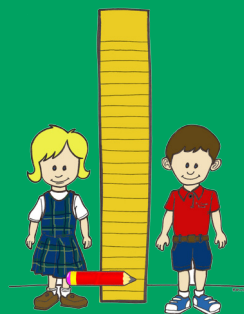
Roselyn K. Tindall, M.Ed.
Principal

ANNUAL FUND IN FULL SWING

Did you know that many employers have a matching gift program? That’s right, you can easily double your annual fund donation if you work for Bank of America, SCE&G, Fluor, or one of many other companies. To find out if your employer participates, go to www.matchinggifts.com/sc/.

Also, contributions have been coming in from all parts of the Saint Joseph Catholic School community — parents, grandparents, parishioners, friends, and let’s not forget faculty and staff. Remember that you can make your donation online, simply and securely, at www.stjosdevine.com/annualfund.

Look for the Annual Fund Easter appeal mailing in March! And thank you!



Music to The Ears



Music has power. It can make us laugh, cry, evoke wonderful memories, draw us to dance and bring us together in song to celebrate or mourn. Instilling an appreciation for music in children is so important to their continued development. And at Saint Joseph Catholic School, the passion and purpose of music is taught at a very early age. Through our wonderful music program, taught by Mrs. Kristen Kirby, to the Saint Joseph band, led by Mr. Andrew Loeffler, there are so many opportunities for the students to learn about music appreciation, uncover new talents and entertain and awe us at school events and in Mass.

Mrs. Kirby's love of music began when she was a child. She began dancing at age 5 and by age 10, she was already playing the cello. "I have known since middle school that I wanted to teach music," she says. And for more than six years, she has been leading Saint Joseph Catholic School students in the music program. Students of all ages are given the opportunity to find their voice and use it in whatever manner they please – be it singing during music class or the ever-entertaining Christmas program or sharing their talents during Grandparents' Day, the Ecumenical Prayer Service or Friday Masses.

These opportunities are not taken lightly by the parents or the students. For Jill Fuller's daughter, Anna, having the opportunity to sing in front of large congregations has been wonderful. "It has helped her to be aware of different ways

to use her time, talent and treasure to serve the Church," says Jill.

Adrienne Carroll, whose son Declan participates in the Cantor Chorus program, agrees. "The children sing in front of the school, sometimes alone. It is wonderful for self-confidence. They learn the value of music in prayer and life." Declan enjoys being involved in the school's music programs. "I like that I get to praise the Lord in another way. It is fun to do it with my friends," he adds.

Mrs. Kirby stresses the importance of music in the lives of children of all ages and understands that it plays a different role at different ages. In the early years, Kindergarten through first or second grade, music is a large part of children's play. And as they grow older, she sees them begin to take an interest in popular music and often play an instrument.

When that interest piques, Mr. Loeffler is happy to welcome the children into the school band. Like Mrs. Kirby, Mr. Loeffler believes music education is so important to early childhood education because it teaches concentration, discipline and self-reliance, among many other important life characteristics. "It creates a great sense of satisfaction and confidence when the student is able to accomplish learning a new idea or concept and then apply that idea to a performance piece," says Mr. Loeffler.

The effort of the children in the music program and beginner band beautifully melds during the Christmas program. "We are completely awed by the Christmas program," says Lisa Militello, whose son Sam participates in the band. "We cannot believe that band students, who could barely hold their instruments six weeks before, can play recognizable songs in their respective parts. I am also impressed by the beautiful songs Mrs. Kirby teaches our various grades to sing. They are unique and beautiful choices that, when paired with our instruments, give parents a sense that our music program always exceeds our expectations."

The self-confidence the children learn through their music participation is invaluable. Chris Castellano, whose son John is involved in Cantor Choir and the advanced band, believes the programs teach children an appreciation

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Taste of Heaven Once Again Sets Records

Thank you to all those who joined us this past Fall at the 2012 Taste of Heaven Auction! The auction was a great success with more than 300 attendees, who helped us raise more than \$50,000 to directly benefit the students and teachers at Saint Joseph Catholic School. The proceeds from the annual auction — and school tradition — allow us to make improvements to the facilities, purchase textbooks, improve technology and

offer financial assistance to students who are unable to afford full tuition.

We give special thanks to the local businesses and individuals who donated sponsorships, food and refreshments and the hundreds of items for our live and silent auctions!

Just as importantly, we have a great time at this fun event! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2013 auction on October 25.

Music continued from page 4

for music but, even more importantly, self-discipline and commitment. “I have noticed how John has gained self-assurance with being in front of an audience,” says Chris.

