

October 17, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; No School; End of 1st Quarter; Fall Festival; Parent-Teacher Conferences; iPads; Military Families; Service Project; and Masks.

Thoughts for the week: Luke 10:2 He said to them, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Just as Jesus sent his disciples on mission, so too does he send us to proclaim the Good News. We are the laborers and the harvest is all those who cross our path each day. There are so many people still waiting to hear the Good News, from the clerk in the grocery store to the parent waiting in the parking lot, or even the person sitting next to us in the pew. One familiar saying tells us, "You may be the only gospel another person reads." The best way that the Good News is proclaimed is in the way we care for and love others. Who are those that cross my path each day, bearing the image of God, and to whom I am blind? How can I proclaim the Good News through my attitude and actions more faithfully? God, you have written your word on my heart. Give me the grace to share your Good News in all I do.

No School: There will be no school on Friday, October 22nd. The school will be closed for a teacher workday. Extended Care will be available on Friday from 8-6.

End of 1st Quarter: I want to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication in helping the school stay open, safe, and healthy. Quarter One ends on Wednesday, October 20th. Report cards will be emailed Wednesday, October 27.

Fall Festival: Our PTO decided during their last meeting that, while we did not feel it was safe to open our gates to all 221 families, 40+ teachers, vendors, and countless siblings at the same time for our traditional Fall Festival, it was time that, instead of cancelling/postponing another event, we come up with an alternative. We want to give our students and families a glimpse into some of the fun things that take place at our school in a normal school year. PTO will be hosting a mini fall festival on **Thursday, October 28** during the school day **12:00pm – 2:00pm**. Classroom doorways will be decorated for all students to walk around to see while they Trick or Treat for candy at each doorway. The children will also participate in a dance party, cake walk, class party/activity, and enjoy a cold treat from Pelican's Snowballs. Student Council will be sponsoring a free Halloween colors (black, brown, green, yellow, orange, purple) dress down day (no costumes, please!).

Also, we would love for parents to join the fall fun by **volunteering** to help with the dance party and cake walk. Homeroom parents will send an email asking for volunteers for these events and anything your homeroom teacher needs for their class party/activity. Please respond to the homeroom parent confirming your available time and/or party item donated.

As always, thank you for your support of our students and teachers. We look forward to a fun “Fall Festival”!

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Friday, October 29th is Parent/Teacher Conference Day. There will be no school for students. All conferences will be virtual.

Pre-K -4th-grade families - Parents are encouraged to attend a conference with their child’s teacher. Teachers will reach out to some parents for whom a conference is required.

5th and 6th-grade families - Conferences are optional for students who currently have all As and Bs. If you elect to schedule a conference, please schedule a conference with the subject/subjects teacher of your choosing.

Conferences are required for any student who has a grade of C or lower. Please schedule the conference with your child's subject teacher in which they have a C or below. Grades can be checked on FACTS Family Portal to determine if a conference is necessary. The student is required to be part of the conferences.

Please use this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48AFAC23ABFC1-parent1> to register for your 15-minute virtual conference. The schedule is set up on a 20-minute rotation – 15 minutes for the conference and 5 minutes for the teacher to prepare for the next conference. The link will close at Noon on Wednesday, October 27th.

If you would like to meet with a teacher other than your child’s homeroom teacher, please also use the link to schedule an appointment.

iPads: The school started distributing the iPads last week to students who had returned the SJCS user agreement. Going forward, students may not bring personal devices to school. Please contact our Technology teacher, Mrs. Christie Cook ccook@stjosdevine.com, with questions, concerns, or issues with the iPads.

Military Families: Is anyone in your household active, retired or a veteran of the military? We are gathering information about our military families so that we can better support and recognize you. If someone in your household (or immediate family such as grandparent, sibling, etc.) is an active, retired, or a veteran member of the military, reserves or National Guard, please click on this link to fill out the survey:<https://forms.office.com/r/xCM5xAukKC>

We are hosting a Veteran’s Day Mass on Friday, November 12, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. We invite all members of the military in our school family to join us (in uniform if possible) so that we can recognize you and thank you for your service.

Service Project: Our first schoolwide service project this year benefits the Catholic Charities Clean of Heart ministries. We will be collecting new men’s socks and new or gently worn men’s shoes now through the month of “Socktober”. Please help us support this ministry to help bring comfort and clean clothing to the poor and homeless of our city. The collection will run until October 28th.

Masks: On Wednesday, October 13th you received a letter about the process and timeline the 5 Columbia Catholic Schools will use to exit wearing masks. Please contact me with questions.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Blessed are we". Have a great week!

Sincerely,

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