

February 2, 2020

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the Week; No School; Thank You; African American History Month; School National Geographic Bee; Re-enrollment; 529 Plans; Totals on the CMDM Penny Wars; Eucharistic Adoration Club; Band Survey; and Yard Signs.

Thoughts for the week: One of my favorite quotes is by Andrew McCutchen – *“There are two things you can control- your Effort and your Attitude”* Take time this week to talk with your children about the importance of effort and attitude in their daily life.

No School: The school is closed tomorrow, Monday February 3rd, as the teachers complete a workday. Extended Care will be open 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Thank you: A huge THANK YOU to the PTO and all the parents who helped to prepare dinners for the entire faculty and staff this week. The dinners were delicious and much appreciated! We are truly blessed to be supported by such loving and generous families.

African American History Month: In the month of February the school will be celebrating African American History month with several projects and activities over the month. A big thank you to the diversity committee made up of parents and teachers for their help with this celebration.

School National Geographic Bee: Congratulations to all the students who competed in the National Geographic Bee. There were 35 contestants in grades 4 through 6 who competed to be named the Saint Joseph Geographic Bee Champion. It is my honor to announce the winners: 1st place- Jack Seezen, 2nd place- Hadi Jabali, and 3rd place Laura Grace Culberson. Jack will represent our school at the next level of competition. Good luck, Jack!

Re-enrollment: Last Monday January 27th, each family received a very important email from the school with instructions on how to re-enroll for the 2020-2021 school year. Please read the re-enrollment email carefully. Re-enrollment is due by Saturday, February 29th. We look forward to welcoming all students back for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you have a younger sibling who will be enrolling as a new student for the 2020 – 2021 school year, please visit <https://sjs-sc.client.renweb.com/oa/index.cfm?memberid=1846> and follow the instructions to submit an application. You will pay a new student application fee during this process. Once you submit the application, we will waive your reenrollment fee for your returning student. This has to be done manually so please email Nancy Sexton at nsexton@stjosdevine.com if the reenrollment prompts you to submit an enrollment fee. You must submit an application for your new student first, prior to reenrolling your existing student so that the fee can be waived during reenrollment. If you have any questions, please email Nancy Sexton at nsexton@stjosdevine.com.

529 Plans: Tax reform allows \$10,000 per year of 529 plan account funds to be used for elementary or secondary school tuition. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made some positive changes

to qualified tuition programs (commonly known as 529 plans) that you might be interested in. Starting in 2018, you can take tax-free distributions from a 529 plan to pay for tuition to an elementary, middle, or high school (and includes all public, private, or religious schools). You will be limited to a total cash distribution from all 529 plans of \$10,000 per beneficiary per tax year.

As an example, if you have two children, one in 3rd grade and one in 10th grade and pay \$24,000 in total tuition for them to attend Catholic school, you can take a tax-free distribution from their 529 plans of \$20,000 (\$10,000 each) per year to help cover the cost of the tuition. Keep in mind that contributions into the South Carolina Future Scholar plan will provide a South Carolina tax deduction in the amount of the contribution. Therefore, in the above example, you can put \$20,000 into the South Carolina Future Scholar plan and get a \$20,000 deduction on your South Carolina tax return. You can then use this fund to pay for their tuition starting in 2019. Contact your local tax professional for further information.

Totals on the CMDM Penny Wars: Congratulations to 4K-5K for winning the 2020 penny wars with a positive score of \$21.55. Congratulations to the 1st grade class for having the most overall money in their bucket at \$577.99. As a school we raised \$1,288.58 for the Kids of Prisma Health Children's Hospital -Midlands, our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Eucharistic Adoration Club: During the season of Lent, St. Joseph School would like to offer a Eucharistic Adoration Club for students after school. This club would take place on *Tuesday afternoons from 3:15-4:00pm. We would begin in the church for time to learn about Eucharistic Adoration, what it is, what we do during our time in Adoration, prayers that can be prayed, how to enter and leave the Adoration Chapel, etc. This would be approximately 15-20 minutes. After our time in the church, we will proceed to the Adoration Chapel, where we will all spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. We will end Eucharistic Adoration with a final prayer at 3:55pm. At 4:00 pm, students will be brought to the front carpool line to be picked up, or sent back to Extended Care, if that is where they usually go after school. The Eucharistic Adoration Club dates *could possibly* be: ***March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7. *The day of the week and the dates are tentative, pending the number of students interested and the approval from Msgr. Harris.** So that I know what the interest is like for this club, please fill out the below the link to a survey. The survey will be available from **January 30-February 4**. After February 4, I will gather the survey information and meet with Msgr. Harris to present this to him. If we are able to work out the logistics for all of this to take place, I will send out the formal information and sign up forms at that time. Thank you for taking the time to give your feedback for the possible instillation of this very special club.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SA03Lxbj20meWSbyUPbpiAWcDyJVpgZPoJK2H1RHGYZUNTRBNjdXQk1UME80MUxJNjBKM1owSkg2Vi4u>

Band Survey: Third, fourth, and fifth grade families received a survey about band for the 2020-2021 school year. As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we are considering making changes to our band program. Going forward (next school year), families will be charged \$200 to participate in the band for the year. This fee will cover the cost of a part time band instructor, his/her supplies, and travel time. I would like your input on this change. Please take a moment to complete a survey through FACTS Family Portal, indicating if a fee-based band program

would deter you from participating in this class. The class would still be during the school day for grades 4-6. To access the survey, log in to your FACTS Family Portal. There is a Survey link on the left menu bar. We ask that every parent, whether you intend to enroll your student in band or not, complete the survey by next Friday, 2/7. It is a 3-question survey that should only take 1 minute or less to complete. Thank you for your help!

Yard Signs: Thank you to all the families who are displaying our signs in your yards. Now that the Run with the Saints race is over, please turn your sign so that the enrollment message faces the street. We ask that you keep the signs up until April 20th. If you wish to remove your sign before April 20th, please return it to the school office.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Faith to Move Mountains" Matthew 17:20. Have a blessed week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
Principal
dyarnall@stjosdevine.com