These are critical skills that children will take with them for the rest of their lives. Rebecca Seezen sees the benefit of this type of self-expression in all of her children, building their confidence and their focus. James, her son, finds cantoring and playing the saxophone very rewarding. “I love band because Mr. Loeffler is nice and he taught me to be a great saxophone player,” he says. “Cantoring is also really fun, because I get to go up in front of people and sing. I feel good because I get to lead the service.”

That love and appreciation is so fulfilling for Mrs. Kirby. “I always enjoy ‘seeing the light go on’ in the students’ faces,” she says. “When I ask a question to which they know the answer, when they master a new skill, those are my favorite moments.”

Rebecca is sure to point out that involvement in the music program and band do not take away from the traditional learning of the school. On the contrary, she believes the time her son spends in music study makes him a more well-rounded person and makes him feel included in the special little community of the school. “A band program like ours on the elementary school level is very rare,” she says. “Most students don’t get the chance to try out a brass or woodwind instrument until middle school or later.”

Mr. Loeffler agrees and wishes more children would become involved with the music program. “They would see how much fun the children have rehearsing, performing and, in some cases, driving the older brothers and sisters crazy when they practice.” And really, what younger sibling doesn’t want to do that?

For the students, the love and appreciation for music is evident, as is the joy they feel when performing for parents, grandparents, teachers and friends. It truly is music to the ears!

OUR RESOLUTIONS

The beginning of a new year brings new hopes, new dreams and new opportunities. And for Saint Joseph Catholic School’s second-grade students, it also brings some very important New Year’s Resolutions. Here is just a sampling of some of the resolutions in store... The travel agents better get ready!

Luke Bradley — To listen a lot more. To do the best origami.

Cameron Hughes — To stop watching TV. To go to Africa.

Ally Cannon — To stop standing when I work. To read more books.

Nick Johnson — To go to LegoLand. To learn to backflip.

Grace Woodham — To always clean my room. To play outside more. To go to New York.

Crosby Lewis — To get better at football. To stop eating junk food. To learn to ride a skateboard.

Catherine Bresnahan — To get on the Wall of Stars. To go to Namibia.

Sarah Katherine Rogers — To help my mommy. To go to my grandmommy’s.

Jack Adams — To earn more money. To learn to do cartwheels.

Jack Kelley — To go to South America.

Andrew La — To stop writing small. To read more books.

Ella Stuckey — To stop talking. To go to the beach.

Elliott Cox — To ride my bike more. To learn to say “I” instead of “me”.

Inara Spector — To stop sitting on my feet.



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Spirit of Giving

- In October, students collected 1,015 canned goods to support the Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry at Saint Joseph Church. It was a great way to add a service element to the fun of the Fall Festival. The food pantry serves the poor and hungry of the Midlands.
- Students followed up that effort with the Saints Walk in November, raising \$1,880 for the Saint Vincent de Paul society. With these two projects, students were able to make a big impact for the holiday needs of the Midlands community.
- In December, students collected items to help former Saint Joseph Catholic School principal, Sister Christina Murphy, with her ministry to women in prison. Students filled boxes with socks, washcloths, and puzzles to be distributed to these women at Christmas. They also collected gift cards for Sister Christina to use for other items she needs for her work in the prisons.
- Students and parents worked together to collect 8,583 Box Tops for Education. That translates to \$858.30 for our school. In a contest that ended in December, Sister Maria's first grade class came out on top with 1,183 Box Tops collected and was rewarded with a pizza party. Box Tops for Education is a national program that turns everyday shopping into easy money for our school. You can help by clipping Box Tops from any of the hundreds of participating products and dropping them off in the main office of the school.

On the cover: The Ecumenical Prayer Service on January 11, 2013 brought together clergy from several of the churches that Saint Joseph Catholic School students attend. Pictured are: Back row (l-r) Pastor John Trump, Saint Andrews Lutheran Church; Pastor Paul Wöllner, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Reverend Phil Lavender, Trinity United Methodist Church; Reverend Canon Charles Davis, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral; Middle row (l-r) Mrs. Deborah Goodwin, Shandon Presbyterian Church; Reverend Fletcher Montgomery, Saint John's Episcopal Church; Pastor Mary Anderson, Incarnation Lutheran Church; Front row (l-r) Reverend S. Matthew Gray, Saint Joseph Catholic Church; Reverend Julie Songer-Belman, Shandon United Methodist Church; Ms. Molly McWhirter, Washington Street United Methodist Church; Reverend Karen Hawkins, Ebenezer Lutheran Church; and Reverend Monsignor Richard D. Harris, V.G., Saint Joseph Catholic Church.



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